

# *Banstead Remembers*

*Private William Burberry*

*Gardener at Castleton, Bolters Lane  
(which used to stand where Castleton Close is today)*

*Formerly of Salisbury Road and Diceland Road*

*1<sup>st</sup> Devonshire Regiment  
Killed in action, aged 28*



## **SATURDAY 3<sup>rd</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

William 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 William Burberry of Castleton, Bolters Lane*

William James Burberry was born on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1888 at Bankside, Ewell, (where the cinema on the bypass used to stand) and was baptised at St Mary's, Ewell, a month later. He was the fourth of Jesse and Mary Ann Burberry's eight children.

The family moved to Banstead when William was 2 years old and lived in a cottage in Salisbury Court, a cul-de-sac which became what is now the southern end of **Salisbury Road**. In the late 1890s, they moved to a cottage in **Diceland Road** and lived there until William was 22. Jesse was a Noble Grand (leader) of the Star of Banstead lodge of the Oddfellows (the largest friendly society of the day) and William also joined the Banstead lodge, which used to meet at the Woolpack Inn.

The family moved to St Wilfrid's (number 38), **Belmont Road**, Belmont, in 1910-11 and William worked as a labourer for the London & Brighton Railway Company. He was soon back in Banstead though, working as a gardener at Castleton, a large house that used to stand approximately where the mini roundabout in **Castleton Close** is now. The grounds corresponded to the area delineated by **Bolters Lane, Castleton Drive, Greenhayes Avenue** and **Kingsley Avenue**.

William (5ft 5in tall, light brown hair, grey eyes with a scar on his face) joined the Army on his 26<sup>th</sup> birthday, 1<sup>st</sup> September 1914. He signed on for the duration of the war and chose to serve with the Devonshire Regiment.

William joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in France in February 1915. They were stationed in the Ypres salient and fought on Hill 60 during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Ypres. In July, they moved south to the quiet country of Picardy and almost a exactly a year later they marched onto the Somme battlefield, three weeks after the battle had begun.

After fighting in the ruined village of Longueval in late July, they were withdrawn to rest before being thrown back into action again. William's battalion attacked Wedge Wood in the afternoon of 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1916 as part of 5<sup>th</sup> Division's successful advance near Guillemont on the first day of the phase of the Battle of the Somme which became known as the Battle of Guillemont. William was killed in action. He was 28 years old. 266 other men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Devons were killed or wounded that week.

His body was either never found or was not identifiable and his name is inscribed on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing on the Somme. William is commemorated on the Sutton, Belmont and Banstead War Memorials, on the Garton Memorial in All Saints' churchyard and on the wooden panels in the Lady Chapel at All Saints'.

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