

# Sutton Veny War Graves

## World War 1



*Lest We Forget*



**56117 PRIVATE**

**R. S. PARKER**

**AUSTRALIAN REINFORCEMENT**

**26TH OCTOBER, 1918**

*CWGC Headstone for Pte R. S. Parker is located in  
Grave Plot # 10. G. 3. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

## Robert Spencer Noyce PARKER

Robert Spencer Noyce Parker was born on 11<sup>th</sup> December, 1890 at Wandearah West, near Port Pirie, South Australia to parents Henry Guesdon Parker & Martha Anne Parker (nee Noyce). He was the youngest of 5 children.

A death was registered in 1891 for Martha Ann Parker in district of Clare, South Australia.

A marriage was registered in 1893 in the district of Clare, South Australia for Henry Guesdon Parker & Ida Louis Helene Wolter.

Robert Spencer Noyce Parker married Hilda Maud Cooper in the district of Daly, South Australia on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 1913.

A birth was registered in 1914 for Henry George Parker (born 11<sup>th</sup> May, 1914) – parents - Robert Spencer Noyce Parker & Hilda Maud Cooper.

A birth was registered in 1916 for Robert William Parker (born 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 1916) – parents - Robert Spencer Noyce Parker & Hilda Maud Cooper.

A death was registered in 1916 for Hilda Maud Parker in Adelaide, South Australia.

Robert Spencer Noyce Parker was a 27 year old, widower with 2 children and a Labourer from Woods Point, South Australia when he enlisted at Adelaide, South Australia on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 1918 with the 3<sup>rd</sup> (S) Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 56117 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his stepmother – Mrs Ida Louisa Helen Parker of Woods Point via Murray Bridge, South Australia.

Pte Robert Spencer Noyce Parker appeared at Medical Board at Mitcham Camp for Varicose veins & slight local oedema above ankle. He was passed as fit & allowed to carry on full duty.

Private Robert Spencer Noyce Parker embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Marathon* (A74) on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 1918 & disembarked at London, England on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 1918.

A death was registered in 1918 for Robert William Parker in Adelaide, South Australia (cause of death Tetanus).

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 Robert Spencer Noyce Parker was admitted to the Group Clearing Hospital at Sutton Veny on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 with Broncho pneumonia & transferred to Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 seriously ill with Influenza & broncho pneumonia.

Private Robert Spencer Noyce Parker died at 9 a.m. on 26th October, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Influenza pneumonia.

A death for Robert S. P. Parker, aged 27, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Robert Spencer Noyce Parker was buried at 3 p.m. on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny – Grave No. 8 (CWGC has grave no. as 10). From the burial report of Pte Parker - *Coffin was polished Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours. The funeral was preceded by a Firing Party and Band from the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Training Brigade. Six of deceased's late Unit comrades supported the Pall. Three Officers and about 80 N.C.O.'s and Men from deceased's late Unit followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Pte Robert Spencer Noyce Parker requested in his Will dated 15th May, 1918 that all his real & personal Estate be left to his stepmother – Mrs Ida Louise Helen Parker.

The CWGC lists Private Robert Spencer Parker, 56117, of 3rd Australian Reinforcement, A.I.F. No family details are listed.

Pte Robert Spencer Noyce Parker was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a theatre of war. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also to be sent to Pte Parker's next of kin, his eldest & only surviving son – Henry George Parker. Mrs I. L. H. Parker (step mother of late Pte Parker & guardian of Henry George Parker) signed a statutory declaration on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 1923 stating that she would "preserve with due care (in trust for Master Henry George Parker, the late soldier's eldest surviving son) any War Medals, or other items given into (her) custody on account of the service of the late No. 56117 Private R.S.N. Parker, General Service Reinforcements, Australian Imperial Force, and will return them to the Department of Defence at any time upon receipt of its demand in writing." (both sent June, 1923).

Private R. S. N. Parker is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 185.



