

Cyril William Henry Parrott

Commissioned Gunner H.M.S. Fiji., Royal Navy

Died on 23 May 1941 Age 40

Remembered with Honour El Alamein War Cemetery

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2211026/CYRIL%20WILLIAM%20HENRY%20PARROTT/>

Son of Henry and Mary Jane Parrott; husband of Nellie Parrott, of Copnor, Hampshire

Cyril, William Henry was born in 1901 his birth registered in the Basford R D in the June quarter of that year.

His parents Henry and Mary Jane (nee Hack) married in Basford Registration District in the December quarter of 1889

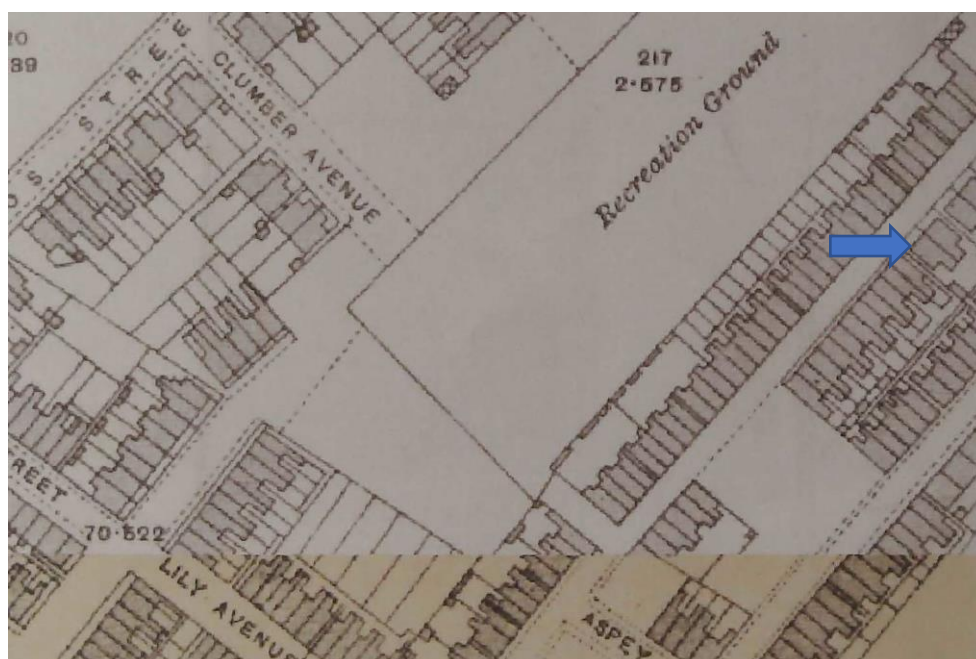
On the 1911 census the family are living at 193 Curzon Street Netherfield. The census records that they had had 3 children, however one had died. (I have been unable to trace his or her name)

Henry occupation Railway Inspector aged 44 born Shelford

Mary Jane aged 43 born New England Northamptonshire

Sydney Charles aged 16 and a railway clerk in a Goods dept born Netherfield

Cyril W H aged nine, at school, born Netherfield.



