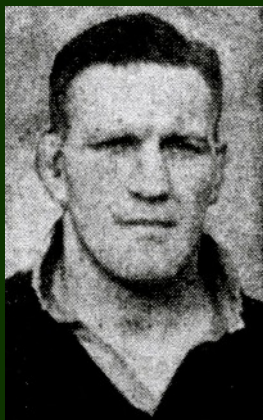


Lawrence William 'Laurie' Thacker
1 Commando Brigade



STAR IN A CRACK HULL TEAM

**LAURIE THACKER DIES
IN HOSPITAL**

FOLLOWING AN ILLNESS lasting nearly three years, Lawrence William Thacker (42), former England and Hull front-row forward, has died in East Riding General Hospital, Driffeld. About two years ago, he underwent an operation in Hull Royal Infirmary and was admitted to East Riding General Hospital, Driffeld, about a month ago in a serious condition.

Thacker was a product of Hull junior rugby football. He left Marlborough Club in 1933 to join the Airlie Birds and he commanded a regular place in the first team up to the outbreak of World War II.

WOUNDED IN LEG

He served with the Commandos in France and Germany and was wounded in the leg. On returning home after demobilisation, he played a few games with his old club before hanging up his boots.

Thacker played for England three times, once at Cardiff and twice against France. His last international game was against France in 1939.

VERY FAST

He played for Yorkshire several times and was a member of the redoubtable Hull

side who won the Rugby League championship in 1936. Weighing 14st. and exceptionally fast for a forward, Thacker was a star in a star team and the captain of his day Harold Ellerington, volunteered this tribute, "Laurie was one of the best front-row forwards of his day."

Thacker's first game with the Boulevard club was when he played for the A team against Swinton A on February 18, 1933.

He was promoted to the senior side on September 2, 1933, when Hull visited Dewsbury. Altogether he made 280 appearances and scored 43 tries.

LAURIE'S LAST GAME

His last game for Hull was at the Boulevard on May 2, 1946, when Leeds were the visitors.