

Baverstock War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



4598 PRIVATE

F. J. PARKIN

29TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

26th MARCH, 1917 Age 40

While He Lies

In Silent Sleep

His Memory

We Will Always Keep

Frederick John Parkin

Frederick John Parkin was born at Richmond, Victoria in 1877 to parents Joseph & Jean (Jane) Parkin (nee Alexander). He was a 39 year old, married, Carpenter from 5 Coleman Street, North Fitzroy, Victoria when he enlisted on 5th September, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 29th Infantry Battalion, 12th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 4598 & his religion was Congregational. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs May Parkin of 5 Coleman Street, North Fitzroy, Victoria.

The Electoral Roll for the Division of Batman, Victoria & subdivision of Fitzroy Central for 1914, lists Frederick John & May Parkin both living at 5 Coleman Street, North Fitzroy, Victoria. A marriage between Frederick John Parkin & May Mcphee was registered in Victoria in 1916.

Pte Frederick John Parkin embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Medic (A7)* on 16th December, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 18th January, 1917.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Pte Parkin was admitted sick to Fovant Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 14th March, 1917 from "E" Company, 8th Training Battalion, Hurdcott.

Private Frederick John Parkin died at 8.30 a.m. on 26th March, 1917 from an Aneurism at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire.

A death for Frederick J. Parkin, aged 40, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire.

Private Frederick John Parkin was buried in the churchyard of St. Edith's at Baverstock, Wiltshire on 28th March, 1917 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone.

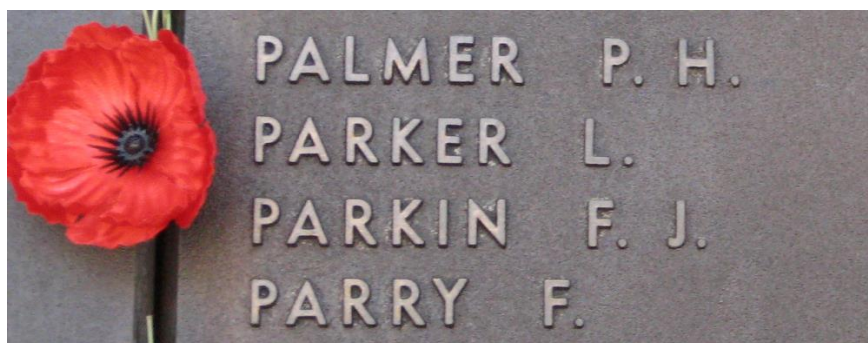
From the burial report of Pte Frederick John Parkin - *Coffin stained Elm with Black Mountings. Military funeral.*

Lieut H. Castle of 29th Battalion wrote the following: "*Private Parkin, F. J., was known to me, and I found him always reliable and willing to do whatever he was called upon to do. He was with me for some months in Australia and on the voyage to England. I sincerely regret that his services have been lost to his King and Country and at the same time extend my deepest sympathy to his relatives.*"

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing contains a file for Pte F. J. Parkin which includes a letter from The Matron, Military Hospital, Fovant, dated 19th June, 1917:

"Pte F. J. Parkin was admitted into hospital on the 15th March suffering from an Aneurism. Everything possible was done for him and he died a very peaceful death on the 26th March at 8.30 a.m. He was buried at Baverstock with Military Honours."

Private F. J. Parkin is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 116.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte F. J. Parkin was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Parkin's widow – Mrs May Parkin (both received July, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Frederick John Parkin – service number 4598, as being 40 years old & served with 29th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Jean and the late Joseph Parkin; husband of May Parkin, of 5 Coleman St. North Fitzroy, Melbourne

A War Pension was granted to May Parkin, widow of late Pte F. J. Parkin in the sum of £2 per fortnight, from 29th May, 1917.

(54 pages of Pte Frederick John Parkin's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives

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Newspaper Reports

DIED ON SERVICE

The Supreme Sacrifice

PARKIN – On the 26th March, 1917, at 14th Military Hospital, France, Pte Fred. J. Parkin, the beloved son of Jean & the late Joseph Parkin, late of Erin Street, Richmond.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – Thursday 5 April, 1917)

*(*Note – Pte Parkin died in England & never went to France)*

ROLL OF HONOUR

VICTORIAN LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte PARKIN, F. J., North Fitzroy, 26/3/17

(Weekly Times, Victoria – Saturday 14 April, 1917)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone at St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Pte F. J. Parkin does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

While He Lies In Silent Sleep His Memory We Will Always Keep

Photo of Pte F. J. Parkin's CWGC Headstone at St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)



St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire.

(Photo from CWGC)