



History: KS2

Histories in the Headstones Soldiers buried at Lye and Wollescote Cemetery

**Private John Parkes 9578
2nd Btn. Worcestershire Regiment
Died 28th May 1915 aged 27**

Extract taken from County Express 28th May 1915

“Lye Hero's Death – Public and Military Funeral Witnessed by Thousands

Pte John Parkes of the 2nd Worcesters died in the Birmingham University Military Hospital on Friday week, following the amputation of a leg as the result of a severe wound received in action on 16th May. Pte Parkes who was the eldest son of Mrs Brettle of 49 Park Street Wollescote, joined the army some nine years ago.....

....on the night of May 15th-16th when in a glorious dash with the bayonet, Pte Parkes fell with his left leg shattered.....Parkes was eventually conveyed to the base hospital, where it was found necessary to amputate the limb.

The Funeral

The funeral took place on Wednesday afternoon at Lye cemetery and was made the occasion of a military and public demonstration of the memory of the fallen hero.....a most imposing procession was formed at the home of the deceased soldier...large crowds congregated. Park Street being practically filled to see the cortege start....Many blinds were drawn and a respectful and reverent demeanour was observed throughout the whole vast concourse”