

**Private Roger Parkin**<sup>©</sup>  
**Regimental number: 20/365**  
**20th Battalion, Durham Light Infantry**

**born: 9 December 1896–died: 22 July 1916**

At the age of 14, Roger Parkin was working as a driver at a colliery in Bearpark, Durham, England.<sup>1</sup> At the age of 19, he was dead; one of 704,803 soldiers from the British Isles who died in or because of the First World War.<sup>2</sup>

Roger came from a mining family. Both his father and paternal grandfather were coal miners.<sup>3</sup> He was born on 9 December 1896 in Bearpark,<sup>4</sup> a small village in County Durham about 3 km west of the city of Durham. His father, Simpson Turnbull Parkin (1860–1938),<sup>5</sup> and his mother, Hannah (née Park) Parkin (1861–1933),<sup>6</sup> were both born in County Durham. Simpson, the son of John and Margaret Parkin, was born in Cassop;<sup>7</sup> Hannah, the daughter of John and Isabel Park, in the city of Durham.<sup>8</sup> Simpson and Hannah married on 26 August 1882 at St. Giles Church, Durham.<sup>9</sup>

The couple raised 10 children.<sup>10</sup> Ralph Crozier Coates (1879–1935)<sup>11</sup> was the eldest, followed by Isabella (1884–1971),<sup>12</sup> Robert (1886–?),<sup>13</sup> John Thomas (1889–?),<sup>14</sup> the twins Margaret (1891–?)<sup>15</sup> and Mary Ann (1891–1981),<sup>16</sup> Simpson Turnbull (1894–1918),<sup>17</sup> then Roger, Ada (1899–?),<sup>18</sup> and finally Hannah (1900–1991).<sup>19</sup>

When Isabella was born in 1884, Simpson and Hannah were living in Bearpark. In 1891, the couple, their four children and Hannah's father John Park were living at 1 Bouch Street, a three-room house in Bearpark. Simpson was working as a coal miner; Hannah did unpaid domestic chores.<sup>20</sup> During the next decade, Roger and five more children were born. Their maternal grandfather John Park died in 1893.<sup>21</sup>

The family was still living at 1 Bouch Street in 1901. The two oldest boys, Ralph and Robert, had joined their father Simpson in the coal mines.<sup>22</sup> Four-year-old Roger was enrolled at the Bearpark Board Infants' School on 4 April 1900. He graduated to the Bearpark Board Mixed School on 23 October 1903.<sup>23</sup>

During this decade, some of Roger's siblings married. Ralph wed Elizabeth Ann Ward in 1904,<sup>24</sup> Isabella married Thomas Seymour in 1905<sup>25</sup> and Robert wed Ethel McBride in 1907.<sup>26</sup> Sadly, Ethel died in 1910, shortly after giving birth to their son, John Thomas Parkin.<sup>27</sup>

Roger finished his formal education on 21 November 1910; he was almost 14 years old and deemed too old for school.<sup>28</sup> The following year, Roger was working as a driver in a colliery and living with his parents and other family members, who still resided at 1 Bouch Street, Bearpark. Brothers Robert, John Thomas and Simpson and Roger's father were all working as coal miners. His twin sisters Margaret and Mary Ann assisted their mother with unpaid domestic chores and cared for Robert's 11-month-old son John Thomas. His youngest sister Hannah attended school;<sup>29</sup> 12-year-old Ada was living with Isabella and her husband Thomas Seymour at 8 Swan Street, Bearpark, perhaps assisting with their new baby.<sup>30</sup>

During the next few years, more of Roger's siblings established homes of their own. In 1911, Robert (a widower) married Mary Ann Hardy.<sup>31</sup> In 1912 John Thomas married Frances Woodward and Mary Ann married Ernest Parker. A year later, Margaret wed Walter Lister.<sup>32</sup>

When war was declared on 4 August 1914, Roger was 17 years old. Like many others at the time, he might have been caught up in the patriotic fervour that swept the country, particularly when the war came to northeastern England on 16 December 1914. The German fleet shelled Scarborough, Whitby and Hartlepool, causing 592 civilian casualties.<sup>33</sup>