1914 Ordnance Survey Map

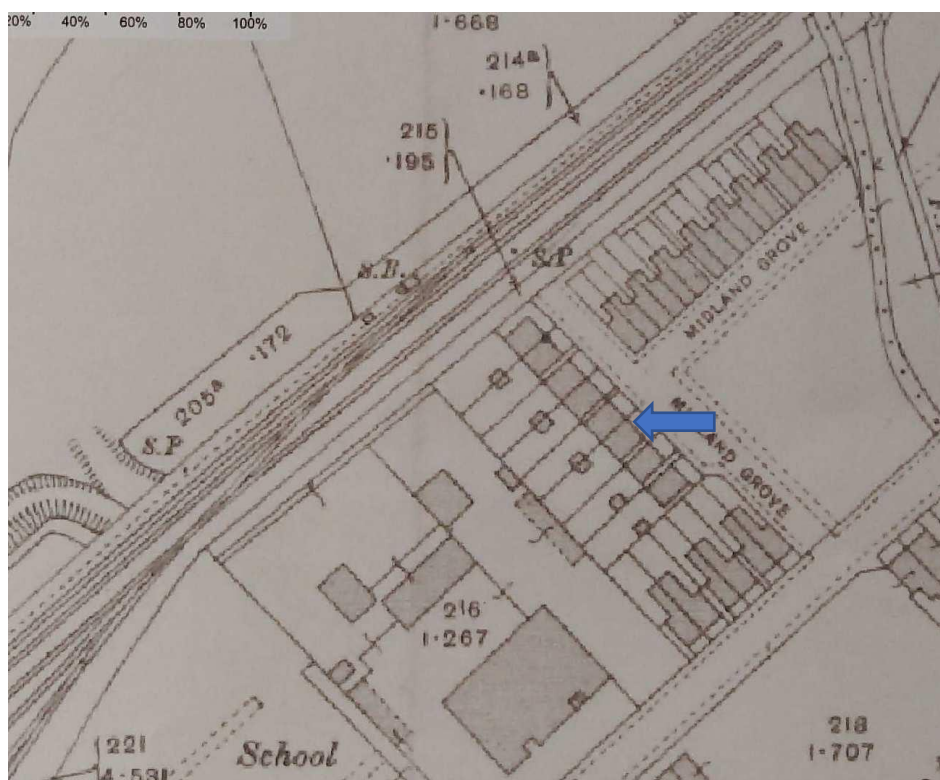
Cyril W H Parrott went to Netherfield School probably Ashwell Street junior School and then Chandos Street School. He was a member of the choir at St George's Church and a Deputy organist there. He went to Hucknall Training College intending to be a Teacher but then changed and at age 17 (c1918) joined the Navy. He became a Gunner and was so skilled that he was later in charge of the 'King's Naval Guard'

Cyril William later married Nellie Byatt (born 11 June 1902) registered in the Basford R D in the December quarter of 1920.

Cyril and Nellie had a daughter Doris V born in 1921 birth registered in the Basford RD in the June quarter.

Cyril is listed on the Electoral registers. On the absent voters list for 1921-2 he is recorded as being in the Royal Navy serving on HMS Malaya.

He is also listed as a Naval or Military voter on ER for 1921-1924 at 10 Chandos Street Netherfield and in 1925- 1926 at 5, Midland Grove Netherfield. His parents are also listed at this address.



In 1939 Nellie and daughter Violet Doris are living in Portsmouth at 13 Salcombe Avenue, Doris' occupation was as a shop assistant in a wholesale stationers.

HMS FIJI was launched in 1939 but not completed until May 1940, Cyril would have been appointed to the ship at some time during that period. In 1942 HMS Fiji was in the Mediterranean as part of the force defending Malta. On 15th May it was learned that the Germans planned to attack the island of Crete and HMS Fiji was

part of the force sent to prevent that. This began on 20th May 1941. Allied forces, along with Cretan civilians, defended the island. After one day of fighting, the Germans had suffered heavy casualties and the Allied troops were confident that they would defeat the invasion. However the next day the Germans were able to land reinforcements and Crete fell. More than half of the Allied Troops were evacuated by the British Royal Navy and the remainder surrendered or joined the Cretan resistance. The defence of Crete evolved into a costly naval engagement; by the end of the campaign the Royal Navy's eastern Mediterranean strength had been reduced to only two battleships and three cruisers. HMS Fiji was relentlessly attacked from the air, until finally having exhausted all of her ammunition she resorted to firing flares in token resistance. The order was eventually given to abandon ship – they were still being machine gunned and bombed. Cyril Parrott was probably injured as his date of death is 23rd May and his body was brought to North Africa for burial in the El Alamein War Cemetery

His death was reported in the South Notts Echo of 30 August 1941

PARROTT.—Reported missing May 23, buried in Daba Cemetery, July 14. Commissioned Gunner Cyril W. H. Parrott, R.N., dearly loved Husband of Nellie and Father of Doris, and beloved younger son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Parrott, 55, Conway-crescent, Carlton.



