Alfred Frederick Mate was born in 1894 at Tarcutta, NSW. His parents- Alfred and Ada Catherine Beatrice Mate, had two sons, Alfred, Edgar in 1900, and a daughter, Ada, in 1902.

Alfred attended the Church of England Grammar School on Sydney's North Shore, and was 19 when he enrolled in the HAC Diploma course. Alfred attained the First year Certificate in Agriculture in 1914, and was a member of the Tennis Committee in 1915.

Alfred served for four years in the 41st Infantry, Citizen Military Forces, and was still serving when he enlisted in the AIF on 18 Aug 1915.

Alfred was a Gunner with the 14th Reinforcement 3rd Field Artillery Brigade, embarking from Sydney 15 January 1916 aboard RMS Osterley.

Alfred served in Egypt and the Western Front, becoming a Sapper.

Alfred died of disease on 4 September 1917, aged 23, and is buried in the Longuenesse (St. Omer) Souvenir Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France.