



Mark Milner

1890 – 1917

Mark was born in Earlsheaton on 4th June 1890. His father was John Milner, a Warehouseman born in Ossett in 1867 and died in 1926. His mother was Hephzibah (nee Riley) born in Flanshaw, Wakefield in 1869 and died in 1928. They were married in 1888. There are many spelling variations of Hephzibah's name, including *Epsibeth* which is the name recorded in the CWGC Records.

Their other children were; Cyril, born in Ossett in 1888, Maud, born in 1892 and died in 1900 and Ivy, born in Dewsbury in 1895.

On the 1891 Census they lived at Wheelwright Hill, Earlsheaton, in 1901 at Battye Street, Dewsbury and in 1911 at Caulms Terrace, Leeds Road, Dewsbury. In 1917 the newspapers gave their address as Battye Street so it is possible that they moved back there after 1911

Mark was educated at Eastborough Council School and had his own hairdressing business. He was married on 22nd April 1912 to Sarah Conway (born in Dewsbury in 1889 and died in 1970). They had two children; John, born in 1914 and Stella, born in 1916. They lived at 37, Whitworth Road, Westtown, Dewsbury. After his marriage he was connected to Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church.

He enlisted February 1915 serving as Private 14/530 in the 2nd Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment and was first posted to Egypt and then on to the Western Front. He was so severely wounded in June 1916 that he expected to be discharged. However, he was returned to the Front in January 1917. He was killed in action near Lens on 20th July 1917, whilst his battalion were making an attack on the enemy trenches. He was buried in Carvin Communal Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Mark was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Carvin is a town 20 kilometres south-west of Lille and 11 kilometres north-east of Lens. Leave the church in Carvin and take the Rue d'Egalite. The Communal Cemetery will be found 500 metres on the left hand side. There are now over 40, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, a small number are unidentified.

According to the reports about his death in the *Dewsbury District News* and the *Dewsbury Reporter* on 4th August 1917, Sarah had received the following letter from an officer who knew him: *It is my sad duty to inform you that your husband Pte. M. Milner was killed at 10.45 pm. on the 20th inst. in making an attack upon enemy trenches. His officer Second Lieut. A. E. Johnson was killed by the same shell. For some little time your husband was in my platoon, and thus I knew him well. He was the company hairdresser, and everyone knew and loved him. Mark, as he was affectionately known, was ever cheerful, willing, and considerate. No soldier could be braver or cooler than Mark, and in times of great excitement and danger he set us all a glowing example of courage. All loved Mark, and not one hated him. We all mourn his loss, and in your days of sorrow I trust that kind heaven will comfort you and his little ones. Yours in sorrow, W. B. Clarkson, Second-Lieutenant, 2nd York and Lancaster's. Let me know if I can be of any assistance to you.*

Mark is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church, Dewsbury and on the War Memorial in Eastborough School to former pupils.

In Memory of

Private

M Milner

14/530, 2nd Bn., York and Lancaster Regiment who died on 20 July 1917 Age 27

Son of John and Epsibeth Milner, of Dewsbury; husband of Sarah Milner, of 37, Whitworth Rd., West Town, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Carvin Communal Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

