

P/O Nicoll Brian Fawcett 41005 RAF

Nicoll Fawcett was a young New Zealander killed on the first bombing raid on Berlin of the war by Bomber Command.

He was the pilot of Hampden I P4416 EA-L, of Scampton-based 49 Squadron, which was taking part in a raid on the German capital on the night of 25/26 August 1940, an attack staged as a retaliation to the Luftwaffe bombing of London in the opening stages of the Battle of Britain.

Very little damage was caused while six Hampdens lost through ditching or crash-landing or, in the case of P4416, simply disappearing, probably over the North Sea. Berlin was at the absolute limit for Hampdens and three of those lost were from Scampton, one from 49 and two from 83 Squadron.

Nicoll came from the town of Feilding on New Zealand's North Island and was the 20-year-old son of Francis and Freda Fawcett. He had worked as a legal clerk before travelling to England to join the pre-war RAF and had already completed 22 operations with 49 Squadron from Scampton before his death.



The others lost were the navigator/bomb-aimer Sgt. James Clarke, wireless operator/air gunner Sgt. John Baker and air gunner AC1 Gordon Reay. All were listed as lost without trace and are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

His name can be found on panel 034.

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

