James Thomas William Tremain





Rank: - Sergeant (Air Gunner)

Number: - 1261299

Regiment: - Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 51 Squadron Code letters MH

Died: - 7th February 1943 aged 22

Cemetery: - Selby Cemetery, Grave 5277

Batley News, 13 Feb 1943 (photo); 20 Feb 1943

James, aka Jim, Thomas was born on 29 April 1920 at 107, Old Church Road, Stepney, London the son of James Robert and Alice Tremain nee Boon who had married at St. John's, Limehouse, London on 11 April 1911. Alice was born in 1911 followed by Katherine Ellen 1913, Phyllis 1916, James Thomas 1920, Ada Elizabeth 1922, Winifred 1925 and Thomas R 1927-1929.

The family were evacuated from London to 71, Warwick Road, Batley in 1940. Jim was employed by Messrs. Truman and Hambrey, brewers, of London before joining the RAF in May 1940. Within three days of visiting the family in Batley when on leave he was involved in a bus accident at Knottingley, near Pontefract. Two RAF buses, which were returning to their station after a recreational outing at Pontefract for the staff, were passing through Knottingley when the rear vehicle failed to take the corner near the Town Hall. It crashed into the Vicarage wall, a great part of which was knocked down, and overturned. Most of the occupants were injured, and five were dead when extracted. Three others died in Pontefract General Infirmary.

The inquest stated that the coach was returning from an outing to Pontefract with 41 passengers-- 15 standing –when there should have been only 31, and the motor coach failed to take the bend. The overloading was the cause of the accident.

Jim was awarded the 1939-45 Star; 1939-1945 War Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Royal Air Forces Association Club, Batley and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group