



Milner Wilson

1890 - 1917

Milner was born in Dewsbury on 12th July 1890 and baptised at St. Philip's Church, Leeds Road on 17th August 1890. His father was Edward Smith Wilson, a foreman wool dyer born in 1864 and died in 1906. His mother was Hannah (nee Garforth) born in 1870 and died in 1947. They were married at St. Philip's Church on 22nd February 1890.

They had two other sons who both served in World War 1; Charles Edward, born in 1893 and was awarded the Military Medal for saving his machine gun under fire and Joe, born in 1895.

Milner was educated at Earlsheaton Council School and was the scorer for the 2nd eleven at Chickenley Cricket Club. He worked as a Willeyer at Messrs S. Lyles, Sons and Company, Carpet Manufacturers, Jilling Ing Mills, Earlsheaton and was married to Alice Chatwood (born in 1891 and died in 1973) on 20th September 1917 at the Moorlands Wesleyan Chapel, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury. They lived at her parents' home at 4, Hanover Street, Dewsbury. They did not have any children. Alice was remarried in 1929 to Ernest Lodge (born in 1893 and was killed on 12th December 1940 when a Section Commander of the Dewsbury Home Guard).

He enlisted in April 1916 serving as Private 29334 in the 2nd Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He had previously been twice wounded, once (in the foot) on 18th November 1916 by machine-gun fire while advancing from the trenches under the shield of the British 'barrage' fire and was wounded again behind the left ear in April 1917. He died in a Casualty Clearing Station at Proven in Flanders on 4th December 1917, having been admitted a few days earlier suffering from a severe gunshot wound to the chest, sustained in the aftermath of the Battle of Passchendaele. He was buried in Mendinghem Military Cemetery, Proven, West Vlaanderen, Belgium. Milner was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Mendinghem Military Cemetery is located 17 kms north-west of Ypres (Ieper) town centre on the road connecting Ieper to Poperinge and on to Oost-Cappel. In July 1916, the 46th (1st/1st Wessex) Casualty Clearing Station was opened at Proven and this site was chosen for its cemetery. The first burials took place in August 1916. In July 1917, four further clearing stations arrived at Proven in readiness for the forthcoming Allied offensive on this front and three of them, the 46th, 12th and 64th, stayed until 1918. From May to July 1918, while the German offensive was at its height, field ambulances were posted at Proven. The cemetery was closed (except for one later burial) in September 1918. There are now 2,391 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in this cemetery.

Milner 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 Earlsheaton War Memorial in Earlsheaton Park and on the Oak Reredos in St. Peter's Church Earlsheaton and on the Memorial in the now demolished Chickenley Wesleyan Methodist Chapel (current whereabouts of Memorial untraced) and on the Memorial Plaque from Moorlands Wesleyan Methodist Church, now stored in the Resource Centre at Batley Central Methodist Church.

In Memory of

Private

Milner Wilson

29334, 2nd Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 04 December 1917 Age 27

Son of Hannah Wilson, of 54, Station Rd., Earlsheaton, Dewsbury; husband of Alice Wilson, of 4, Hanover St., Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Mendingham Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

