

PRIVATE WILLIAM JAMES MAISEY PARKER

10302, 7th (Service) Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment

Died aged 23 on 26 July 1915

Remembered with honour at *Helles Memorial, Turkey*; Panel 101-104

Commemorated in Tewkesbury at the Cross
and in Cheltenham on the Borough War Memorial and in St. Peter's Church



*Helles Memorial,
Turkey*



Pte. W.J.M. Parker
[Graphic 4/9/1915]



*Gloucestershire
Regiment*

WILLIAM JAMES MAISEY PARKER was born in Tewkesbury in 1892, the eldest son of William Maisey Parker and Laura (formerly King). Both parents were from Tewkesbury and they had a total of 12 children of whom 11 were still alive in 1911. At that time William ran a hairdressers and tobacconists at 117-118 High Street (2015 Indian Fusion restaurant) and William James's occupation was described as 'assisting with the business'. He had been educated at Holy Trinity School and was described in his obituary as a 'smart intelligent young fellow of 23'. He was also a prominent member of the Thursday Football Club, 'being a very useful left-half back'. Early in 1914 William James married Rosalene Brookes and they lived at 48 Waterloo Street, Cheltenham. They had a son, William J. M., registered in the September quarter of 1914.

William enlisted as a volunteer in the Gloucestershire Regiment at Cheltenham, probably in August 1914 judging by his army service number. He was assigned to the 7th Battalion, formed at Bristol in August 1914 as one of the first Kitchener's Army units. The battalion came under the command of the 39th Infantry Brigade in the 13th (Western) Division. After completing

training in England, the Division left from Avonmouth in June 1915 and sailed via Egypt to land on 19 July in the Helles sector on the southern tip of the Gallipoli peninsula.

Private William James Maisey Parker was killed just a week later, on 26 July 1915, by a shot through the head. He died in the vicinity of Gully Ravine; this area had already been the site of a number of battles after which, 'although gaining local success, the Allies failed to achieve a breakthrough. As August approached casualties and sickness in all armies increased'.

The final offensive on this front petered out by the middle of July so it is reasonable to assume that William was killed in the trench warfare that followed; the nature of his wound suggests he may well have been the victim of a sniper. William's body was never recovered nor identified and he is commemorated instead on the *Helles Memorial* which stands on the tip of the Gallipoli Peninsula. He was awarded the '1914-15 Star' medal.

William's brother, **Reginald Maisey Parker**, served in the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment and the Royal Engineers and survived the war.