

Albert George Martin

Private, 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. Enlisted and served twelve years with 1st Wilts before the war – three years with the colours, nine years in reserve. Called up and sent to France with B.E.F. Fought at Mons and the Aisne, October, 1914. Died in hospital, October 24th, 1914. Buried Eastern Cemetery, Boulogne. Mons Star, General Service and Victory Medals.



ALBERT MARTIN WAS born in Pill in Somerset in 1886. His father, Charles Martin, came from Corsham and was married to Eliza Leavey. In the 1891 census Charles was described as a groom/gardener/domestic servant, and was working in Crudwell. The couple had six children: Edith, William, Frederick, Annie, Albert and Ellen.

They had returned to Corsham by 1901 and were living on the High Street – Charles still practised his domestic service skills and Albert, now 14, was a lad labourer in the stone yard. He had moved on by 1911 and was in the service of Lord Greville at Hartham Park – he was a footman, one of 21 employed staff. Charles and Eliza were still living on Corsham High Street.

There is conflicting information about where Albert went next. He was definitely in London in 1913 and working for the London County Council when he married Mary Hammond in Hanover Square. *War Records of Corsham* implies that he had enlisted in the Army and was a Reservist for a long period before the war. He was, though, in the 1st Battalion

CORSHAM COMMEMORATES

of the Wiltshire Regiment and died in hospital in Boulogne on 23rd October 1914 from wounds received in action. He is buried in the Eastern Cemetery in Boulogne.

The *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* reported his death on 20th November 1914:

Another death has been recorded this week of a soldier at the front, news having been received of the death of Pte. A.G. Martin, of High Street. He was wounded and conveyed to a hospital at Boulogne, where he succumbed. Pte. Martin was a reservist in the employ of London County Council and his wife is now staying with his parents here.

The sad footnote to the report in the newspaper is that Albert's wife received the news of his death only hours after giving birth to their first child. She had a daughter, who was called Alberta.