

# Gerald McCulloch

January 12, 1917 -

## Birth Location:

Lincolnshire, England

## Worked For:

Orenda Engines Limited from 1951-1982

## I.D. Number:

41010



## Position:

Inspector and foreman on Avro Arrow. McCulloch worked for Orenda Engines Limited starting in 1951 – right around the time they started work on an engine for Canada's Avro Arrow project.

He was an inspector and a foreman at the factory on Derry Road in Malton.

"I was working to inspect fixtures and engine parts. They either passed or they'd get rejected," said McCulloch. "Part of my job was to reclaim parts that were rejected to see if they could be saved. If they couldn't be saved, they'd have to be melted down."

## Other:

The Arrow project was cancelled on Feb. 20, 1959, shortly before McCulloch was to have his lunch.

The way he tells it, an announcement came over the PA at 11:45, just 15 minutes before a scheduled test flight, telling everyone at the factory to go home and not come back.

"We were doing what we would normally do that time of day ... we were getting ready for lunch," said McCulloch. "It's a pity it was ever cancelled."

He said many of the people working on the Arrow project scattered after its cancellation. The day became known as "Black Friday" for Canada's aviation industry.

"It was a bad time for a lot of people," recalled McCulloch.

A couple months later, however, McCulloch was called back to Orenda to continue work on the engine, whose development continued without the Arrow. He worked there until 1982.

"They threw me out! I retired," he said. "It's a shame, you go into the same building all those years and nobody takes any notice of you, then once you're out, you can't get back in again."

<https://barrie.ctvnews.ca/air-force-mechanic-from-alliston-reflects-on-avro-arrow-on-106th-birthday-1.6229410>

<https://barrie.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=2608603>

<https://www.barrietoday.com/local-news/collingwood-man-who-helped-develop-avro-arrow-celebrates-104th-birthday-3256657>

<https://www.collingwoodtoday.ca/local-news/collingwood-centenarian-who-worked-on-the-avro-arrow-pays-visit-to-its-replica-3981015>

**Researched by: Barry Copp (2023)**