

42: Alfred Jellicoe

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

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: Alfred Jellicoe

Rank: Private

Battalion / Regiment: 10th Bn. The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment

Service Number: 32491

Date of Death: 23 September 1917

Age at Death: 39

Buried / Commemorated at: Hooze Crater Cemetery, Ypres (Ieper), West Flanders, Belgium

Additional information given by CWGC: None

The family headstone in Neston Parish Churchyard (see photograph on page 646), on which Alfred is commemorated, records his parents to be John (died 11 April 1926 aged 86) and Mary Elizabeth Jellicoe (died 1 February 1929 aged 89) and notes that Alfred was the brother of William Jellicoe who died on 30 January 1890, aged 26.

John Jellicoe married Mary Elizabeth Reynolds in Liverpool on 5 June 1862 and their first child, Emily Louise, was baptised at Neston Parish Church on 24 December 1862.

Other early children who were baptised at Neston were:

William	baptised 29 April 1864	died 30 January 1890 aged 26
Thomas Edwin	baptised 6 April 1866	buried 18 October 1872 aged 6
Mary Elizabeth	baptised 27 February 1868	

At the time of the 1881 census the family was living on Parkgate Road:

John Jellicoe	Head	Male	41	Bricklayer	Neston Cheshire
Mary Eliz th Jellicoe	Wife	Female	41	Dressmaker	Leamington Warwick
Mary Eliz th Jellicoe	Daughter	Female	13	Scholar	Neston Cheshire
Dora Eliza D ^o	Daughter	Female	9	Do	Neston D ^o
Emma Jane D ^o	Daughter	Female	7	Do	Neston D ^o
Beatrice Ellen D ^o	Daughter	Female	4		Neston D ^o
Alfred D ^o	Son	Male	2		Neston D ^o
Ernest D ^o	Son	Male	7 months		Neston D ^o

1881 census (extract) – Parkgate Road, Neston

John Jellicoe	41	bricklayer	born Neston
Mary Elizabeth	41	dressmaker	born Leamington, Warwick.
Mary Elizabeth	13		born Neston
Dora Eliza	9		born Neston
Emma Jane	7		born Neston
Beatrice Ellen	4		born Neston
Alfred	2		born Neston
Ernest	7 months		born Neston

Alfred Jellicoe's birth was registered in mid-1878 and he was baptised at Neston Parish Church on 14 November 1879; his younger brother, Ernest, was baptised on 10 October 1880.

By the time of the 1891 census the family had moved to Park Street, Neston:

John Jellicoe	Head	51	51	bricksetter	X	X	51	51
Mary E. 20	Wife	51	51				51	51
Mary E. 20	Child	28	28	school teacher	X		28	28
Emma 20	Child	19	19	dressmaker		X	19	19
Beatrice 20	Child	14	14				14	14
Alfred 20	Child	12	12				12	12
Ernest 20	Child	10	10				10	10
Edwin 20	Child	8	8				8	8

1891 census (extract) – Park Street, Neston

John Jellicoe	51	bricksetter	born Ness
Mary E.	51		born Leamington, Warwick.
Mary E.	28	school teacher	born Neston
Emma	19	dressmaker	born Neston
Beatrice	14		born Neston
Alfred	12		born Neston
Ernest	10		born Neston
Edwin	8		born Neston

The 1911 census shows that John and Mary had 12 children of whom, in 1911, eight had survived.

Emma Jane Jellicoe married Arthur Cecil Shore at St Paul's Church, Crewe, in late 1905 and, whilst in South Africa, a daughter, Beatrice, was born. Arthur Shore subsequently died so that, at the time of the 1911 census, Emma and Beatrice were living with her parents in Neston. Dora Jellicoe, Emma's unmarried sister, was also living with her parents in 1911.

CYCLE ACCIDENT AT LITTLE SUTTON.

NESTON MAN INJURED.

On Saturday night Alfred Jellicoe, son of Mr. John Jellicoe, of Park-street, Neston, met with a very serious cycling accident at Little Sutton. He had cycled over there on a visit to some friends named Putt. After going for a run with young Putt he returned to Little Sutton about ten o'clock. While waiting for his friend to rejoin him he went for a run through the village. When trying to avoid a man who was walking along the street he collided with him, and both came to the ground. Jellicoe was thrown with fearful violence, and was carried in an unconscious state to Mr. Putt's house. A medical examination shewed that he was suffering from severe injury to the brain and spine, and that the drum of one ear had been destroyed. He partially recovered consciousness on Sunday morning, but has only been fully conscious since. On making inquiry on Tuesday morning our correspondent was informed that he remains in the same critical condition. Mr. Jellicoe is a junior partner in the firm of Messrs Gray and Co., tobacco merchants, Rumford-street, Liverpool, of which Mr. W. Ariel Gray, of Neston, is the head.

