

**St. Edith's Churchyard,  
Baverstock, Wiltshire, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**4598 PRIVATE**

**F. J. PARKIN**

**29TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**26TH MARCH, 1917    Age 40**

*While He Lies*

*In Silent Sleep*

*His Memory*

*We Will Always Keep*

## Frederick John Parkin

Frederick John Parkin was born at Richmond, Victoria in 1877 to parents Joseph & Jean (Jane) Parkin (nee Alexander).

Frederick John Parkin married May McPhee in Victoria in 1916.

The 1914, 1915 & 1916 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Batman, Victoria & subdivision of Fitzroy Central listed Frederick John Parkin, Carpenter & May Parkin both living at 5 Coleman Street, North Fitzroy, Victoria.

Frederick John Parkin was a 39 year old, married, Carpenter from 5 Coleman Street, North Fitzroy, Victoria when he enlisted on 5th September, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4598 & his religion was Congregational. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs May Parkin of 5 Coleman Street, North Fitzroy, Victoria.

Private Frederick John Parkin was posted to Depot Battalion on 5th September, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 21st Depot Battalion at Royal Park on 19th September, 1916 then transferred on 1st October, 1916 to 24th Reinforcements of 5th Battalion.

Private Frederick John Parkin was admitted to 5th Australian General Hospital on 11th October, 1916 with Cellulitis & discharged on 25th October, 1916. He was posted to "B" Company 24th Reinforcements of 5th Battalion on 25th October, 1916 at Domain Camp. Private Parkin was transferred to 12th Reinforcements of 29th Battalion on 1st November, 1916. He was admitted to 5th Australian General Hospital on 30th November, 1916 post vaccination with a high temperature & discharged on 5th December, 1916 then returned to 12th Reinforcements of 29th Battalion at Domain Camp.

Private Frederick John Parkin embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Medic* (A7) on 16th December, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 29th Infantry Battalion, 12th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 18th January, 1917.

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 Frederick John Parkin was admitted sick to Fovant Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 14th March, 1917 after an attack of Bronchitis from "E" Company, 8th Training Battalion, Hurdcott, Wiltshire.

Private Frederick John Parkin died at 8.30 a.m. on 26th March, 1917 from an Aneurism at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire, England.

A death for Frederick J. Parkin, aged 40, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire.

Private Frederick John Parkin was buried in the churchyard of St. Edith's at Baverstock, Wiltshire on 28th March, 1917 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone.

From the burial report of Private Frederick John Parkin - *Coffin stained Elm with Black Mountings. Military funeral.* Lieut H. Castle of 29th Battalion wrote the following: "*Private Parkin, F. J., was known to me, and I found him always reliable and willing to do whatever he was called upon to do. He was with me for some months in Australia and on the voyage to England. I sincerely regret that his services have been lost to his King and Country and at the same time extend my deepest sympathy to his relatives.*"

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing contains a file for Private F. J. Parkin which includes a letter from The Matron, Military Hospital, Fovant, dated 19th June, 1917:

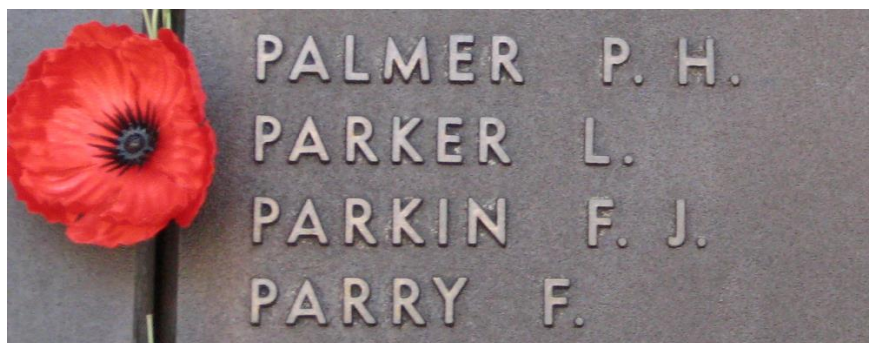
*“Pte F. J. Parkin was admitted into hospital on the 15th March suffering from an Aneurism. Everything possible was done for him and he died a very peaceful death on the 26th Marcy at 8.30 a.m. He was buried at Beverstock with Military Honours.”*

A War Pension was granted to May Parkin, widow of late Private F. J. Parkin in the sum of £2 per fortnight, from 29th May, 1917.

Private Frederick John Parkin was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Parkin’s widow – Mrs May Parkin (both received July, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Frederick John Parkin – service number 4598, as being 40 years old & served with 29th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Jean and the late Joseph Parkin; husband of May Parkin, of 5 Coleman St. North Fitzroy, Melbourne.

Private F. J. Parkin is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 116.



*(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)*



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

F. J. Parkin is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.

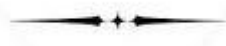


Frederick John Parkin is remembered on the Fitzroy WW1 Soldiers Database.



(54 pages of Private Frederick John Parkin'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*



## **Newspaper Reports**

### **DIED ON SERVICE**

#### **The Supreme Sacrifice**

PARKIN – On the 26th March, 1917, at 14th Military Hospital, France, Pte Fred. J. Parkin, the beloved son of Jean & the late Joseph Parkin, late of Erin Street, Richmond.

*(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – Thursday 5 April, 1917)*

*(\*Note – Pte Parkin died in England & never went to France)*

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### **DEATHS**

#### **On Active Service**

PARKIN – Died on 26th March, 1917, at 14th Military Hospital, France, Pte Fred. J. Parkin, the beloved son of Jean & the late Joseph Parkin, late of Erin-street, Richmond.

*(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – Thursday 5 April, 1917)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **VICTORIAN LIST**

#### **DIED OF ILLNESS**

Pte PARKIN, F. J., North Fitzroy, 26/3/17

*(Weekly Times, Victoria – Saturday 14 April, 1917)*

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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. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock. 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)*

Private F. J. Parkin does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*While He Lies In Silent Sleep His Memory We Will Always Keep*



**St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire, England**

St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock contains 32 World War 1 War Graves – 3 London Regiment Graves in the south-west corner & 29 Australian War Graves.



**St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock** (Photo courtesy of Helen Roberts)







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Photo of Private F. J. Parkin's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone at St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)*