Clifford Halstead





Rank: - Telegraphist

Number: - P/JX 271281

Service: - Royal Navy, H.M.S. Trollope

Died: - Killed in Action 6 July 1944

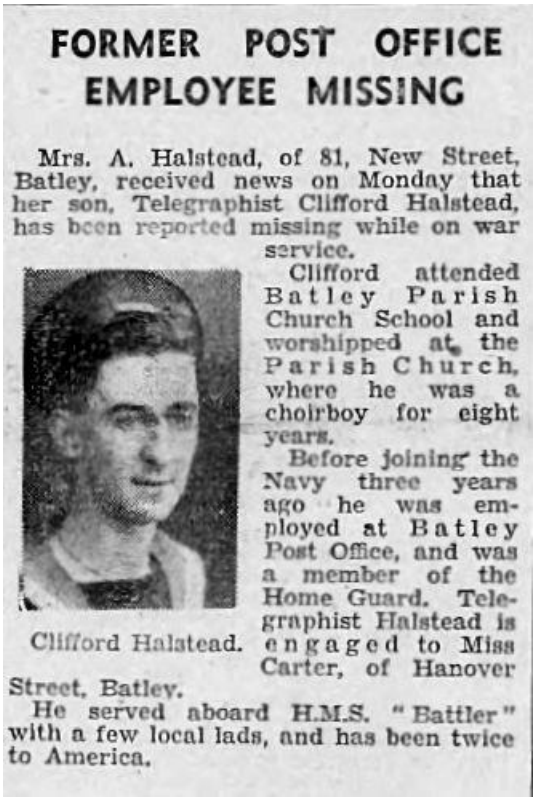
Memorial: - Portsmouth Naval Memorial Panel 84 Column 3

Batley News, 29 Jul 1944 (photo); 11 Nov 1944 (photo)

Clifford was born on the 9 November 1921 in Batley, the son of Randolph Fox and Annie Halstead nee Scott who had married on 11 September 1915 at All Saints Church, Batley. Sylvia was born in 1918, Clifford, Muriel 1922.

Clifford attended Batley Parish Church School and worshipped at the Parish Church where he was a choir boy for eight years. Clifford was engaged to Miss Margaret Carter of Hanover Street, Batley who joined the Women's Land Army.

He was employed at Batley Post Office before joining the Navy in around 1941. His father, Randolph, died early April 1941 when the family lived at New Street, Batley. His mother moved to 5, Fairview Avenue, Carlinghow Lane, Batley.



FORMER POST OFFICE EMPLOYEE MISSING

Mrs. A. Halstead, of 81, New Street, Batley, received news on Monday that her son, Telegraphist Clifford Halstead, has been reported missing while on war service.

Clifford attended Batley Parish Church School and worshipped at the Parish Church, where he was a choirboy for eight years.

Before joining the Navy three years ago he was employed at Batley Post Office, and was a member of the Home Guard. Telegraphist Halstead is engaged to Miss Carter, of Hanover Street, Batley.

Clifford Halstead.

He served aboard H.M.S. "Battler" with a few local lads, and has been twice to America.

HMS Trollope was commissioned into the Royal Navy under the command of Lieutenant Commander Harry Westacott, RN as the frigate HMS *Trollope* (K575) on 10 January 1944 simultaneously with her transfer, the ship served on patrol and escort duty in the English Channel and supported the invasion of Normandy.

On 6 July 1944, *Trollope* either ran aground near Arromances-les-Bains, France or was torpedoed by a German S-boat – known to the Allies as "E-boat" – motor torpedo boat off Cap d'Antifer, France, according to different sources.

At approximately 01:30 on 6 July 1944, *Trollope* was struck by 3 torpedoes launched by a German E-boat, breaking the vessel in two. The front part of the vessel detached and drifted, presenting a risk to other Allied vessels in the area. This was sunk, tactically, by Allied forces. The rear of the vessel was towed towards Arromanches-les-Bains by a US tug boat, where it was run aground allowing servicemen still on board to be rescued. Source of this information was from one of those servicemen rescued.

Trollope was declared a constructive total loss. The Royal Navy returned her to the U.S. Navy on 10 October 1944.

Clifford was awarded the 1939-45 Star; 1939-1945 War Medal

He is remembered with Honour at The British Normandy Memorial, column 136 and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group