



## **Sam Senior**

### **1880-1918**

Sam was born in Hanging Heaton in 1880. His father was Charles Henry Senior, a Cloth Finisher later a Foreman in a Coal Mine born in Honley near Huddersfield in 1847 and died in 1919. His mother was Elizabeth Ann (nee Washby) born in Dewsbury in 1849 and died in 1896. They were married in All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1870.

Their other children were; James, born in 1872, John, born in 1874 and Lillian, born in 1884.

On the 1881 Census the family were living at Low Road, Hanging Heaton, in 1891 at Mill Lane, Hanging Heaton.

Charles was remarried in 1899 to a widow, Mary Patman nee Dornan (born in Liverpool in 1846 and died in 1914); they had no children.

In 1901 they lived at Lambfield Terrace, Leeds Road, Dewsbury and in 1911 at Glenmount, Leeds Road, Dewsbury.

Sam was a single man who was connected with the Ebenezer Chapel and Sunday school in Hanging Heaton, in 1901 he was working as a Plumber's Apprentice and in 1911 as a House Painter and Paper Hanger; prior to enlisting he was employed by Messrs F and T Mitchell, Plumbers, Savile Town, Dewsbury.

He enlisted in Dewsbury on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1916 into the Durham Light Infantry with the Service Number 41088 and was later transferred to the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) serving as Private G/14711 and was sent to the Western Front in September 1917. He was killed in action in the Aisne Region of France on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1918 and was buried in the field; in August 1919 his remains were reburied in Unicorn Cemetery, Vendhuile, Aisne, France. Sam was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

An Officer wrote to his parents; *"I am his Platoon Commander, and in him I have lost one of my best Lewis Gunners. He was a fine fellow and admired by us all. The boy's death was instantaneous, as a shell burst close to him, several of his comrades paying the same price."*

Vendhuile is a village about 19 kilometres north of St. Quentin and 24 kilometres south-east of Peronne. Unicorn Cemetery is about 3 kilometres south-west of Vendhuile on the west side of the road to the villages of Lempire and Ronssoy. The cemetery now contains 1,008 burials and commemorations of the First World War. 409 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to ten casualties known or believed to be buried among them. There are also special memorials to eight casualties buried in Lempire British Cemetery whose graves could not be found on concentration.

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 outside St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton.

In Memory of

Private

**S Senior**

G/14711, 6th Bn., The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) who died on 20 September 1918

Remembered with Honour

**Unicorn Cemetery, Vendhuile**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Tony Emptage.