

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War 1



2370 PRIVATE

A. L. PARKES

40TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

5TH FEBRUARY, 1919 AGE 28

*CWGC Headstone for Pte A. L. Parkes is located in
Grave Plot # 47. E. 25. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Arthur Leslie PARKES

Alfred (Arthur) Leslie Parkes was born in 1890 at Rixes Creek, New South Wales to parents Francis & Emily J. Parkes. His birth was registered in the district of Wallsend, NSW.

Arthur Leslie Parkes married Lilian Ann May Davis on 7th February, 1914 at Hobart, Tasmania.

Arthur Leslie Parkes was a 26 year old, married, Blacksmith from Hobart, Tasmania when he enlisted at Claremont, Tasmania on 2nd October, 1916 with the 40th Infantry Battalion, 4th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2370 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Lillian Ann Parkes of 109 Brisbane Street, Hobart, Tasmania. Arthur Parkes had served with Tasmania Militia in 1906 for about 9 months. Arthur Parkes stated on his Attestation Papers that he had 2 children.

Private Arthur Leslie Parkes embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Port Melbourne (A16)* on 21st October, 1916. Pte Parkes was written up for the offence of Stealing while aboard the Troopship at Sea on 4th December, 1916 and was given 168 hours detention. He disembarked at Devonport, England on 28th December, 1916.

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.

Private Arthur Leslie Parkes was marched in to 10th Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire on 28th December, 1916 from Australia.

Pte Parkes was admitted to Parkhouse Hospital with Mumps from 26th February, 1917 & discharged on 16th March, 1917.

Pte Parkes proceeded overseas to France from Training Battalion at Durrington on 3rd May, 1917 via Folkestone.

Pte Parkes was marched in at Etaples, France on 4th May, 1917 & marched out to his Unit on 7th May, 1917. Pte Parkes taken on strength with 40th Battalion Reinforcements in France on 8th May, 1917.

Pte Parkes was wounded in action in France on 7th June, 1917 with a gunshot wound to left knee. He was taken to 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station then transferred to Etaples & admitted to 56th General Hospital on 8th June, 1917. Pte Parkes was transferred to 6th Can. Dep on 22nd June, 1917 and transferred to 3rd Australian Divisional Base Depot on 24th June, 1917. Pte Parkes was marched out to join his Unit on 4th July, 1917 & rejoined his Unit from Hospital on 5th July, 1917.

Pte Parkes was wounded in action (second occasion) on 17th July, 1917 and rejoined his Battalion on 18th July, 1917.

A letter was written by Mrs E. Luttrell, dated 15th July, 1917 from Crown Street, East Sydney enquiring into the news of her son – Pte A. L. Parkes as she had heard he had been wounded. She stated that her son was a “married man & his wife is somewhere in Tasmania but I don’t know where.”

Pte Parkes was wounded in action (3rd Occasion) on 12th October, 1917 in France with a gunshot wound to thigh. He was taken to 44th Casualty Clearing Station then admitted to 14th General Hospital at Wimmereux on 13th October with a bruised back wound. Pte Parkes embarked for England from France on 15th October, 1917 on Hospital Ship *Jan Breydel*. Pte Parkes was admitted to Belmont Road, Australian Military Hospital at Liverpool, England from 15th October, 1917 with a shrapnel wound through the back & discharged on 9th January, 1918.

Pte Parkes was on furlo from 11th January, 1918 to 25th January, 1918.

Pte Parkes reported to No.1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 25th January, 1918 & was medically classified as B1 A3 (Fit for overseas training camp in two to three weeks) on 26th January, 1918.

Pte Parkes was reclassified medically on 5th March, 1918 as A3 (Fit for Overseas Training Camp – transferred for hardening prior to rejoining Unit overseas).

Pte Parkes was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 6th March, 1918. He proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 28th March, 1918 & was marched in from England at Rouelles, France on 29th March, 1918. He was marched out to his Unit from Rouelles on 5th April, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion from being wounded on 17th April, 1918.

Pte Parkes was wounded in action (fourth occasion) on 15th June, 1918 but remained on duty.

