

Sgt Arthur Leslie Evens R/185896 RCAF

Arthur was born on 22 May 1922 in Oyen, Alberta, Canada, the son of William Arthur Evens and Rosella Evens nee Pearce.

Educated at Wavy Plain School, Oyen and the Academy of New Church, Byrn Athyn, Pennsylvania, USA, Arthur was employed on the family farm when, in August 1942, he applied for aircrew service in the RCAF.

Called up in September 1942, Arthur completed his training in Canada in November 1943 with the award of his Wings.

Following advanced training at 111 (Coastal) OTU, Windsor Field, Nassau, Bahamas for conversion to the Consolidated B-24 Liberator, in August 1944 Arthur embarked for the UK and was posted to 223 Sqn when it reformed at RAF Oulton, Norfolk.



On 14/15 January 1945 ten 223 Sqn Liberators were tasked with "Jostle" and "Window" sorties. Arthur's crew was tasked with a "Jostle" op (airborne radio jamming), in support of a Bomber Command force of 151 aircraft flying an op to attack the marshalling yards at Grevenbroich, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.

At 16:06 on 14 January Arthur, operating as the 2nd Pilot, and the crew departed RAF Oulton in Liberator IV TT336 (6G-R).

At 20:09 Arthur's aircraft was intercepted by Hptm Gerhard Raht of Stab I./NJG2 flying a Ju-88 from Twente Airfield. The aircraft broke up mid air and crashed at Genelaar, Meerhout, twelve miles south of Antwerp, killing nine of the eleven-man crew. The Pilot and the left Waist Gunner survived.

Also killed: F/L George Trail (AG); FO Frank Arthur Mason (AG); FO Geoffrey Robert Palmer RAAF (Nav); WO John George Galley DFM (WOp/AG); WO Robert Edward Ralph (WOp/AG); FS William Alexander Gray RCAF (WOp/AG); FS Donald Kenneth Clark RCAF (WOp/AG); Sgt Robert Hartop (FE)

Arthur is buried in Leopoldsburg War Cemetery, Limburg, Belgium

Arthur is commemorated on Wall Panel 162

Photo Source: bac-lac.gc.ca