

Old Farnhamians' Association



**William Henry Bastow**

**(1904 - 1909)**

**'WW1 Tablet Addition Ceremony'**

**Farnham Sixth Form College**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2018 – 2.30 pm**

The OFA would like to express sincere thanks to the Farnham Sixth Form College Management for facilitating the day and providing the opportunity for this historic event to take place.

## Old Farnhamians' Association

# William Henry Bastow

## Dates at School - 1904/09

Background to today's ceremony:

**'Righting a Perceived Wrong' – the addition of the name of a lost hero to the WW1 Roll of Honour Tablet at Farnham College, Morley Road on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2018 some 103 years since William Bastow's death and during the centenary of the end of the Great War.**

About three years ago former OFA General Committee Member John Clarke informed the Committee that the name of a former pupil at the Grammar School, William Henry Bastow, had been omitted from the WW1 Tablet that commemorated those old boys who had lost their lives in service to their country in the Great War; William Bastow was killed in a flying accident related to action in Gallipoli on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 1915 – William had attended the Grammar School from 1904 to 1909 being schooled previously at West Street and St. Polycarps.

John Clarke had made reference to these matters previously in the Blunderbuss Magazine and his observations are recorded at [www.blunderbuss.org.uk/war-memorial.html](http://www.blunderbuss.org.uk/war-memorial.html), where a description of the memorial, the unveiling ceremony and annotations about the 'missing name' can be found; John's research discovered that William Bastow was commemorated on the Gostrey Meadow Memorial and it is surprising that his name had never been included on the Tablet at the School. The School War Memorial may be found in the entrance lobby to the old building. It records the names of 71 Old Boys who lost their lives in the Great War of 1914-1918.

The wording on the War Memorial is as follows:

**IN MEMORY OF THE OLD BOYS OF THE FARNHAM  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR  
THEIR COUNTRY IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918**

**'SED MILES SED PRO PATRIA'**

**'A man who died young far away but a soldier for his country'**

\*\*Action now taken by the OFA General Committee following John Clarke's research means that the correct number of 72 names is now recorded.

NB\*\*- Letters supplied by Arro Signs, Bournemouth and artisan work by Joanna Phillips (wife of Richard Phillips – the current OFA President).

It is believed that William Henry Bastow was the only Farnham Hero to have died serving at Gallipoli with the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS); he is buried at the Lancashire Landing Cemetery, Canakkale, Turkey Grave Reference K.53.

The records show that 2nd Lieutenant William Henry BASTOW, who was an army officer in the Royal Field Artillery, attached to the Royal Naval Air Service, attended Farnham Grammar School from 1904 – 1909. He was born in December 1894 in Hanwell, Middlesex, the son of Frank Rogers BASTOW and Annie Louise (nee CHANNON). The 1911 census for Farnham lists him living at 2 The Borough, Farnham with his parents and brothers and sisters. Father Frank is listed as a shopkeeper (Corn Dealer and Poultry Foods), and William Henry is a 16 year old "Assistant" presumed to be in the family business.

William did marry whilst on leave from the army in April 1915 – his bride was Maude Cowan, aged 18 years, born in 1897 her father Patrick H being of military descent stationed in Aldershot, her mother was Matilda Purdey and Maude bore William a son, William Frank Henry, on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 1915 just 26 days before William died at Gallipoli on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 1915 aged 21 years and 11 months – sadly William never met his son, who was married to Muriel Freeman from Tongham, Surrey where they resided until his death in 2000 - they were not blessed with children of their own.

## **Order of Proceedings:**

**2.15 pm - Meet and Greet Guests**

**2.30 pm - Welcome and Introduction**

**2.33 pm - Reading - 'In Flanders Fields' - written by the Canadian Military Doctor Major John McCrae just six months before Bastow perished at Gallipoli;**

**2.35 pm - Unveiling of WH BASTOW details on the WW1 Tablet, with an address by The Rev. Andrew Tuck;**

**2.40 pm - Photographs as required;**

**2.45 pm - Tea/Coffee and Reflection;**

**3.00 pm - Departures from the College.**

### **Attending**

**Richard Phillips - OFA President**

**Neil Brookes - Head of Campus Farnham Sixth Form College**

**Ioan Davies - Pastoral Head of Farnham Sixth Form College**

**John Clarke - Project Initiator**

**Mike Mehta - Blunderbuss Editor**

**Brian Williams - OFA Secretary**

**Ian Sargeant - FEF Chairman**

**Cyril Trust - OFA Historian**

**Pauline Trust**

**John Crotty - OFA General Committee Member**

**Rev. Andrew Tuck - Former Rector of Farnham**

**Pam Edgell**

**Roger Edgell - OFA Project Lead**