

Those We Lost

The 38 Elstead Soldiers who died in the Great War



EDWIN BURCHETT 1879 – 1st November 1918

NO LONGER JUST A NAME ON A WALL - WE REMEMBER
THEM ALL in 2018.

The World War 1 section of the Elstead War Memorial features the names of 38 men. Most were born and bred in the village or surrounding area. Some are included because of links they had through marriage or work. They died in France, Belgium and Egypt. More than half of the men were part of The Queen's Regiment, a forebear regiment of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment which is the Infantry Regiment of the South East.

Other Regiments are also represented, some as far away as New Zealand and Australia, and others scattered around the UK.

Six of our fallen fell on the second day of the Battle of Loos¹, probably without having fired a single shot.

One family lost all three of their boys, one of whom was the first Elstead man to fall, having arrived in France on August 14th, 1914 and dying exactly one month later at the Battle of Aisne on 14th September 1914. His brother was the last Elstead man to fall, dying just 10 days before the Armistice in 1918.

Two families lived next door to each other, and between them lost all five of the sons, while two families lost all four of their sons who were cousins.

On the eve of the First World War Elstead had just 1,036 residents (Surrey in the Great War.org), less than half the size it now is. Almost half of the men of eligible age in the village volunteered within the first few months, with others joining later. During the War 38 men gave their lives, the oldest being aged 43 and the youngest 18. The majority were in their 20s.

Part of the difficulty in recording the lives of those who served is that the length of time that has past has made it hard to locate first-hand information (from sons or daughters for example). Photographs have been hard to find too, but we hope that what we have discovered will help you to meet these men as real people.

And then to remember them.

Lance Corporal Walter Brown, who served with the Rifle Brigade, was a General Labourer and lived on Westbrook. He might have been born in 1894, which would have made him only 22 when he died in France on 22nd October 1916. Walter had 6 siblings, none of whom show up the 1911 census, and his father had died in 1906. This meant that when Walter died, his mother, Alice was left alone in Elstead.

Sergeant Arthur Burchett was one of three brothers who served, each in different regiments. From details in his Small Book, we know that Arthur was 5ft 9 ½ in. tall and had fair hair and light blue eyes.

He was born in 1890 and lived on Pot Common. Arthur was a Carter and he signed up with the Coldstream Guards in 1908. He was part of the British Expeditionary Force in France at the outbreak of war, winning the 1914 Star (also known as the Mons Star). The 1914 Star was instituted in 1917 for service ashore in France and Flanders between 5 August and 22 November 1914. Arthur was Killed in Action at the Battle of Aisne in France, on 14th September 1914. He was 24. Arthur landed in France on August 14, 1914. At the Aisne, exactly one month later, he became the first Elstead man to fall in the war.

Arthur and his brothers lived on Pot Common. Pot Common is on the left of the Thursley Road before you get to Woolfords Lane. The Burchetts lived next door to the Wisdom brothers, Albert and Walter. In two homes next door to each other, 5 young men were lost.

Private Colin Burchett was Arthur's brother. He was born in 1893 and also lived on Pot Common, working as an under-carter on a local farm. He joined the Middlesex Regiment and died on 11th December 1917 in Flanders, aged 24. Colin rests in the Lebuquiere Communal Cemetery. See note under Arthur Burchett for more details.

Private Edwin Burchett was brother to Arthur and Colin. He was born in 1879 and later lived in Battersea, working as a Mason's Labourer on the Railway. He enlisted with the Wiltshire Regiment and died in Egypt on 1st November 1918 at the age of 39 years old. While his brother, Arthur, was the first man from Elstead to fall, Edwin was the last Elstead man to fall, just 10 days before the Armistice. Edwin died in Egypt and is buried in the Haifa War Cemetery. See note under Arthur Burchett for more details.

William Clarke was an agricultural worker. He was born in 1882 and joined the Royal Army Service Corps (RASC). Records of his father Walter have been extremely hard to find, but we think that his father had married again after his first wife died. His step-mother, Alice, was 20 years younger than his father, and bore a step-son to Walter, Fredy (sic). There is no record of Fredy enlisting.

