



## Alfred Valiant Watson

47766 Private, 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion Welsh Regiment (Carmarthen Pals)

He was killed in action on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1917, aged 26

Alfred was buried at the Perth Cemetery (China Wall) nr Ypres in Belgium

18 90 Nov. 16. 1890 born Oct 6 1890 No. 281 18 91.	Alfred Valiant	Edward Anna Marie	Watson	Wortwell	Black- mith	17 Southgate Kector
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Alfred Valiant Watson was, slightly confusingly, born in Wortwell on October 16<sup>th</sup> 1890, raised largely in Alburgh and but baptised in the neighbouring parish of Denton. Alfred's maternal grandfather was Samuel Valiant, the landlord of the Dove Inn, Wortwell and that is indeed the 6-month-old lad and his parents, Edward and Anna Marie Watson nee Valiant were living with widowed Samuel in 1891. There was another grandchild in the mix as well, Hagar M Valiant. Normally one would assume an unaccompanied grandchild to be illegitimate but no, 18 years old Hagar was the daughter of William and Mahala Valiant, the landlords of the Lion Inn, Thorpe Abbots and, having grown up in the trade, was doubtless also helping Grandpa Samuel out. Another of her sisters was doing the same role in the same year but with Uncle James in Bungay – this was a close knit and supportive family!

It was not that rare to find children bearing a surname as a middle name at this time, particularly amongst the rural working classes. This was generally for one of two reasons; a) the child was illegitimate and whilst bearing the mother's surname, its paternal parentage was being clearly indicated by its middle name, so much so that on occasions the legal surname quietly drifted away and the child proceeded through life under its father's name, b) the mother was particularly proud of the family which she came from and wanted her child's links to her family to be apparent to her community.

This latter example I believe to be the case with Alfred Valiant Watson, oldest son of Edward and Anna Maria Watson nee Valiant, one of four siblings, of whom only three made it to maturity.

Such a modest sized family was in marked contrast to Anne Maria Watson nee Valiant's own background – she had named her only daughter after her own mother, Myra but had herself been one of at least 13 children. I had assumed that with both Samuel Valiant and his son William being pub landlords, that this was a family long steeped in the tradition of hostelry, however this prove to be far from the case. Instead, this was more reflective of the phenomena of the hard working and ambitious tradesmen continuing with their own trade and, with the assistance of family, running a public house in parallel.

So, who were the Valiants with whom our hero's mother was so proud to claim allegiance?

**Lot 2.—A capital brick built and sash-fronted Dwelling-house, agreeably and advantageously situated in the Village, with Garden and Appurtenances, in the occupation of Mr. Samuel Valiant, Clock and Watch Maker.**

Samuel Valiant, Clock and Watchmaker, was originally from Langmere but had been trading in Brockdish between at least 1851 and

1879, (having removed from nearby Hoxne). In 1875, the Valiant family moved from their 'capital brick built home' in Brockdish to the King's Head (1875 to 1879) before moving to the Dove to continue to carry out watchmaking and jewellery from the pub.

**AMERICAN (WALTHAM) WATCHES.**

**M**ECANICAL MARVELS.—The AMERICAN (WALTHAM WATCH COMPANY) have successfully overcome a difficulty that has long been a stumbling-block to the inventive genius of the English watchmaker. The damage often inflicted upon the movement of the English Lever Watch, by the breaking of the chain or main-spring, frequently resulting in the splitting of jewels, destruction of pivots, and injury to the wheel teeth, is altogether averted by the introduction of the "PATENT REVERSIBLE CENTRE PINION," which is applied to all Waltham made Watches. It is constructed in two parts, the pinion head being made separate from the staff to which it is attached by a triple left-hand thread. When the power of the main-spring is on, the force is in the direction of the screw, while if the spring breaks, the reverse action causes the pinion-head to unscrew itself from the staff, and thus save the usual injuries inflicted upon the Watch, AND THE CONSEQUENT COST OF REPAIRS.

