

# *Banstead Remembers*

*Captain Bryan Dolphin Paull  
of Cophorne, Burgh Heath*

*8<sup>th</sup> East Surrey Regiment  
Killed on the Schwaben Redoubt, aged 19  
30<sup>th</sup> September 1916*



## FRIDAY 30<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

Bryan is one of nearly 20 local men to lose their lives in the Battle of the Somme. Please come and remember the sacrifice that our local community made 100 years ago in World War One.

*We will remember **each** one*

## *Captain Bryan Paull of Copthorne, Burgh Heath*

Bryan Dolphin Paull was born on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1896 in Earlswood, Surrey. He was the son of Allen and Annie Paull and was the second of their three children.

Allen was a stockbroker and the family lived in a string of grand houses: Clovelly in Earlswood, Durfold in Reigate, Mount Hall (an 18-room mansion) in Lower Kingswood, and Copthorne in Burgh Heath, which they moved to in 1911-12. The family home was just off the Brighton Road, a few hundred yards south of the village. It still stands today, as Copthorne House, although it has been converted into flats.

Bryan entered Charterhouse School, in Godalming, in 1911. He was a fine footballer at school and played for the First XI. He was also a colour-sergeant in the Officer Training Cadets and gained his certificate 'A' which could have been used to help gain admission to Sandhurst Military College or to impress potential employers.

He was still at school in November 1914 when he applied for a temporary commission in the Army, aged 17. The headmaster endorsed his application and a nomination for a 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenancy in the 8<sup>th</sup> East Surrey Regiment followed. Bryan was soon promoted to temporary lieutenant and sailed to France with the 8<sup>th</sup> East Surreys in July 1915. Another promotion, to temporary captain, followed. He applied for a permanent commission in the Irish Guards and became a 2nd lieutenant in the Royal Irish Rifles but remained as a temporary captain attached to the 8<sup>th</sup> East Surreys.

The 8<sup>th</sup> East Surreys were based in Picardy, the country that the Battle of the Somme would be fought over, from their early days in France. When the first day of the battle came on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916 and Bryan's friend Billie Nevill famously kicked off the East Surreys' advance by booting a football into No Man's Land, Bryan was one of the officers left behind in reserve (it was anticipated that officer casualties would be high and so it was ordered that a certain percentage were to be kept back) and he had to watch as his friends led their men over the top. Many of them did not return. In Montauban the survivors drank a bittersweet champagne toast to a rare success on that bloody day. In the aftermath, Bryan was given command of 'C' Company.

The village of Thiepval held out for nearly three months but fell on 26<sup>th</sup> September. Two days later the Schwaben Redoubt, a defensive fortification north of the village, was partly captured. On 30<sup>th</sup> September, the East Surreys were ordered to attack and take the rest of it. Bryan's 'C' Company had lost nearly half of their men to an artillery bombardment before they even left their trenches. All of their officers were killed or wounded when they attacked. Bryan was among the fallen. He was 19 years old.

Bryan Paull is buried in Blighty Valley Cemetery, just 2 miles from where he was killed. He is commemorated on the Kingswood War Memorial, on the walls of the Memorial Chapel at Charterhouse (which is the largest war memorial in England), on the memorial panels in St Mary's, Burgh Heath, St Andrew's, Kingswood and All Saints', Banstead, and on the Roll of Honour plaques in the Burgh Heath War Memorial Hall and in the Hodgsonites Boarding House at Charterhouse.

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