Private James Edwards lived at Bagmoor Cottage in Elstead. He enlisted in Guildford on 7th September 1914, joining The Queen's Regiment. He was one of the six Elstead men who was Killed in Action at the Battle of Loos*, all on the second day, and all probably having never fired a single shot in combat.

Life in the trenches was cold, damp and dangerous. The trenches would fill with water and



leather boots would become sodden, leading to 'Trench foot', a medical condition caused by prolonged exposure of the feet to damp, unsanitary, and cold conditions and which, at its worst, could lead to death. Trench life had other risks as the soldiers sought to keep themselves warm and dry and it was one of those dangers which led to Edmund's death. From letters sent to his wife, written by Capt. F. H. Montgomery, the deceased's commanding officer, we know that Edmund and his chum (Driver Scarrott) took a brazier of coal into their dug-out on account of the cold weather, and that both men were suffocated by the carbon monoxide fumes from the brazier. Driver Ellis, who was a storekeeper, had served some 21 years in the Army, and having been through the South African War and he had received the Queen's medal with three clasps and the King's medal with two clasps. He was 40 years of age, and prior being called up as a Reservist at the

outbreak hostilities he was a carter in the employ of Mr. Morris, of Royal Common Farm. He proceeded to the front with the first expeditionary force, and after six months' active service sustained a broken left arm in endeavouring to prevent a number of horses stampeding. Returning home on account of that injury in January 1915, he did not return to the front until August of 1915.

The photo shows troops of the 6th (Service) Battalion, Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) eating dinner in the trenches. Arras, March 1917.

Private Frank Ellis was born in 1888 and lived at Springfield Farm on the Green. He was a gardener, and enlisted at the start of war, on 7th September 1914, in Guildford, joining The Queen's Regiment. Frank was Killed in Action on 13th July 1916 in France, at the age of 24. Frank was one of the six Elstead men who fell at Loos, all on the second day, and all probably having never fired a single shot in combat.

Private George Charles Ellis was born on 3rd March 1892 to George and Alice Ellis. They lived on Charles Hill and George worked as a carrier's³ boy. He joined The Queen's Regiment and was Killed in Action in France on 25th September 1915, aged 24.

Private Reginald Harry James Ellis was born in 1894 and lived in Ham Lane. He was a music student and enlisted into the Hampshire Regiment 24th (TF (Territorial Force)) Battalion. He was Killed in Action in Flanders on 20th July 1918, aged 24.



Two of the Ellis boys

Private Ernest Harding was born in 1896 and joined The Queen's Regiment. He died in Flanders on 24th July 1918 when he was 22 years old.

Private Arthur Howard was born in 1885 and lived in Allendale in Elstead. Like a lot of Elstead men, he was employed by a local farm where he worked as farm labourer. At the outbreak of war he joined the Middlesex Regiment, dying in Flanders on 12th October 1917 at the age of 32.

Walter Holmes was born in 1892 and lived at Yew Tree Cottage on the Thursley Road. He enlisted into the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry as a Private. Walter died in Flanders on 8th May 1917, aged just 25.

Arthur Lintott (aka Ragless) was born in 1886, to Sarah Lintott, who later married again and became Ragless. Arthur was step-brother to Percy and George Ragless, who also fell. He lived on Hope Street and worked as a labourer until he joined the Dorset Regiment, 1st Battalion. He died in Flanders on 5th May 1918 aged 32.

John McGarva lived at Thundry Farm and was born in 1894. He worked as Chauffeur/Domestic and joined the 5th Dragoon Guards as a Private. John fell at Flanders on 8th May 1918, at the age of 24.

Frank H Moulton was an Assayers Clerk, born in 1885. He was a Lance-Corporal in the London Regiment and died in Flanders on 25th November 1917. He was 32.

Lewis Novell was born in 1895 to Alice and Lewis. He was a cousin to Albert and Walter Wisdom, who also fell. Lewis lived at The Square and was a Gardener/Domestic until he joined The Queen's Regiment. He fell in Flanders on 25th March 1915, aged 20, having reached the rank of Sergeant. Lewis rests at the Naves Communal Cemetery Extension.

Walter Novell was Lewis' brother, and also cousin to Albert and Walter Wisdom. Born in Elstead in 1888, when war broke out he was living in Barns Green (in the Horsham District of West Sussex) and is remembered the war memorial there, not in Elstead. Walter had joined the 285th Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery and served as a Corporal. He died in Arras on 29th September 1918 at the age of 20, and was awarded Victory and British War Medals. Walter, like his brother Lewis, is also buried in the Naves Communal Cemetery Extension.

Lewis Fred Parsons was born in 1890 to Henry Parsons, and they lived near the church in Elstead. He served in The Queen's 2nd Battalion as a Private and fell in Flanders on 30th October 1914 at just 20 years of age. His name is on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial and he rests in Ypres (Ieper) Arrondissement Ieper, West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium.

George Ragless was one of three brothers, all of whom fell in the Great War. He was born to Sarah Ragless (previously Lintott) in 1894. He had an older step-brother, Arthur, and a younger brother, Percy. George lived in Hope Street and worked as a Labourer, as did his brother Percy. He joined the Hants Regiment, 2nd battalion as a Private, and died in Flanders on 17th April 1918, aged 24.

Percy T Ragless was born in 1897 and was younger brother to George and step-brother to Arthur Lintott-Ragless. They lived on Hope Street and Percy, like his brother George, worked as a General Labourer and worked in the gardens of the residences of Mr. Pearce, Pot Common, and of Mr. Rideal. On 7th September 1914 Percy enlisted into The Queen's Regiment, 8th Battalion as a Private. He was 17. His mother had first received notification that her son was 'missing' but following this, she received a letter from Sgt. Harry Read, of the 2nd Battery Motor Machine Guns, who sent her a notebook found on her dead son, which contained his address.

Percy was only 18 at the time of his death, but was tall and had managed to pass as older in order to join the service. He was one of the six Elstead men Killed in Action at the Battle of Loos*. They all fell on the second day, 26th September 1915, and all probably having never fired a single shot in combat.

William Percy Rampton was born in December 1887 and in 1910 at the age of 23 he married Rose. Their daughter, Rose, was born in 1915. In the 1901 and 1911 censuses they were listed as living in Hampshire. However, he enlisted in Godalming, joining the Royal Artillery as a Private. William was Killed in Action on 6th June 1916 in Flanders, at the age of 19. He rests in the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, West Flanders in Belgium.

Alfred Frederick Reffold was born to Arthur and Fanny in 1893. As a family they lived in Church Cottages, with father (also called) Alfred, and his brother George. He was a Farm Labourer and enlisted into The Queen's Regiment, 2nd Battalion, as a Private. Alfred was Killed in Action at Flanders on 29th October 1914 at the age of 26. He is remembered on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial and is buried in the Ypres (Ieper) Arrondissement Ieper West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen) in Belgium. Alfred was posthumously awarded the 1914 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

L Clifford Reffold . Clifford was born in 1898 and lived at Britty (also Britt) Hill. Britt Hill is along Fulbrook Lane, on the way to Cutmill. He joined The Queen's Regiment as a Private and was killed in Flanders on 27th March 1918, at the age of 20.

