



Charles James Milner

1896 – 1915

Charles was born in Stanningley near Leeds in 1896. His father was Walter Milner, a General Labourer, born in Leeds in 1871 and died in 1908. His mother was Annie (nee Child) born in Holbeck, Leeds in 1873 and died in 1932. They were married at St. Matthew's Church, Holbeck on 2nd December 1893.

Their other children were; Ernest, born in 1894 and served in World War 1, William, born in 1900, Sidney, born in 1902, Nellie, born in 1904, Lucy, born in 1907 and died in 1909 and Rowland, born in 1908.

On the 1901 census the family were living at 22, Dudley Street, Holbeck, in 1911 at Norden Street, Wortley, Leeds and later at 41, Back Lawson Street, Dewsbury.

Charles was a single man whose occupation in 1911 is recorded as a Moulder of Railway Engine Wheels. He later worked for Messrs Slade and Bullock, Confectionery Makers, Excelsior Works, Bradford Street, Dewsbury.

He joined the Militia before his sixteenth birthday and was called up in 1914; he attested in Leeds serving as Private 4/7902 in the 1st Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own). After training, he was sent to the Western Front on 19th March 1915 and was killed in action in Flanders on 2nd April 1915. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Hainault, Belgium. Charles was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His mother received a letter from him dated 20th March but he was killed before her reply arrived.

The Ploegsteert Memorial stands in Berks Cemetery Extension, which is located 12.5 Kms south of Ypres (now Ieper). The memorial commemorates the 11,349 servicemen of the United Kingdom and South African forces who have no known grave and died in the area from the line Caestre-Dranoutre-Warneton to the north, to Haverskerque-Estaires-Fournes to the south, including the towns of Hazebrouck, Merville, Bailleul and Armentieres, the Forest of Nieppe, and Ploegsteert Wood. The original intention had been to erect the memorial in Lille. Most of those commemorated by the memorial did not die in major offensives, such as those which took place around Ypres to the north or Loos to the south. Most were killed in the course of the day-to-day trench warfare which characterised this part of the line, or in small scale set engagements, usually carried out in support of the major attacks taking place elsewhere.

Charles is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of
Private
Charles Milner

4/7902, 1st Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 02 April 1915 Age 19

Son of Mrs. Annie Milner, of 41 Back, Lawson St., New Land, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour
Ploegsteert Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

