

F/O Peter Saumarez Butler 33182 RAF



Peter was a Pilot who served in 49 Sqn based at RAF Fiskerton. He was killed on 25 May 1940 in an operation over Krefeld/Aachen, along with the rest of his crew, although he was never found. He was 23 years old.

At 0600 hours, twelve aircraft were ordered to stand-by at one hour's notice... by 1330 hours this was cancelled. Then at 1600 hours it was 'on' again... ten aircraft required for bombing, the first getting away just after 2100 hours. The Hampden, P1318, flown by Peter and crew failed to return from this operation and it is thought they were victims of flak over the target area; none of the crew survived. P/O John Bennett and LAC George Parsons are buried in the Adegem Canadian War Cemetery in Belgium while Peter and Sgt. John Harrison are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

Peter was the 23-year-old son of Rear Admiral Vernon Butler DSO and Mrs Helen Butler of Ston Easton, in Somerset.

The full crew of Hampden P1318 were:

F/O Peter Butler - Pilot (Missing)
P/O John Bennett - 2nd Pilot (Killed)
LAC George Parsons - Wireless Operator/Air Gunner (Killed)
Sgt. John Harrison – Observer (Missing)

Peter can be found on Panel 16.

Photo and biography courtesy of the 49 Squadron Association.