

# Codford War Graves

## World War I



**7109 PRIVATE A.H. Parkinson**

**16TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**26TH MARCH, 1917 Age 37**

*THE PATH OF DUTY  
WAS THE WAY TO GLORY*



*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte A. H. Parkinson is located in Main Middle Row (Right hand side) Grave Plot # 34 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall) (CWGC Reference - Grave # 39)*

Alfred Henry Parkinson was born at Kingston, South Australia to parents Isabella & William Jones Parkinson. He was a 35 year old, single Miner from Adelaide, South Australia when he enlisted at Blackboy Hill, Western Australia on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 1916 with the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 23<sup>rd</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 7109 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Elizabeth Sarah Spry of 75 O'Connell Street, North Adelaide, South Australia.

Henry embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Berrima* (A35) on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 1917.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. These were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Pte Parkinson was marched in to 4<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 1917.

He was admitted to Sutton Veny Hospital on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 1917.

Pte Alfred Henry Parkinson died on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 at Sutton Veny Military Hospital, England of Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Alfred H. Parkinson, aged 35, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

From the burial report of Pte Alfred Henry Parkinson – he was buried at Codford Cemetery, Grave No. 39 on 29<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 with a Military Funeral.

Henry is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 80.

*(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)*



Hall of Memory WWI Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia





(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)

Pte A. H. Parkinson does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte A. H. Parkinson's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery

Pte Alfred Henry Parkinson 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 Pte Parkinson's sister Miss W. C. Parkinson c/o J. P. Spry 75 O'Connell St North Adelaide, South Australia (May, 1922 & August, 1922). The late Pte Parkinson had listed as his next of kin – Mrs Elizabeth Sarah Spry – she was not entitled to receive his medal, scroll & plaque as these were given to the oldest sister – Miss W. C. Parkinson.

(51 pages of Pte Alfred Henry Parkinson'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*

\*\* Pte Alfred Henry Parkinson's younger brother Pte Charles Frederick Parkinson (3914) had enlisted 10 months earlier than Alfred & he was killed in action 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 1916 in France. He is remembered on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France.

#### Newspaper Reports

W.A. CASUALTIES

DIED OF ILLNESS

A. H. PARKINSON, North Adelaide, S.A.

*(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia, Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April, 1917)*

#### HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

PARKINSON – In loving memory of Private A. H. Parkinson, who died in Military Hospital, England, March 26. – "His duty nobly done," and now, "Peace, perfect peace." – Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, F. and M. McNicol, Angaston.

*(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia, Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March, 1918)*

#### HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

PARKINSON – In loving memory of Private A. H. (Alf), who died Sutton Veney Hospital, England, March 26, 1917. "His duty nobly done." - Inserted by his cousins, Muriel and Rich, Marlon.

*(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 1918)*

#### 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 Codford War Graves Cemetery. 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)*