

## ALFRED WRIGHT

**Born:** 1895; baptised 8<sup>th</sup> December 1895, Wood Norton<sup>1</sup>

**Enlisted:** 6<sup>th</sup> November 1915 - Private (2632), 3/1<sup>st</sup> Norfolk Yeomanry;  
24<sup>th</sup> January 1917 - Private (95831) - transferred to the 179<sup>th</sup> Company,  
Machine Gun Corps



**Died:** 8 December 1917 - died of wounds, Palestine<sup>2</sup>

**Age:** 22

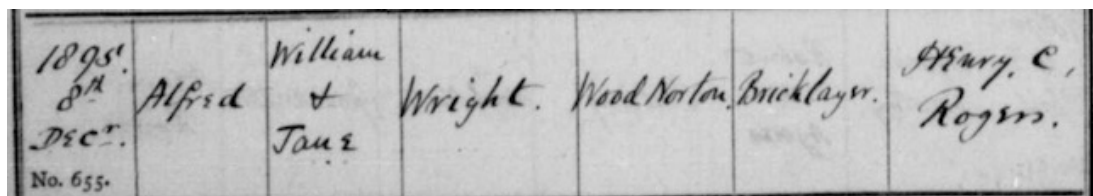
**Memorial:** Jerusalem War Cemetery (Plot U, grave 52)<sup>3</sup>

**Medals:** British War Medal; Victory Medal<sup>4</sup>



**Residence:** In 1911 the family lived near The Bell, Swanton Novers; in 1915 the family lived at Brush Cottage, Wood Norton<sup>5</sup>

Alfred Wright was born in 1895 and baptised on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 1895, in Wood Norton parish church, the son of William and Jane Wright (see Figure 1).



**Figure 1: From the Baptisms Register, Wood Norton, 1895**

<sup>1</sup> FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1895, Aylsham Vol 4b, p77* ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)); Baptism Register, Wood Norton, 1895 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)).

<sup>2</sup> CWGC commemoration ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)).

<sup>3</sup> CWGC commemoration ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)).

<sup>4</sup> Medal Roll Index Cards ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)).

<sup>5</sup> 1911 Census, Swanton Novers (Schedule 12) ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)); British Army WW1 Service Records 1914-1920 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)).

The British Army WW1 Service Records 1914-1920 survive for Alfred, who gave his age on enlistment as 20 years 2 months, height 5' 3¼", chest 35½", weight 9st 1lb, and his occupation as a 'horseman'. Alfred enlisted in Norwich, in the 3/1<sup>st</sup> Norfolk Yeomanry. He was posted overseas and left Davenport on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 1916, arriving in Salonica on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 1916. He was transferred from the Norfolk Yeomanry to the 179<sup>th</sup> Company, Machine Gun Corps on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 1917. On 20<sup>th</sup> June 1917 he left Salonica, arriving in Alexandria a few days later on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1917.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> December 1917 the *Casualty Form - Active Service*<sup>6</sup> records that Alfred had been wounded in action on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 1917 (a gunshot wound to the abdomen) and had died from his wounds (Alfred had been involved in the fighting to capture Jerusalem). He was 22 years old. The *Casualty Form* notes that he was buried on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 1917, near the Russian Monastery at *Ain Karim* (in south-west Jerusalem) (see Figure 2).

Army Form B. 103. TRAINING CENTRE, ARMY CYCLIST CORPS.  
**Casualty Form - Active Service.**

Regiment or Corps 24<sup>th</sup> Training Coy, Army Cyclist Corps Regimental Number 2630  
 Rank Plt Surname Wright Christian Name Alfred  
 Religion 6 of E Age on Enlistment 20 years 2 months.  
 Enlisted (a) 6.11.16 Terms of Service (a) 3rd Service reckons from (a) 6.11.16  
 Date of promotion to present rank \_\_\_\_\_ Date of appointment to lance rank \_\_\_\_\_  
 Extended ( ) Re-engaged ( ) Qualification (b) \_\_\_\_\_  
 or Corps Trade and Rate \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Officer i/c Records. \_\_\_\_\_

