

## Alfred (Alf) Ernest Flux

**Born:** 1893 White Horse Inn, Hambrook. **Died** 1918

**Lived:** Walton Farm, Hambrook

**School:** Whiteshill School, Hambrook

**Parents:** Alfred William Flux

Emily Flux (sister to Albert Hill )

**Brothers:** Albert Thomas. 1889 - 1915

Francis Charles. 1895 - 1981

**Sisters:** Kate. 1891 – 1980

Mabel Emily. 1897 – 1966

**Occupation:** Bombadier Royal Field Artillery ( Corporal)

**Alfred** had served in 1916 in the Laventie area with involvement in the Battle of Fromelles on 19/20 July 1916 and stayed in this sector until his Division moved south to the Somme in mid-November 1916.

The war diary says they were billeted in caves under Bouzincourt Church on 28 November and the graffiti is dated 30 November. The Battery stayed at [Bouzincourt](#) until January 1917 and then they went back for rest.

February 1917 saw a move to Harbonnieres, south of the River Somme until May 1917. By June 1917 the battery was near Arras and then moved up to the Ypres sector where they were employed as stretcher bearers for the 38<sup>th</sup> (Welsh) Division in the Canal Bank sector on the first day of the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele). They stayed in the salient until September when they moved back down to the Arras front, holding the dreaded Chemical Works and Greenland Hill sectors for the next two and half months. They then moved down to the Somme area and in January 1918 were ensconced in the Holnon Wood sector west of St Quentin.

It was whilst holding these positions against the German Spring Offensive on 21 March 1918 that Alfred Flux was killed aged 25.



Here is **Alfred** with his school class at **Whiteshill School** Hambrook in around 1900 **Alfred** is the first boy on the left in the back row.



Recently discovered **Alfred Flux's** graffiti in the caves under Bouzincourt Church

#### From our Lads at the Front. - Frenchay Parish Magazine June 1916

"My dear Mother, I received your letter yesterday. I sent you one the beginning of last week, so I suppose they must have crossed. We have been up in the firing line for a week, and have just come back again to our little orchard. Tomorrow we take up another position in a different part of the line. We were attached to another battery for instructions while we were up the line, they were all London chaps, and we got on with them very well. I would rather be in action than down at the wagon line. We had our gun-pits in a gentleman's garden, with plenty of cherries, currants, and gooseberries to eat. The house must have been a lovely building at one time, but now it is smashed to bits. There was a village about 500 yards away all knocked to pieces, and the Church and graves were all upside down. The only thing that was left standing was a crucifix which stood about twenty feet in the air. There are a lot of graves in the village, mostly of Canadians. We had two in the same garden as our gun-pits were. I could tell you a lot more, but it won't do. We rode up the line in buses and came back in them. I fired about 40 rounds when we were in action. You cannot realize that there is a war on, for everybody takes things so easy. What do you think of **Lord Kitchener**? Hard lines not to be able to see the War through. We all think out here that it won't last much longer (hope not). I don't want any leave till it is all over. I am glad to hear you have got a man to help a bit. The women out here do all the work. There are hundreds of people in deep mourning about, and some of them can tell some nice tales of how they were treated. Well, I must close now, as I am going on picket. This is the last night in the orchard. It's raining just nice at present. Your loving son, Alf."

*A.F., 12th June, 1916.*

#### Links

<http://www.bathchronicle.co.uk/Message-scrawled-French-cave-wall-throws-light-soldier-s-war/story-11355427-detail/story.html#ixzz3hNvEJw7b>

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/1580948/FLUX,%20ALFRED%20ERNEST>

<http://www.jeremybanning.co.uk/2011/01/14/the-flux-family-from-hambrook-bristol>

[http://www.frenchaymuseumarchives.co.uk/arch\\_parish\\_mags.htm](http://www.frenchaymuseumarchives.co.uk/arch_parish_mags.htm)

<http://www.southglos.gov.uk/documents/War%20memorial%20sites.pdf>

<http://www.southglos.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/tourism-and-travel/museums-and-galleries/ww1-museums-and-galleries/>