

Sgt. John Harrison 580653
RAF



John Harrison was a Hampden observer who was killed when his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and eventually crashed in the North Sea off the Belgian coast.

He was part of the crew of Hampden P1318, one of ten Hampdens of 49 Squadron involved in an attack on rail and communication links between Krefeld and Aachen during the German invasion of France in May 1940.

The Hampden took off from RAF Scampton at 2100 hours on the night of 25 May, one of 103 Bomber Command aircraft to attempt to try to hamper the ongoing battle in northern France. His aircraft is believed to have been hit by flak 'in the target area' and reported to have crashed in the sea.

John came from Blackburn in Lancashire and was the son of Harold and Margaret Harrison. His body was never recovered and he is remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

The others who died were the pilot F/O Peter Butler, second pilot P/O John Bennett and wireless operator/air gunner LAC George Parsons.

His name can be found on panel 046.

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