

Sgt. William Nicol 742765
RAFVR

Bill Nicol was one of three men killed when a 49 Squadron Hampden crashed in Yorkshire during a training flight early in autumn 1940.



He was one of two pilots and a wireless operator on board Hampden P2134 that took off from Scampton in the evening of 29 September for a cross-country operation. They turned first at Upper Heyford in Oxfordshire and then Finningley in Yorkshire before heading back to Scampton.

However, at 2330 hours the Hampden hit rising ground near South Hodge at Bretton Hall, near Wakefield, crashing into what is now the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, killing all three on board.

Bill came from Ayr in Scotland and was the 26-year-old son of William and Frances Nicol. He is buried in Ayr Cemetery.

The others who died were pilot Sgt. Frederick Catley and wireless operator Sgt. Bertram Hastie.

His name can be found on panel 079.

Sources: 49 Squadron Association/Yorkshire Aircrashes.