

**Streatham Park Cemetery,  
Streatham, Greater London, England**

**War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**L. PARKER SERVED AS**

**2280 PRIVATE**

**G. SIMS**

**8TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**22ND OCTOBER, 1915**

## Leonard PARKER

Leonard Parker was born around 1893 to parents Philip & Mary Ann Parker (nee Turnbull).

[Philip Parker & Mary Ann Turnbull had married in 1875 in New Zealand. Only 3 births could be found on Victorian Births website – Ada Margaret Parker, born 1878 (later Camm – see below); Stephen Percy Parker, born 1883 & Rupert Kevin Parker, born 1895.]

Mary Ann Parker, mother of Leonard Parker, died on 8th October, 1895 at Surrey Hills, Victoria, Australia.

Leonard Parker enlisted with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) in Melbourne, Victoria on 26th March, 1915 under the name of George Sims. He stated he was a 22 year old, single, Labourer. His service number was 2280 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr P. Sims, 4 Cambridge Street, Collingwood, Victoria.

Private George Sims was posted to V1 Company on 26th March, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 24th Battalion "D" Company on 24th April, 1915 then transferred to 1st Reinforcements of 24th Battalion on 12th May, 1915. Private Sims was transferred to 6th Reinforcements of 8th Battalion on 15th June, 1915.

Private George Sims embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Wandilla* (A62) on 17th June, 1915 with the 8th Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements.

Private George Sims joined 8th Battalion at Anzac on 6th August, 1915 from 6th Reinforcements.

Private George Sims reported sick on 19th August, 1915. He was admitted to No. 2 Field Ambulance Dressing Station on 19th August, 1915 with Diarrhoea. Private Sims was transferred to Casualty Clearing Station at Anzac then transferred to 25th Casualty Clearing Station at Imbros. He was transferred to Camp Commandant at Imbros on 20th August, 1915.

### War Diary – 8th Battalion

*Anzac - 19th August, 1915:*

*1 Off 114 other ranks of Royal Irish Rifles attached to the Battn – 19 men sent to Hospital. R I R welcome addition to our strength.*

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private George Sims was transferred from Base Details at Mudros to Hospital on 8th September, 1915. He embarked from Mudros on 18th September, 1915 for England on Hospital Ship *Aquitania*.

### **8th Battalion**

The 8th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 6th and 7th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade.

The battalion was raised from rural Victoria by Lieutenant Colonel William Bolton within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December. It later took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915, as part of the second wave. Ten days after the landing, the 2nd Brigade was transferred from ANZAC to Cape Helles to help in the attack on the village of Krithia. The attack captured little ground but cost the brigade almost a third of its strength. The Victorian battalions returned to ANZAC to help defend the beachhead, and in August the 2nd Brigade fought at the battle of Lone Pine. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private George Sims was admitted to 5th Southern General Hospital, Portsmouth, England on 26th September, 1915.

Base Records advised Mr Philip Sims, 4 Cambridge Street, Collingwood, Victoria on 15th October, 1915 that his son Private G. Sims had been admitted sick to Hospital at Portsmouth.

Private George Sims died on 22nd October, 1915 at Abbey Hotel, Westminster Bridge Road, London, England.

A Coroner's Court was held at Lambeth, London, England on 27th October, 1915 where the Jury returned a verdict of "*Asphyxia from Coal Gas poisoning caused by accidentally turning a gas burner on after extinguishing the light accidental.*" The inquest was attended by Lieutenant-Colonel H. W. Lee of the Australian Imperial Force.

(Note: The Report of Death of a Soldier – Army Form B.2090 recorded the cause of death as "Suicide". There is no date on the form).

Private George Sims was buried in Streatham Park Cemetery, Greater London, England – Screen Wall. 1. 6574 (as listed by CWGC) and now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

From the burial report of Private George Sims: "*The deceased was interred in the Streatham Park Cemetery, London, S.W. on the 29th October, 1915. The Grave No: is 6574 in Square 1. The coffin enshrouded in a Union Jack was born on a Gun Carriage. A funeral party was furnished by the County of London Scottish Battalion, and also by a detachment of the Honourable Artillery Corps. Full military honours were accorded at the Grave side. The High Commissioner was represented by Lieut. Col. H. W. Lee. The Rites of the Roman Catholic Church were observed and the Burial Service was conducted by the Rev. P. J. Bovenizer of the Catholic Church.*"

A War Pension was awarded to Philip Parker, 54 Lulie St, Collingwood, father of the late Leonard Parker, who served as Private George Sims, in the sum of 3/9d per fortnight from 16th February, 1916.

