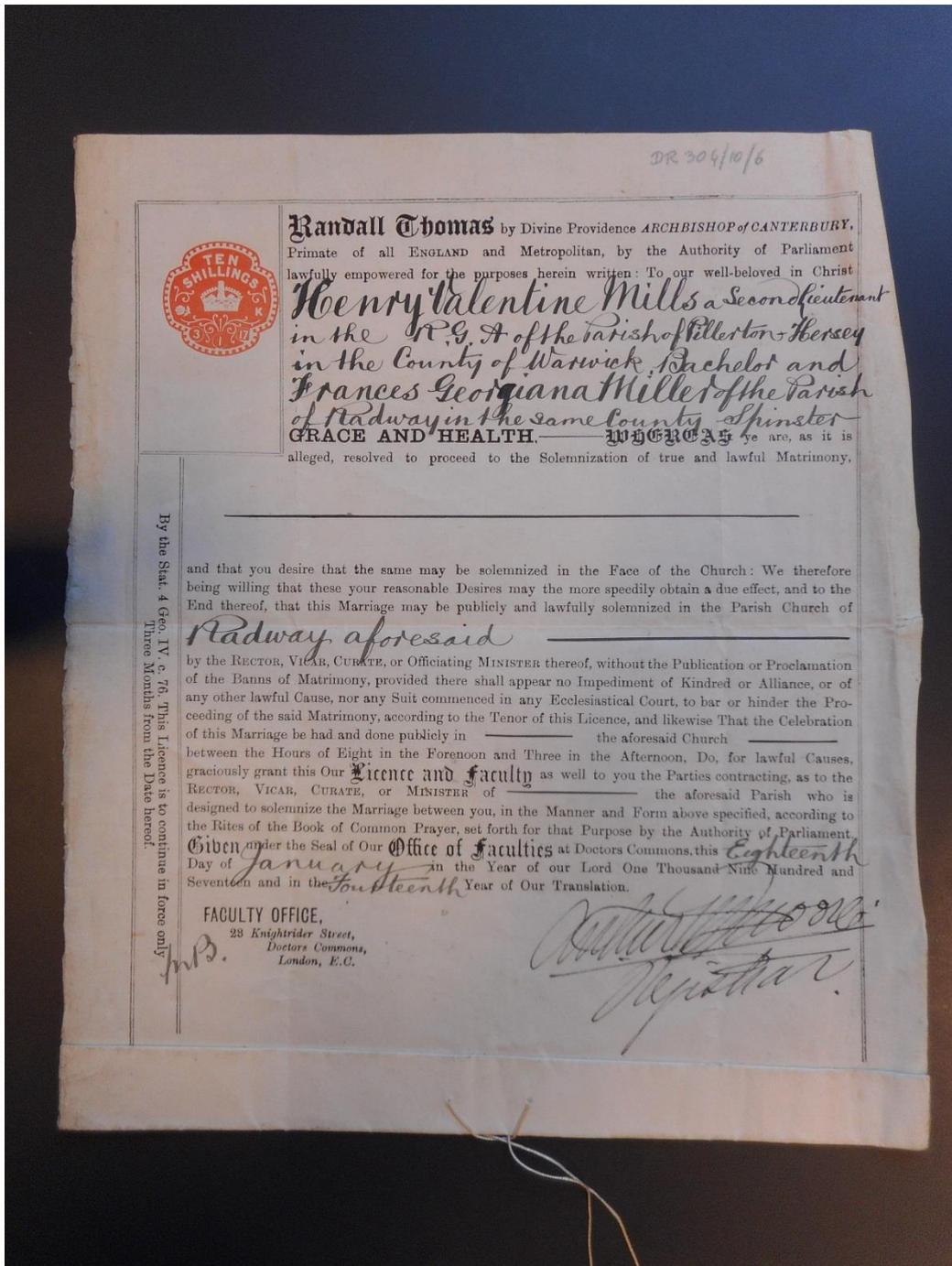


### **Marriage licence for Henry Valentine Mills (DR304/10/6)**

February's Document of the Month is this marriage licence for the very aptly named Henry Valentine Mills and Frances Georgianna Miller. It is dated 18 January 1917 and granted the couple permission to marry. In this instance the couple were permitted to marry in the parish of Radway, Warwickshire (the bride's home parish) within three months of the date the licence was granted. Henry's occupation is listed as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Garrison Artillery. They were obviously keen to marry quickly, as they paid for a licence rather than have the banns read on three consecutive Sundays in the church. The licence was granted by Thomas Randall, the Archbishop of Canterbury<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Information sourced from Henry Valentine Mills marriage licence, Warwickshire County Record Office, DR304/10/6.



Henry Valentine Mills marriage licence, 1917, Warwickshire County Record Office, DR304/10/6.

## Marriage Licences

Marriage licences are documents which permit a couple to marry. They were first introduced in the fourteenth century and allowed a couple to bypass the reading of banns<sup>2</sup>. Despite their expense, they proved popular, and it is estimated that by the early eighteenth century, about a third of marriages were conducted by licence<sup>3</sup>. They were particularly useful for a couple who wished to marry quickly and avoid the delay caused by the reading of Banns. It was also used as a status symbol, due to the higher cost<sup>4</sup>.

Before one could be granted, the Groom would usually have to swear an affidavit (called the allegation)<sup>5</sup>.

In this instance, the licence was possibly gained due to Henry's occupation. In 1917, the First World War had been raging for three years and as a Second Lieutenant, he was likely serving his Country. This would mean he had little leave in order to marry.

