

Written sources on women in the Parnall Aircraft factory

Source A

Extract from an oral history interview with Mr A R Mitchell, who worked at Parnall's

[In the Carpentry Shop]... also they produced cupolas, which were the covers for the turrets, and there were lots of girls there employed doing nothing other than polishing the perspex panels on these cupolas on which they used a large amount of metal polish and mutton cloth...

Source B

Extract from an oral history interview with Mr P Herrick who worked in the Drawing Office

There were no women designers or draughtsmen but a small group of women worked with the designer-draughtsmen, giving the important drawings more permanent form

Source C

Extract from an oral history interview with Mr R F Powell

I started (1937) in what was known at the time as number 2 Tool Room under a Dutchman called Mr Henevelt. Very strict, very fair... It consisted of about twenty fitters, three or four apprentices and I can just about remember a lady working there sharpening drills properly...

Source D

Extract from a letter from Thelma Barlow to Yate's Town Clerk in 1988.

Our section "The calculating machine girls" where we worked out all the wages & costed it (we were very much in demand then, because decimals of the old Pound Shillings & Pence weren't as easy as they are today) were very fortunate as apart from shock & losing all our personal possessions came through safely. One very sad event amongst us was our section leader Ivy (who was engaged to a young man Maurice Bagarnie from another office) she got out safely but he didn't know, & went looking for her & died in the delayed explosion which of course we didn't know about until later.

Source E

Extract from an incident report about the raid from an employee of Parnall's

Parnall's First Aid operation was led by the company's Nursing Sister, Clarissa Hobbs... She was on her way to the underground First Aid Trench when the raid started and she was buried in debris. It took her some minutes to tunnel her way out alone...

She immediately went to the assistance of the casualties, showing great courage and endurance, and with her First Aid team treated about 90 casualties in the trench. This included one man whose ear she sewed back on...

[She] was awarded the King's Commendation for Brave Conduct in Civil Defence.