

107: Alphonso Mellor

Basic Information [as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC]

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: Alphonso Mellor
 Rank: Sergeant
 Battalion / Regiment: 10th Bn. Cheshire Regiment
 Service Number: 49382 Date of Death: 03 October 1916 Age at Death: ?
 Buried / Commemorated at: Thiepval Memorial, Thiepval, Departement de la Somme, Picardie, France
 Additional information given by CWGC: None

Alphonso ('Alf') Mellor was the youngest, possibly ninth, child of merchant seaman Richard and Lydia Ann Mellor. His brother, Harry Mellor, was also killed in the war.

Richard Mellor married Lydia Ann Coslett at St Mary's Church, Edge Hill, Liverpool, in mid-1870. Initially they set up home together in West Derby as, in the 1871 census, they were recorded at 17 Hatfield Lane, West Derby. Richard, then 26, was a steward on a ship and Lydia was 22.

In the following ten years six children were born including Harry, recorded as being 7 months old in 1881. In 1881 the family was living at Grosvenor Place in Poulton-cum-Seacombe [see census extract in entry [108: Harry H. Mellor](#)] and Richard was recorded as a 'timekeeper at works'.

In 1891, before the birth of Alphonso, the family was still living in Seacombe and all their surviving children, other than Harry, were living at home:

Name	Age	Relationship	Occupation	Place of Birth
Richard Mellor	46	Head	Mariner	Liverpool
Lydia A.	42	Wife		Staffordshire
Thomas H.	19	Son	Butcher's Assistant	Liverpool
Richard H.	17	Son	Butcher's Assistant	Liverpool
Lucy	16	Daughter	Dressmaker's Assistant	Seacombe
Christine	14	Daughter	Mother's Help	Seacombe
William P.	11	Son	Scholar	Seacombe
Ann E.	4	Daughter		Seacombe
Sarah J.	2	Daughter		Seacombe
Charles Hagan	19	Labourer	Labourer, Oil Works	Seacombe

1891 census (extract) – 16, Tabor Street, Poulton-cum-Seacombe

Richard Mellor	46	mariner	born Liverpool
Lydia A.	42		born Staffordshire
Thomas H.	19	butcher's assistant	born Liverpool
Richard H.	17	butcher's assistant	born Liverpool
Lucy	16	dressmaker's assistant	born Seacombe
Christine	14	mother's help	born Seacombe
William P.	11		born Seacombe
Ann E.	4		born Seacombe
Sarah J.	2		born Seacombe
Charles Hagan	19	labourer, oil works	born Seacombe

In 1891 Harry Mellor, aged 10, born Seacombe, was recorded as an errand boy in the census for Seacombe Cottage Hospital where he may have been a patient.

Alphonso was, therefore, the younger brother of Harry Horatio Mellor, who served in WW1 before being discharged through 'sickness' in December 1916. Harry's war-related 'sickness' led to his death in March 1919 and, buried at Burton, he is considered by CWGC to be a casualty of the war [see [108: Harry H. Mellor](#)].

Thomas Henry and Richard Hasting Mellor had both been born in West Derby, Liverpool. Richard married Eleanor Fletcher in Birkenhead in July / September 1896 and Thomas married Marion Mullineux at a Civil Marriage in Birkenhead in April / June 1898.

Tabor Street, Wallasey, was demolished but lay to the north of the present-day entrance to the Kingsway Tunnel. Thomas Patrick Neely, who once lived at 13 Tabor Street, won the VC on 27 September 1918 whilst serving with the King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment). He died in action four days later.

By 1901 Alphonso had been born - his birth was registered in Birkenhead in late 1893 - and at the time of the census the family had moved a short distance north to Liscard:

Richard Mellor	Head	M	56	Mariner		do	do
Lydia Ann do	Wife	M	52	Blacksmith		Staff?	Lucy Mill
Lucy do	daur.	F	26	Dressmaker	worker	Sheshire	Seacombe
Christine do	do	F	24	Blacksmith		do	do
William do	Son	M	21	Blacksmith	worker	do	do
Jennie do	daur.	F	12	at School		do	do
Alphonso do	Son	M	7	do		do	do
Joseph Jones	Boarder	Wid	31	Plumber	worker	do	Birkenhead

1901 census (extract) – 101, King Street, Liscard, Wallasey

Richard Mellor	56	mariner, merchant sea.	born Liverpool
Lydia Ann	52		born Staffordshire
Lucy	26	dressmaker	born Seacombe
Christine	24		born Seacombe
William	21		born Seacombe
Jennie	12		born Seacombe
Alphonso	7		born Seacombe
Joseph Jones	31	boarder, widower, plumber	born Birkenhead

In 1901 Thomas Mellor (29), a butcher, was living at 2 Royston Avenue, Liscard, with Marion (28) and their two young daughters (Elfreda Olive, 1, and Ivy Marion, 8 months). Richard, 28, was a butcher's manager living at 47 St Paul's Road, Seacombe. His wife, Eleanor, was 27 and they had one daughter, Irene, aged 3.

