Sam Barham





Rank: - Sergeant (Wireless Operator Air-Gunner)

Number: - 1127161

Regiment: - Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 12 Squadron Code letters PH

Died: - July 1943 aged 24

Cemetery: - Runnymede Memorial, Surrey, Panel 141

Batley News, 10 July 1943 (photo); 26 Feb 1944 (photo)

Sam was born in 1919 the son Harold and Mary Ann Barham nee Talbot who married on 8 Jan 1921 at St. Peters Church, Earlsheaton. Colin was born in 1936.

Sam was educated at Boothroyd Lane Council School and Victoria Senior, Dewsbury and was employed at Birkby's Ltd. Liversedge before joining the forces in 1941.

The family home at this time was Thorncliffe Road, Staincliffe, Batley. He married Ellen Cox in 1941 and they lived at 3, Back Vulcan Road, Dewsbury.

Sam made many raids and set off on the night of 3 July 1943 for a raid over Cologne from RAF Wickenby. They were shot down over Germany and seven of the eight crew were killed, the other being taken as a prisoner. The others killed with him were: Sgt LS Capp, F/S S E Evershield, Sgt L H Everton, Sgt J E Foy, P/O N E Hill, and Sgt. S Whitelock. The second pilot Sgt C W Young was a prisoner. Three were buried in a British cemetery in Germany the place of the other four was unknown.

Sam was awarded the Air Crew Europe star; 1939-45 Star; 1939-1945 War Medal

He is remembered with Honour at Royal Air Forces Association Club, Batley and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group