**AMERICAN (WALTHAM) WATCHES**

**WILL STAND ROUGHER USAGE THAN ANY OTHERS.**

**SIMPLE IN MECHANISM,**

**CORRECT IN PRINCIPLE,**

**SUBSTANTIAL IN CONSTRUCTION,**

**SELDOM OUT OF ORDER, and**

**EASILY AND INEXPENSIVELY REPAIRED.**

**AMERICAN (WALTHAM) WATCHES.**

**FOR SALE by S. VALIANT, Brockdish, Soole. (12573**

*Norfolk News  
21 Mar 1874*

*Waltham watch from the 1870's*



*Norwich Mercury  
4 Dec 1875*

Samuel obviously believed in advertising, taking out an advert in the regional press which covered several column inches.

These watches were much coveted at the time and very much part of a man's image; today we show off our motors, in those days, the watch and chain were the object of desire. At £5, such a watch would cost about 20% of an agricultural workers' annual wages and since, after bills were paid, there was very little disposable income left, this was a high-ticket item – too tempting for the apparently respectable Eliza Whiting in 1873!

**OBTAINING A GOLD WATCH UNDER FALSE PRETENCES.**

**Eliza Whiting, on bail, a very respectable-looking young person, pleaded guilty to obtaining under false pretences a gold watch, value 5l., the property of Samuel Valiant, with intent to cheat and defraud him of the same, at Brockdish, on the 21st November, 1873.—The sentence of the Court was three months' imprisonment.**

The length of time the family had been in the village of Brockdish is confirmed by a news article of 1868 detailing Samuel Valiant's evidence given at the inquest of a man resident in Brockdish who had drowned whilst fishing the river. During his evidence, Valiant declared he had known the victim some eighteen or nineteen years, tying in with his removal to the village in the late 1840's. Valiant's sons, unlike many in their rural peer group, were too busy achieving stuff to get into too much trouble – these boys did not appear in the courts for drunkenness and brawling! Going

down in order of birth we have John, William, Arthur, David, James, Samuel E plus of course all the girls.

*Norfolk News 7 Dec 1861*

**Brockdish. A one-mile race came off at Brockdish on Thursday last, the 23th ult., for £2 aside, between young Nobbs, of Norwich, and young Valiant, of Brockdish, Nobbs winning by five yards. There were between three and four hundred spectators. Valiant expresses his willingness to run Nobbs again, attributing his present want of success to his being out of condition.**

Way back in 1861, Samuel's third son, Arthur, (who went on to become a bricklayer like older brother William), was at the tender age of 10 already a renowned runner with a match being arranged between him and a chap called Nobbs from Norwich. Although on this occasion he did not win, this precocious athlete, Arthur, continued to excel in a wide range of sports although I am afraid his cricketing was a bit shaky. In an 1868 match for the Brockdish Juniors (he would have been still under 17) he was bowled out for a duck in his first innings and only achieved 3 runs before being run out in the second. Other members of the family went on to do rather better in this sport! In 1871, the then 20 years old Arthur did exceedingly well at the Brockdish Sports Day. He came a very close second in the long jump, won the 200 yd hurdles, a very close second in the high jump and won the steeple chase.

Brockdish sports day was rather more than just a village do as evidenced by a more detailed description from 1876; the band came from Harleston, about 2,000 spectators turned up, the gentry had their own enclosure and the pubs did a roaring trade, including the Valiant's own pub the Kings Head which they ran between 1875 and 1879. Arthur was once more very much on form, winning 7s 6d in the High Jump, 10s 6d in the Pole Vault, 20s in the Steeple Chase and £1

in the flat race – almost £3 at a time when an agricultural labourer might earn 12s a week.

A bit of an all-rounder, Arthur Valiant could also play the Violin, appearing in 1878 in the same village concert alongside his oldest brother, John.

