

Elstead Men Killed at the Battle of the Somme, July-November 1916

**G/216 Private Ernest Tickner, 2nd Battalion Queen's Royal West Surrey Regt
Son of William and Emily Tickner of 1, Elm Cottage, Elstead.
Killed 1st July 1916**

At 8am on 1st July, 2 Queens moved into the front line at Minden Post, occupying the trenches vacated by the 22nd Manchester Regiment.

At 9.50am, A & C Companies advanced on Danzig Alley, east of the vilage of Mametz, coming under heavy machine gun fire, which caused a good many casualties. They continued to advance on Bucket Trench and Bulgal Alley.

At 1.10pm B & D Companies advanced to the junction of Fritz Trench and Danzig Alley, capturing 2 machine guns, one officer and 50 other prisoners. They consolidated this position overnight.

Private Tickner was killed at some point in these actions. His body was never recovered and he is one of the 72,000 men commemorated at the Thiepval Memorial.



**G/2169 Private CG Ellis, 7th Battalion Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment
Son of Charles and Alice Ellis, Charleshill, Elstead.
Killed 13th July 1916**

The Regimental War Diary for 13th July is partly missing, beginning at approximately 7pm.

The Battalion attacked Trones Wood at 7pm and was met by very heavy rifle, machine gun and shell fire which checked their advance.

At 8.50pm the battalion was ordered to once again attack Trones Wood but that it was not to press the attack if it seemed unlikely to be a success. Clearly the attack was not successful as at 2.30am on 14th July the Battalion was withdrawn to Bedford Trench having suffered 229 casualties, of whom Private Ellis was one.

His body was never recovered and he is among the 72,000 men commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.

**G/1807 Private George Novell, 7th Battalion Queen's Royal West Surrey
Regt.
Son of Mr & Mrs George Novell of Abbot's Pond, Tilford.
Killed 1st July 1916**

The War Diary of 7Bn Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment is missing between 26th June 1916 and 13th July 1916.

As part of 55 Brigade of 18 (Eastern) Division, 7 Queens took part in the Battle of Albert, fighting between the villages of Mametz and Montauban.

Private Novell is buried at Dantzig Alley Cemetery.

