

Banstead Remembers

MONDAY 24th SEPTEMBER

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



*Private Albert Taylor
of The View, High Street*

*2nd Royal Sussex Regiment
Served in France and Belgium
Killed in Action, aged 24*

Albert Taylor was a fishmonger who lived in the High Street in a cottage near where the entrance to Waitrose car park is today. Wounded at Passchendaele, he was killed when his battalion made an attack near Saint Quentin, on the River Somme, in the advance to the Hindenburg Line.

FRIDAY 28th SEPTEMBER

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

*Private Charles Reygate
of 2 Sutton Lane*

*20th Middlesex Regiment
Served in Belgium
Died of Wounds, aged 37*



Charles was a jobbing gardener who was born in Park Road and later lived in a now-demolished cottage in Sutton Lane. He served on the Home Front with the Royal Defence Corps for two years before being sent to France with the Middlesex Regiment in July 1918. He was mortally wounded, near Ypres, during the Hundred Days advance to victory.

*We will remember **each** one*

Banstead and the Hundred Days: Albert Taylor and Charles Reygate

Albert Frederick Randall Taylor was born at Fairlawn Farm, in Croydon Lane, in December 1893 and baptised at St Peter's, Woodmansterne, on 29th June of the following year. He was the only son of Thomas and Clara Taylor (nee Chapman).

The Taylors soon moved to Flint Cottages, a pair of semi-detached cottages on the southern side of the High Street. They lived in the westernmost of the two, which used to stand between where the Tesco Express and the road entrance to Waitrose car park are now. The move brought a change of profession for Albert's father: he became a baker-confectioner and their home became a tearoom known as "The View". Following his mother's death in 1910, Albert worked with his dad in the tearoom before they changed business once more and both became fishmongers.

Albert joined the Army under the Derby Scheme on 10th December 1915 and chose to enlist in the Royal Sussex Regiment. He served on the Home Front until October 1916 and fought at Passchendaele in 1917 with the 13th Royal Sussex, where he was wounded. When he recovered, he joined the 12th Sussex before being transferred to the 2nd Sussex in 1918. They fought in Flanders during the German attacks in April.

Charles Henry Reygate was born in Banstead on 25th November 1880 and baptised at All Saints on Boxing Day. He was the son of George and Emily Reygate (nee Harris), of Yewlands Cottages, Park Road. They moved to 2 Sutton Lane (now the site of 25-34 Forge Steading), at the end of the High Street, when Charles was young.

His father was a gardener at Yewlands and Well House and Charles showed an aptitude for gardening when at school so he followed his father into the trade. He was a mainstay of Banstead's 2nd XI and Charles opened the batting for many years.

He moved to Sutton and married Rosa Bastin in February 1916; he enlisted in the Army under the Derby Scheme two days later. Charles opted to join the East Surrey Regiment but was posted to the Royal Defence Corps (a Home Guard unit) and remained on the Home Front for two years. During that time he had two children. He was sent to France in July 1918 and posted to the Middlesex Regiment.

With the final German offensive defeated in July, the Allies began their Hundred Days advance to victory on 8th August, at Amiens. They pushed the Germans back through the old Somme front lines of 1916 and then pursued them to the Hindenburg Line. All five British armies were advancing by early September.

Before an attack could be launched on the Hindenburg Line itself, many local, tactical objectives had to be secured. Albert Taylor was killed attempting to capture the high ground near Saint Quentin on 24th September. He was 24. Two days later, a general offensive began, which spread most of the length of the Western Front, from Flanders to the Meuse, over the next few days. Charles Reygate was mortally wounded making an attack south of the Ypres-Comines Canal on 28th September. He was 37 years old.