

Banstead Remembers

FRIDAY 16th MARCH

A memorial service will be held at **11:50am** at All Saints Church for



*Corporal John Bateman
of Banstead Asylum*

*Royal Army Medical Corps
Served in Salonica, Greece
Died, aged 43*

John Bateman was an attendant at Banstead Asylum. He was an old soldier who re-enlisted in 1915 and served in a casualty clearing station on the Salonica (Thessaloniki) Front in northern Greece, where sickness, particularly malaria, was more of a danger than the enemy.

SATURDAY 17th MARCH

A memorial service will be held at **11:50am** at All Saints Church for

*Sub-Lieut. Harry Maitland
of Banstead Hall*

*Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve
Served in Canada
Died, aged 19*



Harry Maitland's family owned a boarding school at Banstead Hall, which used to stand between Bolters Lane and the Brighton Road. Harry served with the Royal Navy's Examination Service, inspecting merchant ships joining convoys to Britain from Halifax, Nova Scotia, a vital lifeline through the German U-Boat blockade that was starving Britain.

*We will remember **each** one*

Acting Corporal John Bateman of Banstead Asylum

Charles John Bateman, known as John, was born in Goswell Road, Clerkenwell, probably on 16th January 1875. He was the son of Charles and Annie Bateman (nee Daley) and was one of three children.

John's musician father died when John was just 5 years old and the children suffered a second blow soon afterwards when their mother went to prison for assaulting their landlady. John and his older brother were taken into care and ended up in a workhouse school. They were both members of the school's brass band, which offered a way into the Army for boys at 14 years old as drummers and trumpeters. John and his brother both joined the West Riding Regiment as boy soldiers and became bandsmen. John served in the West Indies, South Africa and the East Indies (Burma/Myanmar).

After leaving the Army in 1902, John worked as a musician and married Alice Downs in Greenwich in 1906. They moved to Warlingham, where a son, Charles, was born. With a young family to support, John soon settled for the steady wages of a job as an attendant at Banstead Asylum and came to Belmont, living in Downs Road and then at 13 Clifton Avenue.

John re-enlisted in the Army in May 1915, shortly after the birth of his daughter, Maisie, and joined the Royal Army Medical Corps. He went to Greece with 31st Casualty Clearing Station in the autumn. The extremes of climate and poor living conditions meant that diseases including malaria, dysentery and blackwater fever were rife. On 16th March 1918, John suffered a haemorrhage, possibly due to blackwater fever, and died. He was 43.

Sub-Lieutenant Harry Maitland of Banstead Hall

Henry "Harry" Jervois Ruault Maitland was born at Banstead Hall on 3rd April 1898 and baptised at All Saints on 7th May. He was the son of Edward and Mary Maitland, who had established a preparatory school in Banstead Hall, which used to stand where the flats on the eastern side of Dunnymans Road are now, in 1889.

Young Harry attended his parents' school before going to Harrow in 1912. He left shortly before war broke out and perhaps returned to Banstead Hall as that was the address he gave when he attested with the Royal Navy two years later.

Harry joined the Royal Naval Air Service in April 1916 and received a probationary commission as a flight sub-lieutenant in July of that year. He trained at Crystal Palace and was taught to fly at RNAS Chingford, Essex. Following an accident, it was discovered that he had a heart condition and his flying career came to an end.

He transferred to the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in February 1917 and joined the Trade Division as a sub-lieutenant. He was sent to Naval Control in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, to work in the Examination Service, inspecting incoming merchant vessels to verify their documents and check their cargo before they joined convoys (adopted surprisingly late in the war, in May 1917) bringing vital supplies to Britain, past the German U-Boat blockade.

In February 1918, news reached home that Harry was dangerously ill with scarlet fever. A slight improvement came in early March but then pneumonia developed and he died at Halifax on 17th March. He was 19 years old.

Harry is buried in St John's cemetery, Halifax. He is commemorated on a plaque in All Saints, on the Garton Memorial in the churchyard and on the panels in the Memorial Chapel, All Saints, but not on the Village War Memorial.