

Banstead Remembers

Nearly twenty local men died in the Battle of the Somme.
William and Archie both lost their lives on 18th August
1916 during the fighting on the Somme.



*Lance Corporal William Draper
of 3 Apsley Cottages, Park Road
3rd Rifle Brigade
Killed in Action, aged 20*



*Brigadier-General Archie Buckle
of Woodcote House, Epsom
Commander 17th Divisional Artillery
Died, aged 47*

THURSDAY 18th 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

Please come and remember the sacrifice that was made in World War One.

*We will remember **each** one*

Lance Corporal William Draper of 3 Apsley Cottages, Park Road

William was born in Banstead in late 1895 and was the second son of Arthur and Louisa Draper. The family lived at Mint Cottages, next to The Mint public house, and later at 3 Apsley Cottages, Park Road.

When William left school, he became a messenger working at a local post office (probably in Banstead) delivering telegrams.

In 1913, William joined the Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own) and went to France in September 1914. He was wounded within a month, recovered in England and returned to France, where he was wounded again.

On 18th August 1916, William's battalion took part in a surprise attack on trenches outside the village of Guillemont. As soon as the protective barrage stopped, the men rushed the last 50 yards, got into the trenches and fought hand to hand. The attack was a success but it came at a price: the 3rd Rifle Brigade suffered 170 casualties.

William was killed in action. He was 20 years old. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing on the Somme, on the Memorial Lychgate in Woodmansterne, on the Garton Memorial in All Saints' churchyard and on the wooden panels in the Lady Chapel at All Saints'.

Brigadier-General Archie Buckle of Woodcote House, Epsom

Archie was born in India on 24th November 1868. He was the only child of Captain Archibald and Louisa Rode. The Buckle family have a long association with Banstead.

He was educated at Malvern College, Clifton College and the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich. He was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in 1888 and began a long career in the Royal Artillery, holding various instructional, supervisory and staff posts in England, India and South Africa as well as fighting in the Sudan campaign of 1898 and in the Second Boer War (1899-1902).

Archie went to France in command of a battery of the Indian Corps in September 1914 and fought during the autumn. He was wounded in the face and invalided home. When Archie recovered, he was seconded to the newly-formed 19th (Western) Division of Kitchener's New Army, and helped oversee their training and deployment to France in July 1915. They fought at Loos in September 1915. In February 1916, Archie assumed command of XXII Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. They took part in the preliminary bombardment for the Battle of the Somme and fought throughout July. Archie had just been promoted when he fell ill with meningitis and died. He was 47.

Archie is commemorated in Banstead, Epsom, Byfleet and at Clifton College, Bristol.