

Pte. William S PARRINGTON (1879 - 1915)  
(Northumberland Fusiliers)



William Sidney Parrington was born in 1879 in Batley. His parents were William Parrington and Mary Fowler whom had married in Lancashire in 1867. William Snr. was born in Dent, Yorkshire in 1842. He was a Chemist and Druggist

The 1881 Census records the family living at Elder Villa, Grosvenor Road, Upper Batley. There were five other sons born to William and Mary, Thomas (1869) Rupert (1870), Edgar (1871), Ernest Milton (1875) and Bertram (1881) as well as two daughters, Margaret Maud (1873) and Annie Ethel (1877). Thomas and Annie Ethel died as infants.

In the spring of 1886 the mother, Mary, died and on the 24th November 1886 William, the father, also died. His Will shows that his Executors were John Sheard a Butcher living in Batley and Thomas Arthur Shackleton a Salesman also of Batley.

The children were now orphaned and were split up between several families. William Sidney Parrington became the adopted son of Thomas Arthur Shackleton. Rupert and Edgar lived with John Sheard. The youngest child, Bertram, became the foster son of William A. Linington, a Congregational Minister who was living in Battersea in 1901. Bertram was now known as Bertram Parrington Linington. Margaret Maud married James Edward Halstead in 1905 and went to live in Ossett. There are no obvious records for William Sidney Parrington in either the 1901 or 1911 Census'.

No newspaper reports or family memories are known to exist. William Sidney's Service Record in the Great War is also something of a mystery. He took the name of James Osborn/Osborne and enlisted with the Northumberland Fusiliers. He claimed to be born in Hunslet, Leeds and enlisted at Wakefield. The Regimental Diary of the 1st Northumberland Fusiliers, dated 16th June 1915, shows Private J. Osborne (953) is Killed in Action at the Battle of Bellewaarde.

The Battle of Bellewaarde, which took place on the 16th June 1915, is known as the First Battle of Bellewaarde, or The Battle of Hooze. It was a battlefield approximately ½ mile square, where over 1,000 men died and many others wounded within a twelve hour period. Some would die later of infection or complications. Bellewaarde is a small hamlet north of Hooze which stands east of Ypres in Belgium.

His family must have known of his Alias as the UK Register of Soldier's Effects in 1916 states:

'James Osborne, alias William Sidney Parrington, 1st Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers, Pte. 953' and it also lists the names of his siblings, Rupert, Edgar, Ernest and Margaret Maud. Bertram was later added in 1920.

His name appears on the Addendum of Batley War Memorial as William S Parrington.

Private William Sidney Parrington (serving as James Osborn/Osborne) 953, 1st Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers is Remembered with Honour at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial.

Researcher:

Susan White, Batley History Group, April 2015.