

Alfred Boulter

Private, 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. Enlisted at Devizes, February, 1904. Sent to France with B.E.F. September 1914. Served in France and Belgium. Wounded at Ypres, October, 1914. Killed in action at Neuve Chapelle, March, 1916 [*sic*]. Buried at Sparkbroek, near Kemmel. Mons Star, General Service and Victory Medals.



ALFRED BOULTER WAS born in Corsham in 1888. His parents were George and Eliza Boulter, who were living on Bath Road in Corsham. George was a stone quarryman who came from Chippenham and Eliza (née Tiley) was originally from Colerne. Alfred was born into a big family; he was the seventh child of eleven – eight sons and three daughters. In 1891 the family were living in Priory Road (now Priory Street) with eldest brother Fred, aged 14, already working as a labourer and Herbert, aged 13, employed as an errand boy.

George died in 1899 aged 46 and Eliza, still with young children – the youngest daughter Kathleen was only one when her father died – continued to live in Priory Road. By 1901 brother Frank had enlisted as a soldier and Joseph and George were employed as quarrymen. Eliza was still living in Priory Road in 1911 with the youngest children, Henry, Walter and Kathleen.

Alfred had followed his eldest brother Frank and enlisted in the Army as a career in 1904. There is no record of his movements until 1911, when he was a Private in the 1st

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Wiltshire Regiment serving in South Africa – his brother Joseph was also there in the same Regiment. World War I Service and Burial records show that Alfred was wounded at Ypres in October 1914 and spent time at Netley Hospital before returning to the front. He was subsequently killed in action on 12th March 1915 (not 1916 as incorrectly recorded in *War Records of Corsham*). He is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial in Belgium.

It is known from *War Records of Corsham* that Alfred's brothers Henry, Herbert, Frank, Joseph and Walter all served in the war and survived. It may have been that the widowed Eliza had six sons away in the war at the same time.