

Philip Frothingham World War I Report

By Matthew Yost



Philip Bernard Frothingham, 1918. (1)

Philip Bernard Frothingham is an example of one of the determined, honorable young men who went into combat during World War I. Frothingham left his home life behind to serve for his country and gain personal experience from the war. Many men like Frothingham left Maine while they were still very young, either going because of the draft or voluntarily. However, prior to leaving for the war, Frothingham had already become an accomplished man. He applied himself academically during his years at Hebron Academy and was able to get into Dartmouth college, where he had planned to further himself intellectually before his abrupt departure to war. Upon going to war, Frothingham was assigned ensign where he joined the Northern Bombing Group in 1918 and helped with strategic bombing throughout the Belgian front. (2) After weeks of research over Frothingham life I have been able to help put his life story back together and understand what he went through based off of primary and secondary sources. Frothingham's determination to help fight in war even though he had his whole life for him at home made me recognize that his story as a regular Maine citizen joining World War I was important to share.

Philip Frothingham was born to parents Angeline Pennel and Thomas Frothingham in Portland, Maine on August 9th, 1894. Growing up he had eight siblings, three of whom died during their childhood. He was described as tall and skinny and he had brown hair. Growing up, Frothingham was academically motivated and attended Hebron Academy, a boarding school in Hebron, Maine. During this time he was classmates with Harold T. Andrews, the first man to die from Maine in World War I. Philip went to Hebron academy until 1915, where he then set out to Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. During this same time when Frothingham went to Dartmouth, the Lusitania was also sunk and America sparked interest in joining the war. While

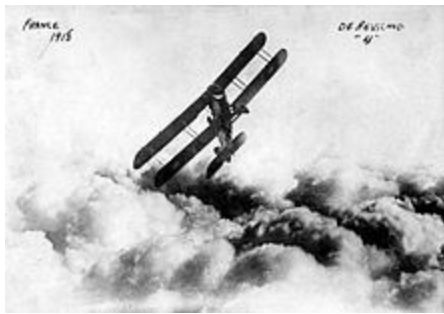
at Dartmouth, Frothingham joined the Kappa Kappa Kappa fraternity which was dedicated to democracy, loyalty to Dartmouth, and equality of opportunity. His time at college ended abruptly though, as he soon moved back to Portland and picked up a job as a clerk for Globe Laundry. Back at home, Frothingham, deciding that he would like to join World War I and fight in support of America, enrolled in the Massachusetts School for Naval Air Service. (3)



Dartmouth "Friends of France" class, 1917. (4)

Upon enrolling for the Naval Air Service academy in Massachusetts, Frothingham moved out to Boston to receive orders about what he would do for the war. He was appointed ensign at the Boston Navy Yard in February of 1918. (5) Frothingham was soon sent out to France where he would be doing his service as an aviator. Aviation was a new style of combat used during World War I, with many new styles of plane being utilized throughout the war. At the start of the war, planes were used for the purpose of photography because they were deemed too useless to use in

battle. They were made of wood and had fabric glued over them, making the planes very fragile and light. Their use shifted towards fighting as the war progressed when combat and bomber aircrafts were built to help fight in war. Machine guns were fixed onto the airplanes as part of the fighter planes, replacing the personal weapons that people were using when flying. Bombing planes also changed throughout the course of the war, with there no no longer having to be somebody to manually drop the bombs onto the target. (6)



Picture of Northern Bombing Group plane, 1918 (7)

By the time Frothingham had joined the airforce, planes had already had massive technical upgrades and were much better designed to fight in war. The new technology used in planes was seen with Frothingham as he and the Northern Bombing group went through the Belgian front during late 1918 attacking enemy supplies. As part of the Night Squadron 1, Frothingham was sent out to St.Inglevert in France. Together the Northern Bombing Group planned strategic bombing plans which were meant to take out German U-boats. During this time Frothingham also helped with bombing enemy bases, aerodromes, submarine bases, ammunition dumps and railroad junctions. Their actions helped to stall German efforts in the war by limiting their ammunition and mobility. (8) Despite good signs from the Northern Bombing Group, Frothingham's success in battle was sadly short lived. On September 14, 1918, Frothingham

perished in an airplane accident as his plane caught fire and he crashed in St. Inglevert, France.

Him along with Clyde Norton Palmer were reported to be dead in the newspapers following this event, confirming that it was an accident and not an in battle death. (9)



Visualization of a Northern Bombing Group plane, nd. (10)

After Frothingham's death he was brought back home where he was buried at Evergreen cemetery in Portland Maine. His funeral was held on September 21, 1918 in Portland, Maine.

Frothingham was awarded the Navy Cross for his service in the Northern Bombing Group, and there is currently a monument in Portland, Maine dedicated to him for his service in war. (11)

Philip Frothingham was a Maine citizen who seemed ordinary before the the war, but turned out to be an extraordinary hero. His work in the Northern Bombing Group helped to stall German efforts in the war and demonstrate that any person can accomplish something great and achieve honor.



Philip Bernard Frothingham Memorial, 2015. (12)

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