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

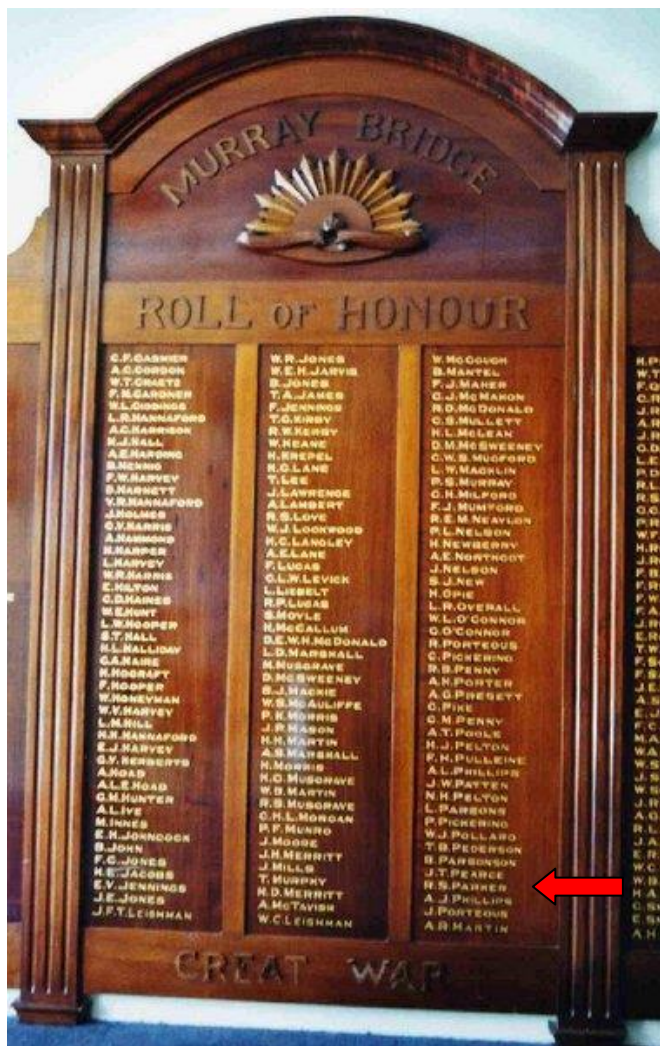
Robert Spencer Noyce Parker is also remembered on the National War Memorial in Adelaide which commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



**National War Memorial – Adelaide** (Photos by Bilby)



R. S. N. Parker is also remembered on the Murray Bridge WW1 Honour Roll located in Murray Bridge Hospital, Swanport Road, Murray Bridge, South Australia.



**Murray Bridge WW1 Honour Roll**

*(Photo (left) from Monument Australia – Roger Johnson (right) RSL Virtual War memorial)*

(51 pages of Pte Robert Spencer Noyce Parker'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) & National Archives.*

## **Newspaper Reports**

### **ATTESTED ON THURSDAY**

R.S.N. Parker, Labourer.

*(The Register, Adelaide, S.A. – Friday 29 March, 1918)*

## **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HEROES**

### **CASUALTY LIST No. 448**

Pte R. S. N. Parker, Wood's Point

*(Port Pirie Recorder, S.A. – Monday 2 December, 1918)*

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### **THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE**

PARKER – Pte R.S.N. Parker, of 3<sup>rd</sup> S.A. Gun Reserve, died on 26<sup>th</sup> October, 1918.

*(The Observer, Adelaide, S.A. – Saturday 31 October, 1925*

*The Register, Adelaide, S.A – Wednesday 26 October, 1927*

*The Observer, Adelaide, S.A. – Saturday 27 October, 1928)*

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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 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)*

A letter was sent from Base Records to Mrs I. L. H. Parker, dated 27<sup>th</sup> July, 1921, advising that a communication from the Defence Department concerning an inscription that could be placed on her step-son's (Pte R.S.N. Parker) Headstone in the Churchyard of Sutton Veny had not yet been replied to. The letter advised that if no reply was received within 21 days, it would be taken as indicating that no further action was required.

Pte Robert Spencer Parker does not have a personal inscription on his headstone



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



Photo of Private R. S. Parker'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)*