Pte Parkes was wounded in action (fifth occasion) on 7th August, 1918 with a gunshot wound to left hand. He was admitted to 61st Casualty Clearing Station & transferred to 4th General Hospital on 8th August, 1918. Pte Parkes embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Newhaven* on 13th August, 1918 & was admitted to Fort Pitt Military Hospital at Chatham, England the same day. Pte Parkes was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford on 18th December, 1918 with a bullet wound to left hand.

A Medical Report was completed on 19th December, 1918 at No. 3 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, England on Pte A. L. Parkes, 2370, 40th Battalion whose disability was reported as G.S.W. left hand (Compound fracture 4th metacarpal – flexor tendon of ring finger severed & sutured). Date of disability – 7th August, 1918 in France. The disability was attributable to Service during present War – on active service. Pte Parkes' present condition was reported as "Wounds healed – unable to flex ring finger left hand. Tendon severed." The Medical report found that Pte Parkes' disability was permanent & he was medically classified as C1 (fit for Home Service only – permanently unfit for General Service).

Pte Parkes was discharged from Hospital on 21st December, 1918 & granted furlo until 4th January, 1919 when he was to report to No. 2 Command Depot. His leave was extended to 11th January, 1919.

Pte Parkes was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire from furlo on 11th January, 1919.

Private Arthur Leslie Parkes was admitted to the 1st Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 29th January, 1919 dangerously ill.

Private Arthur Leslie Parkes died at 6 p.m. on 5th February, 1919 at the 1st Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny of Acute Bronchitis, Influenza, Broncho-pneumonia.

A death for A. L. Parkes, aged 28, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Arthur Leslie Parkes was buried on 10th February, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 47. From the burial report of Pte Parkes - *Coffin was Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceded by a Firing Party from No. 1 Australian Command Depot Sutton Veny. Six of deceased's late Unit comrades supported the Pall. A number of Officers, N.C.O.'s and men followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in U. K. were represented at the funeral.*

Pte Arthur Leslie Parkes was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Parkes' widow – Mrs L. Parkes (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The CWGC lists Private Arthur Leslie Parkes, 2370, of 40th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of Frank and Emily Jane Luttrell Parkes; husband of Lilian May Parkes of 15 Domain Rd, Hobart, Tasmania. Born in New South Wales.

Private A. L. Parkes is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 133.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. L. Parkes is remembered on the Hobart Town Hall Honour Board, located in foyer of Hobart Town Hall 50 Macquarie Street, Hobart.



Hobart Town Hall Honour Board (Photo from Monument Australia- Arthur Garland)

A letter was written to Base Records on 27th October, 1947 requesting a Widow's Badge from 1914-18. The letter was written by Mrs Myra Bower on behalf of her mother – the widow of late Pte Arthur Leslie Parkes. "My mother is no scholar & was unable to get one on account of not being able to write." Mrs Bower received a reply on 4th November, 1947 & was advised that the "In Memoriam Badge" (Widow's Badge) was no longer available as stocks were exhausted & no new supplies were available.

(102 pages of Pte Arthur Leslie Parkes' 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) & National Archives.



Newspaper Reports

TASMANIA'S ROLL OF HONOUR

Wounded in Action

Pte Arthur Leslie Parkes (Hobart)

(North-Eastern Advertiser, Scottsdale, Tasmania – Friday 10 August, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

PARKES – On the 5th February, at No. 1 Australian Hospital, died of bronchitis, Arthur Leslie Parkes, in the 28th year of his age. Late of 40th Battalion, A.I.F. Dearly beloved husband of Lilian May Parkes, of 15 Domain Rd, Glebe, Hobart and fifth son of Mrs F. O. Lutrell, Rose Bay, Sydney, New South Wales.

Nobly he lived, and nobly he died.

(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – Tuesday 18 February, 1919 & Advocate, Burnie, Tasmania – Wednesday 19 February, 1919)

ROLL OF HONOUR

Tasmanian Casualties

Died, Other Causes

Pte A. L. Parkes, Glebe, 5/2/19, illness (previously reported wounded)

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – Thursday 6 March, 1919)

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. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny. 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)

Mrs Lilian Parkes changed address at least 4 times while her husband was on active service. The Military Authorities were often having mail returned to them marked undeliverable. The information & forms required to be completed in order for an inscription to be added to the headstone of her husband may have also been undeliverable.

Pte Arthur Leslie Parkes does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Private A. L. Parkes's CWGC headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)



War Graves at Sutton Veny *(Photos from CWGC)*

