Thomas Egan





Rank: - Gunner

Number: - 11420390

Regiment: - Royal Artillery, 80 H.A.A. Regt

Died: - Killed in Action 8 November 1943 aged 40 years

Cemetery: - Salerno War Cemetery, Italy V1.B.29.

Batley News, 27 Nov 1943 (photo)

Thomas was born on Christmas Day 1902 the son of Thomas and Anne Egan nee Meehan who had married in 1892. Mary Ellen was born in 1894 followed by Francis 1897, Austin 1898, Henry James 1899 and Thomas. In 1911 the family lived at 26, North Bank Road, Batley and his father was a house furnisher and jeweller working for him-self. His mother, Ann, died in December 1928 when she lived at 104, Commercial Street, Batley. Thomas, his father, was a well-known local business man and also a magistrate. The family moved to live at 54, Healey Lane, Batley.

Thomas (jnr) was educated at St. Mary's Church and Batley Grammar School and was an enthusiastic member of St. Mary's Church choir. He was formerly employed in the Prudential Assurance Companies offices in Batley but before he joined up, he was assisting his father in his millinery business in Upper Commercial Street, Batley.

Thomas went abroad in January 1943 and fought in Tunis, taking part in the invasion of Sicily from where he last wrote home. In September 1943 the British Eighth Army and the American 5th Army invaded Salerno, the Eighth Army sailing from Sicily. There was fierce fighting but the Allies managed to secure the beachhead. Thomas managed to survive this fighting but was killed in action on 8 November 1943 and buried at Salerno.

WHATEVER ELSE WE FAIL TO DO WE ALWAYS THINK OF YOU. FATHER, SISTER AND BROTHER

He was awarded the 1939-45 Star; 1939-1945 War Medal

Thomas is remembered with Honour at Batley Grammar School and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group

BATLEY MAGISTRATE'S SON KILLED

Was Last Heard Of In Sicily

A well-known Batley magistrate, Mr. Thomas Egan, "Mayville," Healey Lane, received a telegram on Monday night to inform him that his youngest son, Gunner Thomas Egan, R.A. (40), had been killed on November 8th.



Gnr. T. Egan.

Gunner Egan went abroad in January, fought in Tunis and took part in the invasion of Sicily. It is not known where he was killed, but Sicily was the last place from which he wrote.

Gunner Egan was an old boy of St. Mary's Roman Catholic School and Batley Grammar School and was an enthusiastic member of St. Mary's Church choir. He was formerly employed in the Prudential Assurance Co.'s offices in Batley, and before he joined up he was assisting his father in his millinery business in Upper Commercial Street, Batley.