**James Kershaw Parkinson**





**Rank: -** Private

**Number: -** 22241

**Regiment: -** Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) 2/4th Battalion

**Killed in Action: -** 2nd September 1918 aged 19 years

**Memorial: -** Vis-en-Artois, Pas-de-Calais, France Panel 6

## Family Details

James Kershaw was born in Soothill on 14th October 1898 the son of Harry and Clara Parkinson (nee Heald). He was baptised at Hanging Heaton on 7th December 1902 giving the address as Sykes Lane and his father was a road foreman.

On the 1901 census the family, who came from Wakefield with the exception of James, was living at Fort Ann Cottages, Sykes Lane, Soothill. His siblings were Ellen (1882), Harry (1884), William Heald (1886), Stella 1888-1889 and Charles (1896).

Before the 1911 census was taken the family had moved to live at 1, Oaks Road, Soothill and the census shows that seven children had been born alive but three had not survived infancy.

James attended Mill Lane Council School and before enlisting he worked with his father as a building contractor in Soothill.

## Service Details

James was deemed to have enlisted at Dewsbury on the 10th February 1916 and was called up for service on 16th April 1917. When he was called up it was stated that he was 5 feet 4 inches tall, weighed 133lbs. and was a mason by trade aged 18 years and 5 months. He went for training with the training reserve battalion and left Folkestone for Boulogne on the 20th December 1917. At Boulogne he was transferred to the Duke of Wellington's, West Riding Regiment 2/4th Battalion and sent to the base depot at Etaples on the following day.

The 2/4th Battalion came under the orders of 186th Brigade, 62nd (2nd West Riding) Division. It was originally set up in 1914 as a home service (2nd line) Division.

In 1918 they took part in the Battle of Bapaume (25 March),
First Battle of Arras 1918 (28 March),
Battle of the Tardenois (part of the Battles of the Marne 1918) (20 – 30 July),
Battle of the Scarpe (26 – 30 August),
The Battle of the Drocourt-Queant Line (2 September).

From the 4th - 24th August the battalion was at Chouilly, France and on the 24th they moved by route march to the Arras-Doullens Road and then to Adinter Wood and from there they went into action.

On the 2nd September they were relieved in the line by the King's Liverpool Regiment and moved to the railway embankment near Achiet-le- Grand. The War Diary does not show any major battle taking place on the 2nd September 1918 and he must have been killed before the battalion was relieved.

His brother William had been killed in action on 11th May 1915 and at that time his brother Harry A.S.C. was in Italy.

James Kershaw Parkinson was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at St. Luke's Church, Soothill, Hanging Heaton Memorial, St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton and Batley War Memorial.




Researched by members of
Batley History Group