



Thame Remembers

Flying Officer Anthony Austin Beard



Anthony Austin Beard was born on 19th June 1923 in Cirencester, Gloucestershire, the son of Oscar and Ida Madeleine Beard. The family moved to Thame in 1937 and lived at 17 Broadwaters Avenue, Thame.

Tony joined the RAF in 1942. As a toolmaker he was in a reserved occupation but insisted on his release to serve his country. He passed his exams and enlisted as aircrew. After basic training in England he undertook his flying training in Tiger Moths in Canada. He passed with distinction and rather than front line service Tony was sent to Little Rissington as a flying instructor. On 24th September 1944 he was flying an Airspeed Oxford in bad weather when he suffered a terrible flying accident and was killed.



He was buried with full military honours in St Mary's Churchyard Thame on 28th September 1944 aged just 21 years. He is remembered on Thame war memorial and on St Mary's Church memorial board.



**The
Thame Remembers Cross
was delivered
to his grave on
3rd August 2014
by
his brother
Peter Beard**