Base Records wrote to the Deputy Commissioner of Pensions, Melbourne on 29th October, 1918 asking for the latest address held for Mr Philip Parker, late of 54 Lulie Street, Collingwood, who was drawing a pension as a dependent of the late No. 2280 Private Leonard Parker (enlisted as George Sims). Communications addresses to the above address had been returned "Unclaimed."

A reply was sent to Base Records on 7th November, 1918 stating "*... the latest address recorded at this office for Mr Philip Parker, father of the above-named, is Grange Road, East Caulfield.*"

Philip Joseph Parker of 7 Melville Street, North Fitzroy, Victoria signed a Statutory Declaration on 22nd March, 1920 at Victoria Barracks, Melbourne: "*... I declare that my Father, Philip Parker formerly of No. 454, Loulie Street, Abbotsford, Victoria (who is shown as next-of-kin to the late No. 2280, Private Leonard Parker (enlisted as George Sims) 8th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force) died in 1915. The next-of-kin to the abovementioned late soldier is Ada Camm, residing at No. 1 Evandale Road, Malvern, who is his Sister. I am his brother. It is requested his records may be amended accordingly.*"

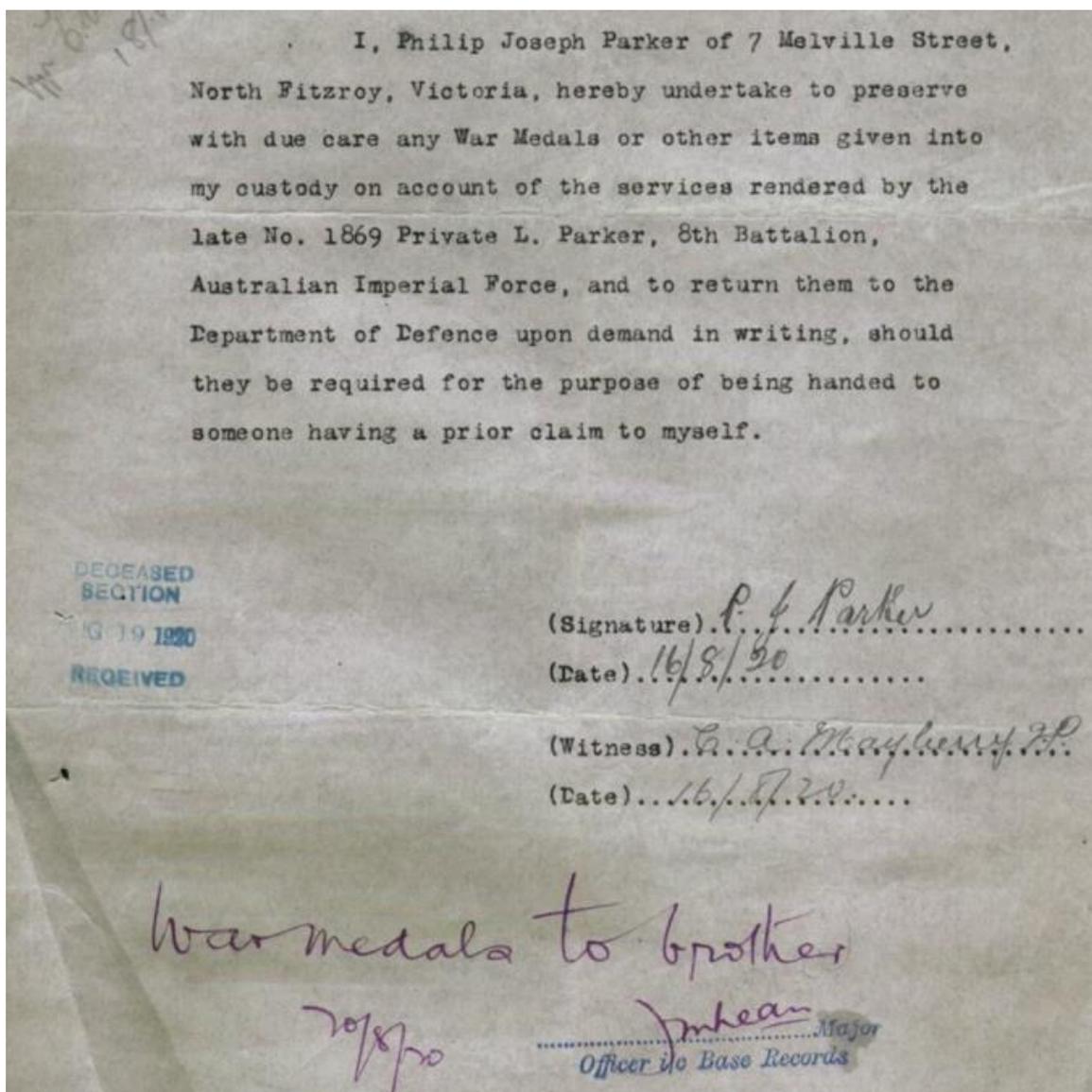
Base Records contacted Mrs A. Camm, 1 Evandale Road, Malvern, Victoria on 23rd July, (no year recorded) stating that she was registered on the records as the next-of-kin of the late No. 2280 Private L. Parker, 8th Battalion, but desired to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & specifically asked if his mother was living or if he had any brothers (the eldest to be stated) due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

