



Samuel (Sam) Brierley

1890 – 1917

Samuel was born in Delph, near Oldham in 1890; he was always known as Sam to his family and friends. His father was John Brierley, a Felt Hat Maker and later a Cloth Teaser born in Delph in 1862 and died in 1918. His mother was Eliza (nee Swallow) born in Holmfirth in 1862 and died in 1940. They were married in Christ Church, New Mill near Huddersfield on 20th November 1882.

Their other children were; Mary Hannah, born in 1883 and died in 1903, Lena Ann, born in 1884 and died in 1902, Clara Beatrice, born in 1886 and died in 1920, George Swallow, born in 1888 and served in World War 1, Fred, born in 1893 and died in 1905, Walter, born in 1894, Marian, born in 1897 and died in 1920, John Clifford, born in 1898, Stanley, born in 1900 and died in 1925, Harold, born in 1903 and Harry, born in 1904.

On the 1891 and 1901 Census Records they lived at St. Anne's Square, Delph and in 1911 at 8, Farrar's Buildings, Albion Street Ravensthorpe. The family had moved to Ravensthorpe around 1904/05 after a fire destroyed a mill in Delph owned by Armitage and Rhodes.

Sam worked as a Rug Weaver at Messrs Armitage and Rhodes's Mill at Calder Vale, Ravensthorpe. He played the clarinet and was a member of Ravensthorpe Working Men's Club. He was married to Hilda May Roberts (born in 1892 and died in 1971) at St. Saviour's Church, Ravensthorpe on 17th February 1912, they lived at 37, Commercial Street, Ravensthorpe and had three children; Florence May, born in 1912, George Russell, born in 1913 and Sam, born in 1917.

He enlisted on 4th September 1914 in the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry but due to the lack of volunteers, he was transferred into the 2nd Battalion, Royal Munster Fusiliers serving as Private 2241 although the newspaper account of his death, states that he was a Lance Corporal. According to the reports of Sam's death in *Dewsbury Reporter* on 4th August 1917 he had been stationed in Ireland for two years and had only been sent to the Western Front in September 1916. He was killed on 10th July 1917 when the enemy rained artillery shells on the Munster's camp at Champermont near Coxyde on the Belgian coast, destroying most of the huts; he was one of 7 men who were killed and 41 were wounded. He was buried in Coxyde Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Sam was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Coxyde Military Cemetery is located approximately 500 metres beyond the village of Koksijde on the road towards De Panne. In June 1917, Commonwealth forces relieved French forces on 6 kilometres of front line from the sea to a point south of Nieuport (now Nieuwpoort), and held this sector for six months. Coxyde (now Koksijde) was about 10 kilometres behind the front line. The village was used for rest billets and was occasionally shelled, but the cemetery, which had been started by French troops, was found to be reasonably safe. It became the most important of the Commonwealth cemeteries on the Belgian coast and was used at night for the burial of the dead brought back from the front line. The cemetery now contains 1,507 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

Sam is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in St, Saviour's Church, Ravensthorpe and as *Samuel Brierley* in Ireland's Memorial Records 1914-1918.

In Memory of

Private

Samuel Brierley

2241, 2nd Bn., Royal Munster Fusiliers who died on 10 July 1917 Age 27

Son of Eliza Brierley, of Delph, Oldham, and the late John Brierley; husband of Hilda May Brierley, of 37, Commercial St., Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Coxyde Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