Report Date	From whom received	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 56, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 56, or other official documents
		Embarked ... <u>Davenport</u> <u>15-9-16</u> Disembarked... <u>Salonica</u> <u>30-9-16</u> <u>Posted to M.G.C.</u> <u>Chisleton</u> <u>24-1-17</u>			
<u>24-1-17</u>	<u>Authority</u> <u>174th</u> <u>1328/17347</u>	<u>Transferred to M.G.C. by with effect from</u>		<u>24-1-17</u>	<u>Training Centre, Army Cyclist Corps</u>
<u>15-12-17</u>	<u>O.C. 179</u>	<u>Wounded in Action</u>			
<u>10-12-17</u>	<u>2/4 L.F.A.</u>	<u>Died of Wounds</u>	<u>Field</u>	<u>8-12-17</u>	<u>W.C. (1810/50)</u>
		<u>Buried: 12.12.17</u>	<u>Off Chaplain</u>		
		<u>Grave Site: Palestine 380 400,000. 122 222</u>			
		<u>Near Russian Monastery AIN KARIM.</u>			

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.  
 (b) Signaller, Shoaling-smith, & Co.  
 (B0130) W 12615-2136 J. P. & Co., Ltd. Form B. 103. P.T.O.

Figure 2: Casualty Form – Active Service, for Alfred Wright

The Record of Soldier's Effects<sup>7</sup> lists two amounts paid in May 1918 to Alfred's father William, as sole legatee - £10 2s 11d and £3 16s 4d. The Register of Soldiers' Effects also notes that Alfred died of wounds while in the care of the 2/4<sup>th</sup> London Field Ambulance, Palestine. A War Gratuity of £9 was paid to William in November 1919. Alfred's military headstone (No. 2075) bears the inscription chosen by his parents: *Death Divides, But Memory Clings*.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>6</sup> British Army WW1 Service Records 1914-1920 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)).

<sup>7</sup> UK, Army of Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)).

<sup>8</sup> CWGC graves headstone and inscription schedules ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)).

At the outbreak of war Palestine was part of the Turkish Empire, but Allied forces did not enter Palestine until December 1916; the advance to Jerusalem took a further year. By the 21<sup>st</sup> November 1917, the Egyptian Expeditionary Force had gained a line about five kilometres west of Jerusalem, although the city was spared direct bombardment and attack. Very severe fighting followed, lasting until the evening of the 8<sup>th</sup> December, when the city's prepared defences were captured. Turkish forces left Jerusalem throughout that night and in the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> December 1917 the Turkish forces letter of surrender was handed to the Allies, and Jerusalem was occupied. The Jerusalem War Cemetery was begun after the occupation of the city, with 270 burials, but was later enlarged to take graves from the battlefields and smaller cemeteries in the neighbourhood.<sup>9</sup>

It appears that in April 1919 Alfred's father, William, applied to the British Ministry for Pensions for a Dependant's Pension, and there are surviving Pension Record cards for applications made to the Norfolk Yeomanry and to the Machine Gun Corps (see Figure 3). Unfortunately, the amount of pension granted (if awarded) to Alfred's father is not recorded.

DEPENDANT'S PENSION.		DFH 8463
		D. 1
Name	<i>Wright Alfred</i>	Regimental No. <i>95831</i>
Regiment or Ship	<i>M. Gun Corp</i>	Rank <i>Pte</i>
Documents received from Paymaster		Case No. <i>D.P. 319025</i>
Date and cause of death	<i>8. 12. 17. Died of Wounds</i>	
Dependant	<i>Mr William Wright</i>	
Address	<i>Brush Cottages. Wood Norton. East Dereham Norfolk</i>	
Relationship	<i>Father</i>	
Pension	a week from	
Date awarded	If refused {	
Papers	reason {	
<small>F12208 47401/2555 1e6m (12) 5/19 J.P. 199            19941 7472/2407 200m (12) 5/19</small>		

Figure 3: Dependant's Pension card in respect of Alfred Wright

Further research into Alfred's family reveals that his father, William Wright was baptised on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1864, in Wood Norton parish church, the son of Richard and Alice Wright.<sup>10</sup> William married Jane Buck in December 1891 in Wood Norton parish church.<sup>11</sup> In the 1911 census for Swanton Novers, William is recorded as aged 47 and a bricklayer working on the Estate; he died in 1954, aged 90, and is buried in Wood Norton. Jane was baptised on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 1865 in Stibbard parish church, the daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Buck.<sup>12</sup> She died in 1950, aged 84, and is buried in Wood Norton.

