

Banstead Remembers

Private Arthur Boobier

of 40 Ferndale Road

*1st East Surrey Regiment
Died of wounds, aged 25*



MONDAY 15th 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

Arthur was one of 7 men from Ferndale Road to be lost in the war and is one of nearly 20 local men who died in the Battle of the Somme. Please come and remember the sacrifice that was made in World War One.

*We will remember **each** one*

Private Arthur Boobier of 40 Ferndale Road

Arthur was born in Poplar, London, on 30th March 1891, the second of five children born to William and Annie Boobier.

William was a constable in the Metropolitan Police and the family had only recently arrived from Chard, Somerset. They lived in Poplar and Bow until Arthur was 11, Arthur attending the Atley Road school. They moved to Wimbledon, where Arthur joined the Haydon's Road Church of England school.

Arthur became a printer when he left school but soon joined the East Surrey Regiment, signing up for 12 years' service in December 1908. He was only 17 at the time but added a few months to his age so that he was old enough to enlist.

After two years in Plymouth and Ireland with the 1st Battalion, he was transferred to the 2nd Battalion and served in Burma and India, where he was still stationed when war broke out. He had a chequered disciplinary record during the pre-war years but was described as "*honest, sober, industrious and clean*" in 1914. While Arthur was away, the family moved to Hillview (now number 40), Ferndale Road, Banstead.

Arthur went to France with the 2nd Battalion in January 1915 and they were soon in trenches at Ypres, Belgium. Arthur was made acting lance corporal but developed a skin condition a few days later that required him to return home to England to be treated. After recovering, he was posted to the 1st Battalion, who were in need of reinforcements after fighting at Hill 60, and sent back to Belgium on 27th April.

The 1st Battalion spent two-and-a-half straight months in the trenches at Ypres, with no relief and only crude cloth pads soaked in chemicals to use as protection against gas attacks. They moved south to the quiet chalk downland of Picardy in late July and eight uneventful months were then spent between the River Somme and Arras.

They missed the early days of the Battle of the Somme and went into trenches near recently-captured Longueval on 18th July from where they took part in an attack on Delville Wood on the 23rd. Fighting for the wood would continue until September.

On 29th July, the 1st Battalion were ordered to attack two strongpoints containing machine-guns. Casualties were high and Arthur was shot in the arm and chest. He was evacuated to hospital but died at 7:30pm on 15th August. He was 25 years old.

Arthur is buried in St Sever Cemetery, Rouen, and commemorated on the Banstead War Memorial and the Garton Memorial in All Saints' churchyard.