

## **Gunner Arthur Henry Parker**

**Regimental number: 202068**

**“A” Battery, 330th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery**

**born: 1883 – died: 12 August 1917**

Gunner Arthur Henry Parker was born in 1883 in Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire,<sup>1</sup> the son of William and Frances Parker.<sup>2</sup> His father, William James Parker, was born in about 1851 in Burton-on-Trent and his mother, Frances Whysall (née Hickinbotham) in about 1848 in Derby, Derbyshire.<sup>3</sup> They married on 13 April 1873 at Holy Trinity in Burton upon Trent<sup>4</sup> and had seven children, all of whom survived childhood. They were Frances Elizabeth (born in about 1874),<sup>5</sup> Walter James (born in about 1876),<sup>6</sup> Ernest William (born in about 1877),<sup>7</sup> Grace Ada (born in about 1879),<sup>8</sup> Alice Emma (born in about 1881),<sup>9</sup> Arthur, and Albert Thomas (born in about 1886).<sup>10</sup>

The family lived in Burton-on-Trent for at least thirty years. In 1881, they were at 301 Horninglow Road, where Arthur’s father was a general labourer.<sup>11</sup> By 1891, they had moved to 232 Wetmoor Road and Arthur’s father had begun working for a brewer.<sup>12</sup> In 1891 he was a brewery watchman, in 1901, a brewer’s waggoner [sic]<sup>13</sup> and, in 1911, a brewery labourer.<sup>14</sup> It is probable that Arthur’s father died later that year.<sup>15</sup>

By 1901, Arthur had also started working in the same business as his father, as a brewer’s labourer.<sup>16</sup> On 6 November 1907, Arthur married Mary Elizabeth Wright at St Mary’s Church, Shelton, Staffordshire.<sup>17</sup> They had a son, Edward, nearly two years later—born on 27 May 1909 in Burton-on-Trent. In 1911, the young family was living at 201 Wetmoor Road, just down the road from Arthur’s parents.<sup>18</sup>

Four years later, at the age of 32, Arthur enlisted as a private in the Army Reserve in Burton-on-Trent.<sup>19</sup> When he enlisted on 6 December 1915, he was described as a labourer living at 246 Wetmoor Road who was 5’ 10” tall. He was posted as a gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery on 7 July 1916.

At some point, Arthur transferred to the Royal Field Artillery. Just over a year and a half after enlisting, he was with the 330th Brigade, stationed near De Zeepanne, just a kilometre inland from the coast of Belgium. In the early days of August 1917, the brigade was engaged in heavy bombardment of enemy positions, with the enemy shelling back areas. On 12 August, one Other Rank (non-officer) was killed and another wounded. The wounded soldier may have been Arthur. He was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station that day with wounds to his abdomen and buttocks.<sup>20</sup> He died the same day and was buried the following day in Adinkerke Military Cemetery (Grave A. 24).<sup>21</sup>

On the day that he was admitted, Arthur was one of 21 soldiers to be admitted to the 1st CCCS.<sup>22</sup> A total of 1,896 were admitted in the month of August.

Adinkerke Military Cemetery is 20 kilometres east of Dunkirk, in the community of De Panne, just across the border into Belgium. There are 168 Commonwealth soldiers from the Great War buried in the cemetery.<sup>23</sup>

Arthur’s wife, who was living at 4 Clinton Street, near Wollonton Road in Beeston, Nottinghamshire, was notified of his death.<sup>24</sup> She also received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.<sup>25</sup>

Arthur was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 April 2016), entry for Arthur Henry Parker, Registration district: Burton upon Trent, Inferred county: Staffordshire, Volume: 6b, Page: 420

<sup>2</sup> "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 April 2016), entry for Arthur H. Parker, Registration district: Burton upon Trent, ED, institution, or vessel: 335, Piece: 2205, Folio: 96, Page: 52

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* Frances' middle name, Whydall, comes from her marriage record. However, in the 1911 census, her middle name appears as Whysall. It is not clear which is the correct spelling.

<sup>4</sup> "Staffordshire marriages," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 30 April 2016), entry for William James Parker, Archive reference: D4220/1/5; Page: 219, Register type: Marriage, Record set: Staffordshire marriages

<sup>5</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 April 2016), entry for Frances Elizabeth Parker, Registration district: Burton upon Trent, Inferred county: Staffordshire, Volume: 6b, Page: 426

<sup>6</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 April 2016), entry for Walter James Parker, Registration district: Burton upon Trent, Inferred county: Staffordshire, Volume: 6b, Page: 410

<sup>7</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 April 2016), entry for Ernest William Parker, Registration district: Burton upon Trent, Inferred county: Staffordshire, Volume: 6b, Page: 419

<sup>8</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 April 2016), entry for Grace Ada Parker, Registration district: Burton upon Trent, Inferred county: Staffordshire, Volume: 6b, Page: 400

<sup>9</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 April 2016), entry for Alice Emma Parker, Registration district: Burton upon Trent, Inferred county: Staffordshire, Volume: 6b, Page: 451

<sup>10</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 April 2016), entry for Albert Thomas Parker, Registration district: Burton upon Trent, Inferred county: Staffordshire, Volume: 6b, Page: 378

<sup>11</sup> "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 April 2016), entry for William J Parker, Registration district: Burton Upon Trent, ED, institution, or vessel: 39, Piece: 2767, Folio: 21, Page: 40

<sup>12</sup> "1891 England Census," entry for Arthur H. Parker

<sup>13</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 April 2016), entry for Arthur Parker, Registration district: Burton upon Trent, Sub-registration district: Burton upon Trent, ED, institution, or vessel: 33, Piece: 2645, Folio: 144, Page: 12, Household schedule number: 68

<sup>14</sup> "1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 30 April 2016), entry for Frances Whydall Parker, Registration district: Burton upon Trent, Registration district number: 365, Enumeration district: 32, Subdistrict: Burton upon Trent, Subdistrict number: 4, Census reference: RG14PN16819 RG78PN1042 RD365 SD4 ED32

<sup>15</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 April 2016), entry for William J Parker, Registration district: Burton upon Trent, Inferred county: Staffordshire, Volume: 6b, Page: 578

<sup>16</sup> "1901 England Census," entry for Arthur Parker

<sup>17</sup> "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 April 2016), entry for Arthur Henry Parker

<sup>18</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 30 April 2016), entry for Arthur Henry Parker, Registration district: Burton upon Trent, Registration district number: 365, Sub-registration district: Burton upon Trent, ED, institution, or vessel: 32, Household schedule number: 175, Piece: 16819

<sup>19</sup> "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," entry for Arthur Henry Parker

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<sup>20</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 and 2016), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 328

<sup>21</sup> "Commonwealth War Graves Commission," ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org); accessed 30 April 2016), entry for Parker, A. H., Service No: 202068

<sup>22</sup> "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* ([http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FIN&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02016202\\_e.html&r=1&f=G](http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FIN&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02016202_e.html&r=1&f=G))

<sup>23</sup> "Adinkerke Military Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/>; accessed 30 April 2016)

<sup>24</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 328

<sup>25</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 30 April 2016), entry for Arthur Parker

<sup>26</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 30 April 2016), entry for Arthur H Parker