*Diss Express*  
18 Feb 1881

SUCCESSFUL

## BROCKDISH.

**CONCERT.**—The Brockdish brass and string band which collapsed a few years since, has recently been re-organised under the conductorship of Mr. John Valiant, bandmaster of the Harleston Volunteer Corps, and on Thursday week a concert was given by its members, with the assistance of a few ladies and gentlemen. The proceeds will be applied to the band funds. The programme was as follows:—

*Diss Express*  
11 May 1888

I mentioned above that, in 1884, the band came from Harleston; nothing like a bit of nepotism and the turning out of the band was probably closely linked to the fact that Valiant's oldest son, John Valiant as mentioned above, was the Bandmaster of the 7th Norfolk Volunteers and also led the Brockdish Band! Father Samuel was on the Athletic Sports Committee so why not get the lad involved!

THE TWENTY-THIRD

## Annual Amateur Sports,

Under the A.A.A. and N.C.U. Laws, (by kind permission of G. H. DIPNALL, Esq.,) on a level track, at

# BROCKDISH HALL, WHIT-MONDAY, MAY 21.

Valuable Prizes will be offered for Competition.

LIST OF EVENTS.	COMMENCING AT TWO P.M.
1. 100 yds. Flat Race, Scratch - - - 2 prizes	6. Half-Mile Handicap - - - 3 prizes
2. 120 yds. Handicap - - - 2 "	7. 1 Mile Handicap - - - 3 "
3. 440 yds. Handicap - - - 2 "	8. 1 Mile Bicycle Handicap - - - 3 "
4. 120 yds. Hurdle Race, 10 flights, Handicap - - - 2 "	9. 3 Miles Bicycle Handicap - - - 3 "
5. Steeplechase 1 mile Handicap - - 2 "	10. Pole High Jump - - - 2 "
	11. 2 Miles Bicycle Scratch Race - - 3 "

Handicapper, W. T. DURRANT, Esq., L.A.C., N.C.U. Entries close May 12th.

SECOND PART, CONSISTING OF LOCAL EVENTS, AT 6.30 P.M.  
Entries to be made at the Committee's Marquee.

BY PERMISSION,

The FULL BAND of Harleston Battery, 1st Volunteer (Norfolk) Brigade,  
Eastern Division Royal Artillery,

Will attend and play a choice Selection of Music. Conductor: MR. J. VALIANT.

Swing Boats, Cocoa Nuts, Shooting Galleries, &c. Admission 6l. each (by Ticket only) Members and Children under 8, free. Vehicles 2s. each. Entrance at Lodge Gate only. Tickets at 4d. each may be obtained on or before 19th May.

We know John played the Cornet – possibly amongst other instruments and that he sung Bass. I suspect it was this chap who was the Valiant who turned out for Harleston in a quoits match against his home village of Brockdish in 1879! Harleston were trounced! In 1881, John did better when playing for the Harleston Bowls team against Diss Cherry Tree, the result of this close fought match being a one-point win by Harleston.





1886 – Harleston Town Band. John was a busy fellow – the band was his leisure activity, by day he had followed his father into the jewellery and watchmaking trade, working from premises in the Market Place, Tower House to be precise, I suspect the back section near the Chinese Takeaway.

*Valiant's Premises?*

Second brother, William Valiant, also seems to have been a bit of a sportsman, turning out for the Brockdish Cricket team during the 1860s, having his batting prowess particularly remarked upon in a report of match against his birth village of Hoxne in 1864, although by 1880 he seems to have left the sporting field for equally fiercely fought produce and horticulture shows, winning first prize for his Red Cabbage when representing Thorpe Abbots in the Brockdish and Thorpe Abbott Horticultural Show. It is at this point we can now close the circle back to Samuel Valiant; it was this second son, William, who ran the Lion at Thorpe Abbots, in between bricklaying, and whose daughter, Hagar was helping the old boy in 1891, along with our 6-month-old Harleston Hero and his parents!

