



## Horace Webb

3/10243 Corporal, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Norfolk Regiment

He was killed in action in France on 27<sup>th</sup> July 1916, aged 25.

Horace is commemorated at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.



Horace Webb

Cpl Horace Webb, was the son of William and Alvina Webb nee Burgess and we know more about him than we do of so many of the young men who died at war before they had really had a chance to make much impact on the world. We know he was an exceptional sportsman, showing his talents at an early age, both on the football field and at cricket.

...not out 3, extras 5, total 88.  
Harleston Boys v. Brockdish Boys.—Played at Harleston on Saturday, and resulted in a victory for the home team. Webb played a fine innings for his 50, his cutting for a boy of 16 being beautiful. Dade also played well, and Stannard and Drake, in the second innings, batted well for their runs. Breese and Smith worked very hard for their side. Scores: Brockdish Boys—S. H. Smith b E. Brett 36, J. Butcher c and b Webb 0, S. Breese c and b Drake 6. S. Norman run out 1, A. Smith c Dade b Webb 0, A. Chilvers c Algar b Drake 2, F. Kemp c Webb b E. Brett 0, B. Smith b Stannard 4, R. Horn b Stannard 4, F. Barkaway not out 2, H. Wilkinson st. Butcher b E. Brett 1, extras 4; total 60. Harleston Boys—J. W. Stone b S. H. Smith 0, E. Brett b Breese 4, F. Drake b Breese 1, P. Stannard c and b S. H. Smith 3, H. Webb c Norman b S. H. Smith 50, F. Dade b Breese 13, L. Brett b Breese 0, F. Algar b Breese 0, W. Pretty b Norman 3, H. Butcher b Norman 0, J. Lewis not out 3, extras 5; total 83.

In July 1907, when he scored 50 in a match against the Brockdish Boys his 'fine innings' demonstrated 'his cutting for a boy of 16 being beautiful'. In the same match he also caught and bowled out one batsman, caught out another and bowled out a third. Man of the match!

In the winter his prowess on the football field was also noteworthy, in 1913 both he and his brother Fred turned out for the Harleston team, Horace was described as being a 'fine back' at the end of the 1914 season when Harleston were topping the local division. Rather shamefully in 1911 when the Harleston Team, including Horace, were in the South Norfolk League Final, against Gaymer's, the losing team (Harleston) refused to attend the award ceremony and instead were given their medals in the changing rooms. They had been leading by a single goal at half time, but the Cider side scored twice in the second half and took the trophy. Sour Grapes Harleston!

#### THE LATE MR. W. WEBB.

The funeral of Harleston's oldest inhabitant, Mr. William Webb (aged 94), of London Road, Harleston, took place on Monday, at Redenhall Church conducted by the Rector (Canon B. M. Pickering). Mr. Webb, a native of the town, had resided there all his life and prior to his retirement many years ago carried on a bricklayer's business.

The family present were Mr. and Mrs. W. Webb, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Bryant, Mr. A. Webb, Mr. H. Webb, Mr. S. Webb, Mrs. Overton, Mrs. Whitlock, Miss L. Webb, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Parker, Mr. J. Webb, Mr. and Mrs. Gregory were unable to attend.

#### HARLESTON

##### THE LATE MRS. W. WEBB

A marriage partnership of well over 60 years has been broken by the death at the age of 85, at London Road, Harleston, of Mrs. Elvina Webb, wife of Mr. William Webb, a former well known Harleston tradesman, who is now in his 91st year. Mrs. Webb was a native of Weybread.

Last year the old couple celebrated their diamond wedding. There were ten children, one son being killed in the last war.

Although Horace actually enlisted in Norwich, it appears the town had taken this close-knit family to their hearts, claiming the Webbs for their own so, when William, at age 94 died in 1947, it was

claimed he was born and bred in the town. 7 years earlier, when Elvina died, mention was made of their diamond wedding anniversary and their 10 children, including their son, Horace, who was killed 'in the last war'. Another child had died many years earlier.

The reality of the family's origins was a little different and a whole lot more complicated, nothing to do with the 2 years discrepancy in Elvina's reported age.

