

Sgt. John Butterworth 747859 RAFVR

John Butterworth was a Hampden observer whose aircraft was shot down as it was preparing to land at RAF Scampton following a raid on Hanover.

His aircraft, AD719 (EA-C), was awaiting permission to land when the Hampden was fired on by a Luftwaffe Ju88 intruder, setting it on fire. The engagement is believed to have taken place at 0649 hours on 11 February 1941 over RAF Waddington before the Hampden crashed 200 yards north of Sudbrooke Lane, close to Grange Farm in Sudbrooke. The wireless operator/air gunner Sgt. David Caldwell also died in the crash.

The Hampden – it carried the name ‘Istanbul’ on the fuselage after the cost of manufacturing being met by the British community in the Turkish capital – had been one of 12 from 49 Squadron at Scampton that had taken part in a raid involving 222 Bomber Command aircraft on Hanover.

John was 24 and came from Bury in Lancashire. He had been a student at Bury Grammar School and was the son of Edward and Susan Butterworth. He is buried in All Saints churchyard in the Bury suburb of Elton.

His name can be found close by David Caldwell’s on panel 016.

Sources: 49 Squadron Association/Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook/Mark Hone, Bury Grammar School.

