

# *Banstead Remembers*

*Private Clement Goldsmith  
Gardener at Banstead Wood House*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Royal Sussex Regiment  
Killed in action, aged 22*



## FRIDAY 9<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

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

Clement is one of 8 men from Banstead and Burgh Heath whose names are inscribed on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing. He 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 Clement Goldsmith of Banstead Wood House*

Clement Jabez Goldsmith was born in Wadhurst, Sussex, in early 1894. He was one of two children born to Jabez and Elizabeth Goldsmith. Sadly, their other child died young but they adopted a boy, Charlie, a younger brother for Clement.

The family moved to Goudhurst, in Kent, when Clement was young. Jabez was a bricklayer's labourer and may have come to the area to work on one of the large houses being built at that time. When the building work ended, the family stayed in the village, living at Oddfellows Cottages, and Jabez became a coal porter.

Clement grew up to become a gardener at one of the local houses. He was still in Goudhurst in May 1914 but shortly afterwards he came to Banstead. He worked at the Gartons' house in Banstead Woods and probably lived in a cottage on the estate. The house became a military hospital during WWII, then the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children in 1948 and was converted into apartments in 2005.

War was soon declared and Clement returned to Kent and enlisted in the Royal Sussex Regiment at Tunbridge Wells in September 1914. He joined the 7<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion and trained at Shorncliffe, Folkestone and Aldershot before deploying to France on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1915.

They took part in the Battle of Loos, the first test of Kitchener's New Army, in September 1915 and in the fighting that followed in October. At some point after arriving in France, Clement was transferred from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup> (Regular) Battalion, probably after a period convalescing following an injury he suffered in the early days of the fighting on the Somme.

At 4:45pm on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1916, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion left their trenches facing High Wood. Their objective was Wood Lane, a trench that ran along a road between High Wood and Longueval. They advanced into heavy artillery and machine-gun fire, especially intense on their left where machine-gunners inside the Wood turned back the battalion that was advancing on the Sussex men's left. They made it to Wood Lane, captured the trench and dug a defensive flank on their left to connect it back to the British trenches. 49 men were killed, 150 wounded and 63 men were missing.

Clement's body was either never found or was not identifiable and his name is inscribed on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing on the Somme. He is commemorated on the Wadhurst War Memorial Cross, on a memorial plaque in St Peter and St Paul's, Wadhurst, on the wooden panels in the Lady Chapel at All Saints' and in All Saints' Book of Men Who Served Overseas. His name was read out in a memorial service at Goudhurst's Wesleyan Chapel in 1920. He was 22 years old.

Clement was awarded the British War Medal, the Victory Medal and the 1914-15 Star.