

CHARLIE & *ALBERT FAGGETTER

Sapper 554114, 511 Field Coy, Royal Engineers

Died of wounds, 25th September 1917, Yser Canal Bank, Ypres

*Sapper 87299, 491 Field Coy, Royal Engineers

Died 30th August 1918, Achiet-le-Grand, Bapaume



The two youngest sons of John and Sarah Faggetter, Charles was born in 1887 and Albert in 1889. Their two elder brothers, John and Harry, were to survive the Great War. Father John senior, like most of the Faggetters, was in the building trade and had the good fortune to be in business when Lord Pirbright built many of his developments in Pirbright.

Parents and the 7 children lived at Elm House, the first house, and the first to be built in Gibbs Acre. All went to Pirbright School and Charlie stayed on an extra year until he was 15. In the 1901 census, at 49, their father John senior was described as a 'Retired Builder', which was probably due to ill-health and 23-year-old John junior had probably taken over the running of the business with the help of brother Harry and no doubt others of the extended Faggetter family.

By 1911 Charlie had followed the family tradition as a bricklayer and Bertie had become a carpenter and the pair were partners. There was plenty of building work about in Pirbright and it was about this time that elder brother John built the lych gate and rebuilt the church porch, probably helped by his brothers.

With their building background, both joined up in the Royal Engineers in 1915, Bertie shortly after being summoned for a cycling offence –

CYCLING IN BARRACK PATH. — Albert Faggetter, of Elm House, Pirbright, was summoned for having obstructed the footway in Barrack Path, on Feb. 15th. — A constable stated that defendant rode his bicycle along the path, and as he rang his bell several children who were coming from school had to get close to the fence to let him pass.—In reply to the Bench, witness stated that defendant passed about a yard and a half from the children.—The case was dismissed.

Charlie probably enlisted about the same time. He was certainly a soldier when he married in November that year. His bride was Lilian Sarah Gadd, a bricklayer's daughter from St Johns. The couple had no children. He was also the first to be killed, on September 25th 1917 –

SAPPER FAGGETTER KILLED

Mrs. Faggetter, wife of Sapper Faggetter, — Field Company, Royal Engineers, fourth son of Mr. John Faggetter, Elm House, Pirbright, has received news of the death of her husband. The officer commanding the section, writing to Mrs. Faggetter, says: "What we have gone through God only knows, and done splendidly with very few casualties. We had then orders to proceed or rest, and, when about to depart from our temporary headquarters, shells commenced to drop rapidly. I was, however, able to get my section out of danger by putting them inside concrete houses, and everything for the time being was quiet. Sapper Faggetter had only put his head outside the enclosure when a shell burst within a few feet of him, killing him instantaneously and wounding a few others. When the shelling ceased we started on our journey, taking his body with us to our own cemetery. He was buried the following day, September 27th. Sapper Faggetter, whom I had known since the formation of the company, has done his work in a thoroughly soldier-like manner, and I can assure you that we all miss him very much. I pray you will be comforted in the knowledge that he died doing his duty for his King, country and home. Accept from us all our sincere sympathy."

A memorial service will be held at the church at 4 o'clock to-morrow (Sunday) afternoon.

Almost a year later, on August 30th 1918, Bertie died -

PIRBRIGHT.

SECOND SON DIES IN ACTION.

Intimation has been received by Mr. and Mrs. J. Faggetter, of Pirbright, that their youngest son, Sapper Albert Faggetter, R.E., aged 28, died of wounds on the 30th ult. When returning from duty he was struck in the head by a piece of shell, and died on arrival at the dressing station. He was home on leave a month before his death. Previous to joining the Army he was in business with his brother as a builder. He was a good sportsman, and played cricket for the Pirbright Club. This is the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Faggetter to pay the supreme sacrifice, the other son being Sapper Charlie Faggetter, R.E., who was killed on September 25, 1917. Mr. and Mrs. Faggetter wish to thank all friends for their kind sympathy with them in their sad bereavement.