

Thomas Sydney Truman (Shunter) 1900 - 1952

This case was found in the Railway Work Life and Death Project database <https://www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk/>.

Thomas was injured in an accident at Stoke Prior in 1925. His hand was caught between the buffers while helping shunt a wagon. He recovered, married & raised a family in Birmingham. He passed away in 1952.

Thomas was born in Birmingham on 23 Nov. 1900 to Thomas Truman and Ellen Truman (nee Taylor). The 1901 Census finds the family living at 81 Pope St, Ladywood Birmingham - Thomas Truman age 44 (Bedstead Castor Marker), Ellen (nee Taylor) 43 Laundress, Mary 21 Laundress, Lily 18 Press Stamper, Charles 15 Solderer, William 11, Horace 7, Amelia, 5 & Thomas Sidney 4 months.

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=17.0&lat=52.48598&lon=-1.91662&layers=168&b=1&marker=52.485446,-1.916661>

The 1901 Census finds, Thomas's future wife, 3 year old Gertrude Corbett, living only about a half mile from Thomas's home. The Corbett family were at Wheleys Lane, Ladywood, Birmingham - Matthew (born in Bromsgrove) age 32 a Railway Porter, Eliza 32, Thomas 6, Hilda 4, Gertrude age 3 & Charles E 4 months. <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=17.6&lat=52.47218&lon=-1.91132&layers=168&b=1&marker=52.472206,-1.910529>

1911 census finds the Taylor family at 57 Northbrook St, Birmingham - Head of the household was , William Taylor, occupation Carter, Wife, Mary J Taylor, Laundress, Thomas Truman, 58, (Son in Law) Widower, Bedstead Castor maker, Horace Truman, 19, Minnie Truman 14, Thomas Taylor 11 & Rosetta Taylor 19 Months. Thomas's mother Ellen had passed away by 1911. No record has yet been found of Thomas at that date. - It is possible that he was living with his paternal grandparents, in Bromsgrove. <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=17.7&lat=52.48601&lon=-1.93210&layers=168&b=1&marker=52.485489,-1.932021>

The Corbetts had moved to Bromsgrove by September 1912 when Thomas's brother in law Matthew J Corbett was born in the town.

In 1921 Thomas married Gertrude Corbett at Bromsgrove (Registration Q3 6c 573).

On 30 Oct 1922 a son was born - Sidney C P Truman.
He married in Oct 1941 to Doris N White (Born 1924 passed 1988) Sidney passed away in 2006.

On 27 Feb 1926 a son John E Truman was born.
He married Margaret J Huxley (Born 1931, Passed away 2018). John E passed away in 1991.

In 1932 a daughter was born, Elsie May Truman. She married Edward Docker in 1955. Elsie passed away in 2001.

The 1937 Electoral roll shows Thomas residing at 34 South Roundhay, Birmingham. <https://maps.nls.uk/view/101584681#zoom=6&lat=3359&lon=5534&layers=BT>

The 1939 register finds Thomas & family at 7 Manor Road, Birmingham - Thomas born 23/11/1900, LMS Railway Goods Guard, Gertrude 14/03/98 Wife, Sidney C P, 30/10/22 Pram assembly Worker, John E 27/02/26 Scholar + 3 other children (names redacted as born less than 100 years from time of data release).

Thomas Sydney Truman passed away 29 June 1952. His residence at that time was 7 Manor Road Birmingham. He was Cremated at Yardley in July 1952. <https://maps.nls.uk/view/101584681#zoom=5&lat=3242&lon=4131&layers=BT>

Gertrude Passed away in 1972 at Meriden, Warwickshire.

The Railway Accident Inspectorate report records the following in relation to the 1925 accident:-

Name - Thomas Sydney Truman

Grade - Shunter

Age 25

Companies involved -London, Midland and Scottish Railway / Salt Union Company Limited

Date of accident 1925 Jul 30th, time of accident 17:40

location - Stoke Works

Railway Accidents. Reports by the Inspecting Officers of Railways, Railway Employment Inspectors and Railway Employment Assistant Inspectors of Inquiries into accidents which occurred during the three months ending 30 September 1925

Appendix C. Reports of the Sub-Inspecting Officers of Railways on Accidents to Railway Servants and other Persons employed on railway premises

Primary railway company responsible for location - London, Midland and Scottish Railway

Any other companies involved - Salt Union Company Limited

Nature of casualty - Lacerated hand, Caught between vehicles.

Details of accident - An engine of Salt Union Co Ltd was propelling three wagons on to the front siding. Truman attempted to couple them to a stationary wagon, when his hand was injured between the buffers as the moving wagons came into contact with the stationary wagon.

Responsibility/ cause - Truman had attempted to throw the link over the draw-bar hook by means of a shunting pole before the buffers had touched, contrary to Rule 23(f)

Injury: Cut(s) or laceration(s)

Booked hours 08:00. time on duty 06:40

Inspector Wm Worthy Cooke