

Flt. Sgt. William Anderson Watson 612507 RAF



Bill Watson was a wireless operator/air gunner who was killed along with his crew when their 49 Squadron Hampden is believed to have been shot down over the North Sea.

He was part of the crew of Hampden AE224 (EA-Z) [pictured above at RAF Scampton] which failed to return from an operation on the night of 1/2 November 1941. His aircraft bore the name 'Golden Hind' as a tribute to his pilot, and bore a cartoon version of the ship painted on the fuselage.

His was one of four Hampdens from 49 Squadron that night, two to lay mines in Kiel Bay and the others to attack any shipping or convoys off the Frisian Islands. The latter involved the Golden Hind's crew and it was during this operation they were intercepted by a Luftwaffe night-fighter.



The others who died were the pilot S/L David Drakes, second pilot P/O Victor Beaney and observer P/O William Cheetham. All are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

His name can be found on panel 112.

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