Ann (Annie) Mellor, 14, was a housemaid to ship's store clerk Joseph Henderson at 5 Keswick Road, Wallasey, in 1901.

By the time of the 1911 census most of Richard's children had left home but Richard snr, Lydia (presumably, although she was with her married daughter, Sarah Jane in Birkenhead, on census night) and Alphonso had moved from Seacombe to Burton:

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
1 Richard Mellor	Head	66	Married						Seaman (retired)	550	541	0	Liverpool Lancashire	058
2 Alf Mellor	Son	19	Single						Joiner's Apprentice	210	210	8	Seacombe	1214
3 W ^m Macgregor	Boarder	33	Married	5	1	1			Dairyman	916		0	Seacombe	
4 Lucy Macgregor	do	36	"	8	1	1							"	
5 W ^m G Macgregor	"	7	Boy						School				"	

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

Total	Males	Females	Persons
4	1	5	

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in charge, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: *Richard Mellor*
 Postal Address: *Ivy Cottage, Burton, Cheshire*

1911 census (condensed) – Ivy Cottage, Burton

Richard Mellor	66	seaman (retired)	born Liverpool
Alf	19	joiner's apprentice	born Seacombe
William Macgregor	33	dairyman	born Seacombe
Lucy Macgregor	36		born Seacombe
William G Macgregor	7		born Seacombe

Thomas Henry Mellor, 38, was a butcher's assistant living at 54 Sandridge Road, New Brighton with wife Marion and four children.

Richard Hasting Mellor, 37, was described as a meat salesman in 1911; he was living with wife Eleanor and three children at 437 Price Street, Birkenhead.

Lucy Mellor, 28, had married William Andrew Macgregor (26, dairyman) at Burton Parish Church on 28 September 1903. William's father was James Gregor Macgregor, an engineer and Lucy's sister, Christine, was a witness.

Christine Mellor had married Robert John Ffoulkes of Bangor, a tailor's traveller, at Burton Parish Church on 26 December 1903. Christine was then 27, her father was recorded as a mariner, Robert was 26 and his father, also Robert, was recorded as a master tailor. In 1911 they were living with their daughter Annie (7, born Bangor) at 93 Paterson Street, Birkenhead.

William Pemberton Mellor married Emily Garner at St Paul's Church, Seacombe, in early 1907 and in 1911, aged 31, he was a blacksmith living in Ellesmere Port.

Annie Eliza Mellor had married Hugh Edward Jones, a cotton warehouseman (or porter) at a Civil Marriage on Wirral in late 1910 and in 1911 they were living at 47 Yelverton Road, Higher Tranmere. It is believed that in late 1911 they had a daughter, also Annie.

Sarah Jane (Jennie) Mellor (18), married joiner Frederick Charles Nicholls (28, a resident of Chelsea) at Burton Parish Church on 26 December 1906. In 1911 they were living at 15 Vittoria Street, Birkenhead with their 1-year old son, Frederick, who had been born in Burton (they had lost another child). Also in the household on census night was Sarah's mother, Lydia; she was recorded as being aged 62, married for 41 years with nine of her fifteen children still living.

Perhaps Richard's retirement from the sea had prompted their move to a more rural location. Unfortunately, Lydia died in 1916 aged 67 and she was buried at Burton on 28 March.

Alphonso Mellor attested at Chester on 17 September 1914 and was posted to the 2/5th (Earl of Chester's) Reserve Battalion Cheshire Regiment when this was created on 28 November. This was a 'second-line' unit, based in the UK, and Alphonso remained in Chester until 9 December; during this time in Chester in late 1914, he married Margaret Hannah Williams (born 5 January 1893) at St Michael's Church. Margaret was the daughter of Neston coal hewer Edward and Margaret Williams of Eldon Terrace and, in the 1911 census, she is recorded as being a housemaid in Banks Road, West Kirby.

When he attested Alphonso was recorded as being aged 20 yrs 10 months, 5ft 4¼in tall, having a 36-inch expanded chest and with good vision and good physical development. His Service Number was 2387.

On 9 December 1914 Alphonso was promoted to Acting Sergeant (he appears to have been promoted to Corporal earlier) and moved to Aberystwyth where he remained until 18 February 1915. On this date the 2/5th (Earl of Chester's) Reserve Battalion replaced the 1/5th Battalion in the Chester Brigade, Welsh Division, at Cambridge and he remained there until 21 April. On 22 April 1915 the Battalion transferred to the 204th Brigade, 68th Division, at Northampton and Alphonso was there until 17 June), on to Epping (until 6 July) before returning to Northampton (until 20 July) and finally to Bedford. Whilst at Bedford he spent 23 days in the Reception Hospital (3 May - 25 June 1916) suffering from a septic wound to the head. When discharged from hospital it was recommended that he be given 14 days sick leave.