Back in 1851, Jonathan Webb, a 40 years old married Sawyer from Thorrington in Suffolk was lodging in Walpole with Elizabeth Buck, the 25 years old unmarried mother of Emma Eliza, aged 2, and William aged 1.

Jonathan Webb had married 12 years previously, I believe to a Martha Winter although the couple never appear together in any censuses; a Martha Webb died in 1852, 4 years later, in 1856, Jonathan and Elizabeth married. All this took place in Blything; without accessing the original documents it would be reasonable to assume that Jonathan had married in haste, repented in leisure, hooked up with a young lady 15 years his junior and when free to marry, finally got around to doing so.

Alternatively, Jonathan's trade was itinerant, moving from one estate saw pit to another, cutting timber on site and when his wife died, he returned to the young lady with whom he had been lodging some years earlier and took on her and her children. I rather suspect the more likely tale was that Jonathan had quietly ditched his wife before she died as, by the 1861 census, three more lads (Uncle) Horace, Jonathan Jnr and Harry had been added to the household and Emma and William no longer bore their mother's name but had both become 'Webbs'. The family were still in Walpole

##### THE LATE MRS. E. WEBB

One of Harleston's oldest inhabitants, Mrs. Elvina Webb, wife of Mr. William Webb, of London Road, Harleston, was interred at the Parish Church on Thursday of last week at the age of 83 years.

The funeral service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. B. M. Pickering). The family mourners were: Messrs W. Webb, H. Webb, A. Webb and S. Webb (sons), Mrs. H. Overton, Mrs. T. Whittock and Miss L. Webb (daughters), Miss J. Webb, Mr. A. Bryant, sen., Mr. A. Bryant, jun., and Mrs. W. Webb.

The widower and Mr. and Mrs. Gregory were unable to attend.

in 1861, but father Jonathan was lodging away again, in Brockdish; one would hope in an innocent and professional manner only!

By 1871, the family were living out on the Bungay Road between the Gas Works and the Windmill. (Uncle) Horace was at home with his parents, presumably on leave having recently enlisted in the 27<sup>th</sup> (Inniskilling) Rgt of Foot in Colchester although he would have fairly rapidly wound up in Northern Ireland. He also spent 18 months in Malta, which is where he probably finished his career as he got paid an extra 35 days to cover the period between the end of his 7 years' service and his 'disembarkation'! Hardly a stellar career, he entered as a Private and left as a Private, had one good conduct medal but also had his name in the Regimental Defaulter's book ten times. Judging by the rest of the family, this young man with limited education, was probably a bit of a Barrack Room Lawyer! He was described, at age 26 as being no longer fit for service which is generally code for – we've had enough of him! Also in the household was William and Uncle Henry's older sister, Emma, illegitimate herself, who was following in the family tradition with her own illegitimate child, little Elizabeth aged 3 and Redenhall born, in the household along her great grandfather, Elizabeth's father. A four-generation household!

While the third son and oldest legitimate child, Jonathan jnr, had not only inherited his father's name but also his trade as sawyer, William, aged 21, had been sent off to his maternal uncle, John Buck, to learn the trade of bricklaying. No big deal except that Uncle John was actually up in a cotton town in Yorkshire, also in the house was John Buck's 9 years old grandson, not a scholar as might be expected but a 'throstle peicer' an entry level job described thus:- The youngest children in the textile factories were usually employed as scavengers and piecers. Piecers had to lean over the spinning-machine to repair the broken threads. One observer wrote: "The work of the children, in many instances, is reaching over to piece the threads that break; they have so many that they have to mind and they have only so much time to piece these threads because they have to reach while the wheel is coming out.' A world away from William's upbringing. This must have been a small east Anglian enclave as another Suffolk bricklayer and his wife were also lodging with John – I suspect John Buck had a big job on and rustled up his trusted home team to take on the work.

If this was the case, either the job was finished or William was homesick, as he was back in town by 1872. We know this as William, working for a Brockdish builder, was then one of two men who sustained cuts to the head, severe bruising and minor abrasions when involved in a 'cart-crash'. It is not stated who was 'driving a horse furiously down the hill, from Harleston towards Needham' but they failed to take a sharp corner at Wells Bridge on the road to Weybread 'the cart became upset and was smashed to pieces.' Oops.

