



Sam Pickles 1896 – 1917

Sam was born in Dewsbury in 1896. His father was also Sam Pickles, a Coal Miner born in Dewsbury in 1866 and died in 1929. His mother was Mary Ann (nee Wilson) born in Heckmondwike in 1866 and died in 1927. They were married at St. Mark's Church, Halifax Road, Dewsbury on 17th September 1887.

Their other children were; Emma, born in 1888, Florence, born in 1889, Edith, born in 1891 and died in 1893, Eveline May, born in 1892 and died in 1892, Harry, born in 1894 and served in World War 1, Edwin, born in 1906 and Walter, born in 1908.

In 1891 they lived at 9, Back Belgrave Street, Flatts, Dewsbury, in 1901 at 8, Vulcan Street, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 11, Waverley Street, Savile Town, Dewsbury.

Sam was single man who was educated at the Dewsbury Jubilee Council School and regularly attended the Wellington Road Primitive Methodist Church and Sunday school, where he played for the football team. He was also a member of Dewsbury Amateur Swimming Club and a swimming champion who won many medals and held a life-saving certificate. In 1911 he worked as a Haulage Boy below ground in a coal mine but prior to enlistment he was employed as a Warper for Messrs Mark Oldroyd and Sons, Spinkwell Mills, Dewsbury. According to the reports of his death in the *Dewsbury Reporter* and the *Dewsbury District News* on 4th August 1917, Sam was engaged to Miss Hilda Smithson of Ernest Street, Dewsbury.

He enlisted in September 1916 serving as Private 202711 in the 1st/4th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front in January 1917. He died in the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station at Adinkerke in Belgian Flanders on 24th July 1917 having been gassed at Nieuport where the enemy was inflicting a sustained attack of Mustard Gas. He was buried in Adinkerke Churchyard Extension, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Sam was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Sam wrote his last letter home on 23rd July 1917, with the help of a hospital chaplain: "*Just a few lines to let you know that I am in hospital because of a gas attack from the Germans. It chiefly affects my eyes, which for the present are bandaged and also the throat and lungs*". Sadly, he died the next day.

The village of Adinkerke is located west of the town of Veurne, in the direction of De Panne. From June to November 1917, XV Corps held the front from the Belgian coast to St. Georges. The 24th and 39th Casualty Clearing Stations were posted at Oosthoek (between Adinkerke and Furnes) from July to November, and the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station was at Adinkerke for a short time in June. Adinkerke Churchyard Extension is a Belgian Military Cemetery on the west side of the Churchyard. The Commonwealth graves are in two small plots and are numbered consecutively with the other graves. The extension contains 67 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 from the now demolished St. Mary's Church, Savile Town now relocated to Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

In Memory of

Private

Sam Pickles

202711, 1st/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 24 July 1917 Age 21

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Pickles, of 11, Waverley St., Savile Town, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Adinkerke Churchyard Extension



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