Roger's family moved to Easington Colliery, Durham, about 23 km east of Bearpark, around 1915.<sup>34</sup> Roger was working as a coal miner and living with his parents at 8 Ninth Street East, Easington Colliery, when he enlisted in the 20th (Service) Battalion (Wearside), Durham Light Infantry (DLI), on 29 September 1915 at West Hartlepool. He was 18 years old, 170 cm tall and weighed 53 kg.<sup>35</sup>

Before the First World War began, the DLI consisted of nine battalions, two in the regular army (1st and 2nd), two in the Special Reserve (3rd and 4th) and five Territorials (5th–9th). By the end of the war in November 1918, the DLI had grown to 43 battalions, 22 of which were sent overseas. One of these new military units was Roger's 20th (Service) Battalion (Wearside), which was raised on 10 July 1915 in Sunderland, Durham.<sup>36</sup>

During the following months, Roger trained with the battalion at Wensleydale, North Yorkshire, and then at Barnard Castle, Durham. On 6 January 1916, the battalion moved to Aldershot, where it joined the 123rd Brigade, 41st Division. On its departure from Barnard Castle, the battalion's commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth J. W. Leather, told the men that they would be the only north country battalion in the division and that he felt sure that they would keep up the honourable name of the "Faithful Durhams."<sup>37</sup>

In early April, the men were given leave but rejoined the battalion in Sunderland on 14 April. At 9 a.m., accompanied by the 4th Battalion's band, the 20th (Service) Battalion (Wearside) paraded on the town moor and then marched to the town hall. Crowds cheered them on and commented on their fine style and general fit appearance. Military and civic officials, such as William Milburn, the chair of the Sunderland Recruiting Committee, and Mayor Alderman S. Richardson, gave speeches. The mayor hoped that when the men returned to Sunderland they would be bringing peace in their pockets. Each man was provided with sandwiches, a meat pie, two cakes and a package of cigarettes, courtesy of the mayor. At the train station, the band played "Auld Lange Syne" as the train departed. It would stop along the way to pick up more of the battalion's soldiers who were not at Sunderland. On arriving at King's Cross Station, London, the battalion marched through the city to Waterloo Station to board another train for Aldershot.<sup>38</sup>

The 20th (Service) Battalion (Wearside), DLI, spent only three more weeks at Aldershot. On 4 May 1916, its 34 officers and 967 soldiers of other ranks (ORs), which included Private Roger Parkin, travelled by train to Southampton to board the SS *Arundel*. The ship docked at Le Havre, France, at 12:45 a.m. on 5 May. The next day, the battalion travelled 273 km to Strazeele, northern France, where the men received trench-warfare training. They experienced shell fire for the first time on 11 May, when one officer and three ORs were injured.<sup>39</sup>

On 28 May, the battalion relocated to trenches north of Armentières, France, although its headquarters were at Le Bizet, Belgium, about 2.6 km away. On 6 June, the divisional commander congratulated the battalion for the good work that it had done repairing the trenches and the high standard that it had set for itself on its first tour of duty.<sup>40</sup> During the next two months, the battalion followed the routines of trench warfare. Roger experienced day-to-day shelling, sniper fire, endless noise, horrid stench and skirmishes, followed by rest periods behind the lines.

One such skirmish (Battalion Operation Order No. 9) occurred on 30 June/1 July 1916. A platoon consisting of an officer and 11 ORs from the 20th Battalion, DLI, along with a similar platoon from the 10th Battalion, Royal West Kent Regiment, were ordered to raid the nearby enemy trenches in what was described as “a minor enterprise” to capture prisoners and do as much harm as possible. In spite of the detailed planning and preparatory actions, the mission could not be carried out as intended. The platoons discovered that the BEF’s artillery had not cut openings in the enemy’s wire barricade nor destroyed the enemy’s machine gun emplacements. The platoons tried other tactics, which were not successful. The enemy responded with a storm of artillery and machine gun fire. One officer was killed and one wounded; two ORs were killed, four were wounded and four suffered from shell shock.<sup>41</sup>