Nineteen years later in 1891, Uncle Horace was extra-ordinarily lucky to escape what could easily have been a fatal accident, with nothing more than cuts and bruises. Webb had fallen from his horse and van and been run over by his own cart. Unusually he had fallen off the seat, normally such accidents occurred when a man fell off the shafts that he had been riding on, both dangerously and illegally. Bumpy road or a long snooze inducing a lunchtime session in the pub? The accident took place by Redenhall Church, he was taken home in a carriage and, most amazingly, in spite of his legs having been run over by the metal rimmed wooden wheels of his cart in high summer, when the roads would most likely be baked hard, all he received were cuts and bruises! Lucky fella!

Before we gallop onto the 1881 census, Jonathan Webb (commonly known as 'Jack') jnr was in court in late 1875 and then remanded in custody until early 1876, as one of the leaders of the Harleston Riots. Boiling down an extended day of mayhem, a 'blow-in', Mr Bunn, had a feud going with a popular local who then died rather suddenly of apoplexy. Locals decided to demonstrate their disapproval, effigies were made and burnt, tar barrels were set fire too, the blow-in's house was almost destroyed, a lot of drink was consumed, and a policeman was bashed on the head. The subsequent court case was a tangled mesh of loyalty over truth, and small-town squabbles being exposed. Whilst Jonathan Webb, was alibied by various locals who had a dislike of Mr Bunn, and

his brother William Webb ('our' Horace's father) gave alibi for one or two of the other accused, Jonathan still wound up being found guilty of being one of two locals who bashed a poor beleaguered and outnumbered P.C. on the head. Luckily Constable Tuddenham's headgear protected him and the constable beat a strategic retreat until re-enforcements arrived

Upwards of 5 to 600 people took part in this extraordinary outburst of civil disturbance and some indication of how high feelings ran is indicated by the prosecution requesting that no gentleman who either subscribed to the defence fund or, even more tellingly, 'lived in the immediate neighbourhood of Harleston' should be allowed to serve on the jury. The first condition was allowed, whilst an attempted proviso (presumably from the defence) that anyone who had subscribed to the prosecution also be barred, was not granted.

Summing up, the Chairman at the Quarter Sessions said

I don't think since I have sat here it has ever been so painful to me to pass sentence as in this case. To see seven grown men standing in the dock upon such a charge cannot but be painful to anyone'<sup>1</sup>

At six hours, the case was the longest the Chairman remembered although whether this a comment on the complexities and number of people involved in the case or the occasionally summary nature of Victorian justice is debatable!

Feelings, amongst at least some, in the town continued to run high; almost 5 months after the riots, the Bunn's house continued to be vandalised.

Much to the discredit of the town and its inhabitants. The house has been besmeared with paint (*yellow on one occasion*) and other things (*agricultural area – think we can take an educated guess*) five or six times. ... A few days ago the house was neatly whitewashed ... early on Tuesday night the house was again besmeared.

Whilst this could have been the work of one disgruntled individual, the article goes on to infer a wider sense of discontent.

The town has, during the time the persons convicted were, and still are undergoing their term of imprisonment, been constantly in a state of considerable excitement and confusion, caused it is believed by those who encouraged the 5<sup>th</sup> of November proceedings

The writer goes on to appeal to both civic pride and the pockets of traders and those who benefit from money generated in the town in the hope that residents would

endeavour to put a stop to the proceedings, and thus remove the slur which has been and still is cast on the town.

This he suggests occur, regardless of whichever way the majority of public opinion may tend, thus really putting in black and white the general prejudice against the Bunn's. The extent of the damage caused is evidenced in the following proceedings:-

---

<sup>1</sup> Diss Express 7 Jan 1876

It was ordered that the sum of 78/. Is. 2d. be levied on the Hundred of Earsham, under the provisions of the Act 7 and 8, Geo. IV., c. 31, in order to reimburse the county, the expenditure, for damage done to a property in Harleston. belonging to Mr. Bunn, by rioters on the 5<sup>th</sup> November last.<sup>2</sup>

Just a quick reminder, in case we have gone too far off in a tangent, 'our' Horace's father and his Uncle Jonathan were key players in an extraordinary outburst of apolitical civil disobedience which, whilst shocking the entire county, reaped a lot of local support.