Philip Joseph Parker of 7 Melville Street, North Fitzroy, Victoria signed a Statutory Declaration on 9th August, 1920 at Victoria Barracks, Melbourne: "*...declare that I am the second eldest brother of the late No. 2880 Leonard Parker (enlisted as George Sims, 8th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force). His Father and Mother are both deceased and the address of his eldest brother Percy Parker is not known. I should be glad if the medals due to my late brother might be handed over to me on the understanding that I will transfer them to my eldest brother if he makes application for the same.*"

Base Records wrote to Mr P. J. Parker, 7 Melville Street, North Fitzroy, Victoria, on 13th August, 1920: "With reference to the Declaration made by you on the 9th August, concerning the affairs of your brother, the late No. 1869 Private L. Parker – enlisted as "G. Sims" – I shall be much obliged of you will complete the attached agreement before a J.P., when a recommendation will be made to the Minister for the War Medals and other items to ne handed over to you in trust..."

[Note: Several Letters from Base Records refer to Private L. Parker as having Service number 1869. All forms in Service Record file for Private George Sims show his service number as 2280. Unsure if Private L. Parker was, once his true identity was known, assigned Service number 1869 ??]

Copy of Declaration made by Philip Joseph Parker, next of kin of the late Leonard Parker, who served as Private George Sims, & signed by J.P. on 16th August, 1920.



Leonard Parker, who served as Private George Sims, was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to his brother - Mr P. J. Parker, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent June, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private L. Parker – service number 2280, of 8th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed. Served as Sims.

Private L. Parker (who served as G. Sims) is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 54.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

(47 pages of Private George Sims' (real Name Leonard Parker) Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

*Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES**

#### **126TH CASUALTY LIST**

VICTORIA

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte G. SIMS, Collingwood

*(Bendigo Advertiser, Victoria – 24 December, 1915)*

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### **DEATHS**

#### **On Active Service**

PARKER (Enlisted as George Sims), 8th Battalion, A.I.F., 54 Lulie-street, Collingwood, on the 22nd October, in London, from asphyxia, Leonard \_\_\_\_\_, the dearly beloved youngest son of Philip and the late Mary Ann Parker, loving brother of Mrs Camm, Mrs Waters, Clarice, Percy, Philip, \_\_\_\_\_ and Ella, aged 22 years.

*(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 30 December, 1915)*

## IN MEMORIAM

### On Active Service

PARKER – In loving memory of my dear brother, Private Leonard Parker, who died from asphyxia in London on the 22nd October, 1915, aged 22 years.

'Tis hard when I think what might have been,  
When I pictured the homecoming scene;  
But now that will be on eternity's shore,  
For on earth I will meet my dear brother no more.

-Inserted by his loving brother, Philip, North Fitzroy.

PARKER – In sad and loving remembrance of Leonard Vincent (Laddie), died England on the 22nd October, 1915, from gas fumes.

He did his duty.

-His loving friend, Nelle Cole.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 23 October, 1916)

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### 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. 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)*

A letter was sent from Base Records, dated 27th July, 1921, to Mrs A. Camm, 1 Evandale Road, Malvern, Victoria, advising that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her brother, the late No. 1869 Private L. Parker, 8th Battalion, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Private L. Parker (who served as G. Sims) has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone but no inscription.

