

# *Banstead Remembers*

*Lieutenant Arthur Norris  
of Court House, Court Road*

*'B' Battery, Honourable Artillery Company  
Died, aged 63  
10<sup>th</sup> February 1917*



## FRIDAY 10<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY

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

Arthur Norris was a successful wine and spirits merchant who was twice Master of the Worshipful Company of Distillers. He served with the H.A.C. in Egypt in defence of the Suez Canal and died at home in February 1917 of a heart condition arising from his time on active service.

*We will remember **each** one*

## *Lieutenant Arthur Norris of Court House, Court Road*

Arthur James Norris was born in Watford, Hertfordshire, on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1853. He was one of six children born to James and Susanna Norris.

James was a successful wine and spirits dealer and was a wealthy man. The family moved to Ashley House, Epsom, when Arthur was young and then to Bletchingley when James had Castle Hill House built for the family in the early 1870s.

Arthur attended Marlborough College and then followed in his father's footsteps, becoming a wine merchant and partner in his father's firm, Norris & Gilbey. He married, moved to Croydon and had several children. When his father retired, Arthur merged the family business with another firm. The business did well and he moved to a large new house, Longshaw, when the railway came to Chipstead in the late 1890s. The Norrises moved to Court House (now St Anne's School), Banstead, in 1910.

Arthur was a keen swimmer and sportsman, playing rugby and cricket in his youth, and loved to ride with the Surrey Staghounds, of which he was honorary secretary for many years. He was a well-known figure in Surrey society, a vice-president of most of the local agricultural shows and was twice Master of the Company of Distillers.

Locally, he was President of the Chipstead & District Rifle Club, represented Chipstead on the board of the Reigate & Redhill Cottage Hospital and was a foundation manager of Chipstead's village school. He was a staunch Conservative and was politically active, chairing meetings in support of the Conservatives and Unionists in Chipstead during the closely fought elections of 1906 and 1910.

He served as a Territorial with the Honourable Artillery Company, joining their field artillery battery in 1875 when he was 22 years old and remaining with 'B' Battery for the next 42 years. He went with them as Battery Quartermaster Sergeant when they were deployed to Egypt in 1915, where they fought in defence of the Suez Canal.

Arthur spent the last half of 1915 as a quartermaster in a Royal Horse Artillery rest camp at Port Said but rejoined his battery in early 1916 after being commissioned as a lieutenant. Within a few weeks it was found that he had a heart condition that was exacerbated by active service and he was invalided home. After a brief period of recuperation, he returned to light duties at H.A.C. headquarters in London.

On 10<sup>th</sup> February 1917, hours after returning from duty, Arthur collapsed at home in Banstead and died soon afterwards. He was buried at St Margaret's, Chipstead, with full military honours. He was 63 years old, the oldest Banstead man to die in the war.