

THE LATE MR MILLEN

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The funeral service was held at the parish church of All Saints at Birchington on June 28th for the late Mr George Millen. Mr Millen was a man of great courage and endurance and was one of the finest craftsmen trained at St Dunstan's. He worked until a week before his death at the age of 81.

He lost his sight at the battle of the Somme (1916) at the age of 18, after which a Scotsman led him to safety over No Man's Land. His rescuer, too, had a severe arm wound. The Padre came out, and assuming that George was dead, placed a greatcoat over him, and was surprised to get the remark, "How long have I got to stay here?"

His future wife-to-be met him at St Dunstan's Convalescent Home near Cheltenham and they were married at Bibury Parish Church, Easter 1925. They came to Birchington four years later and were later evacuated to Bibury during the Second World War. During this period his mother and sister were killed during a raid on Manston.

The funeral service included the hymns 'The Lord is my Shepherd', sung to the tune of 'Amazing Grace', and the hymn 'Forever with the Lord'. Cremation followed at Margate. Mass was also offered at the nearby Catholic Church of Our Lady and St Benedict in Birchington.

Family mourners included his wife Muriel and sons and daughters-in-law, Raymond and Audrey Millen and Peter and Joy Millen, also Mr Aubrey Smith, his brother-in-law.

Among the many others present were Mrs Muriel Cox and her son Trevor, formerly of Bibury. Unable to attend were: Mrs Ray Harding, formerly of Cirencester, and Mr Jack Bayliss, who, in his younger days, lived at Pepper Box Lodge, Barnsley Park.

Donations in lieu of flowers were given to Guide Dogs for the Blind Fund and have already reached the splendid amount of £160.