The 1871 census reveals that the fourth son David had also started out in the bricklaying trade, (although by 1881 he was repairing watches clocks and jewellery in Yoxford) whilst James, unusually in this family that seemed, bizarrely split between the very unallied trades of bricklaying and watchmaking with pub landlord linking the two professions, was working as a foot man up at Brockdish place! By 1881, James was back to type and was running the Angel next to the famous Three Tuns in Bungay, by 1891 he too was providing employment to one of his nieces, 18 years old Laura (Florence?) Valiant

Youngest of the boys, Samuel E Valiant also wound up in the pub trade, in his case running the Hope Inn, in the middle of Harleston alongside continuing his watchmaking trade.

These certainly were steady lads, when they got themselves into a good situation, they stayed there for decades. William Valiant took over the Thorpe Red Lion in 1874, his widow Mahala nee Chilver, took over the tenancy in 1918, she retired in 1923 and one of their sons, William Jnr, allowing mum to retire at the age of 87 carried on until 1947, 73 years in the one family. Samuel Elkiniah ran the Hope for 25 years from 1900 to 1925, Samuel Snr was at the Dove from 1879 until his death at the age of 83 when his daughter and son in law, the Rouses, took over the license, staying there until 1915, when they in turn were succeeded by another of Samuel's daughters and her husband, the Watsons, who remained there until at least 1929, 50 years.

As a fairly irrelevant but, I thought, intriguing note of interest, in 1871, the year William Valiant married Mahala Chilver there were an extraordinary number of households of Chilvers in Thorpe Abbott. The census lists 12 adjacent households, all but one of which were headed by a 'Chilver' adding up to an impressive 49 individuals

**Re John Valiant, Watchmaker  
and Jeweller, Harleston, Norfolk,  
Deceased.**

**A**LL Persons having Claims or Demands upon the Estate of the above are requested to send in the same at once to me, the undersigned, the sole Executrix of the Will. And all Persons indebted to the above are requested to pay same to me forthwith.

(Signed) **SOPHIA VALIANT.**

Harleston, Norfolk,  
19th January, 1905.

John, the watchmaker and bandsman, died in January 1905, when his obituary revealed that, true to the family tradition, he had been actively involved with the Harleston Volunteers for about 30 years, indeed in 1898 he was presented with a silver goblet and purse of gold in appreciation of the 30 years that Band Sgt Instructor and given to the Volunteer Unit. He was certainly given a send-off in style with the hearse being drawn by mounted members of the 4<sup>th</sup> V.B.N.R and accompanied by the rest of the Volunteers.

This would have been a most impressive sight and doubtless drew many town inhabitants onto the streets to pay their respects and enjoy the spectacle of the funeral, a very similar funeral for a former Volunteer instructor is shown in the postcard above as it passed along the Redenhall road.



The watchmaker and pub landlord, Samuel Elkiniah's only daughter, Agnes married the next year.

**MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.**

**MARRIAGES.**

**BRADGATE-VALIANT**—August 11, at Redenhall Church, by the Rev. F. J. Bedell, Agnes Ethel, only daughter of S. E. Valiant, Harleston, to Alec Edward, eldest son of A. Bradgate, of 29, Crespigny Park, Denmark Hill, London.

# HARLESTON.

## DEATH OF MR. J. VALIANT.

Mr. John Valiant, jeweller, of the Market Place, who had been seriously ill for nearly two years from dropsy, etc., passed away on Thursday in last week. For many years he rendered valuable service to the Volunteer cause, of which he was an ardent supporter, his length of service extending to something like 30 years, during many of which he acted as Bandmaster to the A Company, 4th V.B.N.R. He was widely known and highly respected for his integrity of character, and always warmly welcomed to any gathering of his friends for his brightness of intellect and abounding humour. He was twice married, his second wife surviving him.

