



Thame Remembers



Leading Seaman James William Carter

Born in Brentford, Middlesex, in 1918, James William Carter was one of six children of James and Eliza Carter (nee Wright). His mother died in 1923 after giving birth to triplets, who all died.

James, together with his father, and surviving brother and sister moved to Thame, probably in the 1930's, where James, was an employee of Messrs Pursers Ltd, Thame.

Serving with the Royal Navy during World War 2. In 1944, Leading Seaman James William Carter - P/JX 178841, was serving on HMS Penelope, an Arethusa class light cruiser in the Mediterranean.

On 18 February 1944, Penelope was leaving Naples to return to Anzio area when she was torpedoed at 13.25 by the German submarine U-410. A torpedo struck her in the after engine room and was followed sixteen minutes later by another torpedo that hit in the after boiler room, causing her immediate sinking. 415 of the crew, including the captain, went down with the ship. There were 206 survivors. The remarkable point of the attack by U-410 was that the cruiser was making 26 knots when hit. As far as can be ascertained, this is a unique case. In the history of submarine attacks during WWII, no other ship running at such speed was ever successfully attacked. James left effects to the total of £128 19s 4d in his will, administration being granted to his father at Jemmetts Cottage, 6 Oxford Road, Thame.

P/JX 178841 Leading Seaman James William Carter was lost at sea and his name is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Southsea, Hampshire. His is remembered in Thame on the town war memorial and St Mary's Church memorial board.



**The
Thame Remembers Cross
was delivered to
Portsmouth Naval Memorial
on 14 June 2017
by
Cllr Tom Wyse
Mayor of Thame**

