

Albert Edward George Leggatt

My Great Uncle was Albert Edward George Leggatt. He was the son of Albert and Ellen Leggatt, in 1901 the family lived in The Square Midhurst. By 1911 the family lived at 1 Cussies Row. Albert volunteered for military service with the Territorial Army and joined the 1/5th (Cinque Ports) Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. On the 14th November 1916 Albert and some men from the Battalion were working in the ruins of Martinpuich Church yard when they were shelled and Albert and 11 others from the same Battalion were killed. They are all buried in Martinpuich British Cemetery.

In the West Sussex Gazette on the 30th November 1916 it was reported that a memorial service was held in Midhurst Parish Church on Sunday evening for the late Private A Leggatt, who was killed in France by a shell. Nearly half the congregation remained behind as the deceased was so well known in the neighbourhood. The service was conducted by the Rev F Tatchell, while Mr W Werry presided at the organ.

Albert's name is on the War Memorial in Midhurst and on the memorial panels in the Parish Church. His name also appears in the Royal Sussex Regiment Chapel in Chichester Cathedral and on the Ring of Remembrance Monument for peace in Lorrette France. Albert was 26 when he died. Sadly I do not have a photograph of Albert himself, I only have one of his grave.

- as told by Lin Stewart in October 2018