George Edward Reffold was born 14th November 1894 to Alfred and Elizabeth Reffold. He lived at Allendale Cottages (opposite St James's School on the Thursley Road) and worked as a Milk Boy and possibly later as a Farm Labourer. He enlisted into the Royal Hants Regiment, 2nd Battalion as a Private. George died in Flanders on 2nd December 1917 at the age of 23. George rest in Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Departement du Nord, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France, in Plot: Panel 7

Henry Reffold was born in 1892 and on the 1911 Census, Henry was listed as being a Soldier (aged 19). He was part of The Queen's Regiment, 2nd Battalion, having enlisted in Guildford as a Private. He was Killed in Action in Flanders on 20th October 1914 at the age of 22. Like several Elstead men, Henry is remembered on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, and is buried in Ypres (Ieper) Arrondissement Ieper, West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen) which is in Belgium, Panel 11-13 and 14

Arthur Sheppard was born in 1885. He lived in Stanton Cottage with his wife Rose, who was from New South Wales in Australia, and daughter Elise. Arthur as a Joiner/Carpenter, and because of his link to Australia, enlisted with the AIF (Australian Imperial Force), Australian Infantry, 4th Battalion as a Private. At the age of 32 on 9th January 1917 Arthur died of his wounds in France. He rests in the Etretat Churchyard extension, France.

Fred Stovold was born in 1890 to William and Clara, and like several of our Elstead man, lived at Allendale Cottages. He was a Farm Hand and joined the Royal Scots Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion as a Private. Fred died on 24 October 1914 in France.

Ernest Edwin Tickner was born in 1897 to William and Emily. The family lived at Elm Cottage on the Green, and Ernest enlisted into The Queen's Regiment, 2nd Battalion in Guildford as a Private. On 1st July 1917 he was killed in Ypres, aged 20. Ernest is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial and he rests in Thiepval, Departement de la Somme, Picardie, France, Plot: Pier and Face 5 D and 6 D.

Ernest Tilson was born on 9th November 1892, and lived at The Square. He never married and had four brothers, Arthur, Alfred, William and John and a sister, Harriet. Ernest worked as a Farm Labourer and on joined the Essex Regiment. He died on 26th September 1915 at the age of 22, being one of the six Elstead men who fell at the Battle of Loos*, all on the second day, and all probably having never fired a single shot in combat. He is buried at the Loos Memorial, Loos-en-Gohelle, Departement du Pas-de-Calais, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France, Plot: Panel 85 to 87.



British Infantry battling through gas at the Battle of Loos* 25th Sept 1915

William Tilson, son of George and Jane Tilson, was born in 1886 and was brother to Arthur, Alfred, Ernest and John and also had a sister, Harriet. As an adult he lived on Westbrook Lane, working as a Gardener. William joined The Queen's 1st Battalion as a Private. He lost his life in Flanders on 18th December 1914 at the age of 28.

Wilfred Ernest Waud is mentioned on the Church memorial but not the memorial by the cemetery. Son of the Reverend Henry Ernest Crowley, Rector of Cambria, and educated at Weymouth College in Dorset, he was born in 1876. His connection to Elstead is through his older sister, Louisa Waud, who lived in Elstead from 1912 onwards. They lived at The Haven on the Thursley Road and Wilfred served in the Northumberland Fusiliers, B Coy, 9th Battalion*, having enlisted on the 11th January 1915 as a temporary Lieutenant. He was Killed in Action in France on 7th July 1916 at the age of 40. He rests in Thiepval Memorial, Departement de la Somme, Picardie, France.

*The index used the old (pre-1881) "Regiment of Foot" numbers to identify the regiment so 9/5 tells us he was with the 9th Battalion/5th Regiment of Foot, the 5th Regiment of Foot had become the Northumberland Fusiliers in 1881.

Charles William Webb was born in 1882 and lived in Myrtle Cottage, in Moors Lane. He enlisted into the New Zealand Field Artillery as a Gunner. He died in France on 1st November 1918 at the age of 36 and Charles rests in the Romeries Communal Cemetery Extension, Romeries, Departement du Nord, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France, Plot: I. G. 3

Albert West was born in 1894 and lived at Houndoun, Thursley, but is counted as an Elstead man. He was an apprentice Gamekeeper, serving as a Lance-Sergeant in The Queen's Regiment and dying in Flanders on 29th July 1916 at the age of 22.