In the 1901 census Alfred, then 22, was recorded as being a visitor at the house of widow Sarah Putt, and family, in Little Sutton. It is probable that Alfred was visiting Sarah's daughter, Clara (22, born Barrow-in-Furness) as he married her on Boxing Day 1901 at St George's Presbyterian Church, Little Sutton. In the 1901 census Alfred's occupation is recorded as 'shop assistant to tobacconist' and Ariel Gray, the Neston tobacconist for whom Albert then worked, was the best man ¹.

Alfred, a keen cyclist and member of the Neston Cycle Club, suffered a serious cycling accident whilst visiting Clara on Saturday 20 July 1901. Just 5 months before their marriage, Alfred appeared to make a full recovery.

¹ In the 1911 census William Ariel Gray, 69, born Northampton was living at 'Park View' in Leighton Road with his wife, Margaret (70, born Neston) and a servant. He is recorded as being a 'cigar, cigarette and tobacco merchant and manufacturer'; this accords with Alfred being recorded in the 1901 census as being a 'shop assistant to tobacconist'. In fact Ariel Gray was the senior partner in the tobacco company based at Rumford Street and Everton Road, Liverpool and Alfred Jellico, who became a close friend of Ariel Gray, became a junior partner in the firm (see following page). William Ariel Gray died, aged 72, in December 1913 and, on 27 October 1915, Margaret Gray married the Rev. Canon H. Bethel Jones of Old Colwyn at Neston parish church (although she died, aged 76, in September 1916).

GRAY (W. ARIEL) & CO., Cigar, Cigarette and Tobacco Merchants, Importers and Manufacturers, B3, Exchange Buildings, Rumford Street, and 35-37, Everton Road, Liverpool. *Hours of Business* : 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Exchange Buildings); 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Everton Road). *Established* in 1855 by J. T. Sparke. Continued by F. J. Meikleham and J. Wansey; W. Ariel Gray and Thomas C. Dolan. *Present Proprietor* : Thomas C. Dolan. *Premises* : At Everton Road are also used for the wholesale distribution to Clubs, Hotels, Shopkeepers, &c., of all goods connected with the tobacco trade, including Fancies of most Manufacturers. *Staff* : Thirty to forty. *Specialities* : High-class Havana Cigars; and Manufacturers of Cigarettes for Ships' Stores. Particular attention paid to Passenger Steamship Companies' requirements (Publicity Department), specialising for several of the largest Passenger S.S. Co.s in the world. *Connection* : United Kingdom, Foreign and Colonial. *Telephone* : No. 6993 Central; No. 297 Anfield, Liverpool. *Telegraphic Address* : "Ariel, Liverpool." *Bankers* : National Provincial Bank of England, Ltd.

1914 Who's Who in Business: Company G
Grace's Guide to British Industrial History
[<https://gracesguide.co.uk/>]

LITTLE SUTTON.

WEDDING.—An interesting wedding took place at the Presbyterian Church, Little Sutton, on Thursday, the bride being Miss Clara Putt, only daughter of Mrs. Putt, of the village, and the bridegroom Mr Alfred Jellicoe, eldest son of Mr. John Jellicoe, Park-street, Neston. The bride is well-known in the district, and a large congregation assembled in the church. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Craig, and the bride was given away by her brother, Mr. Charles Putt. Mr. W. Ariel Gray, of Neston, acted as best man. The bride looked charming in a dress of white satin, trimmed with orange blossoms, with hat to match. Her bouquet and the gold bracelet were the gifts of the bridegroom. Miss Beaty Jellicoe (sister of the bridegroom) and Miss Nellie Cox (cousin of the bride) were the bridesmaids, and they wore heliotrope dresses with picture hats to match and carried white bouquets. The latter and their gold brooches were the gifts of the bridegroom. As the happy pair left the church the organist played the "Wedding March." An at-home was afterwards held at Mrs. Putt's house. There were numerous and costly presents.