## **Streatham Park Cemetery, Streatham, Greater London, England**

This cemetery is situated in Rowan Road, Streatham Vale. The cemetery contains Commonwealth war graves of both World Wars, and also a Screen Wall Memorial which commemorates service casualties of these wars buried in this cemetery in graves which could not be marked by headstones. A wing has been added to this memorial on which are carved the names of those who died during the Second World War who were accorded the last rite of cremation at the South London Crematorium, which is situated within the cemetery.

*(Information from CWGC)*

Streatham Park Cemetery contains 408 Commonwealth War Graves – 118 relating to World War 1 & 290 relating to World War 2.



**Cross of Sacrifice** *(Photo from CWGC)*



**War Graves in Streatham Park Cemetery** *(Photo by Marathon)*

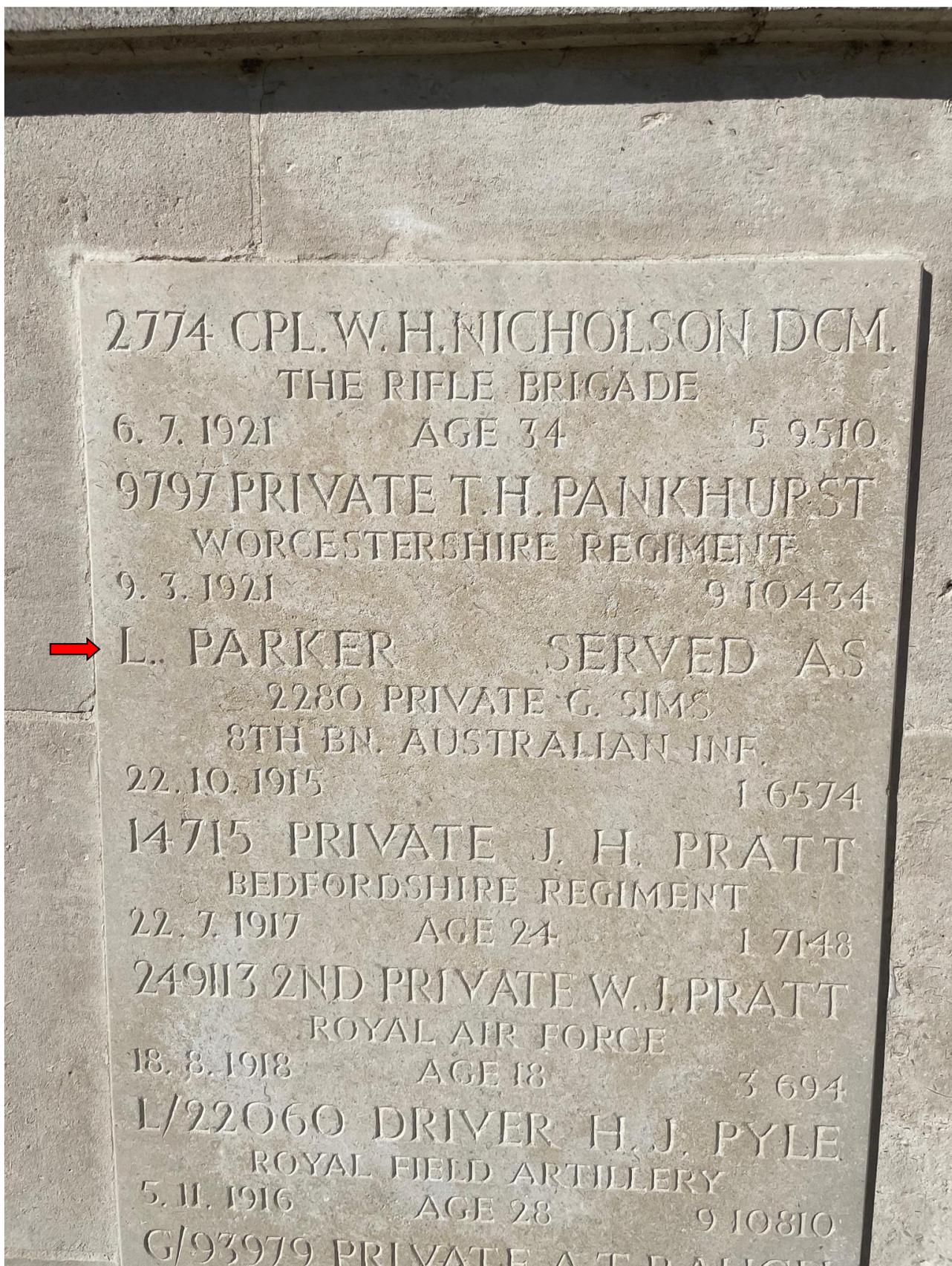
Photo of L. Parker, who served as Private G. Sims', Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Streatham Park Cemetery, Greater London, England.



