



Sam Farnhill 1898-1919

Sam was born in Dawgreen, Dewsbury on 8th September 1898. His father was Benjamin Farnhill, a Glass Bottle Hand and former Postal Worker born in Dewsbury in 1876 and died of wounds from shell fragments during an air-raid at Margate, Kent on 30th September 1917 whilst serving with the Military Police. His mother was Harriet (nee Tyas, late Richmond) born in Dawgreen in 1872 and died in 1934. They were married on 26th February 1898 at St. John the Baptist Church, Dawgreen. They lived at 19, Back Webster Street, Dewsbury.

Harriet was previously married to Adam James Richmond (born in 1867 and died in 1895) at St. John the Baptist Church on 1st April 1893; they had a son, George William Richmond, born in 1894.

Sam was educated at Boothroyd Lane Council School and was connected with St. James Mission Church, Vulcan Road where he had sung in the choir and was a member of the Centenary Band of Hope. He worked as a Cloth Finisher for Mr. James France and Company.

He enlisted in May 1915 serving as Private 20098 in the King's Own Scottish Borderers and on 24th September 1915 he was sent to the Dardanelles, where he was engaged in fighting for four or five months. After the decision to evacuate Gallipoli his regiment was posted to the Suez Canal area, being involved in the digging of trenches in preparation for the defence of Egypt from the attacks of the Turks and in March 1916 they embarked for Marseilles. After six weeks service in France, he was wounded on 13th April just after completing a ten day spell in the trenches when he was struck by a fragment of shrapnel in the right shoulder which he described in a letter home; "*I felt as if a horse had kicked me*". After being attended to at an advance dressing station he was hospitalised at Rouen, and then the Govan Hospital, near Glasgow; upon his discharge from hospital he spent five weeks at the Alnwick Convalescent Home, Northumberland. In November 1916 he was transferred to the Seaforth Highlanders with the Service Number 20363 rising to the rank of Corporal.

At the time of his father's death he was a serving member of the Guard of Honour to King George V at Sandringham; In April 1918 he was seriously wounded and following this latest recovery he returned to active service and was appointed Corporal. He was wounded for a third time in August 1918; whilst attacking he was shot through the neck behind the ears, the bullet passed from side to side just below the nostrils and he also sustained a fracture of the 4th cervical vertebra causing partial paraplegia from which it was hoped he would recover. He returned to England from Rouen in mid-August 1918 as an invalid. A discharge was recommended as his medical report stated that the nature of his wounds "*renders the man quite bed ridden*"; he was finally discharged on 26th February 1919, being given a pension of thirty shillings for twenty-six weeks. The expectation was that he would be able to return to his mother's home but this was not to be the case and he died at the Military Hospital in Richmond, North Yorkshire on 22nd October 1919. He was buried with his father in Dewsbury Cemetery. Sam was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

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 Our Lady and St Paulinus Church and on the Memorial in the now demolished St. James Mission Church now displayed in Dewsbury Minster and on the Memorial Plaque from Moorlands Wesleyan Methodist Church, now stored in the Resource Centre at Batley Central Methodist Church.

In Memory of

Corporal

Sam Farnhill

203763, Seaforth Highlanders who died on 22 October 1919 Age 21

Son of Mrs. Harriett Farnhill, of 19, Back Webster St., Dewsbury, and the late Benjamin Farnhill.

Remembered with Honour

Dewsbury Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

