



Thame Remembers



Pilot Officer Peter Milton Jennings

Peter Milton Jennings was born in Little Milton, Oxfordshire in late 1915 to parents John Thomas and Eva Hannah Jennings (nee Cooke). John Thomas Jennings was a grocer in Little Milton. Later, Peter attended Lord Williams's School in Thame.

Peter joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve at the start of WW2 and served as a Sergeant pilot with 158 Sqn based at RAF Lissett in East Yorkshire where he flew Halifax bombers. He was commissioned to Pilot Officer on 31st August 1943 as an experienced pilot who had already flown 23 operational sorties with 158 Sqn.

At least 20 of those missions were with the same crew that took off in Halifax Mk III HX351 just after midnight on 20th February 1944 for a mission to bomb Leipzig. Nine minutes later the bomber crashed into a field just off a minor road connecting the villages of Atwick and Bewholme near the coast of East Yorkshire killing all the crew instantly.

The accident investigation was inconclusive. It appears that the pilot may have lost control after entering cloud when there was a tail plane failure, but this could not be proved beyond doubt.

The crew were returned to their family homes for burial and Peter is buried in St James's Churchyard in Little Milton. He is remembered in Thame on Lord Williams's School Memorial Board. There is also a memorial to the crew at the crash site, put there by the navigator's brother.



**The
Thame Remembers Cross
was delivered
to his grave on
15th October 2015
by
Sheila Wyse
Thame Resident**