On 28 August 1916 Alphonso was, as an Acting Sergeant, posted to the 10th Battalion Cheshire Regiment (7th Brigade in the 25th Division) and left for Rouen, France, from Southampton to join the regiment; from N^o. 4 Infantry Base Depot he joined the 10th Battalion on 16 September 1916 and was given the Service Number 49382. Just 17 days later, on Tuesday 3 October 1916 (the day was wet and misty), Alphonso was killed; he had served in the army for a total of 2 years 19 days and been in France for just 39 days.

Whilst there is no confirmation, it is almost certain that Alphonso Mellor was killed in the opening actions of the conflict known as Ancre Heights (1 October - 11 November 1916). This prolonged engagement, on The Somme, was the continuation of British attacks after The Battle of Thiepval Ridge (26 - 28 September) by the Reserve Army (renamed the Fifth Army on 29 October) from Courcellette near the Albert-Bapaume road, west to Thiepval on Bazentin Ridge. Although Thiepval Ridge had been captured the higher ground was still in German hands; British possession of the heights would deprive the German 1st Army of observation points towards Albert to the south-west and give the British observation north over the Ancre valley to the German positions

around Beaumont Hamel, Serre and Beaucourt. Unfortunately, there is no clear record of the events around the time that Alphonso Mellor was killed but it is known that, throughout this action bad weather caused continual hardship and delay and fresh German division, brought from quieter fronts, counter-attacked frequently. Indeed, British objectives were not secured until 11 November.

Details of the actions leading up to when Alf was killed, and in the days immediately afterwards, are given in the Regimental War Diary:

WAR DIARY
OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
1/15
vol 13

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEDAUVILLE	30/9/16		Orders received to relieve the Remnants of 3 Regiments in STUFF REDOUBT. Two officers per Coy & the Signalling & Bombing officers form an advance party in the morning to see as much of the line as possible. The Battalion marched up to the Rendezvous at X2a22 by Companies. The first company (B) arriving at about 5.30 PM & proceeding up the line after a short 'fallout'. B Company held the South face of STUFF REDOUBT 8 to 18 45.55.87.97 which was our front line. D Company held line from pts 45 - 91. A & C Companies were back in trenches near Batt. HQ at R32b5.9. There were practically no dugouts & no protection for the men against weather.	Map Ref: Operation trench Map attached.
STUFF REDOUBT BATT HQ at R32 b 5.9.	1/10/16		Orders were issued for an attack on the north face of STUFF REDOUBT to be carried out the next day. D Company moved up into the East half of the REDOUBT holding the line 45.55.87.97. (Ref operate trench map attached)	Preliminary orders issued at 5 PM 1/10/16
	2/10/16		Detailed orders issued & all preparations made for the attack. The weather however was very bad. Rain & bad visibility. Zero was fixed at 3.30 PM, but at about 3.20 PM a message was received postponing the operations on account of the weather. A short time later message was received that the Batt. was to be relieved by the 1 st Wilts the same afternoon. This relief was completed by about 9 PM the Batt. moving into support trenches. Batt HQ at R32 b 1.1 & the companies in trenches round about that point. In these trenches there were very few dugouts & the men had to cut themselves shelter into the sides of the trenches to get protection from weather.	BMX 15
SUPPORT TRENCHES	3/10/16		Time spent in cleaning up & resting. Weather still bad & trenches in very bad muddy condition. Orders received from Brigade to be ready to carry out the attack at 8 hours' notice.	BM 17

2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Form/C.2118/12.

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Map Ref:
Operation trench
Map attached

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BMX 15

A short time later message was received that the Batt. was to be relieved by the 1st Wilts the same afternoon. This relief was completed by about 9 pm the Batt. moving into support trenches. Batt HQ at R32b1.1 & the companies in trenches round about that point. In these trenches there were very few dugouts & the men had to cut themselves shelter into the sides of the trench to get protection from weather.

BM 17

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MAP REF SHEET 57DSE 1/20000

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)



Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SUPPORT TRENCHES BATT HQ R 226 1.1	4.10.16		Weather still very bad. We got some shelling but very little damage done.	
Do	5.10.16		Fresh orders received concerning the prospective attack. The objective of the battalion was increased & the attack to be carried out in conjunction with other operations. Weather still very bad.	Preliminary Batt. Operation orders issued at 4 pm. 5.10.16 J. 61 J. 62.
Do	6.10.16		The plan of attack & objectives again modified as seen on orders J61. The plan of the trenches to be attacked was flagged out in the valley close to HQs & the attack practiced in the afternoon. Orders Received to Relieve 1 st Wilts next day.	J. 61 J. 62.
Do	7.10.16		The attack was again practiced early in the morning as above. The weather had cleared slightly. Relief of 1 st Wilts carried out according to orders J62. HQs changed to R17c5.5. Detailed operation orders issued.	Batt. Operation order No 30 BM W 22 BM 51 BM 52.
STUFF REDOUBT HQs AT R 27 C 55	8.10.16		Weather again bad. Zero fixed at 12.50 PM. Operations again cancelled on account of weather. Orders received for Relief by 8 th LNL & also to be in readiness to carry out attack at 10 hrs notice. The relief started at about 3.30 PM & was complete at about 6 PM. Batt HQs in dugout in old German front line at X2c3.9. Companies in dugouts along same line. Orders received same night & issued verbally to O.C. Coys that attack is to take place next day & relief of 8 th LNL to be complete by 10.0 AM.	
RESERVE TRENCHES HQs at X 2 C 39	9.10.16		Relief completed by 10 am, companies moving up in following order D, B, C, A. Hot meal brought up by 8 th LNL & served to men at about 11 o'clock. Batt Battle HQs in dugout about 50 yds. S of point 45.	Operation Trench Map

2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/12.

SUPPORT TRENCHES 4.10.16 Weather still very bad. We got some shelling but very little damage done.

BATT HQ 5.10.16 Fresh orders received concerning the prospective attack. The objective of the battalion R26b 1.1 was increased & the attack to be carried out in conjunction with other operations. Weather still very bad.

Do. 6.10.16 The plan of attack & objectives again modified as seen on orders J61. The plan of the trenches to be attacked was flagged out in the valley close to HQs & the attack practiced in the afternoon. Orders received to relieve 1st Wilts next day.

Do. 7.10.16 The attack was again practiced early in the morning as above. The weather had cleared slightly. Relief of 1st Wilts carried out according to orders J62. HQs changed to R17c5.5. Detailed operation orders issued.

STUFF REDOUBT 8.10.16 Weather again bad. Zero fixed at 12.50 pm. Operations again cancelled on account of weather. Orders received for Relief by 8th LNL & also to be in readiness to carry out attack at 10 hours notice. The relief started at about 3.30 pm & was completed at about 6.0 pm. Batt. HQs in dugout in old German front line at X2c3.9. Companies in dugouts along same line.

Orders received same night & issued verbally to O.C. Coys that attack is to take place next day & relief of 8th LNL to be complete by 10.0 am.

RESERVE TRENCHES 9.10.16 Relief completed by 10 am, Companies moving up in following order D, B, C, A. HQs at X2c3.9 Hot meal brought up by 8th LNL & served to men at about 11 o'clock. Batt Battle HQs in dugout about 50 yds S of point 45.