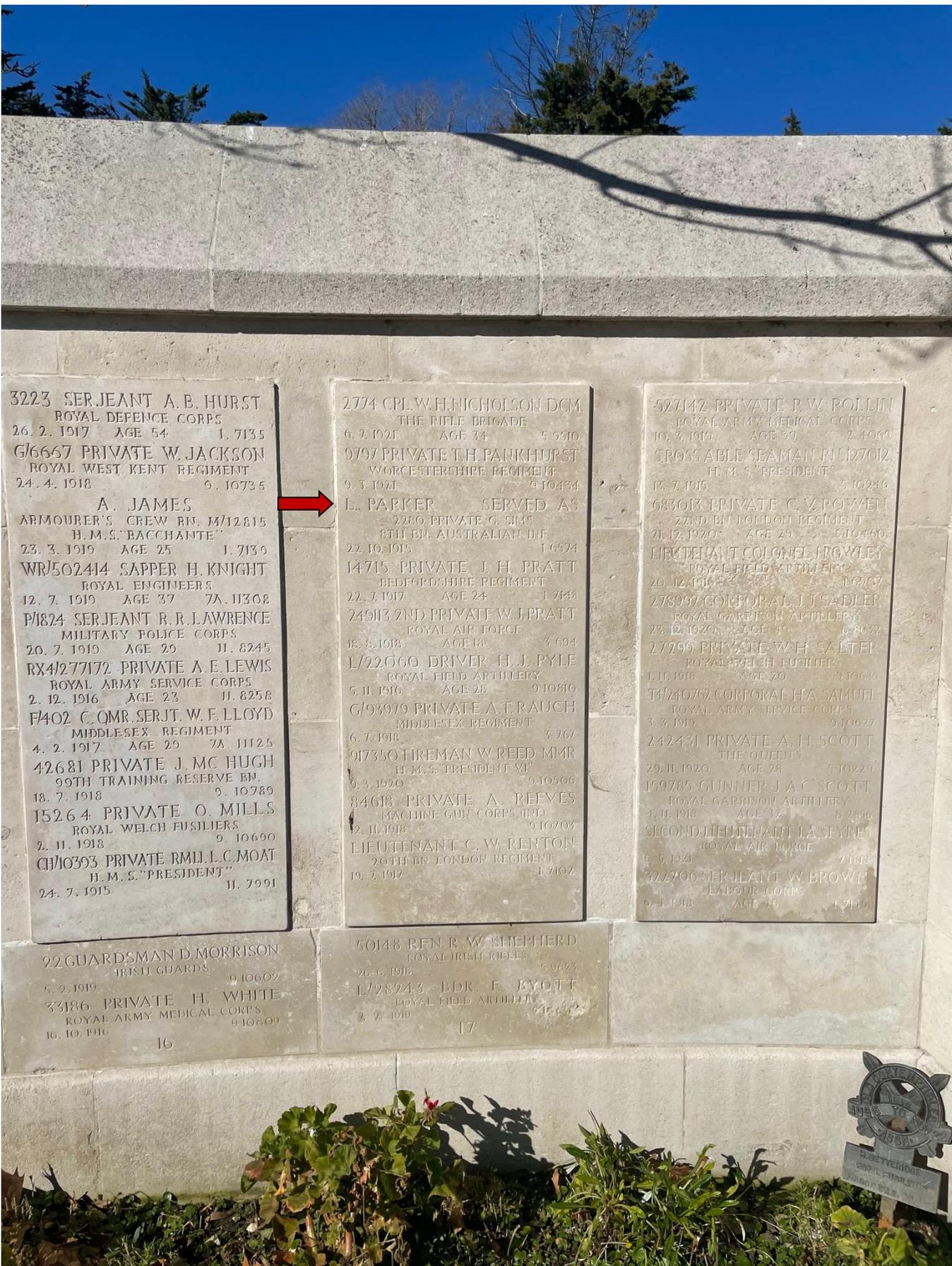
*(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)*



L. Parker, who served as Private G. Sims', is also named on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in Streatham Park Cemetery, Greater London, England.