In July, the rotation in and out of the trenches continued. After a five-day rest period at Le Bizet, the battalion was back in the trenches near Armentières from 14 to 22 July. It was during this time period that Private Roger Parkin was critically wounded. How, when, and where this occurred was not recorded. It might have been on 21 July, when one OR was killed and two wounded, or on 22 July, when Lieutenant Colonel Leather and four ORs were wounded.<sup>42</sup> Roger was taken to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station (CCCS) at Bailleul, France. A casualty clearing station was a medical unit behind the front lines, usually located near transportation. Casualties who could not be adequately treated were stabilized before being transported to a military hospital.<sup>43</sup> Roger might have been one of 284 injured men admitted on 21 July or one of 40 admitted on 22 July. He was one of nine who died on Saturday 22 July.<sup>44</sup> His death was recorded by the No. 1 CCCS chaplain.<sup>45</sup>

Private Roger Parkin was buried at Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Grave/Memorial Reference II. F. 50).<sup>46</sup> Bailleul is in France, close to the Belgian border. It was occupied on 14 October 1914 and became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. Several casualty clearing stations, including No. 1 CCCS, were quartered there. The earliest Commonwealth burials at Bailleul were made in April 1915. An extension was built and burials continued until April 1918; they occurred again in September and after the Armistice, when soldiers’ remains were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields.

Roger was posthumously awarded the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre), and the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918).<sup>47</sup> As next of kin, his mother received a memorial plaque and a parchment scroll. On 16 November 1916, Roger’s mother received his personal belongings and then on 19 November, his savings: £3 7s 8d. She received a war gratuity of £3 on 20 October 1919.<sup>48</sup>

There was more sorrow to endure. Roger’s older brother, Simpson T. Parkin, who had joined the Royal Garrison Artillery, was killed in action on 9 September 1918.<sup>49</sup> The next year, Hannah applied for a Dependant’s Pension, citing the death of both her sons.<sup>50</sup>

The Parkin family’s world continued without Roger and Simpson. Roger’s younger sister Ada married Robert W. Geldard in 1919.<sup>51</sup> Around that time, his parents moved to the village of Witton Gilbert, Durham. In 1921, they were living on Front Street. His father was working as a coal miner for the Carlaw of Sacriston Company Limited, while his mother performed household chores. Daughter Ada and two grandsons, John Thomas Parkin and Walter Lister, were living with them.<sup>52</sup>

Most of Roger’s siblings were living within a 25-km radius of Witton Gilbert in 1921. All relied on the coal industry for employment. Isabella, her husband Thomas Seymour and their children were living next door to her parents on Front Street. Thomas was a coke production employee.<sup>53</sup> John

Thomas and his family were living in Witton Gilbert while he worked as a miner for the Bearpark Coal Company.<sup>54</sup> Ralph, an unemployed coal miner, was living with his family in Easington Colliery, Durham.<sup>55</sup> Robert and his family were living in Bearpark, where he was employed by the Bearpark Coke and Coal Company.<sup>56</sup> Roger's sister, Margaret Lister, listed as a widow, was working as a housekeeper for the Allan family in Broom, Durham.<sup>57</sup> She married Peter Allan, a coal miner, in the fall of 1921.<sup>58</sup> Hannah had left home and was employed as a domestic servant by the Wilson family in Houghton Le Spring, Durham.<sup>59</sup> Mary Ann, her husband Ernest Parker and their children lived the farthest away in New Edlington, Yorkshire (West Riding). Ernest was a coal miner at the Yorkshire Main Colliery.<sup>60</sup>

Private Roger Parkin was not forgotten. His brother John Thomas and his sister Mary Ann Parker each named one of their children Roger. His family installed a brass plaque on the lych-gate at St. Michael & All Angels Church, Witton Gilbert, with the following inscription: "In loving memory of our dear sons, PTE Roger Parkin, 20th, D.L.I. and GNR Simpson Parkin, R.G.A. Deeply mourned by their father and mother, brother and sister."<sup>61</sup> Both Roger's and Simpson's names were recorded on the Witton Gilbert War Memorial.<sup>62</sup> Roger's name was also listed in the booklet, *History of the Locally Raised 20th (Service) Battalion, Durham Light Infantry*.<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 28 September 2012), entry for Roger Parkin, Registration district: Durham, Registration district number: 551, Sub-district: Brandon, Sub-district number: 1, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 31, Piece: 29953

<sup>2</sup> "Some British Army Statistics of the Great War," *The Long, Long Trail* (<https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/some-british-army-statistics-of-the-great-war>: accessed 3 September 2022)

