

## Thomas Trotter

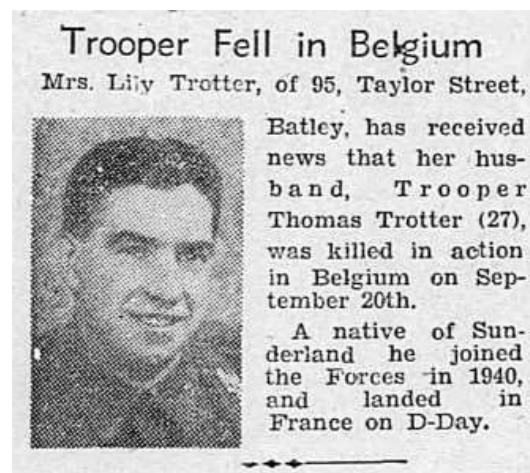


Batley News, 14 Oct 1944 (photo)

Thomas (Tommy) was a native of Sunderland. He was born on 12 October 1916 the son of Thomas and Ethel May Trotter, (nee Joicey, m. 1909, registered Sunderland). He married Lily Gilmour in Sunderland in 1939.

During the war many families were evacuated to Batley if they lived in areas near shipyards, docks, such as Hull and Sunderland and in this case the family lived near the docks/shipyards of the River Wear so were a target for Luftwaffe air raids and came to a safer place, 95, Taylor Street, Batley.

Thomas enlisted in Sunderland in the Royal Armoured Corps and at the time of his death was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> County of London Yeomanry Regiment (Sharpshooters) RAC. They had seen action as Desert Rats, against Rommel's Africa Korps in North Africa and in Italy moving back to Britain arriving in February 1944. They trained for the D-Day landings and landed in Normandy on D-Day plus 1 (7 June) seeing action in France, Holland, Belgium and Germany.



Thomas was on a reconnaissance mission near Asch, Belgium, with two officers. Their staff car hit a mine, Thomas (Tommy) was badly injured and the two officers began carrying Tommy but another mine detonated and sadly the three were killed. This was on 20 September 1944.



Lily and Tommy

Tommy was originally buried at a convent in Asch and was later moved to Leopoldsburg, Limburg, Belgium.

Lily, in 1950 married Alex McCall, who had been a friend of Tommy's and came from Royston but moved to live in Sunderland.

Thomas was awarded the 1939-45 Star; 1939-45 Medal.



Thanks to Lily's family.