

Samuel PILLAR

Born Cofton, Jan – Mar 1896,
Private 9437

Died 8 November 1914, aged 18
Coldstream Guards, 2nd Battalion

Samuel was the youngest of eight children of William Pillar (1854-1900) and Bessie Collings (1854-1922).

The parents were born in Holcombe and the children born in Dawlish and Cofton (1901 census return). They were Alice M (1885-), Rose Ellen Mary (1886-), William G (1887-), Bessie (1888-), Florence (1890-), Robert George (1891-), Francis (1894-) and **Samuel** (1896-1914).

There are WW1 Medal Roll cards for William G Pillar (Pte,26743, 1 G Guards) and for R G Pillar (Sapper, 1560, Royal Engineers)

In 1891 William and Bessie were living at Cofton Cottages with five children. William Pillar died in the April- June quarter of 1900.

In 1901 Bessie is shown as a widow aged 45, living in Park Row and working as a Charwoman, Parish Relief, with three more children of which **Samuel** is the youngest at 5 years old. He is shown in the census as being born in Starcross.

The 1911 census shows Bessie Pillar living at 22 Old Town Street, Dawlish and **Samuel** is 15 with no occupation shown; his older brother Robert George, 19, being a gardener and his older sister Rose Ellen Mary, 25, being engaged in Dressmaking. The two boys are shown as being born in Cofton and a grandson, Ernest Collins Pillar, age 2, completes the household.

After the death of Bessie in 1922, Rose Pillar is shown as of Hughendon House, Dawlish. (Kelly's Directory)

Samuel enlisted with the **Coldstream Guards, 2nd Battalion** as a Private, service no: 9437. His record shows that he enlisted on 22 January 1912, and that his prior trade was a general labourer.

The 2nd Battalion trained in Windsor before landing at Le Havre on the 13th August 1914. The 2nd Battalion joined the 4th Guards Brigade, 2nd Division and were engaged in many actions. It is not certain how **Samuel Pillar** died. It is only recorded that he was 'Killed in Action' on the 8th November 1914.

The Menin Gate is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders which cover the area known as the Ypres Salient. Broadly speaking, the Salient stretched from Langemarck in the north to the northern edge in Ploegsteert Wood in the south, but it varied in area and shape throughout the war.

The Salient was formed during the First Battle of Ypres in October and November 1914, when a small British Expeditionary Force succeeded in securing the town before the onset of winter, pushing the German forces back to the Passchendaele Ridge.

Dawlish World War One Project

The Exeter and Plymouth Gazette of Monday 30 November, 1914, reported,

"Mrs Pillar, of Oldtown street, Dawlish, has been notified officially that her son, Samuel, was killed in Belgium on November 8th. Deceased enlisted in the Coldstream Guards just over two years ago. He was aged 19. Much sympathy is expressed with Mrs Pillar and her sons and daughters."

The Death Grant of £8.2s.11d was paid to his mother, Bessie, and later the War Gratuity of £5 was sent to her.

He is recorded in the Devon Roll of Honour but without location of death shown.

The Dawlish War memorial inscription reads PILLAR.S PTE. COLDM GDS.

Commonwealth War Graves entry:

Killed in action, France & Flanders, 8 November 1914.

Brother of Rose Pillar, of Hughenden House, Queen St., Dawlish, Devon.

Memorial at Ypres (Menin Gate), West Flanders, Belgium

Devon Heritage site info:

9437 Private Samuel Pillar of the 2nd Battalion, the Coldstream Guards. Son of William and Bessie Pillar; Bother of Rose Pillar of Hughendon House, Dawlish. Born in Cofton in 1896. Died 8 November 1914 aged 20.

Next of kin: Bessie Pillar, mother

References:

Free Birth Marriage & Death records

Refs via subscription services:

Census records

UK, De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour (*gives the birth date of 13 Jan 1894- thought to be error-ed*)

Uk, Army Register of Soldiers' Effects

UK, Soldiers died in the Great War 1914-1919

Ancestry family trees, HARRIS and MILLEN.