Charles Samuel Hirst





Rank: - Private

Number: - 2497

Regiment: - Manchester Regiment 2nd Battalion

Died of Wounds: - 01/10/1918 Age: 27 years

Cemetery: - Grand-Seraucourt British Cemetery, Aisne, France V1.E.3

"HIS DUTY WELL DONE R.I.P."

Batley News, 26 Oct 1918 (photo) Batley Reporter, 13 Nov 1914

Family Details

Charles Samuel was born in Morley in c.1895 the son of Charles and Annie Hirst nee Shepherd who had married on the 3rd April 1889 at St. Peter's Church, Morley. He was baptised at St. Peter's Church, Morley on the 31st March 1895 when his father gave his occupation as a landlord living at the Wheatsheaf Inn, Morley.

His parents and siblings Gertrude 1889 and Ann Elizabeth 1890 were also born in Morley but the family moved to Hanging Heaton before the birth of Edith 1899 and to Batley Carr before Florrie was born in 1901. When the 1901 census was taken the family was living at 5, Court 1, Town Street, Batley Carr and Charles was employed as an iron merchant's clerk. Edith died in March 1904.

His father, Charles, died in January 1905 and Annie died in May 1905 at the District Hospital aged 34 years. In 1911 Charles Samuel was a pupil at the Yorkshire Society School, 61, Westminster Bridge Road, Lambeth, London. This was a children's home for orphans of gentleman born in Yorkshire. After leaving school Charles gave his address as 10, Walker's Cottages, Church Street, Birstall the home of his sister Annie.

His effects were left to his sisters Annie Barraclough wife of Percy Barraclough married St. Peter's, Birstall 25th March 1911 and Gertrude Greenwood wife of Charles Thompson Greenwood married 1st February 1913.

Service Details

Charles Samuel was a local member of the original Expeditionary Force who was in the regular army when war broke out and went to France a few days after war was declared. He was a veteran of the Battle of Mons and was wounded at the Battle of Bassee.

In *1914 his Division took part in*:-
The Battle of Mons and subsequent retreat, including the Action of Elouges
The Battle of Le Cateau and the Affair of Crepy-en-Valois
The Battle of the Marne
The Battle of the Aisne
The Battles of La Bassee and Messines 1914 (wounded)
The First Battle of Ypres

In 1915: -
The Second Battle of Ypres and the Capture of Hill 60

In 1916: -
The Battle of Albert
The Battle of Bazentin
The Battle of the Ancre
which were phases of the Battles of the Somme 1916

In 1917: -
Operations on the Ancre
The pursuit of the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line

In 1918:-
The First Battle of Arras, a *phase of the First Battles of the Somme 1918*
The Battle of Amiens
The Battle of Albert (21-23 August)
The Battle of Bapaume 31 Aug-3 Sept)
which were phases of the Second Battles of the Somme 1918
The Battle of the St Quentin Canal (29 Sept-2 Oct) *phase of the Battles of the Hindenburg Line.*

A comrade wrote to his sister: -

"I can say the platoon has lost a good pal and I send their deepest sympathy with you in your grief. We put him on a stretcher but he jumped off because four Germans were going to carry him. That of course made his wounds worse, from which he died. We buried him and put a cross up in a decent place where it will not be touched."

Charles Samuel was awarded the 1914 Star + Clasp. The British War Medal, and the Victory Medal. He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group