Cheshire Observer – 28 December 1901

It then seems that Alfred and Sarah moved to the West Derby area of Liverpool, east of the city centre, sometime after their marriage and it was here that two sons were born:

Alfred - baptised 9 April 1902 at St Margaret's C of E Church, Anfield

Alfred snr was a tobacco merchant and the family lived at 21 St Albans (a street since redeveloped) a short distance west of the church

Edward Harold - birth registered April / June 1903 died on Wirral late 1912

Although Alfred Jellicoe had earlier been recorded as a shop assistant it appears that he had a change of career as, in 1909, he was working as a steward aboard the *SS Haverford*², an Atlantic passenger liner which was then operated by the American Line on a route between Liverpool and Philadelphia.



² Built by John Brown & Co. of Clydebank for the American Line, *Haverford* was launched in 1901 and took her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York on 4 September of that year. After that, *Haverford* served in American's Liverpool-Philadelphia service, although she was also used in 1901-02 on the Red Star Line's Antwerp-New York route (4 trips) and in 1908-09 on the Dominion Line's Liverpool-Halifax-Portland route (2 trips).

During World War I *Haverford* served as a troopship and in 1917 she was damaged in a torpedo attack which put her out of service for six months.

In December 1920, *Haverford* made the American Line's last Liverpool-Boston-Philadelphia sailing. That route, and the ship, were then taken over by the White Star Line, which, like the American, Red Star and Dominion Lines, was owned by International Mercantile Marine. She retained her American Line name but was repainted in White Star colours. She remained on that route through 1923. *Haverford* made one final crossing to Philadelphia in September 1924, and was scrapped in Italy in 1925. [<http://www.greatships.net/haverford.html>]

10	Name of Ship	11
PARTICULARS		OF ENGAGEMENT
SIGNATURES OF CREW. 31 Alfred Jellicoe 31 Neston 33 Mansell Rd do Canada do do		PARTICULARS OF DISCHARGE, &c. To be filled in by the Master upon the Discharge, Death, or Resignation of any Member of the Crew. Date, Place, and Cause of leaving this Ship. Date: 21/9/09 Place: Liverpool Cause: 1 Release. We the undersigned Members of the Crew of the Ship, do hereby declare that the above is a true and correct statement of the facts and circumstances relating to the discharge, death, or resignation of the said Member of the Crew, and that we are not aware of any other facts or circumstances which might affect the validity of the same. Signature of Crew (each to be on the line on which he signed in Col. II). 31 Alfred Jellicoe

Liverpool Crew Register 1909 (extract)

The details, some of which are dittoed from previous entries in the Register, and so are not shown in this extract, record that Alfred Jellicoe was 31, had been born in Neston, was resident at 33 Mansell Road (in the Kensington district of Liverpool), that he last served on the SS *Canada* and that he had signed-on for this voyage on the *Haverford* on 21 September 1909. The second page of the Register notes that Alfred was a steward, that he had to be onboard the ship at 6.0am on 22 September and that his wage was £3 per week (equivalent approximately to £300 per week in 2018) for this engagement. The balance of his wage, once the ship had returned to Liverpool, was to be £2 16s.

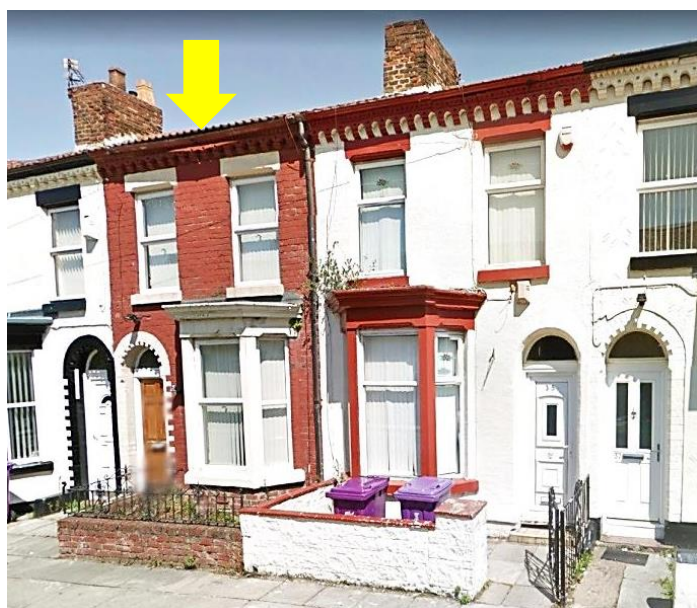
10	Name of Ship	11
PARTICULARS		OF ENGAGEMENT
SIGNATURES OF CREW. 31 Alfred Jellicoe 31 Neston 33 Mansell Rd do do do do		PARTICULARS OF DISCHARGE, &c. To be filled in by the Master upon the Discharge, Death, or Resignation of any Member of the Crew. Date, Place, and Cause of leaving this Ship. Date: 26/10/09 Place: Liverpool Cause: 1 Release. We the undersigned Members of the Crew of the Ship, do hereby declare that the above is a true and correct statement of the facts and circumstances relating to the discharge, death, or resignation of the said Member of the Crew, and that we are not aware of any other facts or circumstances which might affect the validity of the same. Signature of Crew (each to be on the line on which he signed in Col. II). 31 Alfred Jellicoe

