

GEORGE HENRY MILLSON

Sapper

Royal Engineers

Service No: 71344

Died: 16 November 1918, aged 26 years

George Henry Millson was born in 15 January 1892 in Beenham, the eldest son of Henry and Caroline Millson, his birth being registered in Bradfield in the first quarter. His name does not appear on the war memorial.

George was the eldest of six sons born to Henry C. Millson and his wife Caroline. The 1901 census shows George living with his family in Rotten Row aged 10, together with siblings Charles William 9 (baptised 3 Sep 1893), Harry 6 (baptised 1 Mar 1896), Albert 6 (baptised 1 Mar 1896), James William 3 and Arthur 2. Harry was a twin to Albert and was also killed in the war. Harry's story appeared in the November 2017 edition of the Parish notes.

At this time George's father, 30, was a bricklayer, born in Standford Dingley, whilst his mother Caroline, 29, was from Bucklebury. With the exception of James and Arthur, all of the children were born in Beenham. The extensive Millson family appear to be well established in the Bradfield area at the end of the 19th century.

By 1911 the family had moved to 1 Glen Cottages, Chapel Hill, Tilehurst where 19 year old George was a brick kiln worker and had gained three more siblings, Kathleen 7, Thomas 4 and Edward 4.

On 13 September 1914 George Millson, now a fitter living in 4 Jam Yard, Uxbridge, aged 22 married 18 year old Rose Why, a general servant and mother's help, in St Margaret's Church. George and Rose had one child, George F. Millson, born in June 1916 in Uxbridge.

At some point, George enlisted as Sapper 71344 in the Royal Engineers. Little is known of his service record but by November 1918 he was at the tented convalescent camps established in Nakuru, British East Africa. George died on 16 November 1918 of "illness - Field Operations" just died two days after the first anniversary of his brother Harry's death, 14 November 1917.

Sapper Millson is buried in grave number 26 Nakuru North Cemetery, Kenya. The inscription on his headstone reads "Ever remembered by wife & child" and the CWGC site reads "Husband of Rose Millson, of 3, Baker's Yard, High St., Uxbridge, Middx." Nakuru cemetery lies 155 kilometres north-west of Nairobi, on the road to Kampala. Most of the 27 burials date from November 1918 and were made from the convalescent camps at Nakuru.