



John Parkin

1891 – 1915

John was born in Sheffield in 1891 His father was Charles Parkin, a Labourer born in Hatfield Woodhouse, Yorkshire in 1863 and died in 1920. His mother was Hannah (nee Platts) born in Manchester in 1863 and died in 1936. They were married in 1882.

Their other children were; George, born in 1883 and died in 1885, Charles, born in 1885 and served in World War 1, Ellen, born in 1888, Lily, born in 1893, Mary, born in 1896 and died in 1897 and Alice Purcell, born in 1898. Her middle name would infer that her father was probably Thomas Purcell.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 15, Woodbine Road, Brightside, Sheffield. In 1901 Charles is a boarder at Dunlop Street, Carbrook, Sheffield; Hannah and her children are boarders at the home of Thomas Purcell in Pinder's Yard, 7, High Street, Worsbrough, Barnsley. In 1911 Hannah and her two youngest daughters are living at 27, Ridgeway Street, Dewsbury, Thomas Purcell is recorded as a boarder. They later lived at East Parade, Eastborough Dewsbury.

On the 1911 Census John is a boarder at 4, Chapel Yard, Worsborough Dale, Barnsley working as a Colliery Trammer Underground; he was a well-known amateur boxer in the Barnsley area. He was married to Agnes Harding (born in 1890 and died in 1963) on the 1st of March 1913 at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church, Dewsbury; they lived at 90, High Street, Westtown, Dewsbury but did not have any children. He worked at one of the coal mines of Messrs Crawshaw and Warburton Ltd. Agnes was remarried in 1918 to Joseph Lindley (born in 1889 and died in 1949). She remarried again to James Ormsby in 1955.

He had already served pre-war as a full-time soldier for three years with the King's Royal Rifle Corps but had not been placed on reserve and subsequently was not called up on the outbreak of war. He enlisted at the end of 1914 serving as Private 3/3490 in the 2nd Battalion, Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was stationed at Hull before leaving for the front. He was killed in action near Ypres on 24th February 1915 and was buried in the field. In March 1920 his remains were reburied in Bedford House Cemetery, Ypres, West Vlaanderen, Belgium. John was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

There are 5,139 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in the enclosures of Bedford House Cemetery. 3,011 of the burials are unidentified.

His death was witnessed by Private Hugh Sparkes of Balk Street, Batley who wrote in a letter to his own mother that John had been shot by a sniper on his first night in action; he added *"I was told that he had died on the way to hospital but I don't think that is right"*.

John 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 War Memorial in Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church and on the War Memorial Plaque in the porch of St. Pauls Church, Hanging Heaton to former employees of Messrs Crawshaw and Warburton Ltd.

In Memory of
Private
J Parkin

3/3490, 2nd Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 24 February 1915

Remembered with Honour
Bedford House Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

