

**ANTHONY WALLACE ADAMS, 86654**

**Flight Lieutenant, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 254 Squadron**

Anthony's grandfather was Thomas Adams, born in Lichfield. His grandmother was Mary Isabel, née Rowland, born in Repton. Thomas and Mary married at St Peter's Church, Derby, in 1882. At the time of the 1891 and 1901 census returns they were living in Simney Lane, Repton. Thomas was a gardener, both domestic and non-domestic. Mary was listed as a dressmaker, seamstress and shirt maker.



In Loving Memory of  
THOMAS ADAMS.  
BORN DECR. 16<sup>TH</sup>. 1845.  
DIED SEPT. 3<sup>RD</sup>. 1907.  
“UNTIL THE DAY BREAK AND THE  
SHADOWS FLEE AWAY.”  
ALSO OF  
MARY ISABEL ADAMS  
BORN AUG. 18<sup>TH</sup>. 1852.  
DIED JAN. 19<sup>TH</sup>. 1945.  
“PEACE PERFECT PEACE.”

St Wystan's Churchyard, Repton.

Anthony's father, Arthur Wallace Adams, was one of nine children born to Thomas and Mary, of which seven survived. Arthur was born 5 September 1888 and baptised at St Wystan's Church on 28 October 1888. At the time of the 1911 census Arthur was living with his widowed mother in Monsom Lane. Mary was listed as a laundress and Arthur a shop assistant working in a book/stationery shop. Also living in the same house were four of Mary's daughters, another son, two granddaughters and a boarder.

It was reported in the Derby Daily Telegraph on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 1916, that Arthur's brother, Private Leonard Edward Adams, of the Motor Transport Army Corps, was the first village man to have gained the D.C.M. He had previously been employed at Mr G Collier's garage.

Arthur married Elizabeth Marsden, who was born in Hilton. Their only child, Anthony Wallace, was baptised at St Wystan's Church on 25 July 1920. Anthony attended the Infants' and Elementary classes at Repton Church of England School and in 1931 he was awarded a

scholarship. He attended Burton Grammar School 1931-1936. In the 1935 Directory Arthur, a clerk, was listed as the householder and living in Milton Road. His younger brother, Leonard Edward, a motor mechanic, was also living in Milton Road.

The family went to live in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada. At some point Anthony married; his wife was named Gwendoline. Sometime after the end of the war Arthur and Elizabeth returned to Repton and in the 1960 Directory they were recorded as living in Monsom Lane.

Anthony received two commissions within the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. In 1940 he became a Pilot Officer and in 1941 a Flying Officer. He died on 20 July 1944, aged 23, when the Beaufighter that he was piloting crashed into the sea. He was a Flight Lieutenant in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 254 Squadron.



## 254 Squadron

To fly, to watch and to strike

The squadron was originally formed in 1918 and disbanded in 1919. It reformed on 30 October 1939 at Stradishall (Suffolk), as a shipping protection unit. The squadron was equipped with Bristol Blenheim aircraft and it carried out coastal patrols and convoy escort operations along the East Coast. From April 1940 it also provided reconnaissance and fighter escort for anti-shipping strikes. The squadron moved to a base at Aldergrove (Northern Ireland) and then Dyce (Scotland), where it converted to flying Bristol Beaufighters. In August 1942 the squadron began torpedo training. In November 1942 it became the third squadron to join the North Coates Strike Wing, based in Lincolnshire, where it remained for the rest of the war. It provided the torpedo bomber element at North Coates. The squadron's targets were normally surface vessels, but in the last few days of the war a number of U-boats were attacked and sunk while attempting to escape from Germany. The squadron was renumbered 42 Squadron on 1 October 1946.

Anthony does not have a grave but is remembered on the Roll of Honour at St Wystan's Church, Repton, the village War Memorial, the Canadian Virtual War Memorial, the Roll of Honour at the former Burton Grammar School and on Panel 201 at the Air Forces' Memorial at Runnymede, Surrey.



The Air Forces' Memorial, Runnymede.

The Memorial overlooks the Thames and was built on the crest of Cooper's Hill, between Englefield Green and Windsor. It has a square tower with a cloister, in the centre of which rests the Stone of Remembrance. The Memorial commemorates 20,324 identified airmen and women from the British Empire, who died in WW II and who have do not have a known grave. They were lost in operations from bases in Great Britain, North and Western Europe. The Memorial was unveiled by The Queen on 17 October 1953.