

## FRASER, Alexander Lachlan

Service Number 435819

Rank Private

2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles, British Columbia Regiment

Born January 26, 1876, Liverpool, UK

Died September 24, 1916, Bouzincourt, France

Occupation Collier

Marital Status Single

When he enlisted in Calgary in October 1915, Alexander Lachlan Fraser gave his occupation as 'collier'. A 1914 BC Directory lists an Alexander Fraser as a farmer on Five Acres Farm, Nanaimo. The five acre lots were subdivided Harewood Mines land and intended for small-scale farming for local coal miners. However, he is listed on the Errington memorial plaque.

Alexander joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles and was sent to France. In early 1916, he received a gun shot wound to his right hand. He returned to service after a few weeks, only to be killed in action during the Battle of the Somme on September 24, 1916. He was killed near Bouzincourt, an area left obliterated by the war.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-28663931>

Thousands of soldiers left their names and graffiti in caves and tunnels beneath this area.

<https://www.dw.com/en/in-france-underground-mementos-of-world-war-i/a-51811497>

Alexander left a brother Frank and an aunt, Isabella in Liverpool, England. He is buried in the Bouzincourt Communal Cemetery Extension near Bethune, France.

Sources: Personnel Records of the First World War, Library and Archives Canada  
Books of Remembrance, Veterans Affairs Canada  
WWI Circumstances of Death Registers, Library and Archives Canada  
British Columbia City Directories / Vancouver Public Library