Liverpool Crew Register 1909 (extract)

Many of the details replicate those of the previous Register entry for Alfred. It notes that he had last served on this ship (this will be the previous entry for Alfred) and that he had signed-on for this voyage on the *Haverford* on 26 October 1909. The second page of the Register notes that Alfred was again a steward, that he had to be onboard the ship at 6.0am on 27 October and that his wage was still £3 per week. The balance of his wage, once the ship had returned to Liverpool, was to be £2 19s.

The SS *Canada*, on which Alfred had served previously, was a passenger liner operated jointly by the White Star Line and the Dominion Line, both part of J.P. Morgan's International Mercantile Marine which later became the White Star Line Canadian Service. This service operated from 1908 until 1926. The *Canada* was built by Harland &

Wolff, Belfast, and was launched in 1896 and in 1909 was rebuilt to carry 463 2nd Class passengers and 755 3rd class passengers on a 7/8-day passage from Liverpool to (generally) Quebec with a winter service to Boston. In August 1914, whilst in Canada, she was taken over and used to transport troops to England and was then used as an accommodation ship for German prisoners for the rest of the year before being used as a transport ship. After the war the *Canada* returned to service as an Atlantic liner until 1926 when the vessel was scrapped in Italy.



33 Mansell Road [Google StreetView]

It has been recorded also that a crew list of 1910 records Alfred as a steward on the SS *Persic*³, a passenger ship which had been built by Harland and Wolff in 1899.

Alfred Jellicoe has not been traced in the 1911 census and his whereabouts is unknown but it is possible he was at sea. In 1911 Clara, Alfred's wife, and her mother, Sarah Putt are recorded at 15 Alexandra Road, West Kirby. Sarah Putt, 60, is described as a boarding house keeper and Clara Jellicoe, 32, is recorded as having been married 4 years with 2 children both still alive. Harold Jellicoe (8, born Liverpool), the youngest child of Clara and Alfred (recorded as a grandson of Sarah), was with them. It is possible that Clara and her sons were actually living in West Derby in Liverpool at this time and they may have been visiting Sarah in West Kirby at the time of the census. Alfred 9, born Liverpool), the elder son, was with his grandparents at 'Rose Brae', Blackkeys Lane, Neston, at the time of the census:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1	John Jellicoe	Head	71	Married	28	12	2	4	Bricklayer	220	House building & Builder	Warrington			
2	Mary Elizabeth Jellicoe	Wife	71	Married	49	12	5	4							
3	Clara Jellicoe	Daughter	38	Single											
4	Emma Shore	Daughter	36	Widow	5	7									
5	Beatrice Shore	Granddaughter													
6	Alfred Jellicoe	Grand son	9												

No record of the baptism of Alfred or Edward Harold has been found in Neston but it is known that Edward Harold Jellicoe died on Wirral in late 1912 aged 9. Interestingly, in August 1919 after Alfred snr had died, son Alfred was recorded as the sole legatee.

As the Service Records of Alfred Jellicoe have not been found, the details of his life and military service are meagre. The *Chester Chronicle* notes that he was '*..a regular attendant at the late Mr Ariel Gray's Sunday Classes, and assisted Mr Gray in connection with his commercial business*'.

The *Birkenhead News* recorded that Alfred enlisted with the Liverpool Pals of The Kings (Liverpool Regiment), with Service Number 30553, on the outbreak of war but that he transferred to the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, probably in late 1915.

The 10th (Service) Battalion Loyal North Lancashire Regiment had been formed at Preston in October 1914 as part of Kitchener's Third New Army and was attached to the 22nd Division. After training on the South Downs, and spending the winter in Eastbourne they transferred to the newly forming 112th Brigade 37th Division in April 1917 which was concentrating at Cholderton on Salisbury Plain. They proceeded to France, landing at Boulogne on 1 August 1917, the division concentrating near Tilques. They went into action in The Battle of the Ancre and fought in The First Battle of the

³ This information, which has not been verified by this author, is quoted in <https://www.loyalregiment.com/32491-pte-a-jellicoe-l-n-lan-r/>.