The funeral took place at Redenhall on Saturday afternoon. The mourners included the members of the local Volunteer force, with which the deceased was for many years connected as bandmaster to the A Company. The Harleston Town Band also attended to pay a last tribute of respect. The funeral cortege passed through the streets headed by the Town Band, under Bandmaster E. J. Burgess, playing the "Dead March." The coffin, which was on an open hearse, was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by the deceased's helmet and sword. The bearers were six members of the Volunteer force in uniform, viz., Colour Sergeant White, in charge, Bandmaster Luck, Sergeant Drake, Sergeant Coleman, and Privates Webb and Baldry, and Volunteers in uniform marched on each side of the horses. The chief mourners were Mrs Valiant,

Norfolk News Norfolk, England  
18 Aug 1906

Samuel's recently deceased brother John, the other family watchmaker in the town had no children so it was looking as if the long tradition of Valiants catering for the Jewellery requirements of Harleston was about to die out – but no! By 1905, Albert Edward Valiant born in Leiston was back in town, raising his family and running a Jewellery shop on the London Road, Albert Edward was in fact Samuel Elkiniah's son and so the tradition continued although Albert's obituary reveals he had come back to town to assist his uncle not to work with his father.!

Some of our more mature residents may recall the Valiant's store although by the 1950's it was Valiant & Son in name only, being then run by a Mr Cooper who had taken over the business in 1951 when Albert retired, shortly before celebrating his 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary with his wife who had been equally involved in town life during the interwar period.

Diss Express  
9 Dec 1955

**VALIANT & SON**  
WATCHMAKERS & JEWELLERS  
(PROP. H. P. COOPER)  
LONDON ROAD  
**HARLESTON**  
(Tel. Harleston 253)  
FOR A FINE SELECTION OF  
JEWELLERY PRESENTS  
AT PRE-BUDGET PRICES

A GOOD SELECTION OF ENGAGEMENT RINGS from 42/-, SILVER  
WHITE BRILLIANT ETERNITY RINGS 30/-, WEDDING RINGS  
(Present given with every one)

POCKET WATCHES FROM 25/- to GOLD at 115. LADIES WRIST  
WATCHES FROM 82/6 to 115. GENTS WRIST WATCHES from 39/6  
to 120. Good selection

CUCKOO CLOCKS from 25/- to 88 10s. SMITHS FOLDING ALARMS  
from £2 15s. SILVER PENCILS IN PRESENTATION CASE at  
27/6

LATEST RONSON FLO-LINE LIGHTERS (Ladies and Gents)  
WIDE SELECTION OF BROOCHES, NECKLETS, EAR-RINGS,  
CLOCKS AND OTHER USEFUL GIFTS  
A VISIT TO US WILL SOLVE YOUR  
PRESENT PROBLEM



**MR. A. E. VALIANT**  
(HARLESTON)

The death occurred at Thyme, Weybread Road, Harleston, on Thursday week of Mr. Albert E. Valiant, who until he retired two years ago had been in business at Harleston for fifty years as a watchmaker and jeweller. He was 75.

Mr. Valiant was born at Leiston, his parents being Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Valiant who later lived at Harleston. After completing his apprenticeship to the watchmaking trade, Mr. Valiant worked for a time at Croydon, and then as a shop manager at Leigh-on-Sea before going to Harleston to assist his uncle, the late Mr. John Valiant, in his well-known jewellery business at Tower House on Harleston Market Place. After the death of his uncle Mr. Valiant traded under the business name of Valiant and Son for most of the time at premises in London Road. During his long association with Harleston he took an outstanding interest in the musical and sporting life of the town. He was a founder member of the former Harleston Orchestra, and had also played in the Harleston Town and Red Cross Bands. In addition to being an accomplished cornet player, he was a capable pianist and organist. For a long period he was organist at St. Peter's Church, Needham. In his younger days he was a keen sportsman, having played for the Town Football and Cricket Clubs, and had had a long playing association with the Magpie Bowls Club.

