Sam Gooder





Rank: - Private

Number: - 38619

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 2nd Battalion

Died of Wounds: - 30th June 1917 aged 41 years

Cemetery: - Coxyde Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium 1.C.13

Batley News, 14 Jul 1917. Batley Reporter, 13 Jul 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Sam was born in Barnsley in November 1875 the son of William and Ellen Gooder nee Simpson who had married on the 11th October 1873 at Featherstone, All Saints Church.

His father was a coal miner who was born in Birstall and in 1881 was living with his wife and children Sam, William 1877 and John 1880 at New Street, Barnsley.

Before 1891 the family had moved to Garforth (Garfitt) Hill, Birstall and the additions to the family were Hannah 1882, Charlie 1885 in Castleford, Emma 1888 in Birstall.

Mary Ann 1895 and Martha Ellen 1899-1899 were further additions and the family moved to Cobbler Hill before 1901. William died in January 1904 and Ellen returned to live at Barnsley with her son William and his son before 1911.

Sam married Bridget Maguire in June 1897 in Dewsbury Dist. and was living at 6, Cobbler Hill, Birstall with his wife and children, Ellen 1898, William 1899 and Redmond Joseph 1900 when the census was taken in 1901. His brother William and his wife Agnes lived next door. Both brothers were coal miner, hewers.

James was born in 1902-1904, Catherine 1905, Mary 1906, Annie Elizabeth 1908 all in Birstall but Annie Elizabeth died in Barnsley in 1909, Samuel born 1910 in Barnsley. In 1911 the family was living in a four roomed home at 41, Baker Street, Barnsley. Samuel sadly died in Batley in August 1912 aged 21 months.

The family returned to Batley and John was born in 1913 followed by Charles in 1915.

Sam at one time had been employed at White Lee Colliery but before enlisting had worked at Carlinghow Colliery. He was well known in the district. The family resided at 10, Peel Street, Batley.

Service Details

Sam enlisted in May 1915 and had been wounded twice whilst in France. On the first occasion he was in a trench that was blown up and received injuries from being buried in the debris. He was invalided home and returned to the Front in January 1917.

In 1916 the 2nd Battalion took part in: -

The Battle of Albert (1st-13th July)

The Battle of Bazentin (14-17th July)

Battle of the Ancre (13-18th November) *which were phases of the Battles of the Somme 1916*

In 1917 they took part in:-
Operations on the Ancre (11th January –13th March)

Hindenburg Line

Sam was wounded and a French nurse wrote to his wife to say he had been severely wounded "*He was a very plucky patient*" but added that he did not really rally after the operation.

In July 1917 Bridget received a letter from a sister at a hospital in Belgium: -

"I am writing to tell you that your husband was very severely wounded and passed away to his rest last night, June 29th at this hospital. He had all the care and attention it was possible to give but did not rally after the operation. He was so plucky and patient. I was with him during the operation. He talked of you all and just passed peacefully away a few hours later. May God help you in your great trouble and give you strength to bear it."

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

He is remembered with Honour on Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group