

S/L David Arthur Smith 39347 RAF

David Smith was an experienced bomber pilot whose Hampden vanished during a mining operation over the Bay of Biscay in late May 1941.



He was among four aircrew of 49 Squadron Hampden AD729 EA-N who were lost on the night of 27/28 May as their aircraft returned to RAF Scampton following an operation over Brest and St Nazaire involving 36 Hampdens of No. 5 Group. His was the only one lost and was the first loss suffered by 49 Squadron for over two months. The crew are now remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

David was 23 and came from Westcliffe-on-Sea in Essex where his mother, Ellen, lived. The others who died were the observer Sgt. John Butler, wireless operator/air gunner Flt. Sgt. Jim Leslie and air gunner Sgt. Gordon Hadaway.

His name can be found on panel 098.

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