Alfred Illa

Alfred Walter Illa was born on January 11th, 1891, to John (1861-1954) and Mary Illa (1866-1929) in Hastings, Minnesota. Alfred was the second oldest of nine children. His brothers George and Francis also served in WWI. At the age of 19, prior to the war, Alfred worked as a salesman in a gem store.

On June 5th, 1917, Alfred registered for the draft in Devon, Montana. He enlisted into the Army on July 25th, 1918 as a Privet Co D, 3rd Pioneer Infantry. Alfred trained in Montfaucon and Riercort in France and participated in the Muse-Argonne Offensive. He received a promotion to the rank of Corporal on November 3rd, 1918. In July of 1919, he sailed back to the United States on the U.S.S. Mexican and was discharged on July 30th, 1919.

Alfred married Evelyn Julia Welsh (1896-1962) on November 10th, 1919, in Stillwater, Minnesota. Together they had three children: Mary June Illa (1926-2017), James Alfred Illa (1930-1953), and Robert John Illa (1934-1939). Alfred, Evelyn, and their children all lived with Evelyn's parents in Stillwater, MN. Right after their marriage, Alfred worked as a streetcar operator, but by the 1930 U.S. Census, he was the owner of a Jewelry store. His listing in the 1930 Stillwater Directory stated that he was a Jeweler, Watchmaker, and Optometrist. Alfred signed up for the WWII draft in 1942 at the age of 51, but he died of a Coronary Thrombosis on December 2nd of 1942, in Stillwater. He is buried at Saint Michael's Cemetery in Bayport, Minnesota.

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Alfred Illa second from the right