Ernest James Wheeler, born in 1883 he married Elizabeth and they had four children, living at Rodsall, near Shackleford. He enlisted into The Queen's Regiment as a Private. Ernest was Killed in Action at Flanders on 20th September 1917, aged 24. Ernest is buried remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial and is buried at Zonnebeke, Arrondissement Ieper, West Flanders (West-Vlaanderen), Belgium.

Vincent White was born in 1888. His home was on The Green and he worked as a Gardener. Vincent enlisted in Guildford: 7th September, 1914 in The Queen's Regiment, 8th Battalion, as a Private. He was 26 years old at enlistment. On 26 September 1915, he was one of the six Elstead men who fell at the Battle of Loos*, all on the second day, and all probably having never fired a single shot in combat. His name is recorded on the Loos Memorial and he rests at Loos-en-Gohelle, Departement du Pas-de-Calais, Panel 13 to 15.

Albert Wisdom was brother to Walter Wisdom and lived next door to Arthur, Edwin and Colin Burchett on Pot Common which is on the Thursley Road near Woolfords lane. All fell in the Great War. The Wisdoms were cousins to Lewis and Walter Novell, who also fell. Albert's parents were Andrew and Charlotte and Albert worked as a Gardener. He was born in 1880, enlisting in Guildford on 7th September, 1914 at the age of 24 as a Private in The Queen's Regiment, 8th battalion. Albert was Killed in Action at the Battle of Loos* on 26th September 1915. He was one of the six Elstead men who fell at Loos, all on the second day, and all probably having never fired a single shot in combat. His name is remembered on the Loos memorial, Loos-en-Gohelle, Departement du Pas-de-Calais, Panel 13 to 15.

Walter Wisdom was born in 1896 and was brother to Albert. The Wisdoms lived next door to Arthur, Edwin and Colin Burchett on Pot Common, all of whom fell in the war. They were cousins to Lewis and Walter Novell, who also fell. Walter's parents were Andrew and Charlotte, and Walter himself worked as a Farm Labourer. He joined The Queen's Battalion, 7th Regiment as a Private. Walter died in Flanders on 3rd April 1916 at the age of 20.

Harold Young was born on 22nd September 1894 in Shalford to Allen Young (1869–1957) and Jane Kingston (1869-1946), both of whom, as you can see, survived their son by many years. Later they lived at 1 Cedar Mount, Hope Street where Harold's father was a broomsquire and had his own hand-made broomsquire business. A painted sign for his shop was found by Philip Tracy, who has lived at the address for many years, and it seems that Harold's father 'worked from home' making and repairing besom brooms. Harold enlisted into The Queen's Regiment as a Lance Corporal and was awarded the Victory Medal and 15 Star Medals. He died on 4th October 1917 at the age of 23 at Broodseinde in Flanders. Harold rests at Zonnebeke in Belgium.

¹ The Battle of Loos is notable for being the biggest British attack of 1915 and when the British used poison gas for the first time.

² A waggoner was entirely responsible for care of horses under his control and attended to watering, feeding and bedding. He harnessed horses and drives them in accordance with whatever work is to be undertaken, e.g. ploughing, reaping, harrowing, carting, etc. Otherwise he drove a horse-drawn heavy four-wheeled wagon, conveying produce or manufactured goods to a market, or railway station.

³ Carrier boys would literally carry things from place to place, such as documents or papers. Later they would be called Newspaper boys.

This booklet was written by Kim Spicer and any errors which have found their way in are hers. If you are able to correct any of the information printed here, please let her know.

A huge THANK YOU is owed to the many village people who have sponsored a 'Silent Soldier' and have taken possession of 'their' men and have been able to add to what we knew about them. Thanks is also due to other village people who have searched out information to add to what we knew. More will probably come to light and this can be added to our collection.

Donations given for this booklet will go to the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment Welfare and Benevolent Fund. The PWRR is the Infantry Regiment of the South East so recruits from our area. The PWRR WBF seeks to be available to any soldiers, and their families, who have ever served with them, whether still serving or not. The need continues and it's a privilege to be able to continue to support our Military who serve us so well.



PWRR - The Tigers