<sup>3</sup> "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 3 March 2021), entry for Simpson Parkin, Registration district: Auckland, Sub-registration district: Harnsterley, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 15, Piece: 4929, Folio: 22, Page: 38

<sup>4</sup> "England Births and Baptisms, 1538–1975," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 1 September 2022), entry for Roger Parkin, Baptism date: 24 December 1896, Baptism age: 18 days, Residence: Durham, Place: Bearpark, County: Durham, Country: England, Father's first name: Simpson, Father's last name: Parkin, Mother's first name: Hannah; "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 4 September 2022), entry for Roger Parkin, GRO Reference: 1897, M Quarter in Durham, Volume: 10A, Page: 356, Mother's maiden surname: Park; "National Schools Admission Registers & Log Books 1870–1916," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 22 September 2022), entry for Roger Parkin, Event year: 1901. **Note:** Roger's Date of Birth: 9-12-1896

<sup>5</sup> "England & Wales Births 1837–2006," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 15 September 2022), entry for Simpson Turnbull Parkin, District: Durham, County: Durham, Volume: 10A, Page: 282, Birth year: 1860, Mother's maiden name: Maddison; "Northumberland and Durham Memorial Inscriptions," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 16 September 2022), entry for Simpson Turnbull Parkin, Death date: 07 August 1938, Age: 78, Parish: Whitton Gilbert, St. Michael & All Angels, County: Durham, Country: England

<sup>6</sup> "England & Wales Births 1837–2006," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 15 September 2022), entry for Hannah Park, District: Durham, County: Durham, Volume: 10A, Page: 253, Birth year: 1861, Mother's maiden name: Dixon; "Northumberland and Durham Memorial Inscriptions," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 16 September 2022), entry for Hannah Parkin, Death date: 29 April 1933, Age: 72, Parish: Whitton Gilbert, St. Michael & All Angels, County: Durham, Country: England

<sup>7</sup> "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 26 September 2022), entry for Simpson Parkin

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<sup>8</sup> "1861 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 26 September 2022), entry for Hannah Park, Registration district: Durham, Sub-registration district: St. Nicholas, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 11, Household schedule number: 98, Piece: 3741, Folio: 96, Page: 20

<sup>9</sup> "Durham Marriages," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 16 September 2022), entry for Simpson Turnbull Parkin, Place: Durham, St. Giles, County: Durham, Country: England, Northumberland & Durham Family History Society reference: 9004594, Spouse's first name: Hannah, Spouse's last name: Park

<sup>10</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry*, entry for Roger Parkin

<sup>11</sup> "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 4 September 2022), entry for Ralph Crozier Coates Park, GRO Reference: 1879, M Quarter in Durham, Volume: 10A, Page: 395, Mother's maiden surname: Park; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 21 September 2022), entry for Ralph Parkin, Death year: 1935, Registration district: Durham, Inferred county: Durham, Volume: 10A, Page: 450 **Note**: Ralph was born before his mother was married hence his surname is the same as his mother's.

<sup>12</sup> "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 20 September 2022), entry for Isabella Parkin, GRO Reference: 1884, J Quarter in Durham, Volume: 10A, Page: 410, Mother's maiden surname: Park; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 21 September 2022), entry for Isabel Seymour, Death year: 1971, Registration district: Durham Southeastern, Inferred county: Durham, Volume: 1a, Page: 837

<sup>13</sup> "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 20 September 2022), entry for Robert Parkin, GRO Reference: 1886, S Quarter in Durham, Volume: 10A, Page: 361, Mother's maiden surname: Park

<sup>14</sup> "GRO Indexes 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 20 September 2022), entry for John Thomas Parkin, GRO Reference: 1889, M Quarter in Durham, Volume: 10A, Page: 354, Mother's maiden surname: Park

<sup>15</sup> "GRO Indexes 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 20 September 2022), entry for Margaret Parkin, GRO Reference: 1892, M Quarter in Durham, Volume: 10A, Page: 369, Mother's maiden surname: Park; "National Schools Admission Registers & Log Books 1870–1916," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 22 September 2022), entry for Margaret Parkin, Event year: 1898. **Note**: Margaret's date of birth: 07 December 1891