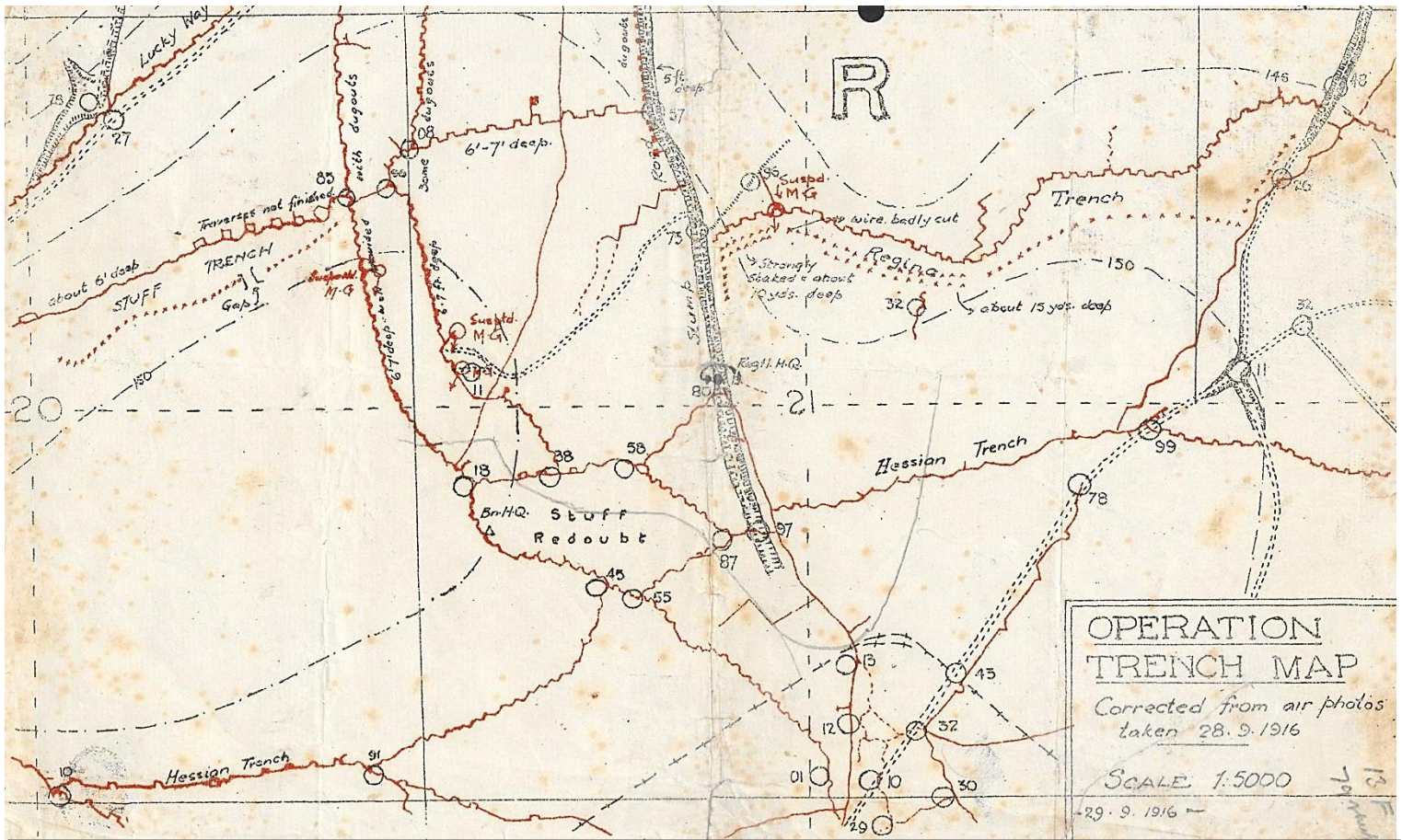
MAP REF SHEET 57DSE

1/20000

Preliminary Batt. Operation orders issued at 4 pm. 5.10.16 J.61 J.62

Batt. Operation order No. 30 BMW22 BM51 BM52

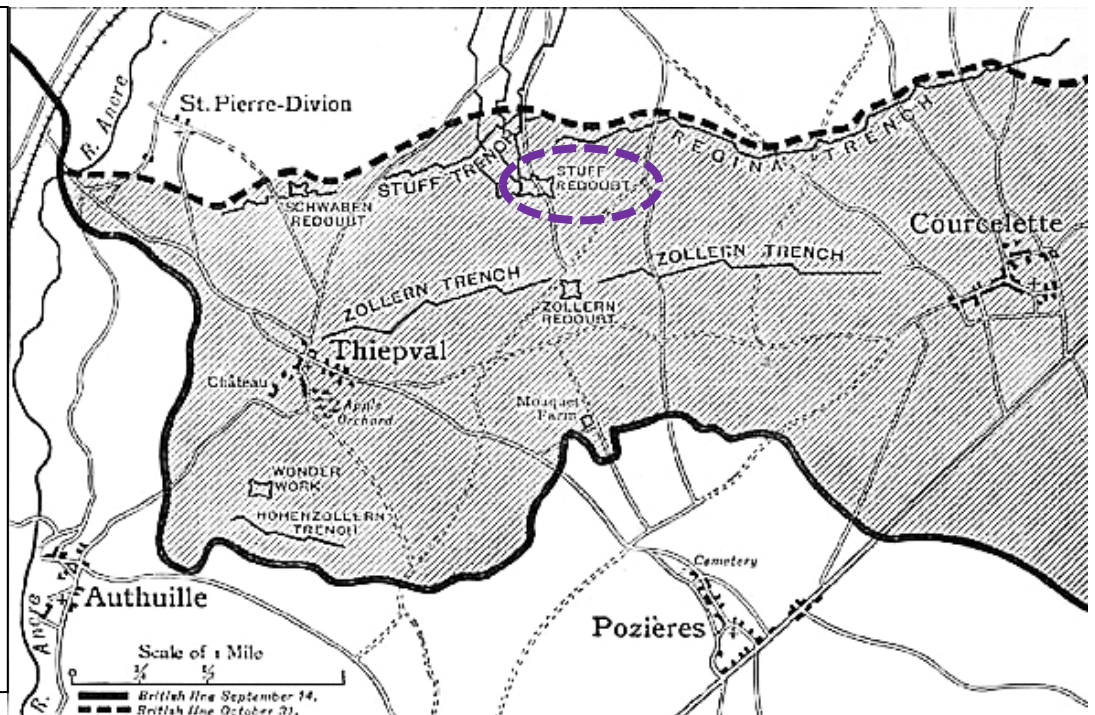
Operation Trench Map

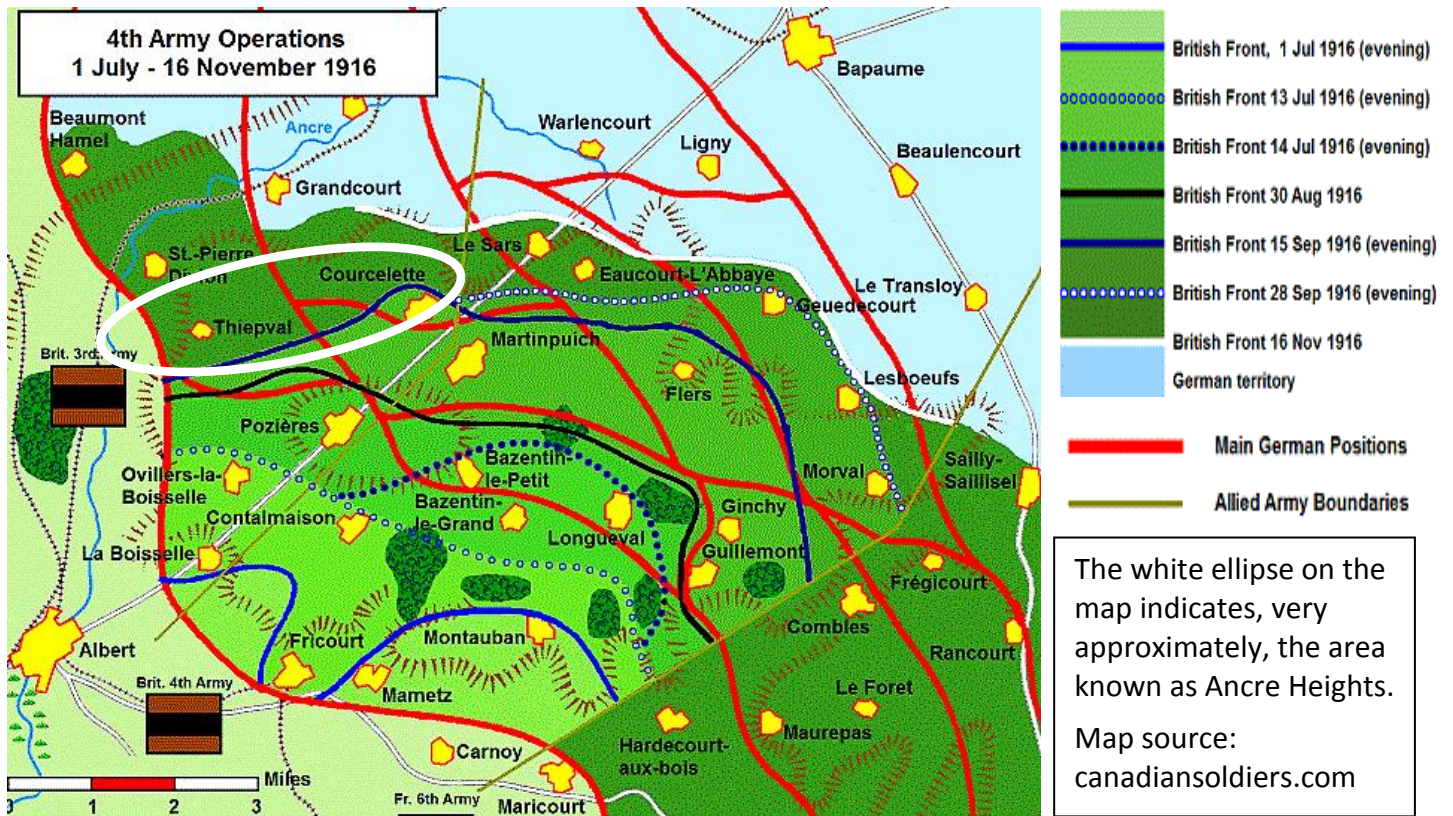


The map of German trenches on 28 September 1916, a few days before Alphonso Mellor was killed. The map shows the position of Stuff Redoubt and the strategically-important Regina Trench to the north-east.

Stuff Redoubt, due east of the Schwaben Redoubt, was just one of a group of formidable German field fortifications located in the area north of Thiepval, protecting the crest of the ridge. A limited British footing in the redoubt had been established on 27 September but it had subsequently proved impossible to drive out the remaining defenders. The 10th Cheshires (25th Division) stormed the northern face of the stronghold in the early afternoon of 9 October; first objectives were reached at 12.42 pm; the entire position was ultimately captured resulting in four German officers and 123 other ranks taken prisoner. On the afternoon of 14 October the 8th Loyal North Lancs (who had relieved the 10th Cheshires) secured a position called 'The Mounds' (to the north of Stuff Redoubt) which had good observation over Grandcourt. [Commonwealth War Graves Commission]

The Thiepval area of the Somme showing (hatched) the ground gained as the Allied front line moved northwards between 14 September and 31 October 1916. The location of Stuff Redoubt has been encircled in purple [Source: The Long, Long Trail <http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/order-of-battle-of-divisions/25th-division/>]





Aerial view of Regina Trench and the shell-cratered area surrounding it. [Source: <http://www.militaryhistoryonline.com/forums/ViewPost.aspx?ForumID=56&ID=30522>]

After his death Alphonso's widow, Margaret, was awarded a war pension of 16s 3d per week (from 12 May 1917) and her address was given as 130 Jubits Lane, Sutton Manor, St Helens. There was some uncertainty about Alphonso's rank when he died - important because this determined the level of war pension - and a number of letters were exchanged referring to this.

