



William Barber Milnes

1883 – 1916

William was born in Dewsbury on 13th March 1883 and Baptised at All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 12th April 1883. He was registered, baptised and referred to in other official records as '*Barber Milnes*.' It appears the William may have been adopted from his paternal grandfather, whose full name was William Barber Milnes. His father was Henry (Harry) Milnes, a carpet weaver and later a hairdresser born in Dewsbury in 1858 and died in 1937. His mother was Elizabeth Ann (née Smith) born in Dewsbury in 1856 and died in 1924. They were married at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor on 20th July 1879.

Their other children were; Willie, born in 1879, Emily, born in 1881 and died in 1882, John Henry, born in 1885 and died in 1885 and George Albert, born in 1890.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 10, South Granville Street, Dewsbury, in 1901 at 10, Back Granville Street and in 1911 at 12, Back Granville Street.

William (Barber) was a single man who in 1901 worked as a coal hewer; in 1911 he is recorded as a general labourer.

He enlisted in Dewsbury serving as Private 32428 William Barber Milnes in the 15th Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment). He was killed in action during the Battle of the Somme on 17th July 1916. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. William was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His entry in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour states that he was killed in Trônes Wood, although this battle took place between 8th-14th July and the offensive had moved on to the Battle of Bazentin Ridge 14th-17th July.

The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20th March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

William 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

William B. Milnes

32428, 15th Bn., Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment) who died on 17 July 1916

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

