

Lewis Aubrey Parkins.

Aircraftsman 1st Class Royal Airforce Volunteer Reserve

Service Number 1437263

Died on 16 January 1942

Memorial the RAF Memorial Runnymede

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/1803879/parkins,-lewis-aubrey/>

Due to there being no clues on the CWGC commemorative certificate such as age and parents or wife. I have needed to make lots of assumptions.

The birth of Lewis A Parkins was registered in the Southwell Registration District in the June quarter of 1923 with his mother's maiden name recorded as Sentence.

A marriage between Charlie Parkins (born 16 July 1904) and Elsie Sentence (born 17 October 1901) is recorded in the Southwell R. D. in the December quarter of 1922.

I have found records of 5 children

Lewis A - birth registered Southwell R D in the June quarter of 1923

Nora E - birth registered Southwell R D in the June quarter of 1924

John C. - Born on 9th October 1928 registered in the Basford R D.

Jeffrey - Born 9th March 1932 registered in the Bingham R D

Raymond – birth registered in the Nottingham R D in the June quarter of 1938.

On the 1939 register the family were living at number 6 Corporation Cottages in the Southwell RD. Listed are Charley and Elsie, John C. and Jeffrey. Charley's occupation is a Farm Dairyman. There are two closed records presumably Nora and Jeffrey

Lewis could volunteer for service as soon as he was 18 which would probably have been in 1941. On a list of British Armed Forces Overseas Deaths and Burials his 'Unit or Regiment' is described as 'Destroyer Y 7'.

He was actually on the troopship *Llangibby Castle* en route from Gourock on the Clyde estuary to Freetown in Sierra Leone and then bound for Singapore. The ship was carrying 1164 troops plus war material including 500 tons of oil. When in the Bay of Biscay on 16 January 1942 it was hit by a U-Boat (U-402) torpedo which blew away the aft guns and rudder. 26 were killed including Lewis Aubrey Parkins.

The ship remained afloat and limped to Horta in the Azores steering with her engines.

Lewis Aubrey Parkins would have been buried at sea and is therefore remembered on the RAF Memorial at Runnymede.

For information and photographs please see

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15260704/lewis-aubrey-parkins/photo>

The above family information has been confirmed including that Lewis was the son of Charley Parkins (14 Jul 1904 to 1980) and Elsie Sentance (17 Oct 1901 to 1970), both of Nottinghamshire, England; both died in St Neots, Cambridgeshire, England.

This information and a photograph of Lewis Parkins was placed on the 'findagrave' website by Rainfordlass 1AA a maternal cousin in 2018.

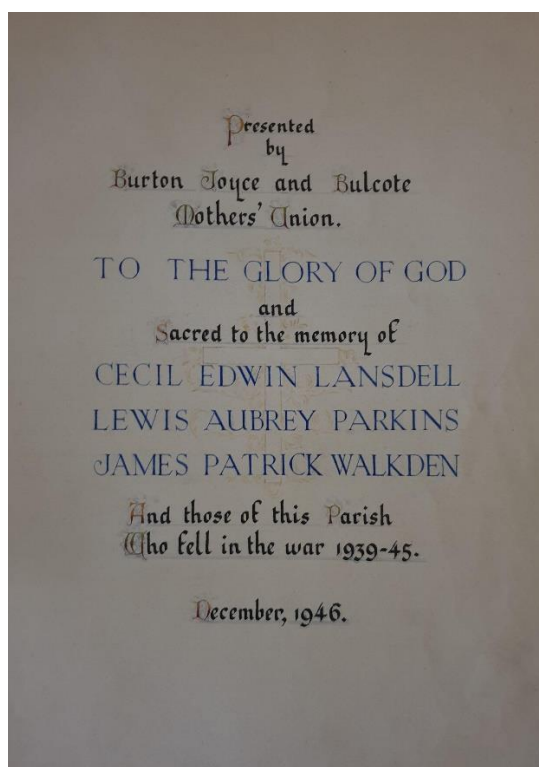
Nottingham Journal 14th January 1947

Bible as Church War Memorial

St Helen's Church Burton Joyce was well filled yesterday afternoon to witness the handing over to the churchwardens of a new Bible for the lectern. The fly-leaf was inscribed: 'To the glory of God and sacred to the memory of Cecil Edward Lanadell, Lewis Aubrey Parkins and James Patrick Walkden and those of this parish who fell in the war 1939-45.'

The service was conducted by the vicar, the Rev R W Lax West, an ex RAF padre who thanked the Burton Joyce and Bulcote branch of the Mothers' Union for the gift to the church.

The Bible was received by Messrs Branston and R. G. Underwood churchwardens. Both the men's and women's sections of the British Legion attended



Photograph
Courtesy of Ruth
Fearn