

Charles William Montgomery Milner



Charles was born in Battersea on 27th June, 1894. He was baptised on 29th July, 1894 in Storrington, Sussex. His parents were Michael Henry Milner, of Storrington and Lydia, nee Fisher, of Plaistow, Essex. They were married in June 1887 and by 1891 were living in 15 Hamvalla Road, Battersea. Michael worked as a miller's traveller and they had two sons, Michael H born 1888 and Harold James born 1890.

By 1901, the family had moved to 5 Whitehall Park, Wolsey Gardens in Chiswick. Michael is listed as a commercial traveller and the family now includes Lydia Mabel (1892), Charles William (1894), Leslie Thomas (1896) and Elsie Gladys (1898).

In the 1911 census, the family had moved to 33 Thornbury Road, Spring Grove, Isleworth (**see below**). Harold, now 21, is working as a lithographic printer; Charles is working as a laboratory assistant; Leslie is an office boy and they have two more brothers, Alfred (1901) and Spencer Fisher (1904). Unusually, all eight children are living at home.

Charles joined the Royal Navy as a sick berth attendant and drowned in the wreck of the hospital ship Rohilla off Whitby on 30th October, 1914 aged just 20. His body was not recovered. Before 1914, Rohilla was a passenger ship sailing between India and Britain but when war broke out she was converted into a naval hospital ship and became HMHS

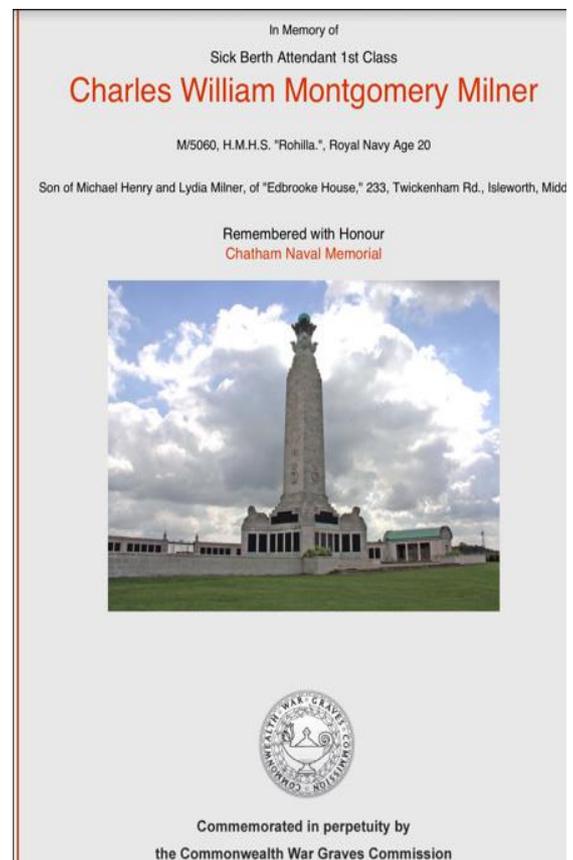
Rohilla. On 30th October she was on her way to France from Scotland to pick up wounded soldiers when she ran aground on Saltwick Nab off the Yorkshire coast at Whitby. Because of the war the lighthouse was not lit. 146 lives were lost. Charles is commemorated as the son of Michael Henry and Lydia Milner of Edbrooke House, 233 Twickenham Road, Isleworth.



Left: 33 Thornbury Road Isleworth in 2016

In addition, Charles is remembered on the memorial in St John's Church, Isleworth and at All Saints Church, Isleworth. His family also arranged for a brass tablet in his memory for the wall of the Wesleyan Church in North Street, where Charles had been a member of Sister Edith's class for nine years. The Middlesex Chronicle reported on 24th July 1915, that at a Memorial Service where the brass was unveiled, Sister Edith had said that he was 'a lad one could not help loving as he was always so cheerful and winsome and the class had lost one of its brightest members.'

She also reported that he had said it was not an easy matter on board ship to make a bold stand for truth and righteousness, yet he had felt much happier since he had done so.



The Memorial certificate is included with the permission of the CWGC