Banstead Remembers

A memorial service will be held at All Saints Church for

Private Percy Blunt

of 36 Ferndale Road

1002nd Horse Transport Company
Died in Beirut, Lebanon
Aged 28

Percy was a golf club steward who served with the Army Service Corps during their Palestine and Syria campaigns in 1918. He died of malaria in a Beirut hospital on 17th October 1918, leaving a widow and young child.

O.S. Percy Perrin

of 5 Beall's Cottages, Burgh Heath

HMS Astraea
Died in Simon's Town, South Africa
Aged 19

Percy was a potman's boy who joined the Navy at the age of 16. He served as an ordinary seaman in Home waters until 1917 and then on the West African coast. He was the first local serviceman to die of Spanish Flu.

WEDNESDAY 17th OCTOBER

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

Please come and remember the sacrifice our village made in the Great War.

We will remember each one

Percy Blunt, 36 Ferndale Road

Percy Blunt was born on 12th September 1890 in Goudhurst, Kent, and was baptised at the parish church, St Mary's, on 26th October of that year. He was the son of William, a bricklayer, and Anne and was one of the youngest of twelve children.

The Blunts came to a new road in Banstead, which was then called simply "New Road" or "Diceland", after the field in which it was built, in the mid-1890s, when Percy was a young boy and lived at 9 Clifton Villas, now 18 Diceland Road. They later moved to Darfield (now 36), in Ferndale Road. Percy's father and brothers helped to build the houses in Diceland, Shrubland, Ferndale and Lyme Regis Roads but Percy became a grocer's assistant when he left school and was later a steward at a golf club.

He either enlisted in the Army in 1915 or was conscripted in 1916 and joined the Army Service Corps, the organisation responsible for meeting the Army's material needs in the field. He was probably not medically fit and remained on the Home Front until 1918 and married Edith Fairweather in Ewell in December 1916. He and other Class 'B' men were sent out to Palestine in April 1918, four months before his daughter Rachel was born, to replace fitter men who could be sent to the trenches.

Percy's company, the 1002nd Horse Transport Company, delivered rations and equipment from supply depots to brigade depots near the front line. After nine months of trench warfare following the capture of Jerusalem in December 1917, the Egyptian Expeditionary Force broke the Ottoman forces in battles in September 1918 and then pursued them all the way to Damascus and beyond and Percy and his company moved north. He died of malaria in Beirut on 17th October 1918, aged 28.

Percy Perrin, 5 Beall's Cottages, Burgh Heath

Percy Perrin was born at home in Queen's Road, Belmont, on 5th November 1898 and baptised at All Saints on Christmas Day. He was the son of Walter and Frances Perrin.

His dad was an attendant at Banstead Asylum and also an Army reservist. When Walter went to fight in the Boer War, Frances and Percy moved to Burgh Heath, where they lived with Frances's adoptive parents at 5 Beall's Cottages, next to the Sheepshearers Arms. Sadly, Frances died after giving birth to a daughter when Percy was 5 years old. The Perrins moved away to London and then to Woodford, Essex.

Percy worked as a potman's boy in a pub after leaving school and then joined the Navy at the age of 16 in November 1914. He served on old pre-Dreadnought battleships in Home waters until 1917, when he joined HMS *Astraea*, a cruiser which patrolled the West African coast. Percy always had a chequered disciplinary record and was doing time in detention in South Africa and about to be booted out of the Navy when the Spanish Flu epidemic hit. He fell ill and was admitted to the Royal Naval Hospital in Simon's Town. Percy died of influenza and bronchial pneumonia on 17th October 1918. He was 19 years old.