Also charged for his involvement in this fracas was a Jacob Waller, the Wallers also living out on the Bungay Road. In fact Horace's father, William Webb, gave evidence that he had spent part of the evening with Jacob and that he had not seen him involved at any point in the fracas! Two of Jacob Waller's nephews, Herbert Waller Saunders, James Edward Saunders and one of his sons, William Alfred Waller were to die in the first world war whilst another son, Charles Richard Waller was lucky to escape with a wound in 1918.

In all honesty I think the Webbs were a family of slight mavericks. The father of William, Uncle Horace and Uncle Jonathan, abandoned his wife to hitch up with a woman slightly over half his age, although he stuck with this second wife, Elizabeth, for the rest of his life. William and his brother Jonathan were in the thick of rioting and in the summer following the riots William was in trouble for causing an obstruction in the middle of town and preventing people from attending the new church in town, one of several young men physically expressing the upset caused by the demolition of the old chapel which had stood by the market place since 1402. This may have been more a case of jumping on a band wagon or general resentment of the 'great and good' (the prime mover was the slightly bumptious self-made lord of the manor – William Hazard) changing the time honoured ways of the town than down to religious fervour as we have no evidence of the Webbs being involved in any church activities.

There was however a tendency to the military, not only had Uncle Horace enlisted, but William, and his brother Jonathan Webb were active members of the Norfolk Reserve Volunteers. William won 4s and a pair of trousers for his rifle shooting in 1877 and 5s, no trousers, in 1878. The Webbs continued to be involved for many years. I suspect the social life of the Reserve Volunteers may also have been a contributing factor, I recognise a lot of names in the muster lists who were frequent fliers at the local magistrate's court due to drunken misdemeanours. However, I would emphasize that whilst the Webbs, like most men of their class in that time, spent a fair amount of time in pubs, I have no records of them causing any disturbance whilst under the influence.

Perhaps marriage settled William down, he hitched up with Almina/Alvira/Elvira/Alvina Burgess from Starston in 1876, more or less simultaneously with the birth of their oldest son, Thomas William. Judging by their children's birthplaces, they started married life in Weybread, but had moved back into Harleston by 1879, appearing, in the 1881 census, on the London Road in one of the old cottages that stood roughly where the petrol station is now located; they were to stay there in the same house until at least 1911. The evidence in the Harleston riot case of 1875, clearly states that Jonathan at least was living up by the Four Horseshoes (the house to the left of the petrol station) by 1875.

In 1881, William's now widowed mother, Elizabeth, and Jonathan, (his rioting brother from 5 years earlier) were living next door to William & Elvira. This was a family that tended to work together

---

<sup>2</sup> Norfolk News 8 Apr 1876

and stick together, through thick and thin although I have no doubt patience got a little frayed from time to time.

A close-knit family, Jonathan, a 'Maltser's Engine Driver' was still living with his mother in 1891 but they had moved from London Road to the Bungay Road. He had married, in late 1883, to a Jane Prentice who died in early 1884, I think we can assume in childbirth, not unusual in this family for marriage and birth of child to be more or less simultaneous. He remarried, in 1894 to a London girl, Annie Mitchell from Millwall. I suspect Jonathan had taken his skills up to London, met a local girl, got married (in Woolwich) and returned home with his bride to Harleston. Their son, Frederick Jonathan Webb, cousin of Horace, was born a year later, he too was to die in World War One. Dear old ma, Elizabeth continued to live with Jonathan and his young family.

By 1891, William and Almina's oldest son, Thomas Wm., had left home but their daughter (Emma G in 1881 but Gertrude in 1891) and, Harry F were both still at home, joined by 3 younger children. I am afraid that Harry got into a spot of trouble in 1901 – poaching with Robert Wisken! He was training to be a colt breaker and living in with his master – next door but one to the rest of his family! By 1911, Harry had settled down and was married to a lady who, much like her mother in law, had brought a 4 years old illegitimate son into the marriage. He too was living on London Road only a hundred yards or so from the rest of the family.

