John Robert Murray Critchley



Batley News, 25 Mar 1944 (photo)

John Robert Murray was born in Batley the son of Leonard Cecil and Mabel Mary Critchley (nee Webb), who had married on 7 April 1915 at St. Thomas's Church, Batley, they later moved to live at 141, Wakefield Road, Earlsheaton, Dewsbury. He was the grandson of Walter Critchley of Batley Hall and nephew of Major J.P. Critchley J.P. of Batley Hall. John attended Dewsbury Wheelwright and Wakefield Grammar Schools and worked for Messrs. E Fox and Sons, Calder Bank Mills, Dewsbury before joining the R.A.F. in February 1943 and going overseas two months later.



GRANDSON OF MR. WALTER CRITCHLEY, OF BATLEY

Earlsheaton R.A.F. Cadet Dies On Service

The sixth member of Dewsbury A.T.C. to be killed during the war is Air Cadet John Robert Murray Critchley (19), R.A.F., younger son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard C. Critchley, 141, Wakefield Road, Earlsheaton, who died on March 15th while on service in Southern Rhodesia.

J. R. M. Critchley

A native of Batley, Cadet Critchley attended Dewsbury Wheelwright Grammar School and Wakefield Grammar School. He was employed by Messrs. E. Fox and Sons, Calder Bank Mills, Dewsbury, before he joined the R.A.F. in February, 1943, and went overseas two months later.

Cadet Critchley was one of the first boys to join the Dewsbury A.T.C., in which he had been a flight-sergeant. He was a motor-cyclist in Dewsbury Civil Defence Messenger Corps; attended St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton; and was a member of the church's Youth Fellowship.

Cadet Critchley was a grandson of the late Mr. Walter Critchley, of Batley Hall, Batley, and a nephew of Major J. P. Critchley, J.P., of Batley Hall.

Cadet Critchley was one of the first boys to join Dewsbury A.T.C. where he was a flight-sergeant and was a motor cyclist in The Dewsbury Civil Defence

Messenger Corps. He attended St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton and was a member of the church's Youth Fellowship.

The family received news that he had been killed whilst serving in Southern Rhodesia on the 15 March 1944.He was 19 years old.

John Robert Murray Critchley was awarded the 1939-45 Star; 1939-1945 War Medal

He is remembered with Honour at Earlsheaton Park War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group