During the 1914-18 war Mr. Valiant served with the Royal Flying Corps in the Middle East, and during the 1939-45 war with the Harleston Home Guard until a first world war leg injury compelled him to resign. He leaves a widow and a grown-up family.

*Norfolk Chronicle*  
14 Oct 1882

*Diss Express*  
27 Aug 1954

Albert's fulsome obituary reveals that he too was very much in the tradition of the Valiant men; although he spent some years away from Harleston he returned to become fully engaged in town life. Like his uncle, he too was involved in the town band and like others of the Valiants he was also a keen and able sportsman.

Unlike Cousin Alfred Valiant Watson, Albert was lucky to survive the war during which he served with the RFC in the Middle East bringing home a severe leg wound which, in the war that was to follow a quarter of a century later, was to curtail his activities in the Home Guards. In the interwar period he raised a family who were also busily involved in the social and sporting life of the town.

We have established why our hero's mother was so keen to advertise her son's links to the Valiants; pub landlords, musicians, sports men, skilled tradesmen, martial fellows and all-round good eggs! How about Alfred Valiant Watford's father's family?

Alfred's father, Edward Watson was the son of a Blacksmith from Tooting and that was the profession that Edward started off in. Indeed, Edward Watson was in charge of the Denton Blacksmith shop as early as 1882. Perhaps he quenched his thirst at the nearby Dove where he met his wife to be?

Also a WHEELWRIGHT and BLACKSMITH'S SHOP, situate on the road from Harleston to Norwich, and adjoining property of W. M. Hazard, Esq., and Mrs. Hayward, in the occupation of Edward Watson, at the yearly rent of £10. Freehold.

Having married Samuel Valiant's daughter, Anna Marie in 1889, after a brief stint in Anna Marie's father's pub, the Dove, Wortwell, (appearing there in 1891 with baby Alfred), the family shifted to Alburgh where, true to type, Edward applied what he had learnt in his father in law's pub and by 1896 he was doubling up as a Grocer and the landlord of the Tradesmen's Arms.

In 1898, the Watson's appeared in the local papers after the death of young Caroline Clench, a lady from Essex who had followed her soldier sweetheart from Aldershot. After staying at her beau's parents' house in Withersdale for about 6 weeks, this unhappy girl obtained work at the Tradesmen's Arms shortly before she committed suicide in the Waveney River. Alfred George

Sillett had refused to marry her before he was to be sent to India for 6 years. Since the pair had only been 'walking out' for about 10 months, one can understand his reluctance but what a tragic waste of a young life. If there is any relationship between professional soldier Alfred George Sillett, and the two Sillett lads who died in WW1 it is a distant one.

Edward Watson remained at the Tradesmen's Arms until 1915 and that is where the family appeared in 1911. A moderate sized family, with three of their four children surviving to adulthood, both the boys working for a 'Cycle Manufacturer' – Alfred as a clerk and younger brother Albert as an apprentice whilst 14 years old Myra was an assistant in the pub/shop business. Alfred Valiant Watson was not the only member of the family translating the mechanical aptitude expressed by others of his family in Watch and Clockmaking to the modern phenomena of Bicycling. Also in 1911, Alfred Watson's cousin (via Uncle William) Frank James Valiant, whilst still living at the Lion in Thorpe was claiming to be a Cycle and Motor Mechanic, his younger brother, Victor, was then a stable hand.

In fact, the only time I have found one of the Valiants in trouble involved young Victor and his

older brother John, another of our Hero's cousins. John hired a bike from Charles Johnston of Harleston, who had premises on the London Road not far from Cousin Albert Edward Valiant.