## Henry Valentine Mills

Henry was born in 1881 to Francis and Selina Mary Mills. His baptism took place in the Parish Church of Pillerton Hersey, Warwickshire on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1882<sup>6</sup>. On the 1911 census, he is still living at home with his parents, three sisters and four servants<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/britain-marriage-licences-browse> (accessed 27/12/2018).

<sup>3</sup> GILLIS, John R., *For Better for Worse: British Marriages 1600 to the Present*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1985, page 92.

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.dur.ac.uk/library/asc/collection\\_information/family.records/marriage/](https://www.dur.ac.uk/library/asc/collection_information/family.records/marriage/) (accessed 27/12/2018).

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.dur.ac.uk/library/asc/collection\\_information/family.records/marriage/](https://www.dur.ac.uk/library/asc/collection_information/family.records/marriage/) (accessed 27/12/2018).

<sup>6</sup> [https://search.ancestryinstitution.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?\\_phsrc=JvG6&\\_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&qh=pD3OR7cbo3UqQD5WEmUR9g%3D%3D&gss=angs-g&new=1&rank=1&qsfm=henry%20valentine&qsfm\\_x=0&qsln=mills&qsln\\_x=0&msypn\\_ftp=Warwicks](https://search.ancestryinstitution.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc=JvG6&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&qh=pD3OR7cbo3UqQD5WEmUR9g%3D%3D&gss=angs-g&new=1&rank=1&qsfm=henry%20valentine&qsfm_x=0&qsln=mills&qsln_x=0&msypn_ftp=Warwicks)

He married Frances Georgianna Miller on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 1917 at the Parish Church in Radway, Warwickshire<sup>8</sup>.

Tragically, just a few months later, Henry was killed in action. On the 25<sup>th</sup> June 1917, just outside Ypres, 321<sup>st</sup> Siege Battery came under fire and amongst the casualties was Henry Valentine Mills. He is buried at Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium<sup>9</sup>.

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[https://search.ancestryinstitution.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?\\_phsrc=JvG12&\\_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&qh=oMqshGIRZKcBlIu/KqocFA%3D%3D&gss=angs-g&new=1&rank=1&gsfn=henry%20valentine&gsfn\\_x=NP\\_NN\\_NIC&gsln=mills&gsln\\_x=1&msbdy=1881&msbpn\\_ftp=Warwickshire,%20England&msbpn=5288&msypn\\_ftp=Warwickshire,%20England,Warwickshire,%20England,Warwickshire,%20England&msypn=5288,5288,5288&MSAV=1&uidh=ir7&pcat=ROOT\\_CATEGORY&h=24158557&dbid=2352&indiv=1&ml\\_rpos=1](https://search.ancestryinstitution.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc=JvG12&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&qh=oMqshGIRZKcBlIu/KqocFA%3D%3D&gss=angs-g&new=1&rank=1&gsfn=henry%20valentine&gsfn_x=NP_NN_NIC&gsln=mills&gsln_x=1&msbdy=1881&msbpn_ftp=Warwickshire,%20England&msbpn=5288&msypn_ftp=Warwickshire,%20England,Warwickshire,%20England,Warwickshire,%20England&msypn=5288,5288,5288&MSAV=1&uidh=ir7&pcat=ROOT_CATEGORY&h=24158557&dbid=2352&indiv=1&ml_rpos=1) (accessed 27/12/2018).

<sup>7</sup> [https://search.ancestryinstitution.com/cgi-](https://search.ancestryinstitution.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc=JvG12&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&qh=oMqshGIRZKcBlIu/KqocFA%3D%3D&gss=angs-g&new=1&rank=1&gsfn=henry%20valentine&gsfn_x=NP_NN_NIC&gsln=mills&gsln_x=1&msbdy=1881&msbpn_ftp=Warwickshire,%20England&msbpn=5288&msypn_ftp=Warwickshire,%20England,Warwickshire,%20England,Warwickshire,%20England&msypn=5288,5288,5288&MSAV=1&uidh=ir7&pcat=ROOT_CATEGORY&h=24158557&dbid=2352&indiv=1&ml_rpos=1)

[bin/sse.dll?\\_phsrc=JvG12&\\_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&qh=oMqshGIRZKcBlIu/KqocFA%3D%3D&gss=angs-g&new=1&rank=1&gsfn=henry%20valentine&gsfn\\_x=NP\\_NN\\_NIC&gsln=mills&gsln\\_x=1&msbdy=1881&msbpn\\_ftp=Warwickshire,%20England&msbpn=5288&msypn\\_ftp=Warwickshire,%20England,Warwickshire,%20England,Warwickshire,%20England&msypn=5288,5288,5288&MSAV=1&uidh=ir7&pcat=ROOT\\_CATEGORY&h=24158557&dbid=2352&indiv=1&ml\\_rpos=1](https://search.ancestryinstitution.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc=JvG12&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&qh=oMqshGIRZKcBlIu/KqocFA%3D%3D&gss=angs-g&new=1&rank=1&gsfn=henry%20valentine&gsfn_x=NP_NN_NIC&gsln=mills&gsln_x=1&msbdy=1881&msbpn_ftp=Warwickshire,%20England&msbpn=5288&msypn_ftp=Warwickshire,%20England,Warwickshire,%20England,Warwickshire,%20England&msypn=5288,5288,5288&MSAV=1&uidh=ir7&pcat=ROOT_CATEGORY&h=24158557&dbid=2352&indiv=1&ml_rpos=1) (accessed 27/12/2018).

<sup>8</sup> Information gathered from the Radway Parish Register, available on microfilm at Warwickshire County Record Office.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/142867/mills,-henry-valentine/> (accessed 27/12/2018).