<sup>16</sup> "GRO Indexes 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 20 September 2022), entry for Mary Ann Parkin, GRO Reference: 1892, M Quarter in Durham, Volume: 10A, Page: 369, Mother's maiden surname: Park; "National Schools Admission Registers & Log Books 1870–1916," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 22 September 2022), entry for Mary Ann Parkin, Event year: 1898. **Note**: Mary Ann's Date of birth: 07 December 1891; "England & Wales Deaths 1837–2007," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 23 September 2022), entry for Mary Ann Parker, Death year: 1981, District: Durham Central, County: Durham, Volume: 1, Page: 1055

<sup>17</sup> "GRO Indexes 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 20 September 2022), entry for Simpson Turnbull Parkin, GRO Reference: 1894, J Quarter in Durham, Volume: 10A, Page: 371, Mother's maiden surname: Park; *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/184648/s-t-parkin>: accessed 22 September 2022), entry for Gunner S. T. Parkin, Service number: 214033

<sup>18</sup> "GRO Indexes 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* ([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 20 September 2022), entry for Ada Parkin, GRO Reference: 1899, M Quarter in Durham, Volume: 10A, Page: 387, Mother's maiden surname: Park; "National Schools Admission Registers & Log Books 1870–1916," *Findmypast*

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([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 22 September 2022), entry for Ada Parkin, Event year: 1904. **Note:** Ada's Date of birth: 26 January 1899

<sup>19</sup> "GRO Indexes 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office*

([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 20 September 2022), entry for Hannah Parkin, GRO Reference: 1900, D Quarter in Durham, Volume: 10A, Page: 398, Mother's maiden surname: Park; "National Schools Admission Registers & Log Books 1870–1916," *Findmypast*

([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 22 September 2022), entry for Hannah Parkin, Event year: 1904. **Note:** Hannah's Date of birth: 15 October 1900; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1916–2005," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 22 September 2022), entry for Hannah Parkin, Registration date: Apr 1949, Registration district: Durham Central, Inferred county: Durham, Volume: 1A, Page: 707, Spouse: James W. Matthew; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 21 September 2022), entry for Hannah Matthew, Death year: 1991, Registration district: Durham Northern, Inferred county: Durham, Volume: 1, Page: 1215

<sup>20</sup> "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 21 September 2022), entry for Simpson L. Parkin, Registration district: Durham, Sub-registration district: St Oswald, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 28, Piece: 4099, Folio: 92, Page: 14

<sup>21</sup> "England, Select Deaths and Burials 1538–1991," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 22 September 2022), entry for John Park, Burial date: August 1893, Burial place: St Edmunds, Bearpark, Durham, England

<sup>22</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 28 September 2022), entry for Roger Parkin, Registration district: Durham, Sub-registration district: St Oswald, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 30, Household schedule number: 92, Piece: 4676, Folio: 22, Page: 19

<sup>23</sup> "National Schools Admission Registers & Log Books 1870–1916," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 22 September 2022), entry for Roger Parkin, Event years: 1901 and 1903

<sup>24</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 22 September 2022), entry for Ralph Crozier C Park, Registration year: 1904, Registration district: Durham, Inferred county: Durham, Volume: 10A, Page: 539, Spouse: Elizabeth Ann Ward

<sup>25</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 22 September 2022), entry for Isabella Parkin, Registration year: 1905, Registration district: Durham, Inferred county: Durham, Volume: 10A, Page: 621, Spouse: Thomas Seymour

<sup>26</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 22 September 2022), entry for Robert Parkin, Registration year: 1907, Registration district: Durham, Inferred county: Durham, Volume: 10A, Page: 772, Spouse: Ethel McBride

<sup>27</sup> "GRO Indexes 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office*

([https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes\\_search.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp): accessed 20 September 2022), entry for John Thomas Parkin, GRO Reference: 1910, J Quarter in Chester Le Street, Volume: 10A, Page: 354, Mother's maiden surname: McBride; "England & Wales Deaths 1837–2007," *Findmypast*

([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 23 September 2022), entry for Ethel Parkin, Death year: 1910, District: Chester Le Street, County: Durham, Volume: 10A, Page: 265

<sup>28</sup> "National Schools Admission Registers & Log Books 1870–1916," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 22 September 2022), entry for Roger Parkin, Event year: 1910