*Diss Express*  
25 Jul 1913

John Arthur Valiant rather naughtily flogged the bike to his brother Victor Valiant, who two years previously had been described as a stable hand. John then toddled off to the coast and played the innocent

**John Arthur Valiant, late of Harleston, was charged by Charles Johnston, of Harleston, cycle agent, with the larceny, as a bailee of a bicycle value £4, at Thorpe Abbots, between the 1st of May and the 7th of June.—Prosecutor gave evidence to the effect that early in May defendant hired the bicycle in question, no terms being specified. The bicycle had not been returned. He heard defendant had left the town, and on inquiry found the machine had been sold to defendant's brother.—Victor Valiant, brother of the defendant, a cycle agent at Thorpe Abbots, deposed to buying the bicycle for £2/5/- and afterwards exchanging it for another one with a man named Mayhew.—Police-constable Oldman stated that he took defendant into custody on the 17th inst. at Wells-next-the-Sea, where he was detained by the local police. In reply to the charge, defendant said, "It is true I had the bicycle, and perfectly true I sold it, but I fully intended paying Mr. Johnston for it." Defendant was committed for trial at the next Quarter Sessions, and allowed bail.**

when the police finally caught up with him!

Alfred's father, Edward Watson may not have been as sporting or musical as his in-laws, the Valiants but he was equally civil minded being a member of Harleston Freemasons, a member of Alburgh Parish council and being involved in various other charitable and community works.

*Diss Express*  
1 Jan 1937

#### THE LATE MR. E. WATSON.

The funeral took place at St. Mary's Church, Redenhall, on Boxing Day of Mr. Edward Watson, whose death occurred suddenly at his home at Homersfield at the age of 76 years. For many years Mr. Watson was a member of the Lodge "Faithful" Freemasons, Harleston and for over twenty years he was clerk to the Alburgh Parish Council and local charities and was also a local rate collector and census officer. He was even better known as licensee of the Alburgh Tradesmen's Arms and subsequently of the Wortwell Dove Inn.

The funeral service was conducted by the Rector of Redenhall-with-Harleston, the Rev. B. M. Pickering.



His widow, daughter of old Samuel Valiant, outlived her husband by 4 years; having removed to Kings Lynn to live with her surviving son, she too was returned to be buried at Redenhall alongside her husband.

Alfred V Watson, having shifted from flogging cycles to working for Gaymer's the Cider makers in Attleborough enlisted from that town on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 1916. That was the same year his parents, Edward and Ann Marie moved from the Tradesman's Arms, taking back the tenancy of the Dove from Ann Marie's sister and husband, where they remained until 1929 – definitely a family that stayed close to their roots!

Logically enough, bearing in mind his mechanical aptitude, Alfred started with the Royal Engineers later transferring to the 15<sup>th</sup> Welsh Regiment. Alfred perished in the devastation of the 1917 offensive and was initially one of a number of Harleston Heroes with no known grave. In 1924 as the CWGC continued with its onerous and often unpleasant task the body of an unknown soldier was found amongst a group of equally anonymous British men in a German Cemetery, many of whom were later identified. Completing their job scrupulously, the remnants of the man's uniform and a handkerchief marked with the initials A.V.W and Army number 3457 led to the remains being identified as those of Alfred Valiant Watson. Whilst Alfred may have been lost for 7 years he was 'Unforgotten' and that is the word his grieving, but doubtless comforted parents chose to have inscribed at the base of the headstone that marked his final resting place after his remains were reinterred at the Perth Cemetery, China Wall in 1925.

Born in Wortwell, baptised in Denton and largely raised in Alburgh, his parents chose to have their son commemorated at both Wortwell and Alburgh. When these memorials were erected, their son's remains were still unlocated and unidentified. His name also appears on the Attleborough war memorial, doubtless at the behest of his former employers, Gaymer's Cider. This man, from a family "Valiant by name and Valiant by nature" lies now amongst his colleagues, some known, some never to be identified. Whilst his links with Harleston are one step removed, his extended family were very much part of town life and it is in respect to both Alfred Valiant Watson, who never had the chance to fulfil his potential, and his cousin Albert Edward Valiant, former Airman who, wounded in service, did return to the town, that we acknowledge the contribution this family made to the local community.