

FO Arnold Keith Michael Dean 152754 RAFVR

Arnold, known as Keith, was born on 29 September 1923 in Marylebone, London, the son of Ernest F Dean and Helen Agnes Dean nee Arnold.

Educated at Sudbury Grammar School, Suffolk, after leaving school Arnold was briefly employed as a hotel clerk until he enlisted in the RAF. Trained in Canada, Arnold qualified as an Air Bomber and was commissioned in July 1943.

On 28 August 1944, Arnold and the 161 Sqn crew were tasked with Operation "Hendrik I" and "Stalking", for the Dutch Resistance. Six containers and three packages were intended for Hendrik I and three agents and one package were intended for Stalking.

At 21:56 Arnold, operating as the Air Bomber, and the crew departed RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire, in Halifax VI LL388 (MA-W).

The crew did not make their destination. Whilst over De Steenhove, near Engelen, the aircraft was hit by German Anti Aircraft 20mm shells and the pilot was forced to make an emergency landing at Hedel, 4km N of s-Hertogenbosch, Noord-Brabant. Arnold was killed in the crash, the Navigator mortally wounded and the rest of the crew evaded or made POW.

Also Killed: WO Norman Francis Slade (Nav) died from injuries 30 August 1944; Gerrit Cornelis Kroon (Agent) escaped but died 2 May 1945

Arnold is buried in the Engelen General Cemetery, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands

Arnold is commemorated on Wall Panel 154

Photo Source: IBCC