<sup>29</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry*, entry for Roger Parkin

<sup>30</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 19 September 2022), entry for Ada Parkin, Registration district: Durham, Registration district number: 511, Sub-registration district: Brandon, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 32, Piece: 29954

<sup>31</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 22 September 2022), entry for Robert Parkin, Registration year: 1911, Registration district: Durham, Inferred county: Durham, Volume: 10A, Page: 757, Spouse: Mary Ann Hardy

<sup>32</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 22 September 2022), entry for John Thomas Parkin, Registration year: 1912, Registration district: Durham, Inferred county: Durham, Volume: 10A, Page: 752, Spouse: Frances Woodward; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 22 September 2022), entry

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for Mary Ann Parkin, Registration year: 1912, Registration district: Durham, Inferred county: Durham, Volume: 10A, Page: 639, Spouse: Ernest Parker; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 22 September 2022), entry for Margaret Parkin, Registration year: 1913, Registration district: Durham, Inferred county: Durham, Volume: 10A, Page: 645, Spouse: Walter Lister; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): access 18 October 2022), entry for Walter Lister, Death registration place: Durham, Durham, United Kingdom, Death date: June 1913, Volume: 10 a, Page: 476, Age: 22. **Note:** Margaret's husband, Walter Lister, most likely died in a mining accident in 1913.

<sup>33</sup> "Raid on Scarborough, Hartlepool, Whitby," *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raid\\_on\\_Scarborough,\\_Hartlepool\\_and\\_Whitby](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raid_on_Scarborough,_Hartlepool_and_Whitby): accessed 18 October 2022)

<sup>34</sup> "England & Wales, Electoral Registers 1910–1932," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 28 September 2022), entry for Simpson Parkin, Year: 1915, Constituency in full: Parliamentary County of Durham, South-Eastern Division, County: Durham, Country: England

<sup>35</sup> "British Army WW1 Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 28 September 2022), entry for Roger Parkin, Regimental number: 20/365. **Note:** The recruiting officer incorrectly recorded Roger's first name as "Robert" even though he had signed the form as "Roger." This error was corrected when his mother applied for a pension. All information regarding Roger Parkin's military career came from this source.

<sup>36</sup> "Durham Light Infantry, 20th Battalion (Wearside)," *Durham at War* (<https://www.durhamatwar.org.uk/story/13135>: accessed 4 October 2022)

<sup>37</sup> "Praise for the Men," *Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette*, 07 January 1916, p. 8, *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 11 October 2022)

<sup>38</sup> "Farewell to Sunderland Battalion," *Newcastle Daily Chronicle*, 15 April 1916, p. 8; "Wearside Battalion," *The North Star* (Darlington), 15 April 1916, p. 5; "Wearside Battalion," *Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette*, 14 April 1916, p. 3, *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 11 October 2022)

<sup>39</sup> "20 Battalion Durham Light Infantry, War Diaries, 1916 May–1917 October," *National Archives, Kew* (<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C7354395>: accessed 8 October 2022), Reference: WO-95-2639/1. **Note:** Unless otherwise identified, all information about the 20th Battalion, Durham Light Infantry's movements during this time period comes from this source. The name of the ship on which the battalion travelled to Le Havre might have been the *Arundel Castle*.

<sup>40</sup> "20 Battalion Durham Light Infantry, War Diaries, 1916 May–1917 October," entry for 6 June 1916 and attachment

<sup>41</sup> 20 Battalion Durham Light Infantry, War Diaries, 1916 May –1917 October," entry for 30 June 1916 and attachment

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> "Casualty Clearing Station," *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casualty\\_Clearing\\_Station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casualty_Clearing_Station): accessed 2 March 2022)

<sup>44</sup> "No.1 Canadian Casualty Clear Station War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13–1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/redirect?app=fonandcol&id=2005082&lang=eng>: accessed 11 October 2022), entries for 21 and 22 July 1916;

<sup>45</sup> "Search Name Index," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 12 March 2022), entry for Pte R. Parkin, Service number: 365

<sup>46</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/201031/r-parkin>: accessed 18 October 2022), entry for R. Parkin, Service number: 20/365

<sup>47</sup> "British Army WW1 Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry*, entry for Roger Parkin, Regimental number: 20/365

