

# *Banstead Remembers*

*Private Tom Cox  
of Greinton, Somerset*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Welsh Guards  
Died at Tadworth Camp, aged 36  
Buried at All Saints, Banstead*



## **TUESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JULY**

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

Tom was one of thousands of men that trained at Tadworth Camp on Epsom Downs during the war. Please come and remember the sacrifice that was made 100 years ago in World War One.

Tom was a bellringer and the All Saints ringers will be honouring his memory with their own tribute.

*We will remember **each** one*

## *Private Tom Cox of Greinton, Somerset*

Tom Gridley Cox was born in the village of Greinton, on the marshy Somerset Levels, in 1880. He was the youngest of four brothers.

Tom grew up to become a dairyman, working in the dairy on a local farm while his father, George, looked after the cows in the fields.

George retired in the early 1900s and Tom moved across the Bristol Channel to Cardiff. He lived with his eldest brother, William, and they worked as carmen, delivering goods in horse-drawn vans.

Tom was a bellringer and his first peal in Wales is recorded on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1903, when the bells of Cardiff's oldest church, St John the Baptist, were rung in honour of the late Prime Minister, Lord Salisbury, for three hours and seven minutes. Tom's last peal was recorded in June 1914, shortly before the outbreak of war.

The Military Service Act (1916) came into force for unmarried men between the ages of 18 and 41 on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1916. They automatically became members of the Army Reserve on that date and were then later called up for service in classes based on their year of birth. Tom's class were mobilized on 18<sup>th</sup> March and he was medically examined at Cardiff in late March and joined the Welsh Guards.

The Welsh Guards were the newest regiment of Foot Guards, having only been created in February 1915 in response to Welsh public sentiment, Wales having been the only one of the United Kingdom's countries not to have had its own Guards regiment. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion was raised in a week and they first provided the King's Guard at Buckingham Palace on St David's Day 1915.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion went to France in August 1915 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> (Reserve) Battalion was created at that time to train recruits and provide drafts of reinforcements to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. They were based at the Tower of London over the winter of 1915-16, where Tom would have joined them after basic training at the Guards Depot in Caterham, and then moved to Tadworth Camp, on Epsom Downs, on 12<sup>th</sup> June.

On 25<sup>th</sup> July 1916, Tom Cox died at Tadworth Camp. He was 36 years old.

Tom was buried at All Saints, Banstead. He is commemorated on the wooden panels in the Lady Chapel in All Saints and on the Llandaff Diocesan Association of Change Ringers war memorial in Pentre, Wales.

*Tom's commemoration will take place on **26<sup>th</sup> July** rather than the 25<sup>th</sup> as the correct date of death was established after the commemoration schedule was published.*