

Banstead Remembers

Private Horace Champion

Footman at Garratts Hall

7th East Surrey Regiment

Died of wounds at Le Treport, France, aged 19



WEDNESDAY 3rd AUGUST

at All Saints Church, Banstead

11:50am: a short service of remembrance will be held

Noon: a church bell will be tolled 100 times

The churchyard flag will be raised to half mast at 7:30am and lowered at 5:30pm

Horace worked at Garratts Hall, which used to stand where Colcokes Road, Garrard Road and Monks Road are now. Please come and remember the sacrifice that was made in World War One.

*We will remember **each** one*

Private Horace Champion of Garratts Hall

Horace was born in Rainham, Kent, in 1896. He was baptised at St Margaret of Antioch, Rainham's parish church, in June of that year.

He was the youngest of three sons born to John and Charlotte Champion. When Horace left school, he became a baker's apprentice and worked with his brother, Sydney, at the local bakery.

Horace came to Banstead sometime between 1911 and 1914. He worked as a footman at Garratts Hall, the mansion that used to stand between Colcokes Road and Garrard Road and whose grounds stretched from Holly Lane to Shrubland Road. The house was demolished in 1933 but the two lodges (on the corner of Holly Lane and Garratts Lane and the corner of Shrubland Road and Garratts Lane), a cottage (Little Garratts), the stable block (now converted to houses in Colcokes Road) and several of the trees that adorned the grounds are all still standing today.

Garratts Hall was owned by the Lambert family and was leased to Mrs Mary Davies, who opened a high class school for young ladies there. The school was one of several boarding schools in the Banstead area at the time. There were at least 34 pupils in 1911 and they were taught by 8 live-in governesses and as many as 10 other teachers who lived elsewhere. There were also many servants: at least 7 live-in maids, a cook, a gardener and probably a cowman, a butler, at least one footman (Horace), perhaps a groom, a boot boy and a gardener's boy or two.

Horace attested at Kingston on 9th November 1914, probably after visiting the recruiting office at the Drill Hall in Sutton. He was 18, a year too young to serve overseas, but he lied about his age and claimed to be 19 and 6 months.

Horace joined the 7th Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment and trained at Sandgate, Kent, and at Albuhera Barracks at Aldershot before sailing to France. He disembarked at Boulogne in the early hours of 2nd June 1915.

Although the 7th East Surreys had a relatively gentle introduction to trench life, Horace was wounded within weeks of arriving. He died at (or on his way to) the hospital complex at Le Treport, near Dieppe, on 6th August 1915.

Horace is commemorated on the wooden panels in the Lady Chapel at All Saints and on the war memorial cross in Rainham, Kent.

*Horace's identity and death date were confirmed too late to commemorate him in 2015. His commemoration will take place on **3rd August** rather than the 6th due to a scheduling error.*