Sam Dixon





Rank: - Driver

Number: - 780774

Regiment: - Royal Field Artillery 311th Brigade

Died of Wounds: - 13th August 1918 aged 26 years at Lakenham Military Hospital, Norwich.

Cemetery: - St.Paul's Churchyard, Hanging Heaton. Grave 317

Batley News, 17 Aug 1918, 24 Aug 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Sam was born in Soothill on 2nd December 1888 the son of Benjamin and Emily Dixon nee Allatt. He was baptised at St. Paul's Hanging Heaton on 3rd December 1893 on the same day as his siblings, Eliza, John Bailey born 27th March 1882, Allatt born 29th October 1886 and Eli born 3rd December 1890. Their father was a labourer at a brewery.

The couple had married at St. Paul's on 15th March 1873.

In 1891 the family which consisted of Ann 1874, Alfred 1875, Jane 1877-1895, Eliza 1880, John Bailey 1882-1918, Laura 1884-1893, Allatt 1886, Sam and Eli 1890 were living at High Street, Hanging Heaton and the census states that Benjamin was a gardener. Sam attended Hanging Heaton Church School.

In 1901 Benjamin was temporarily unemployed and whilst there were ten members of the family including Rebecca, born in 1894, they also had two boarders. Emily died in March 1911.

When the census was taken in 1911 Benjamin, Sam and Rebecca were living in a three roomed home at 147, High Street, Hanging Heaton and Benjamin was employed as a labourer for the town council whilst Sam was a coal miner hewer.

He was connected to St.Paul's Day and Sunday schools and before enlisting worked at Shaw Cross Colliery (Crawshaw and Warburton Ltd.).

Sam married Mary Blakeley in 1911 and George Benjamin was born in 1912 followed by John Bailey in 1916.

His brother John Bailey Dixon M.M. was killed on 27th May 1918 and is on Batley and Dewsbury War Memorials.

Service Details

Sam enlisted in 1915 and went to France in January 1917.

He was seriously wounded with shrapnel and gassed in December 1917 and was brought back to England to Lakenham Military Hospital, Norwich. His injuries were severe but there was hope that he would recover however he had a relapse and died on Wednesday, 13th August 1918.

He was buried at St. Paul's on Saturday 16th August and the Rev. D.F. Jones (curate) officiated. The coffin draped with the Union Jack was borne shoulder high by A.O.C. men from Dewsbury, in charge of Sgt. Major E. Hemingway. Bugler Sgt. Fothergill, of the Dewsbury Company, West Riding Volunteers, sounded the Last Post.

Family mourners included deceased's younger brother, Air Mechanic Eli Dixon, R.A.F. and a nephew in the Royal Marines. Sgt. Alfred Dixon K.O.Y.L.I. was in France, John Bailey Dixon M.M. was killed May 1918 and Allatt Dixon had been discharged after being wounded twice. His widow lived at Day's Yard, Hanging Heaton.

Sam was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton, Crawshaw and Warburton's Ltd. and Batley War Memorial.



Photo courtesy of the family

Researched by members of
Batley History Group