The 1911 census reveals that the family were living in Swanton Novers, near The Bell. They had eight children (three boys and five girls) who were all living at home when the census was taken:

<sup>9</sup> CWGC information for the Jerusalem War Cemetery ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)).

<sup>10</sup> Baptism Register, Wood Norton, 1864 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)).

<sup>11</sup> FreeBMD, Quarter to December 1891, Aylsham Vol.4b, p.269 ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)).

<sup>12</sup> Baptism Register, Stibbard, 1865 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)); FreeBMD Quarter to September 1865, Walsingham Vol.4b, p.267 ([freebmd.org.uk](http://freebmd.org.uk)).

Name	Born	Died
Alice	Baptised 30 <sup>th</sup> October 1892, Wood Norton. <sup>13</sup> In the 1911 census, Alice is aged 18 and a schoolteacher.	25 <sup>th</sup> February 1919 (Watford), aged 26. Alice is buried in Wood Norton. <sup>14</sup>
Edward	15 <sup>th</sup> July 1894, Wood Norton, and baptised 14 <sup>th</sup> October 1894, Stibbard. <sup>15</sup> In the 1911 census, he is aged 16, and a bricklayer's labourer.	28 <sup>th</sup> August 1979 (Wood Norton), aged 85. <sup>16</sup>
Alfred	1895, Wood Norton In the 1911 census, Alfred is aged 15, and a general labourer.	8 <sup>th</sup> December 1917, aged 22. Palestine.
Edith	Baptised 11 <sup>th</sup> July 1897, Wood Norton. <sup>17</sup> In the 1911 census, she is aged 14 and at school.	
Margaret	Baptised 21 <sup>st</sup> August 1898, Wood Norton. <sup>18</sup> In the 1911 census, she is aged 12 and at school.	
Elsie	Baptised 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 1900, Wood Norton. <sup>19</sup> In the 1911 census, she is aged 11 and at school.	
Mary	1902, Wood Norton. <sup>20</sup> In the 1911 census, she is aged 9.	
William	1904, Swanton Novers. <sup>21</sup> In the 1911 census, he is aged 7.	1989 (Swanton Novers), aged 85. <sup>22</sup>

The Wood Norton War Memorial includes Alfred's older brother, Edward, on the list of men who served in WW1 and survived.

<sup>13</sup> Baptism Register, Wood Norton, 1892 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)); Free BMD, Quarter to December 1892, Aylsham Vol.4b, p.70 ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)).

<sup>14</sup> Headstone, All Saints, Wood Norton; FreeBMD Quarter to March 1919, Watford, Vol.3a, p.1220 ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)); Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Burials, 1919 (p.131).

<sup>15</sup> Baptism Register, Stibbard, 1894 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)); FreeBMD, Quarter to September 1894, Aylsham Vol.4b, p79 ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)).

<sup>16</sup> England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1995 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)); Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Burials, 1979 (p.134).

<sup>17</sup> Baptism Register, Wood Norton, 1897 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)); FreeBMD Quarter to June 1897, Aylsham Vol.4b, p.80 ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)).

<sup>18</sup> Baptism Register, Wood Norton, 1898 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)); FreeBMD Quarter to September 1898, Aylsham Vol.4b, p.78 ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)).

<sup>19</sup> Baptism Register, Wood Norton, 1900 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)); FreeBMD Quarter to March 1900, Aylsham Vol.4b, p.88 ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)).

<sup>20</sup> FreeBMD, Quarter to March 1902, Aylsham Vol.44b, p.82 ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)).

<sup>21</sup> FreeBMD, Quarter to June 1904, Walsingham Vol.4b, p.257 ([www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)).

<sup>22</sup> England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)); Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Burials, 1990 (p.134).

A memorial to Alfred is included on the headstone for his elder sister Alice, who died on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 1919, aged 26 and is buried in Wood Norton churchyard. The inscription to Alfred reads: *Also Alfred, their second son, killed in action on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> 1917, buried at Enab in Palestine, aged 22 years.*

Beneath the dedication to Alfred is another inscription: *Also [in memory of] Arthur Robert Buck, uncle of the above, killed in action in France, May 25<sup>th</sup> 1918, aged 40 years.* Arthur was Jane Wright's younger brother. These inscriptions are followed by the words from Alfred's military headstone, *Death Divides but Memory Clings.*