

Parkin Lowson

Parkin Lowson was born in February 1920 at Eggleston, near Middleton in Teesdale, where his father worked as a gardener. After he left school, Parkin worked first as an odd-job boy for a local doctor before joining the Tees Valley Water Board in 1935.

In August 1939, Parkin Lowson joined his local Territorial Army unit – 6th Battalion DLI – at Barnard Castle Drill Hall. When the Second World War began, 6 DLI was mobilised and moved south to the Cotswolds to train for war.

In January 1940, 6 DLI, as part of the 50th Division, was sent to France to join the British Expeditionary Force. When the German forces invaded Belgium and France in May 1940, 6 DLI fought in the only major British counter attack at Arras. During this fighting 4456794 Private Lowson was wounded in the face and evacuated via Dunkirk to hospital in England.

After recovering from his wounds, Parkin Lowson did not rejoin his old battalion but was instead transferred to the 1st Battalion The Tyneside Scottish and served in Iceland. When this battalion returned home to begin training for D-Day, Parkin Lowson fell ill and was eventually discharged from the Army.

Parkin Lowson was interviewed for the Imperial War Museum in 1990 at his home at Startforth, Barnard Castle.