

108: Harry H. Mellor

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

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: Harry H. Mellor
 Rank: Corporal CWGC and gravestone at Burton records him as being a 2nd Corporal
 Battalion / Regiment: Royal Engineers
 Service Number: 1253 Date of Death: 04 March 1919 Age at Death: ?
 Buried / Commemorated at: St Nicholas churchyard, Burton
 Additional information given by CWGC: None

Harry Horatio Mellor was the son of Richard and Lydia Mellor and the older brother of Alphonso Mellor [see [107: Alphonso Mellor](#) for additional details of this family].

The only census return in which Harry appears with his parents and siblings (Alphonso was not born until late 1893) is that of 1881:

Richard Mellor	Head	Mar	36	Manufacturer	Timekeeper at works	D	D
Lydia A	Wife	Mar	32			Stafford	Timly Mill
Thomas H	Son		9	Scholar		Derby	West Derby
Richard H	Son		7			Derby	West Derby
Lucy	Daughter		6			Derby	Seacombe
Christine	Daughter		4			Derby	Seacombe
Willy	Son		18 months			Derby	Seacombe
Harry	Son		7 months			Derby	Seacombe

1881 census (extract) – Grosvenor Place, Poulton-cum-Seacombe

Richard Mellor	36	timekeeper at works	born Liverpool
Lydia A.	32		born Himly Mill, Staffordshire
Thomas H.	9		born West Derby
Richard H.	7		born West Derby
Lucy	6		born Seacombe
Christine	4		born Seacombe
Willy	18 months		born Seacombe
Harry	7 months		born Seacombe

Harry Horatio Mellor's birth was registered in the Birkenhead district in July / September 1880.

In the 1891 census the only Harry Mellor meeting the criteria was the Harry, aged 10, born Seacombe, recorded as an errand boy in the census for Seacombe Cottage Hospital where he may have been a patient. Unfortunately, Harry Mellor has not been traced anywhere within England & Wales in the 1901 census.

Whilst it is uncertain as to when Richard and Lydia Mellor moved to Burton - they were in the village at the time of the 1911 census, but not there in 1901 - it is known that Harry Horatio Mellor married Margaret Edith Foulds at the Congregational School Chapel on Liscard Road, Seacombe, in July/September 1905.

It is possible that Harry moved with his parents from Wallasey to Burton before he married (although the date of this move is unknown); it is equally possible that he and Margaret moved there sometime after their marriage and before the birth of their first child, Horace Coslett Mellor, on 9 December 1908. 'Coslett' was the maiden name of Harry's mother, Lydia Ann, and Horace was born at Burton Point and baptised at Burton church on 31 January 1909 when his father, Harry, was recorded as a mariner. However, by the time of the 1911 census Harry, Margaret and Horace were living in Birkenhead whilst Harry's parents, married sister Lucy and unmarried brother Alphonso (Alf) were living in 'Ivy Cottage', Burton, near the entrance to the church:

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

Number of Schedules 122
(To be filled up by the Enumerator after collection.)

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX.	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE.					PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards.				BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country.	INFIRMITY.	
			Single	Married	Widow	Divorced	Other	Personal Occupation.	Industry or Service with which worker is connected.	Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on One's Account.	Whether Working as Home.				
1 Harry Horatio Mellor	Head	30	Married	6	1	1	0	Rigger	Ship	0	0	0	Seacombe Cheshire	42 4	-
2 Margaret Edith Mellor	Wife	29	Married	6	1	1	0						Tranmere Cheshire	-	-
3 Horace Coslett Mellor	Son	2	-	-	-	-	-						Burton Point Cheshire	10 0	-

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that—		Total.	
(1) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper set columns.	(2) I have counted the males and females in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have compared their sum with the total number of persons.	Males	Females
(3) After making the necessary inquiries I have completed all entries on this Schedule which appeared to be desirable, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.		2	1
Initials of Enumerator		3	

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

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

Signature Harry Horatio Mellor
Postal Address 2 Pembry Street, Birkenhead

1911 census (condensed) – 2, Pensby Street, Birkenhead

Harry Horatio Mellor	30	rigger (ships)	born Seacombe
Margaret Edith	29		born Tranmere
Horace Coslett	2		born Burton Point

Harry and Margaret had been married for six years and Horace was their only child.

1 Richard Mellor	Head	66	Married					Seaman (retired)	541	0	0	0	Coverford Lancashire	058	
2 Alf Mellor	Son	17	Single					Seaman Apprentice	210	8	8	0	Cheshire Seacombe	1214	
3 W. Macgregor	Boarder	63	Married	5	1	1	0	Day labourer	916	0	0	0	Cheshire Seacombe		
4 Lucy Macgregor	do	36													
5 W. Macgregor	do	7	Boy					School							

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that—		Total.	
(1) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper set columns.	(2) I have counted the males and females in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have compared their sum with the total number of persons.	Males	Females
(3) After making the necessary inquiries I have completed all entries on this Schedule which appeared to be desirable, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.		4	1
Initials of Enumerator <u>A. B. M.</u>		5	

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

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

Signature Diana Mellor
Postal Address Ivy Cottage, Burton, Cheshire

1911 census (abstract) – Ivy Cottage, Burton

Richard Mellor, 66, and Lydia (with married daughter Sarah Jane Nicholls in Birkenhead at the time of the census), the parents of Harry were living here with Harry's brother Alf (Alphonso) and married sister Lucy and William Macgregor and their son, William Gregor Macgregor.

It appears that Harry and his family continued to live in Birkenhead for some years and that at least two further children were born there:

Harry Mellor	born Birkenhead, April/June 1913
Thomas Alfred Mellor	born Birkenhead, 14 November 1914

Lydia Ann Mellor, Harry's mother, died in 1916 aged 67 and she was buried at Burton on 28 March. It is not known whether Harry's father, Richard, continued to live in Burton after Lydia's death but Alf (Alphonso) had joined the Cheshire Regiment in September 1914 and then lived in Chester where he married Margaret Hannah Williams later in the year. 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.

Nothing is known of the service history of Harry Mellor or of the circumstances of his death, nearly four months after the November 1918 Armistice, although his Medal Rolls Index Card notes that he enlisted on 11 October 1915 but was discharged, through 'sickness' just 14 months later on 30 December 1916. The Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects record gives some further details, noting that his rank was 2nd Corporal and that he served with the 1st Cheshire Field Company (a Territorial Force) of the Royal Engineers. It is known that Harry was, on 7 May 1916, promoted to Acting Lance Corporal and on 30 May 1916 he became an Acting Corporal.

Name	Corps	Reg. No.	Rank	Date of Discharge	Cause of Discharge
Mellor H. H.	R.E. Cheshire Fd. Coy.	1253	A/Plc.	30.12.16 Enlistment 11-10-15	Sickness. Para. 392 XVI. K.R.
Date of application		(a) Badge		(b) Medal	
No. of File		"		"	
Address of applicant:—					
Action taken <i>List - T. J. / 133.</i>					

W5658—8738 60,000 8/16 HWV(P1346) G16/1202

British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920

Harry was discharged from the army under Paragraph 392 of King's Regulations 1912 (as amended by Army Order 305 of 1915 - manuscript amendment shown here in red) which dealt with those who were considered to be no longer physically fit for war service:

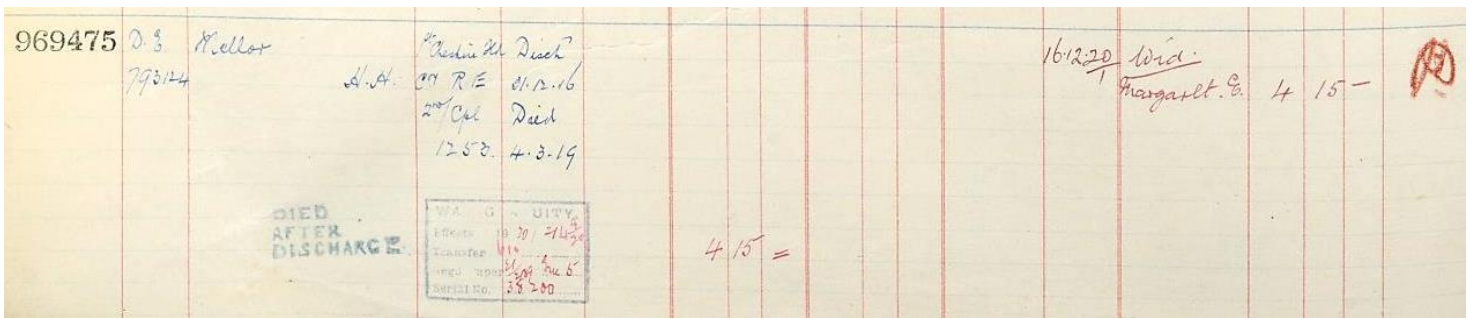
(xvi) No longer physically fit for war service—			See para. 416.
At home	O.C. ..	O.C. ..	A soldier found medically unfit to re-engage and any man discharged for insanity, irrespective of his length of service will be dealt with under this heading.
Abroad	Do.	O.C. ..	See paras. 399 to 410.
Man sent home for discharge.		O.C. at home.	Except as stated above, a soldier under three months' service will be dealt with under class (iii), unless he is suffering from a disability of a serious nature which unfits him for further service and clearly originated after final approval.

The entry for Harry Mellor's burial in Burton gives the date as 2 March - presumably recorded here incorrectly as his official date of death was 4 March. However, the burial register states also that Harry was then living in Puddington:

BURIALS in the Parish of Burton in the County of Chester in the Year One thousand one thousand eight hundred and nineteen.

Name	Abode	When Buried	Age	By whom the Ceremony was Performed
<i>Harry Horatio Mellor</i>	<i>Puddington</i>	<i>Mar. 2nd 1919</i>		<i>Patrick F. G. Horrell Vicar</i>

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Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929

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. Having been discharged some time earlier, no outstanding wages had accrued but a War Gratuity of £4 15s. was paid Margaret, Harry's widow, in December 1920. This is equivalent to a *labour value* (wages) of around £510 in 2016. The fact that a War Gratuity was payable suggests that Harry saw active service. The record notes that Harry 'Died after Discharge'.

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.

No record has been found for either the subsequent marriage or death of Harry's widow, Margaret Edith Mellor.

Alphonso Mellor had died on 3 October 1916 in France and his account is given earlier in this work.

No certain record has been found of the death of Lucy Macgregor or of Harry's father, Richard, 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.

No record of Harry's immediate family has been found in the 1939 Register. Fuller details of Harry's siblings, and their families, are given in the previous account [[107: Alphonso Mellor](#)].



The war grave of H.H. Mellor, Royal Engineers, 4 March 1919, in Burton.