Screen Wall (Photo courtesy of sallynick – Twitter)



3223 SERJEANT A. B. HURST  
ROYAL DEFENCE CORPS  
26. 2. 1917 AGE 54 1. 7135  
G/6667 PRIVATE W. JACKSON  
ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT  
24. 4. 1918 9. 10735  
A. JAMES  
ARMOURER'S CREW BN. M/12815  
H. M. S. "BACCHANTE"  
23. 3. 1919 AGE 25 1. 7130  
WR/502414 SAPPER H. KNIGHT  
ROYAL ENGINEERS  
12. 7. 1919 AGE 37 7A. 11308  
P/1824 SERJEANT R. R. LAWRENCE  
MILITARY POLICE CORPS  
20. 7. 1919 AGE 29 11. 8245  
RX/4277172 PRIVATE A. E. LEWIS  
ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS  
2. 12. 1916 AGE 23 11. 8258  
F/402 C. QMR. SERJT. W. F. LLOYD  
MIDDLESEX REGIMENT  
4. 2. 1917 AGE 29 7A. 11125  
42681 PRIVATE J. MC HUGH  
99TH TRAINING RESERVE BN.  
18. 7. 1918 9. 10789  
15264 PRIVATE O. MILLS  
ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS  
2. 11. 1918 9. 10690  
CH/10393 PRIVATE RMLI. L. C. MOAT  
H. M. S. "PRESIDENT"  
24. 7. 1915 11. 7991

2774 CPL. W. H. NICHOLSON DCM.  
THE RIFLE BRIGADE  
6. 7. 1921 AGE 34 5. 9910  
9797 PRIVATE T. H. PANKHURST  
WORCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT  
9. 3. 1921 9. 10434  
L. PARKER SERVED AS  
2280 PRIVATE G. GILES  
8TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.  
22. 10. 1915 1. 6574  
14715 PRIVATE J. H. PRATT  
BEDFORDSHIRE REGIMENT  
22. 7. 1917 AGE 24 1. 7148  
24913 2ND PRIVATE W. J. PRATT  
ROYAL AIR FORCE  
18. 8. 1918 AGE 18 3. 694  
L/22060 DRIVER H. J. PYLE  
ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY  
5. 11. 1916 AGE 28 9. 10810  
G/93979 PRIVATE A. T. RAUCH  
MIDDLESEX REGIMENT  
6. 7. 1918 3. 767  
917350 FIREMAN W. REED MMR  
H. M. S. "PRESIDENT VI"  
9. 3. 1920 9. 10506  
84618 PRIVATE A. REEVES  
MACHINE GUN CORPS (IND)  
12. 11. 1918 9. 10703  
LIEUTENANT C. W. RENTON  
20TH BN. LONDON REGIMENT  
19. 7. 1917 1. 7402

527142 PRIVATE R. W. POLLIN  
ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS  
10. 2. 1919 AGE 39 2. 4060  
CROSS ABLE SEAMAN RMLI 127012  
H. M. S. "PRESIDENT"  
18. 7. 1915 5. 10246  
683013 PRIVATE C. V. POWELL  
22ND BN. LONDON REGIMENT  
21. 12. 1920 AGE 29 5. 10400  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL PROWLEY  
ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY  
20. 12. 1916 1. 6107  
278997 CORPORAL J. J. SADLER  
ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY  
27. 12. 1920 AGE 41 6. 8032  
27299 PRIVATE W. H. SALTER  
ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS  
1. 11. 1918 AGE 20 9. 10686  
T/1240762 CORPORAL H. A. SAMUEL  
ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS  
3. 3. 1919 9. 10627  
242431 PRIVATE A. H. SCOTT  
THE QUEEN'S  
29. 11. 1920 AGE 28 5. 10229  
159785 GUNNER J. A. C. SCOTT  
ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY  
4. 11. 1918 AGE 32 8. 2836  
SECOND LIEUTENANT J. A. SEYRES  
ROYAL AIR FORCE  
6. 5. 1921 7. 1682  
322706 SERJEANT W. BROWN  
LABOUR CORPS  
6. 4. 1918 AGE 46 1. 7146

22 GUARDSMAN D. MORRISON  
IRISH GUARDS  
5. 2. 1919 9. 10602  
33186 PRIVATE H. WHITE  
ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS  
16. 10. 1916 9. 10809  
16

50148 RFN. R. W. SHEPHERD  
ROYAL IRISH RIFLES  
26. 6. 1918 5. 9027  
L/28243 BDR. E. BYOTT  
ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY  
3. 7. 1919 9. 10688  
17

Screen Wall (Photo courtesy of sallynick – Twitter)



**Screen Wall & (below) Cross of Sacrifice in front of Screen Wall** (Photo courtesy of sallynick – Twitter)

