



## Harry Parkinson

### 1886-1918

Harry was born in Batley in 1886; his birth name was registered as *Harry Rowbottom*. His father was John Rowbottom, later Parkinson, a Railway Plate Layer born in Thurstonland near Huddersfield in 1861 and died in 1949. His mother was Martha Ann (nee Goodman) born in Hepworth, Suffolk in 1860 and died in 1938. They were married on 29<sup>th</sup> August 1885 at Batley All Saints Parish Church.

John's mother married a John Parkinson in 1864, so John Rowbottom took his step-father's name of Parkinson, although his first five children's births were registered as Rowbottom despite being named Parkinson on Census Records; children born later were registered as Parkinson. On the 1871 Census he is recorded as *John Parkinson*, in 1881 as *John Rowbottom*. In 1885, he married under the name of *John Rowbottom*.

Their other children were; Nellie Rowbottom, born in 1887, Herbert Rowbottom, born in 1889, Walter Rowbottom, born in 1891 and died in 1918, Eva Rowbottom, born in 1894 and died in 1899, Emma Parkinson, born in 1897, Arthur Parkinson, born in 1900 and died in 1900 and Gladys Parkinson, born in 1903 and died in 1903.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at New Street Earlsheaton, in 1901 at Ossett Lane, Earlsheaton, in 1911 at Station Road, Earlsheaton and later at 96, Headland Lane, Earlsheaton.

Harry was a single man who worked as a Railway Goods Porter.

He enlisted in Dewsbury into the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with the Service Number 47575 and was later transferred to the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Shropshire Light Infantry serving as Private 45746. The 8<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion landed in France as part of the 66<sup>th</sup> Brigade in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Division in September 1915, but sailed to Salonika, Greece in November 1915. He was killed in action on 18<sup>th</sup> September 1918 during the attacks on Pip Ridge and the Grand-Couronne and was buried in Doiran Military Cemetery, Greece. Harry was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Doiran Military Cemetery is situated in the north of Greece close to the Republic of North Macedonia border and near the south-east shore of Lake Doiran. The cemetery (originally known as Colonial Hill Cemetery No.2) was formed at the end of 1916 as a cemetery for the Doiran front. The graves are almost entirely those of officers and men of the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Divisions and largely reflect the fighting of April and May 1917 (the attacks on the Petit-Couronne), and 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> September 1918 (the attacks on Pip Ridge and the Grand-Couronne). In October and November 1918, after the final advance, a few burials took place from the 25<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station. After the Armistice, graves were brought into the cemetery from the battlefields and from by some small burial grounds, the cemetery now contains 1,338 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 449 of them unidentified.

Harry is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the Earlsheaton Park War Memorial and on the Oak Reredos in St. Peter's Church Earlsheaton and on the Memorial Plaque from the now demolished Earlsheaton Highfield Congregational Church relocated to Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury.

In Memory of

Private

## Harry Parkinson

45746, 8th Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 18 September 1918 Age 32

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Parkinson, of 96, Headland Lane, Earlsheaton, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Doiran Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Adrian P. Wright.