55 Conway Crescent photographed in 2020

Officer Sailor Killed in Action

The death has occurred while in action of Commissioned Gunner Cyril W. H. Parrott, R.N., whose parents live at 55, Conway-road Carlton. Mr. Parrott, whose rank was approximately that of a captain in the Army, took up a career in the Royal Navy 23 years ago. He was born in Netherfield and as a lad attended the Chandos-street, Council School under Mr. T. T. Parks. He always showed exceptional promise and eventually went to the Hucknall Training College, with the idea of becoming a school teacher, but the call of the sea was too strong and at 17 years of age he joined the Royal Navy.

In his career he made rapid advancement and was a typical British sailor, thorough in his work and skilled in gunnery.

During one period in his career he was in charge of the King's Naval Guard and when H.M. King George VI returned from his Canadian visit took the Naval Guard to London.

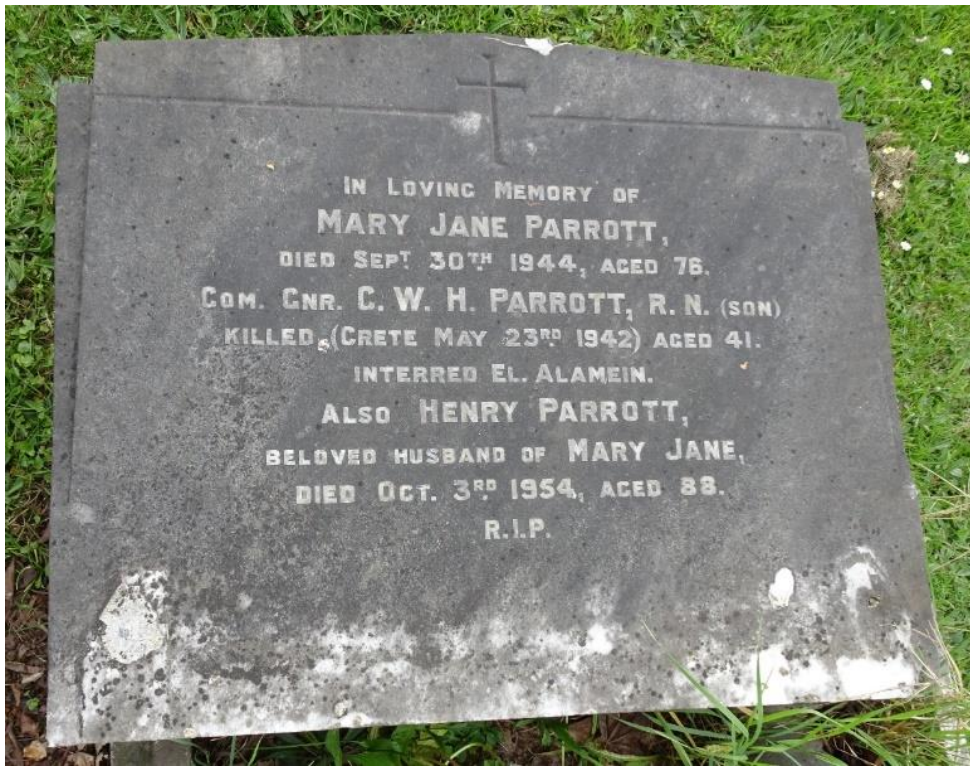
As a youth Mr. Parrott was a member of St. George's Church choir, at Netherfield, and one of the deputy organists. He married Miss Nellie Price, of Netherfield, and afterwards went to live at Portsmouth.

Requiem was held at St. George's, Netherfield, on Tuesday.

South Notts Echo
30 August 1941

His mother Mary Jane Parrott died on 30 September 1944 and along with husband Henry Parrott who died in October 1954 is buried in Carlton Cemetery.

Their son Cyril is commemorated on their headstone.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
MARY JANE PARROTT,
DIED SEPT 30TH 1944, AGED 76.
COM. CNR. C. W. H. PARROTT, R. N. (SON)
KILLED, (CRETE MAY 23RD 1942) AGED 41.
INTERRED EL. ALAMEIN.
ALSO HENRY PARROTT,
BELOVED HUSBAND OF MARY JANE,
DIED OCT. 3RD 1954, AGED 88.
R.I.P.