Alphonso and Margaret had no children and on 10 December 1919 Margaret, 28, married chauffeur Thomas Edgar Thorrington (born 28 January 1895 and more commonly spelled *Thorington*), 25, at Burton. Thomas's father was recorded

as farmer Albert Harry Thorrington and Thomas was recorded as living at Denhall. Sometime after the marriage Thomas and Margaret moved to Solihull in the West Midlands and it is believed that they had one daughter, Peggy, who was born in 1929.

No definite record of the death of Alphonso's father, Richard, has been found although it is possible that he died in West Derby, Liverpool, in late 1930 aged 85. Certainly, Richard lived in West Derby when he was first married in mid-1870.

Alf

MEMORANDUM.

From: *Regl. Paym. Shrewsbury*
 To: *O/c Record, Cheshire Rly.*
 Date: *Decr. 12 1916*

With reference to attached correspondence re 49382 A. Mellor who was killed in action 2/10/16. Will you please let me know the rank held by Mellor at the time of his death, + also give me a list of his promotions + reversions, as from date of enlistment (or mobilization). I am at present paying Mrs Mellor the rate of allowance for a sergeant wife, but her husband would now appear to have been a Corporal when he died.

Secretary
Cheshire Territorial Force
Chesh.

ORDERLY ROOM
 23 MAR. 1915
 BATTN. CHESHIRE REGT.

Lt. H. C. C
was promoted to rank of sergeant on 9/12/14.

Recd. B. R.
Capt & Adjutant.
for Lt Col
Colony

410829	2/308666	Mellor Arthur.	10 th Bttn 3-10-16	Shrewsbury - 6.18.1.	6 - 2	M.O. 3.17.	26.3.17	Wid: Margaret Hannah	6 - 2	
			Cheshire France	1/17	- 17	11	Shrewsbury	11.4.17	R.P. to Rech.	17. 11.
			O/Sgt. In							
			49382	Action						
					11 10 -			16-12-19	Wid Margaret	11 10 -
								24/3/20	Wid Margaret	11 10 -
									Therington	

WAR GRATUITY.
 Effects 11/10/20/19
 Transfer 5/11/20
 Regd Pay 7/20
 Serial no. 3024 S.V.

W 5070 out 16.6.19.

Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929

On this record Alf has been incorrectly recorded as Arthur.

In Summer 1919 the army paid outstanding credits – mainly remaining wages – to soldiers or, in the case of those who had died, their family or nominated representatives. At the same time a War Gratuity was often paid. In June 1919 Alf's widow, Margaret Hannah Mellor, received a payment of outstanding wages of £6 0s 2d from the army. At the same time the sum of 17s 11d was taken from the initial outstanding credit of £6 18s 1d and appears to have been credited to 'R.P. to Rech' – the meaning of this is unknown.

In March 1920 a War Gratuity of £11 10s was paid to Margaret; she had then remarried.

In total £17 10s 2d was paid to Margaret; this is equivalent to a *labour value* (wages) of around £3350 in 2016.

The War Gratuity was introduced in December 1918 as a payment to be made to those men who had served in WW1 for a period of 6 months or more home service or for any length of service if a man had served overseas. The rules governing the gratuity were implemented under Army Order 17 of 1919 but the amount paid was related to the length of war service.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
MELLOR.	Ches. R.	A/Sjt	2387.
Alphonso.	— do —		49382.
Medal.	Holl.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	J/2/101. B/15.	4866.	
BRITISH	— do —	— do —	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1380

British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920

Sergoant Alf. Mellor.

FINE YOUNG BURTON MAN KILLED.

The death in action is officially reported of Sergeant Alf. Mellor, of the Cheshires, son of Mr. R. Mellor and the late Mrs. Mellor, of Burton. He was very well known and much esteemed both in Burton and Neston, where he served his apprenticeship as joiner with Mr. J. Evans, and was also a member of the Neston Concord Society. He was keenly interested in the Boy Scout movement, and for a considerable time was master of the Burton Boy Scouts. On the outbreak of war he immediately offered his services to his country, and enlisted in the Cheshires. He was rapidly promoted to the rank of sergeant, and was very popular both with officers and men, and the news of his death at the early age of 23 has caused widespread regret. Much sympathy is extended to his young widow in her bereavement. A special memorial service was held at Burton Parish Church on Sunday afternoon, conducted by the vicar, the Rev. P. F. A. Morrell. Special music was rendered by the choir, Mr. H. Steen presiding at the organ. A large congregation, including the bereaved relatives, assembled to pay a last tribute of respect to the memory of the heroic young soldier.

