

FS Arthur Edward Dimock R/153186 RCAF

Arthur was born on 5 March 1919 in South Rawdon, Hants Co., Nova Scotia, Canada, the son of Frank Raymond Dimock and Nellie Alberta Dimock nee Smith.

Educated at South Rawdon School, Arthur was employed as a farmer on the family farm when, in December 1941, he volunteered for aircrew service in the RCAF.

Called up in April 1942, Arthur commenced Observer training; however, in September 1942 with the need for Air Bombers, Arthur re-mustered as Air Bomber.

Arthur completed his aircrew training in Canada in February 1943 with the award of his Air Bomber badge (the Observer badge was issued until the Air Bomber badge was available), and he embarked for the UK the following month.



Following advanced training at 9(O) AFU RAF Llandwrog, Gwynedd, Wales, 30 OTU RAF Hixon, Staffordshire and 1665 HCU, RAF Woolfox Lodge, Rutland, in September 1943 Arthur was posted to 623 Sqn at RAF Downham Market, Norfolk. In December 1943, on the disbandment of 623 Sqn, Arthur was posted for Lancaster conversion training at 1678 HCU, RAF Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire and at the end of the month he was posted to 514 Sqn also at RAF Waterbeach.

On 14/15 January 1944, Bomber Command was tasked with an operation to Brunswick, the first major raid on this town of the war. A combined force of 498 aircraft was allocated to the op, including 23 514 Sqn crews.

At 17:22 on 14 January Arthur, operating as the Bomb Aimer, and the crew departed RAF Waterbeach in Lancaster II LL679 (J1-J2).

The German controller tracked the bomber stream from just off the English coastline, and many German fighters entered the stream over Bremen, continuing to claim aircraft until the stream left the Dutch coast on the return leg.

Arthur's aircraft crashed in the woods, one mile East of Lauenberg, near Dassel, Lower Saxony, Germany, having broken up in mid-air. Other 514 Sqn aircraft had bombed the target at around 19:15, and the location of the loss suggests that Arthur's aircraft was attacked between 19:30 and 19:35. Hptm Erhard Peters of 9./NJG3, flying a Bf110 from Stade Airfield, claimed a Lancaster shot down at an unstated location at 19:33 and this claim is the most likely match for the loss of Arthur's aircraft. This was the crew's first op on the squadron.

Also Killed: FS James Stanley Gallagher RNZAF (Nav); FS Lancelot Kell RNZAF (WOp/AG); FS Paul Eugene Mason RNZAF (Pilot); Sgt John William Hennis (AG); Sgt Ronald Frederick Laishley (FE); Sgt Ernest James Oakley RCAF (AG)

Originally buried in Lauenberg Cemetery, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, in June 1947 Arthur was moved to Hanover War Cemetery, Niedersachsen, Germany.

Arthur is commemorated on Wall Panel 155

Photo Source: IBCC