Harry was not the only of the siblings to get into a spot of bother in 1901. Strangely, in the census of 1901, when another 3 children had been added to the family, we have another Harry in the mix, aged only 9 not the 20 one would expect! Gertrude was also at home in 1901, aged 22 one would expect her to have a trade, but none was given. Both mysteries are solved in the 1911 census, 'Harry', now 19 turns out to be Horace, the young man who went off to war, and unlike his uncle (and namesake) did not return. Also in the household was young Ruby Webb, a granddaughter aged 9 and born in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1901, who was most likely the reason why the heavily pregnant unmarried Gertrude Webb was at home 10 years previously with no job to her name. Little Ruby Tugela H Webb was only 5 years younger than her youngest Aunt; I am sure she would have blended in nicely.

Perhaps it was the imminent arrival of young Ruby that led to her Aunt Maud, aged 12 at the time, being boarded out a few doors down the road, another of her aunts was already in service in the town!

William Webb remained a bricklayer all his working life, indeed he got a mention in the local paper for building a large septic tank for estate cottages in Starston in 1903 – glamorous work!

Marriage may have settled William Webb from his brawling, cart racing, civil disobedience days but Uncle Horace seems to have had a bit of a resurgence as middle age loomed over him.

Uncle Horace, bricklayer's labourer had married in 1882, to Jane Anne Ward, from a far more well-established family of bricklayers who had been in the town for several generations, and distantly related to Henry Ward V.C. Their family did not stray far from the rest of the Webbs on the London Road, living in Chapel Yard, down the side of Denny's and opposite the Magpie. They had produced their own little Horace who we will call Cousin Horace, who was aged 4 in 1891. It could be that many years earlier, Jane Anne had returned from service with an addition to the family as, back in 1871 when Jane Anne was the only child living with her parents, young Rose E. aged 3 and born in Gravesend, was also in the household. I suspect this child died young as I find no further records of her and it is perhaps no co-incidence that, from the children she had with Horace, Jane Anne named her first daughter after herself and her second, Rose E, maybe after this little girl. I think we have already established this is not a family likely to harshly judge a young lady on such an event.

In 1898, due to a political difference, Uncle Horace thumped a Richard Girling. Despite his defence, that he had been insulted first, he still got a fairly swingeing fine. Two years later this 'Old Soldier' had the magistrates on his side. Uncle Horace Webb waded into the blacksmiths shop adjacent to his brother William's house on a mission to clobber one of the blacksmiths going under the nickname of Cronje (Piet Cronje – Boer general). This chap was alleged to have used 'foul language about the Queen and the British troops in South Africa, wishing that the troops might all be killed as they landed.' Since another ex-soldier backed up Webb, in spite of 'Cronje's' denials of having said any such things, the case against Webb was dismissed and William Riseborough, the assaulted party, was warned that seditious language could bring him before the Court of Assizes! This old soldier was more than capable of swinging the lead, Uncle Horace, painter, was back in court again in 1914 for working whilst claiming unemployment relief. Basically, he was digging an inspection for Johnstone's garage, he claimed it was just for beer money, his employer said he was slow but still got paid £1 and a couple of pints. Webb and his mate, who only got beer, got away with it as it was decided digging a hole did not count as building work and so did not come under the National Insurance Act.

All this brings us up to the eve of the war in which both Horace Webb and his cousin Frederick Jonathan were to die. To give an idea of how their lives may have panned out had they survived, I did a little research on Cousin Horace, cousin not only to 'our' Horace but also to Frederick Jonathan. In the 1911 census this young gentleman was described as a 'Cycle Engineer', living as they did in the Yard behind Denny's he would have been well placed to work for Johnston's a few Hundred yards away on the London Road, or alternatively at Feavours next to the London Rd chapel. Cousin Horace went on to become a full-blown Motor Engineer, giving evidence in a car crash case during the interwar period. This mechanical training, at a time when the internal combustion engine was still a recent innovation and there were a limited number of men trained in using and repairing

