

Flt. Sgt. Ernest Charles Atkinson
650052 RAF



Ernest Atkinson was the wireless operator/air gunner in a Hampden lost along with his crew in an attack on a German chemical factory.

His was one of 20 Hampdens sent by 49 Squadron from Scampton to the chemical factory at Huls, near Krefeld, on the night of 28/29 December 1941. Some 81 Hampdens from 5 Group took part in the attack, which was reported to have been successful, with three others lost in the raid.

Ernest was flying in AE419 EA-T, which is believed to have crashed in the sea. No trace of the aircraft, or the four-man crew, was found and all those on board are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

He came from Islington in north London and was the 21-year-old son of Samuel and Alice Atkinson. The others who died were the pilot Sgt. Archie Watt, observer Sgt. Ted Sawdy and air gunner Sgt. Henry Wisdom.

His name can be found on panel 004.

Sources: 49 Squadron Association/Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook.