

LATE PILOT-OFFICER J. R. DICKINSON

CRASHED NEAR NANCY.

In the "Advertiser" of May 3rd last, the news was published that Police Supt. J. H. Dickinson and Mrs. Dickinson, of Shirley, Edward Street, Oswestry, had been notified officially that their eldest son, Pilot Officer John Russell Dickinson, was missing after an operational flight over enemy territory. The following letter, dated January 2nd, has been received from the casualty board of the Air Ministry:

"In Air Ministry letter of September 4th, about your son, Pilot Officer J. R. Dickinson, you were assured that we were still trying to find out what happened to him, and his crew. At last we have obtained some information, unfortunately of a very grave nature. A report has been received from France to the effect that a British aircraft crashed near Ugnny-sur-Meuse (22 miles, west-south-west of Nancy) at 1 a.m. on April 27th, 1944. Our informant states that all the occupants were killed and buried in the local cemetery. He tried to identify the bodies, but the only positive clue on them was the name Hudson on a jumper worn by one of them, whose badges of rank showed him to be a Sergeant. There were also a white handkerchief with the initial "R" and two small photographs. The photographs are being referred to the squadron in the hope of identification. Moreover, the Frenchman was able to salvage some metal plates from the aircraft; these were sent here.

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"We submitted these plates to experts, who have established that they came from the aircraft in question. This identified the aircraft. The identification was corroborated by the name Hudson on the jumper, as the rear gunner was Sergeant R. H. Hudson. Thus there appears to be no doubt that all the members of the crew lost their lives near Ugnysur-Meuse on April 27th last. Formal presumption of death will follow.

"We have asked the Director General, Graves Registration and Enquiries, to arrange for suitable inscriptions to be placed over the graves.

"I hope that the poignancy of your grief will, to some extent, be allayed by the knowledge of the burial place, and I venture to offer you our sympathy in your great distress."—Yours sincerely,

A. P. le M. SINKINSON.
(Flight Lieutenant in Casualty Branch)

**OSWESTRY AIRMAN
MISSING**

**PILOT OFFICER J. R.
DICKINSON.**



News has been received by Police Superintendent and Mr. J. H. Dickinson, of Shirley, Edward Street, Oswestry, that their eldest son, Pilot Officer John Russell Dickinson, is missing from an operational flight over enemy territory.

Aged 21, Pilot Officer Dickinson was educated at The Priory School, Shrewsbury, and Coalbrookdale Grammar School, and he served for some time with Oswestry Home Guard. He received flying training in this country and America, where he gained his wings last year.

Returning to this country, he joined Bomber Command for operational duties and as a captain and pilot of a bomber he has been continuously active in heavy operations extending over several months.

On a number of occasions his plane encountered much enemy opposition but returned safely with some engines out of action. In one raid he had to crash-land on his return due to an encounter with an enemy fighter which had resulted in all guns being put out of action, and the petrol tank and hydraulic system damaged, whereby the bomb doors could not be closed or landing wheels lowered. On all these occasions not one of the crew sustained any injury.

The raid from which Pilot Officer Dickinson is missing was the last of his operational tour of duty and he was expected on leave before commencing duty as an instructor.

The Squadron Commander, in a letter to Supt. Dickinson, wrote: "During the four months your son had been here he had shown the greatest keenness and enthusiasm for his work, and was an example to the remainder of the Squadron. He had nearly completed his tour of the operational duty and had shown himself to be an excellent officer and leader of his crew. I am extremely sorry to lose him in this way, and hope that later on we shall have news that he is safe."

Pilot Officer Dickinson is the eldest of three sons, and his brother Peter, aged 19, is serving in the Royal Navy. He also was in the Oswestry Home Guard.

Inspector J. H. Dickinson, Oswestry, has been promoted during the past week to the rank of Superintendent in charge of B. Division at Oswestry. The new superintendent has had an interesting career, and has also distinguished himself in other spheres. During the Great War he served in the 60th Rifles (King's Royal Rifle Corps) and later was commissioned to the Sherwood Foresters. For the latter part of hostilities he was Acting Staff Captain, 105th Brigade H.Q. with the 35th Division in France.

Supt. Dickinson joined the Shropshire Constabulary in March, 1920, and as a constable was stationed successively at Bridgnorth, Oldbury, and Bomere Heath. He was appointed Acting Sergeant in April, 1925, Second-Class Sergeant in Oct., 1929, and First-Class Sergeant in Jan., 1934. He was promoted Inspector at Ironbridge in November, 1938, after having been stationed at County Police Headquarters, Shrewsbury, for 11 years, and came to Oswestry in April of this year to take charge of the Oswestry Division on the retirement of Superintendent R. Evans.

In the athletic world, Supt. Dickinson has had considerable success as a runner, cricketer and footballer. He has played for the police football team and for Shrewsbury Amateurs. At Bridgnorth, he was in the team that won the Shropshire Junior Cup in 1922. He is also a skilful bowler, and has already gained distinction at Oswestry by winning, last year, the Mayor's Challenge Cup competed for by police in the division. He bowls for the Belgrave club.

OSWESTRY POLICE
OFFICER'S PROMOTION

SUPT. J. H. DICKINSON.

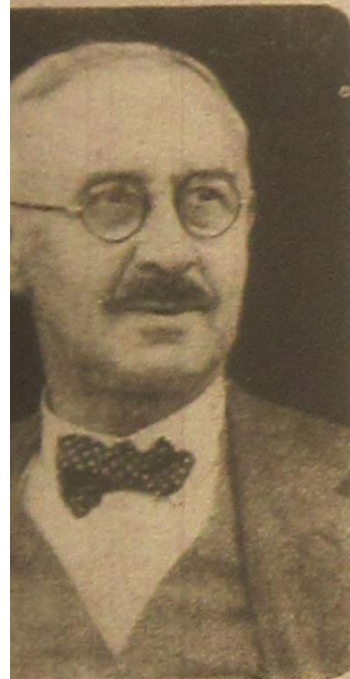


WAS SUNDAY AT OSWESTRY

SERVICE AT PARISH CHURCH

MAINTAINING OLD TRADITIONS

The officials and voluntary workers in the borough attended a service at Oswestry Parish Church this morning to mark the beginning of the year as Mayor, and there was a large congregation, including more than



MAYOR (COUNCILLOR C. BRISTOW).

There was a procession, led by the Borough Surveyor (Mr. ... or) from the Bailey Head to the Mayor and Mayoress, followed by the Town Clerk (Mr. H. ...), and Major B. Parker M.P., walked at the head of the procession in their robes, aldermen, and officials of the Corporation. The procession, led by the Borough Surveyor, included a police escort, members of the British Legion, detachment of St. John Ambulance Brigade, the Division, the Borough Fire and Auxiliary Fire Service, the Rotarians, Friendly Societies, and the Boy Scouts Girl

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Death of Mr. J. H. Dickinson

Mr. John Harold Dickinson, of The Russells, Pant, died on Saturday. He was aged 60. Mr. Dickinson, who was born in Shrewsbury, served for many years in the Shropshire Constabulary and was Superintendent of the Oswestry Division until his retirement about nine years ago.

For several years after his retirement from the police force Mr. Dickinson was licensee of the Drill Hotel, Morda. Painting was his chief recreation and he was well known as an artist. He was a keen sportsman and for a time was engaged as the professional for Llanymynech Golf Club.

He leaves a widow and two sons.

A service will be held at Birkenhead Crematorium tomorrow (Thursday).

DICKINSON. - On December 4, 1979, in hospital, Vera Evelyn, aged 83 years of 93 Unicorn Road, Oswestry, wife of the late J. H. Dickinson (superintendent of police), mother of Michael and Peter and the late J. R. Dickinson. Cremation took place at Emstrey crematorium Shrewsbury, on Tuesday December 11, donations in memory may be given to Cancer Research, care of Midland Bank Ltd., Oswestry. - A