Samson Goldthorpe





Rank: - Gunner

Number: - 780708

Regiment: - Royal Field Artillery (Formerly 2369) B" Bty. 256th Bde.

Killed in Action: - 21st August 1917 aged 23 years

Cemetery: - Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium V.E.12

Batley News, 1 Sep 1917 (photo) Dewsbury District News, 1 Sep 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Samson was born in Soothill in c. 1892 the son of Arthur and Jane Goldthorpe formerly Riley nee Singleton who had married at Batley Parish Church on 16th September 1876. Jane had previously married Charles Riley on 4th June 1870 at St. Mary Woodkirk. Harriett was born in 1873 followed by Melinda in 1875 but sadly Charles died on the 20th December 1875.

Emma Goldthorpe was born in 1877 in Batley followed by Lydia 1879 in Soothill, George Willie 1885 in Newsome, Mary Ann 1887 in Newsome, Ada 1888 and Sampson who were both born in Soothill.

In 1891 Arthur, who was a miner from Honley, and his family lived in Soothill Lane, Batley but within the next decade they had moved to live at Grace Leather Lane, Soothill. They later moved to Broom Street, with a house with three bedrooms moving again to live at 117, Soothill Lane, Batley before Sampson was killed.

Samson attended Mill Lane Council School and was connected to Soothill Congregational Church. He was a former member of Soothill Working Men's Club and before enlisting worked at Soothill Wood Colliery.

Service Details

Samson enlisted in May 1915 and after a spell at the front was invalided home with enteric fever. He went back to France around August 1916.

A Second Lieutenant wrote to his parents: -

"I thought much about him during the short time he was with me. He was killed in action on the morning of August 21st. On that morning we experienced heavy shelling and your son, along with some of his comrades, took shelter in dug-out which was destroyed shortly afterwards by a direct hit from an enemy shell all the occupants being killed outright. Their deaths have been felt by all of us very much, and the battery personnel join with me in offering you their deepest sympathy in your loss. I feel his death even more, as he had only the day previous taken over duties of batman to me. He has been buried in a small cemetery behind the lines along with his comrades."

Harold Stooke from Kidderminster, William Maitland Inglis of Forfarshire, John Hallarn of Leven, Fife, W. Ritchie, Hesket Andrews Waring of Liverpool, J. McQueen of Forfarshire, Thomas Pearson McDonald of Fifeshire were probably with him in the dugout and there were 31 soldiers buried on the same day at Vlamertinghe Cemetery.

Samson was awarded the British War medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Soothill Congregational Church, Soothill Working Men's Club, Hanging Heaton War Memorial (St. Paul's) and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group