

Anthony Charles CATTON

Born: 1919

Parents: Son of Charles William and Winifred Louise Catton of Braishfield,
Romsey, Hampshire

School Years: 1929-1934 - Chichester High School for Boys

'The Martlet' article 'Halnaker Hall' spring 1933

'The Martlet' article 'The Valley of the River Rother' summer 1933

'The Martlet' article 'Something Beautiful' autumn 1933

'The Martlet' short study 'Winchester' summer 1934

Oxford School Certificate – Honours – July 1935

Exemption from Matriculation – University of London

Distinction in English and Geography – spring 1935

Speech Day – Special Prize (English) 1935

'The Martlet' – Roll of Service - Aircraftman No.4 A.O.S - RAF

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank: Sergeant

Service Number: 581499

Squadron: No.13 O.T.U.

Operational Base: RAF Bicester

Date of Death: 7 August 1940

'The Martlet' 'School Notes' July 1940 –

"It is great regret that we record additions to the casualty list of our Old Boys. Anthony Charles CATTON (1929-1934), a sergeant pilot in the R.A.F., who was killed in a crash off the Welsh Coast. He had done well in his days at School and in his civil life before serving with the Forces. To his parents and relatives, the whole School extends our deepest sympathy".

"*Old Boy* Anthony Charles CATTON was buried in 'All Saints' Churchyard, Braishfield, Hampshire. He was 21.



Bristol Blenheim Mk.IV L9039 of No.13 OTU RAF, flew into the cliffs of Craig yr Ysfa in the Carneddau 6 miles SSE of Bethesda 8th April 1940

Accident Report

Old Boy Sergeant Anthony Charles CATTON was an observer in a four-man crew of a Bristol Blenheim Mark 1V L9039 of No. 13 Operational Training Unit based at RAF Bicester in Oxfordshire which took off on 8 April 1940. Accompanied by two other Blenheims it was on a cross-country training flight towards Ronaldsway over a planned route. Later, it turned in cloud and broke formation. All contact was lost with the crew and it was reported missing. The wreck was found the following day. Evidence pointed to the aircraft having flown into the mountain in level flight when it crashed just below the summit into the cliffs of Craig yr Ysfa, Carneddua, Conwy in Wales at a height of 2900 feet.

Alan Clark - Peak District Air Accident Research publish and then updated 9 August 2016

Mark Evans – Midland Aircraft Crash Recovery

Tony Catton – Early Promise

Tony Catton (1929/1934) was only fifteen when he spent most evenings at his home, Chaffinch Farm in Birdham, writing a detailed history of Chichester and the surrounding villages for a friend, Charles Kimbell, who was about to emigrate to Australia. He also wrote a book of poems. On April the 7 1940, aged 21, he died in an air crash off the Welsh Coast, serving as an RAF Sergeant Observer. To get the flavour of the freshness of his literary style, please read his account of the 'Butter Market' on page 51 of Alan Green's 'Cattle, Corn and Crawfish'. It is taken from Tony Catton's book, 'In and Around Chichester' (105 pages) which was published after his death.

'Chi High' at War 1939 – 1945 by Andrew Berriman revised 15 December 2014

For further insight Members are also invited to read Alan Green's review of Catton's early literary promise which can be found in Menu 'Archives' then select 'From the Archives' link on our website. This information surfaced following the release of archival material rescued from the school and placed with the West Sussex Records Office by Andrew Berriman on his retirement.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial