

Private George Charles Critchley[©]

Regimental number: 28676

1st Battalion, Hampshire Regiment

born: 1899 - died: 31 May 1918

Private George Charles Critchley was born in 1899 in Bristol, Gloucestershire,¹ the son of George James and Sarah Jane (nee Jones) Critchley.² He was baptized on 8 June 1899 in Bedminster, near Bristol.³ Both his parents were born in 1875—his father was born in Gloucester on 28 September and his mother in Bristol on 1 November.⁴ They married in Bedminster on 28 July 1895⁵ and probably had 11 children: Nellie Elizabeth (born in 1898),⁶ George, William Robert (born in 1901),⁷ Thomas John (born in 1903),⁸ Henry (born in 1905),⁹ Charles Edgar (born in 1907),¹⁰ Theodore Gilbert (born on 28 September 1909),¹¹ Ernest Frank (born in 1911),¹² Irene Myra (born on 30 May 1914)¹³ and Ivor Henry (born on 28 September 1916).¹⁴

In 1901, the family was living at 5 Berkeley Square in Bedminster, where George's father was a corn porter.¹⁵ Ten years later, the family of eight was living in four rooms at 71 Essex Street in Bedminster. George's father was now a waterman for a flour mill.¹⁶

George was living in Cathay, Bristol when he enlisted in the Hampshire Regiment¹⁷ less than a year before his death.¹⁸

At the end of May 1918, the 1st Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment was stationed near Bethune, in northern France.¹⁹ On 29 May, much of the battalion was working with the Royal Engineers as carrying and working parties; it was reportedly a quiet day. Nonetheless, four soldiers were wounded that day. George was probably one of them, as he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 29 May with shrapnel wounds to his lung.²⁰ He survived for three days, succumbing to his injuries on 31 May. He was buried the following day in Pernes Military Cemetery (Plot 2, Row E, Grave 8) with the Canadian chaplain, J. K. Tibbits presiding. He was just 19 years old.

His mother, who was living at 19 Harford Street in Cathay, was his next of kin and was notified of his death,²¹ but it was his father who received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.²²

George was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).²³

In 1939, his parents, with his siblings Theodore, Irene and Ivor, were still at living 19 Harford Street.²⁴ At the age of 64, his father was doing heavy work as a general dock labourer.

© 2017 BIFHSGO

¹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 2 October 2017), entry for George Charles Critchley, Registration district: Bristol, Inferred county: Gloucestershire, Volume: 6a, Page: 49

² *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org; accessed 3 December 2017), entry for Critchley, George Charles, Service No: 28676

³ "Bristol, England, Select Church of England Parish Registers, 1720–1933," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 6 September 2017), entry for George Charles Critchley

-
- ⁴ “1901 England Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 September 2017), entry for George C Critchley, Registration district: Bristol, Sub-registration district: Bedminster, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 32, Piece: 2362, Folio: 11, Page: 13, Household schedule number: 82
- ⁵ “Bristol, England, Select Church of England Parish Registers, 1720–1933,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 2 October 2017), entry for George James Critchley
- ⁶ “GRO online index–birth,” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 2 October 2017) entry for Critchley, Nellie Elizabeth, Registration district: Bedminster, Volume 05C, Page 532
- ⁷ “GRO online index–birth,” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 2 October 2017) entry for Critchley, William Robert, Registration district: Bristol, Volume 06A, Page 29
- ⁸ “GRO online index–birth,” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 2 October 2017) entry for Critchley, Thomas John, Registration district: Bristol, Volume 06A, Page 7
- ⁹ “1911 England Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 September 2017), entry for George Critchley, Registration district: Bristol, Registration district number: 319, Sub-registration district: Bedminster, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 29, Household schedule number: 65, Piece: 14913
- ¹⁰ “England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 January 2017), entry for Charles Edgar Critchley, FHL film number: 1937042
- ¹¹ “1939 Register,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 7 September 2017), entry for George J. Critchley, Ref: RG101/4985E/009/4 Letter code: OADA
- ¹² “GRO online index–birth,” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 2 October 2017) entry for Critchley, Ernest Frank, Registration district: Bristol, Volume 06A, Page 109
- ¹³ “1939 Register,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 7 September 2017), entry for George J. Critchley
- ¹⁴ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁵ “1901 England Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 September 2017), entry for George C Critchley
- ¹⁶ “1911 England Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 September 2017), entry for George Critchley
- ¹⁷ “UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 September 2017), entry for George Charles Critchley
- ¹⁸ Based on “War Gratuity Calculator” (<https://wargratitude.wordpress.com/2015/08/16/gratuity-calculator/>: accessed 18 May 2017) ; “UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 September 2017), entry for George Charles Critchley
- ¹⁹ “UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 September 2017), Regiment or unit: Hampshire Regiment, Sub-unit: 1st Battalion, Division: 4th Division, Diary entry start date: 1914, Diary dates: 1914 Aug 1–1914 Dec 31, Piece description: Piece 1495/1-6: 11 Infantry Brigade: 1 Battalion Hampshire Regiment (1914 Aug–1919 Jun), Piece number: 1495
- ²⁰ “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 12 September 2017), entry for Critchley, G. D. [*sic*]
- ²¹ *Ibid.*
- ²² “UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 September 2017), entry for George Charles Critchley
- ²³ “British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 September 2017), entry for George C Critchley
- ²⁴ “1939 Register,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 7 September 2017), entry for George J. Critchley