



Ernest Lawrence Miles

Ernest Lawrence Miles was born in Corby on 5th November 1897. He was baptised on 19th December 1897. His father was Ernest Edward Miles, his mother Ada Kate Miles both from Wiltshire.

Family History

In 1901 the family was living in Lloyd's Cottages, Corby. Ernest Edward Miles was employed as a railway signalman. With Ernest Edward and Ada Kate were their children Ernest Lawrence and Ada Louise.

By the 1911 Census Ernest Lawrence is employed as an office boy at a furnace. Ada Louise is at school. Boarding with the Miles family was Eliza Jane Winstone from Denford, a teacher.

Military History

Ernest Lawrence Miles originally served as a Private (3/31276) in the East Surrey Regiment before being transferred and serving as a Private (36864) in the 1st/5th Battalion Territorial Force, Bedfordshire Regiment.

At the outbreak of war, the 1st/5th Battalion was stationed at Bedford as part of the East Midlands Brigade of the East Anglian Division. In May 1915 the Battalion became part of the 162nd Brigade of the 54th Division.

Later in May 1915 the Battalion was mobilised and landed in Gallipoli. On 4th December 1915 they were evacuated from Gallipoli and moved to Egypt to defend the Suez Canal. The Battalion had suffered many casualties.

During 1917 and 1918 the Battalion stayed stationed in the Middle East and were involved in various battles in Palestine and the surrounding area.

Private Ernest Lawrence Miles was killed in action on 29th March 1918. This date fell between the Battalion's involvement in the fight at Ras el' Ain and the operation at Berukin.

Private Miles is buried in the Ramleh War Cemetery and commemorated on the Corby War Memorial.

The cemetery dates from the First World War, when Ramleh (now Ramla) was occupied by the 1st Australian Light Horse Brigade on 1 November 1917. Field Ambulances, and later Casualty Clearing Stations, were posted at Ramleh and



Lydda from December 1917 onwards. The cemetery was begun by the medical units, but some graves were brought in later from the battlefields and from Latron, Sarona and Wilhema Military and Indian Cemeteries.

During the Second World War, this cemetery was used by the Ramla Royal Air Force Station and by various Commonwealth hospitals posted in turn to the area for varying periods.

RAMLEH WAR CEMETERY contains 3,300 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 964 of them unidentified. Second World War burials number 1,168. There are also 892 war graves of other nationalities from both wars, and 525 non-war burials, many from the RAF and garrison stations that were at Ramleh in the inter war years and until the end of the British Mandate in Palestine in 1948.

Within Ramleh War Cemetery will be found:

The RAMLEH 1914-18 MEMORIAL, erected in 1961 to commemorate more than 300 Commonwealth, German and Turkish servicemen of the First World War who lie buried in cemeteries elsewhere in Israel where their graves could no longer be maintained. Only 74 of the casualties are named.

The RAMLEH 1939-45 MEMORIAL, commemorating 28 Jewish and non Arab servicemen of the Second World War, and six non-war casualties of the Palestine Police Force, who lie buried in cemeteries elsewhere in Israel where their graves could not be maintained in perpetuity.

The original war cemetery was designed by Sir John J. Burnet, but following the addition of the 1939-45 war graves, the site was extensively remodelled in the 1950s by Alan Stewart, ARIBA.



Reference

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Lest We Forget

Ernest Lawrence Miles
of the Bedfordshire Regiment

d. 29th March 1918

April 2016 Copy

