



Woodford Remembers



Alfred Arbon

22 May 1886 – 3 November 1914

The first Woodford born casualty of the Great War was Alfred Arbon. He is not commemorated on either of the Woodford Memorials.

Alfred's parents George Arbon and Charlotte Allen were married on 25 November 1885, at Woodford Parish Church. The groom's father was also George and the bride's father was Samuel Allen. Prior to her marriage Charlotte had lived with her 3 siblings and parents in the High Street a few doors from the Engine pub (now the post office).

Following their marriage George and Charlotte lived in Newtown 1891 Census (which covered present day part of High Street, Newtown Street, Constable Walk, Pleasant Row, Long Row).

Their Alfred was born on 22 May 1886 and was enrolled in the village Infant School (now private house) on 2 June 1890. He remained there until 28 May 1894 when he moved to the "Mixed School" in Church Street (for older children) where he would have remained until his 13th Birthday.

The 1891 census also reveals that Alfred had a younger sister – Eleanor aged 10 weeks at the time of the spring census – but she sadly died in 4th quarter of 1891.

By 1901 the family comprising George (Head)- an Ironstone labourer, Charlotte (wife), Alfred (son)- Factory shoe riveter, Mary (aged 3 b Woodford) and Nellie 1 month old (b Broughton) were living in High Street Broughton.

Alfred joined the Northamptonshire Militia on 24 March 1903 as a reservist quoting his father as next of kin at High Street Broughton.

In the 1911 census Alfred is recorded with his mother (now a widow) living at Spital Square Kettering (where the Sainsbury Petrol Station is now) and together with Uppingham Terrace was the "Silk District" of Kettering. He is listed as Private Alfred Arbon and has two younger sisters Mary and Nellie.

At the outbreak of the War he enlisted with the 1st Battalion of the Northamptonshire Regiment (6986). The Battalion landed at LeHavre on 13th August 1914 and Alfred was listed as Killed in Action at the first Battle of Ypres on 3rd November 1914.

His mother was listed as next of kin in the Army records.

He is commemorated on the Menin Gate at Ypres and Broughton War Memorial.



The Menin Gate at Ypres (left) and part of the Northamptonshire Regiment panel (right) showing Alfred's name.