<sup>48</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 8 October 2022), entry for Roger Parkin, Regimental number: 20/365

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- <sup>49</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/184648/s-t-parkin>: accessed 18 October 2022), entry for S. T. Parkin, Service number: 214033
- <sup>50</sup> "UK, World War 1 Pension Ledgers and Index Cards, 1914–1923," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 18 October 2022), entry for Roger Simpson Parkin, Service numbers: 20/365, 214033
- <sup>51</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1916–2005," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 22 September 2022), entry for Ada Parkin, Registration date: Jan 1919, Registration district: Easington, Inferred county: Durham, Volume: 10A, Page: 750, Spouse: Robert W. Geldard
- <sup>52</sup> "1921 Census of England & Wales," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 19 October 2022), entry for Simpson Turnbull Parkin, Registration district: Chester Le Street, Registration district number: 554, Sub-district: Chester Le Street, Sub-district number: 1, Enumeration district: 32, County: Durham, Piece: 24797, Schedule number: 71
- <sup>53</sup> "1921 Census of England & Wales," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 19 October 2022), entry for Isabel Seymour, Registration district: Chester Le Street, Registration district number: 554, Sub-district: Chester Le Street, Sub-district number: 1, Enumeration district: 32, County: Durham, Piece: 24797, Schedule number: 71
- <sup>54</sup> "1921 Census of England & Wales," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 19 October 2022), entry for John Thomas Parkin, Registration district: Durham, Registration district number: 551, Sub-district: Chester Le Street, Sub-district number: 1, Enumeration district: 30, County: Durham, Piece: 24795, Schedule number: 128
- <sup>55</sup> "1921 Census of England & Wales," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 19 October 2022), entry for Ralph Crozier Coates Park, Registration district: Easington, Registration district number: 552, Sub-district: Dawdon, Sub-district number: 2, Enumeration district: 17, County: Durham, Piece: 24707, Schedule number: 41
- <sup>56</sup> "1921 Census of England & Wales," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 19 October 2022), entry for Robert Parkin, Registration district: Chester Le Street, Registration district number: 554, Sub-district: Brandon, Sub-district number: 1, Enumeration district: 34, County: Durham, Piece: 24626, Schedule number: 133
- <sup>57</sup> "1921 Census of England & Wales," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 19 October 2022), entry for Margaret Lister, Registration district: Durham, Registration district number: 551, Sub-district: Brandon, Sub-district number: 1, Enumeration district: 30, County: Durham, Piece: 24622, Schedule number: 6
- <sup>58</sup> "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1916–2005," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 22 September 2022), entry for Margaret Lister, Registration date: Oct 1921, Registration district: Durham, Inferred county: Durham, Volume: 10A, Page: 810, Spouse: Peter Allan
- <sup>59</sup> "1921 Census of England & Wales," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 19 October 2022), entry for Hannah Parkin, Registration district: Houghton Le Spring, Registration district number: 1, Sub-district: Houghton Le Spring, Sub-district number: 1, Enumeration district: 3, County: Durham, Piece: 24729, Schedule number: 60
- <sup>60</sup> "1921 Census of England & Wales," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 19 October 2022), entry for Mary Ann Parker, Registration district: Doncaster, Registration district number: 512, Sub-district: Bawtry & Tickhill, Sub-district number: 4, Enumeration district: 13, County: Yorkshire (West Riding), Piece: 23375, Schedule number: 153
- <sup>61</sup> *Northeast War Memorials Project* (<http://www.newmp.org.uk/detail.php?contentId=9199>: accessed 20 October 2022), entry for Plaque Parkin Bros. 1916 and 1918 Lychgate
- <sup>62</sup> "War Memorial – Witton Gilbert, County Durham, England," *Lost Ancestors* (<http://www.lostancestors.eu/memwar/W/WittonGil.htm#1>: accessed 20 October 2022)
- <sup>63</sup> Youll, R. *History of the Locally Raised 20th (Service) Battalion, Durham Light Infantry*, (Sunderland, Durham: 1920), entry for R. Parkin, 20/365, p. 50, p. 57, *North East War Memorial Project* (<http://www.newmp.org.uk/detail.php?contentId=11399>: accessed 21 October 2022)