motors, led to Cousin Horace being enlisted into the Army Service Corps (Motor Transport). He would have been a valuable specialist in this war that engine driven transport, including, for the first time, planes and tanks, featured. Horace finally wound up out on the Redenhall Road, appearing in 1939 at the Factory Cottages when he seemed to have chimney sweeping as a side line to his main work as a motor and cycle repair man. This Horace enjoyed his music appearing several times in inter-war events, performing in choirs, social not church ones and was a keen fisherman. He was very active in the Local Retained Fire Brigade having a narrow escape in 1930 when a floor collapsed under them during one fire, tumbling from the first to the ground floor in a pile of blazing timber. This participation in the Fire Brigade was also listed in the '39 register.

**THE LATE MRS. H. WEBB**

After a long illness, the death has taken place of Mrs. Hilda Jane Webb, aged 56, wife of Mr. Horace Webb, of Redenhall Road, Harleston. For many years Mrs. Webb, a native of Harleston, had been a popular member of the local Women's Institute and Mothers' Union and her untimely death has evoked much sympathy for the family.

The funeral took place at the Parish Church on Saturday, conducted by the Rector (Canon Pickering). The family present were the widower, Mrs. H. Fairhead, Mr. Stanley Webb, Mr. Michael Webb, Mrs. A. Mitchell, Messrs. C. Fairhead and E. Fairhead, and Mrs. A. Keeley.

Others present included Miss Hobson, Mrs. L. W. Beales, Mrs. Bligh, Mrs. Cann, Mrs. Stock, Mrs. Willby, Mrs. Churchyard, Mrs. Murton.

Wreaths were sent from members of the others' Union, Women's Institute and friends and neighbours.

Sadly, Cousin Horace lost his wife, another popular and social lady, at the relatively young age of 56, whilst he himself died only a year later, aged 61. The eulogies clearly demonstrate the affection both were held in in the town and the active parts they played in the town life.

**Pay:**  
**Sidney Webb, bricklayer, Harleston, was brought up on papers received that morning by Superintendent Bentham. He attended on March 9th, according to his call, and was given a few days' leave, and had failed to appear again. Defendant said he had four brothers all serving, and his father could not carry on his business without him. It was wrong to say he had any leave. He went up when he was called, and he was passed, although he was unfit, and he was unfit now. Defendant's father said he had four sons out of five serving, and on March 11th Mr. Scarlett, the clerk to the local Tribunal, told him he would write to Captain Blofeld, and he (Mr. Scarlett) thought he would hear no more about it.—Mr. Yallop: We think it a very hard case, but all we can do is to order him to be handed over to the military. The usual order was made.**

*Diss Express*  
 12 May 1916

The one wild card in this rather splendid family was Sidney; Way back in 1916 he was one of a number of men called up to the magistrates' court in Harleston to explain why they should not be conscripted. The Magistrates were no push over and the majority of the men called into the court were promptly despatched off with a military escort, fined or sent off to jail. Mind you Sidney quite reasonably pointed out that he was the only one of his father's 5 sons who was not already serving, and his father required him in the business. He then got a bit fuddled as to whether he was fit to serve or not – his opinion differed to that of the medical board. I still am a little vague as whether Sidney had to serve along with his four other brothers or not.

**Brotherly Love !**

Sidney Webb, bricklayer, London Road, Harleston, was fined £2 for assaulting his brother, Harry F. Webb, of Broad Street, Harleston, on April 6th, at Harleston. Defendant did not appear.

Harry F. Webb told the Bench that he had called at the Crown Inn for a drink on the night in question. His brother, Sidney, was also there. The latter went out of the inn in front of witness. It was then dark and as complainant got outside his brother struck him a severe blow in the face, causing two eyes to be blacked, and knocking complainant down. He (complainant) had done nothing to his brother.

In reply to Insp. Alithorpe, who enquired if the parties were sober at the time, complainant said he had only had one pint of beer, but could not say as to his brother's condition as he was often "saturated."

