

Sgt. John Ronald Butler 761002
RAFVR

John Butler was a 21-year-old observer whose Hampden vanished during a mining operation over the Bay of Biscay in late May 1941.



He was among four aircrew of 49 Squadron Hampden AD729 EA-N who were lost on the night of 27/28 May as their aircraft returned to RAF Scampton following an operation over Brest and St Nazaire involving 36 Hampdens of No. 5 Group. His was the only one lost and was the first loss suffered by 49 Squadron for over two months. The crew are now remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

John came from Fleetwood, in Lancashire, and was the son of John and Mary Butler. The others who died were the pilot S/L David Smith and air gunners Flt. Sgt. Jim Leslie and Sgt. Gordon Hadaway.

His name can be found on panel 016.

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