Sergeant Alf. Mellor

Fine Young Burton Man Killed

The death in action is officially reported of Sergeant Alf. Mellor, of the Cheshires, son of Mr R. Mellor and the late Mrs Mellor, of Burton. He was very well known and much esteemed both in Burton and Neston, where he served his apprenticeship as joiner with Mr J. Evans and was also a member of the Neston Concord Society. He was keenly interested in the Boy Scout movement, and for a considerable time was master of the Burton Boy Scouts. On the outbreak of war he immediately offered his services to his country, and enlisted in the Cheshires. He was rapidly promoted to the rank of sergeant, and was very popular both with officers and men, and the news of his death at the early age of 23 has caused widespread regret. Much sympathy is extended to his young widow in her bereavement. A special memorial service was held at Burton Parish Church on Sunday afternoon, conducted by the vicar, the Rev. P. F. A. Morrell. Special music was rendered by the choir, Mr H. Steen presiding at the organ. A large congregation, including the bereaved relatives, assembled to pay a last tribute of respect to the memory of the heroic young soldier.

Birkenhead News – Saturday 11 November 1916

Note: The Concord Society in Neston organised entertainment, especially musical events, light opera and concerts, in the town.

The 1939 Register records that:

Margaret (Alphonso's widow) and Thomas Thorrington (or *Thorington*) were living at 166 Lyndon Road, Solihull. Thomas was an aero engine machine and component inspector and one line of the record has been redacted - a daughter, Peggy D Thorington was registered in the Solihull district in late 1929. Margaret died in the Solihull district, aged 52, in mid-1945 and Thomas died in early 1965 aged 70.

Thomas Henry Mellor, Alf's brother, was living at 24 Cardigan Road, Wallasey:

Thomas H Mellor	born 15 October 1871	butcher's shop assistant
Marion	born 28 November 1872	
Ivy N	born 28 July 1900	domestic paid help
Hazel D	born 9 May 1905	stenographer (stockbroker's)

It is believed that neither Ivy nor Hazel married and it is known that Hazel died in the Wallasey area, aged 57, in early 1963.

Thomas Henry Mellor died, aged 69, in early 1941 and Marion died, aged 83, in the Wallasey area in mid-1956.

In 1939 Richard Hastings Mellor (born 1873 - no details recorded), a ship's steward, was an inmate at the County Mental Hospital, Chester. Richard had married Eleanor Fletcher (born 20 June 1873) in the Birkenhead district in mid-1896 and in 1939 Eleanor was recorded, on her own, at 115 Saughall Massie Road, Upton, Birkenhead. Richard Hasting Mellor died in mid-1964 aged 91 but it is not known when Eleanor died.

As noted previously, William Pemberton Mellor married Emily Garner at St Paul's Church, Seacombe, in early 1907 and in 1939 they were living at 'Kyngarth', Parker Avenue, Hartford, Northwich:

William Mellor	born 20 November 1880	riveter (chemicals)
Emily Edith	born 23 August 1890	
Kathleen A	born 12 June 1909	single posting operative, machinery

Kathleen married William R Lightfoot at St John's Church, Hartford, Northwich in early 1942.

William Pemberton Mellor may have died, aged 63, in South Liverpool in mid-1943 and Emily died in Northwich, aged 53, in mid-1944.

Christine Mellor had married Robert John Ffoulkes, a tailor's traveller, at Burton Parish Church on 26 December 1903, but they have not been found in the 1939 Register. Robert died in the Birkenhead district in late 1955, aged 78, and Christine died, also in Birkenhead, in mid-1966 when she was 89.

Lucy Mellor had married dairyman William Andrew Macgregor in mid-1903 but they have not been located in the 1939 Register. It is also possible that Lucy Macgregor and family moved away from Burton shortly after the 1911 census; the birth of an Irene Sylvia Ledward Macgregor, mother's maiden name recorded as Mellor, was registered

in Stockport in late 1913. However, a William Andrew McGregor died in North Liverpool, aged 71, in mid-1948 but it is not certain when Lucy died.

Sarah Jane (Jennie) Mellor (born 16 August 1888) had married joiner Frederick Charles Nicholls (born 12 March 1878) on 26 December 1906 at Burton Parish Church and in 1939 they were living at 53 Spellow Lane, Everton. Two further lines of the record have been redacted.

Frederick died in mid-1948, aged 70, and Sarah died in late 1959, aged 71.

Annie Eliza Mellor had married Hugh Edward Jones, a cotton warehouseman (or porter) at a Civil Marriage on Wirral in late 1910 and in 1911 were living in Tranmere. However, they have not been found in the 1939 Register. Annie may have died in early-1965 aged 78. It is not known when Hugh died.



Ivy Cottage, Burton, where Alphonso Mellor was living with his parents in 1911 [Source: Google StreetView]