



Private Arthur Goodman



East Surrey Regiment

Died 15 September 1916

Age 32

Arthur Goodman was a private serving with the East Surrey Regiment and served in France and Flanders. He was killed in action in 1916 at the age of 32.

Born in Hayes, Middlesex he is listed as residing in Putney, at 4 Sadlers Buildings (now Comondale), Lower Common. Arthur was the son of George and Jane Goodman, who had already lost 13 of their 19 children by the 1911 Census. At that time, Arthur's occupation was listed as 'General Labourer, out of employment'.

It is likely that Arthur was killed on the first day of the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, a battle within the Franco-British Somme Offensive which took place in the summer and autumn of 1916. Launched on 15 September 1916 the battle went on for one week. Flers–Courcelette began with the objective of cutting a hole in the German line by using massed artillery and infantry attacks. This hole would then be exploited with the use of cavalry. It was the third and final general offensive mounted by the British Army during the Battle of the Somme. By its conclusion on 22 September, the strategic objective of a breakthrough had not been achieved; however tactical gains were made in the capture of the village of Courcelette, Martinpuich and Flers. In some places, the front lines were advanced by over 2,500 yards (2,300 m) by the Allied attacks.

On 15th September, the East Surrey Regiment helped overrun the 1st and 2nd line of enemy trenches, suffering a loss of almost all its officers and almost 300 'ordinary regimentals'.

Arthur is buried in Bulls Road Cemetery, Flers, Somme and has the simple engraving on his headstone 'KNOWN UNTO GOD'. Many other soldiers in the cemetery are unknown, so this engraving was the usual inscription, unless family members requested an alternative.

Service Number : 14869