Leo Cullen





Rank: - Ordinary Seaman

Number: - C/JX 352912

Regiment: - Royal Navy H.M.S. Ibis

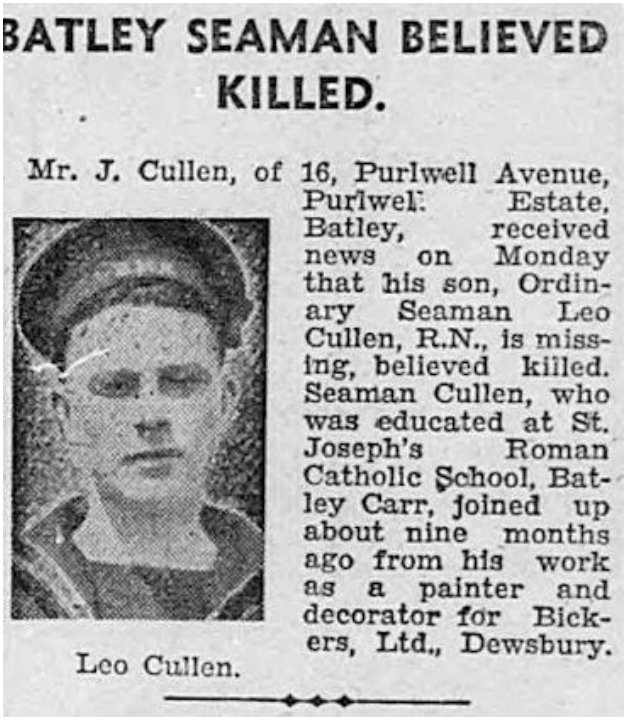
Died: - H.M.S. Ibis Sunk by airborne torpedo 10/11/1942 Age: 19 years

Cemetery: - Chatham Naval Memorial 57, 2.

Batley News, 5 Dec 1942 (photo)

Leo was born in Batley on 15 May 1923, the son of John and Alice Cullen (nee Taylor, m. 1926, registered Dewsbury). Eileen was born in 1926 and Mary 1927. Alice died in July 1932 when she lived at Cross Chapel Street, Batley Carr. The family moved to 16, Purlwell Avenue, Batley.

Leo was educated at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic School, Batley Carr and joined up about February 1942 from his work as a painter and decorator for Bickers, Ltd., Dewsbury.



BATLEY SEAMAN BELIEVED KILLED.

Mr. J. Cullen, of 16, Purlwell Avenue, Purlwell Estate, Batley, received news on Monday that his son, Ordinary Seaman Leo Cullen, R.N., is missing, believed killed. Seaman Cullen, who was educated at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic School, Batley Carr, joined up about nine months ago from his work as a painter and decorator for Bickers, Ltd., Dewsbury.

Leo Cullen.

The HMS Ibis was built in Co. Durham and completed on 30 August 1941. She was adopted by the civil community of Stoke Newington in London as part of the Warship Week savings campaign in 1942.

Ibis was sunk by an airborne torpedo from an Italian aircraft in the Western Mediterranean, north of Algiers, French Algeria, on 10 November 1942.

The Scottish comedian Rikki Fulton was a member of her crew.

Leo's Uncle Walter was also a sailor and was lost at sea in March 1942.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Holy Trinity, Batley Carr, Lychgate Memorial and Batley War Memorial



Researched by members of
Batley History Group