**FUNERAL.**

The funeral took place at St. Mary's Church, Redenhall, on Thursday week, of Mr. Horace Webb, aged 61, of Redenhall Road, Harleston. A native of the town, Mr. Webb had taken an exceptionally keen interest in fire brigade work and served with the old Town Brigade and subsequently the N.F.S. for an unbroken period of 46 years. He commenced as a call-boy at the age of fifteen. He served in the Army during the 1914-18 war. For several years Mr. Webb carried on business in Harleston as a motor cycle engineer, and later, until his death, as a chimney sweep. Members of the N.F.S. lined the Church path as the coffin, draped with the Union Jack, was carried by deceased's N.F.S. colleagues. The standard of the Harleston branch of the British Legion, of which Mr. Webb was a member, was carried by Mr. W. Calver. Mr. Webb's wife pre-deceased him about 12 months ago.

The funeral service was conducted by the Rector (Canon B. M. Pickering). At the graveside the Legion Tribute was recited by Lt.-Col. L. Rushworth Ward (president of the Harleston branch).

The family present were Mr. and Mrs. S. Webb, Mr. and Mrs. C. Fairhead, and Mr. Michael Webb.

The N.F.S. were represented by Company Officer E. C. Harvey (Hos. Staff, Norwich), Section Leader J. W. Keeley, Leading Firemen P. B. Reeve, H. Gardner, A. H. Bush, and Firemen A. Coleman, S. E. Borrett, M. Riches, G. Morgan, A. Oakley, W. Mingay, F. G. Talbot, L. Leist, B. Colbourne, G. Strutt, and ex-Firemen E. V. Scarffe and R. Riches.

The Harleston British Legion were represented by Lt.-Col. Rushworth Ward, Mrs. Murton and Messrs. J. A. Perfitt and W. Calver. Messrs. R. Saunders and H. Patrick represented the Harleston Accident Club and Mr. J. O. E. Ashford the Wortwell and District Angling Club. Others present included Mrs. Stocks, and Mr. R. Riches.

Wreaths were sent from the N.F.S. and the Angling Club.

Although Horace did not return, Sidney went on to spend many years working for his brother Harry, him as a labourer, Harry as a Brick Layer following his father William's trade. In the 1939 registry when Sidney, aged 46 was still living at home with his parents, next to the Horseshoes on the London Rd, i.e on the Petrol Station site, Sidney claimed to be a



Master Bricklayer – a slight over statement. He was hauled off to court at the start of the year due to owing a largish debt to a Mr Puttock – what for was not mentioned but I think we can assume rent money may have become pub funds! A slightly younger sister, Lily, destined to remain unmarried was also still in the house, whilst visitor Jean Webb, then aged 17, did go on to marry. Unfortunately, in 1935 Harry wound up in court when he failed to pay his brothers Unemployment contribution. This was an admin glitch rather than determined fraud, another chap for Sidney worked part time for was, correctly, paying Sidney's National Health Insurance – complicated.

Unfortunately, Sidney's boozing tendencies led him into foolish and unpleasant behaviour, so much so that in 1947, Harry giving evidence in court having had both eyes blackened in an unprovoked attack by his brother. Harry had had a single pint of beer, Sidney (who failed to attend court) was described by Harry as being 'often saturated'. I suspect booze played a part in Sidney's petty theft in 1947 when he stole a lighter from a 16 years old lad who had been using it to light an oxyacetylene torch. Dear old Harry, a typically splendid Webb, had continued to care for this wayward chap and an unmarried sister, providing a home for the pair, on the London Road, which was sold with them as sitting tenants in 1944

In brief, a splendid family of strong characters, two of whom never returned from the fields of France, both of whom joined the Norfolk Regiment, meeting their deaths within two months of each other. Neither of the men have any known grave but, although their deaths are marked on separate memorials in France, they are re-united on the Harleston memorial, in the middle of the town that their family was such a lively part of.

**PROPERTY MARKET**  
At the Magpie Hotel, Harleston, on Wednesday, Messrs. G. Durrant and Sons, instructed by the personal representatives of Mr. Harry Webb, offered for sale a semi-detached cottage and garden in London Road, Harleston, in the occupation of Mr. S. Webb and Miss L. Webb. Purchaser: Mr. J. A. Perfitt, £210.