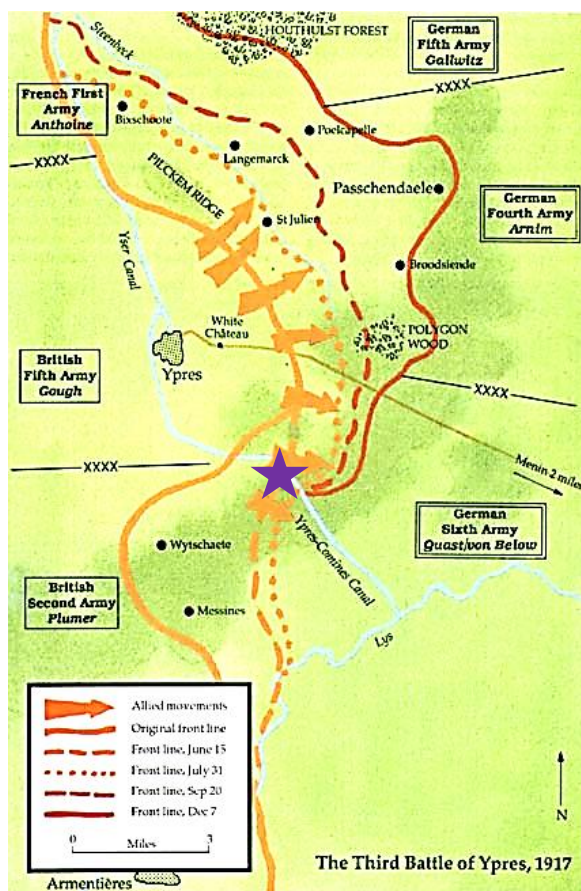
SS *Persic* was an ocean liner of the White Star Line. She was one of the five 'Jubilee Class' ships built specifically to service the Liverpool–Cape Town–Sydney route.

Scarpe, including the capture of Monchy-le-Preux, The Second Battle of the Scarpe and The Battle of Arleux. They were in action between July and November 1917 in The Third Battles of Ypres - 'Passchendaele' - and it was during this action, infamous not only for the scale of casualties but also for the mud, that Alfred Jellicoe was wounded and subsequently died on 23 September 1917.

The War Diary for the 10th Battalion for 23 September records simply:

In the line. Heavily shelled all day. We are just on the right of TOWER HAMLETS in Shrewsbury Forest. In support to 6th Bedfords Regiment.

In fact, the regiment had moved up to the front line, to relieve the 1st Cambridgeshire Regiment (118th Brigade, 39th Division), only on the afternoon of the previous day and the conflict they were involved in at this time was The Battle of the Menin Road. They remained on the front line until 28 September when they were relieved by the 10th Battalion Warwick's Regiment at which time they moved back to camp at Kemmel, south of Ypres. The War Diary entries are disappointingly sketchy around this time; the entry for 24 September, the day following Alfred's death notes simply *Move up to relieve the 6th Bedford's Regt in the line*, the 25th states *Still very rough – casualties mounting up*. On 26 September it was noted *Heavily shelled all day. The 'hottest' day of all*.



The opening stages of The Third Battle of Ypres. The approximate position of the 10th Battalion The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment is shown with the purple star.

[<http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~dccfarr/summary.htm>]

Although weather conditions had improved significantly from the wet weather of August ground conditions were still poor and, on the morning of 20 September it is recorded in another sector of the front line that at dawn a heavy drizzle came down, soaking the troops and, with heavy mist, making everything obscure. This rain followed heavy rain the previous night. Despite the conditions the assault began at 5.40am on 20 September following increased artillery fire from the Allied troops along much of the front line. Apparently the Germans had not expected the attack to be prolonged so far southward and, in some sectors, resistance was not well supported and the German front-line defences were overrun without difficulty. However, in the area of the eastern part of Shrewsbury Forest, where the 10th Battalion The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment were moving forward, resistance was intense but troops reached their objectives in the valley of the Bassevillebeek and moved towards the slopes of the spur of higher ground known as Tower Hamlets where strong machine-gun opposition was encountered from both Tower

Hamlets and the Veldhoek Ridge. Fierce fighting continued through 21 September in the vicinity of Tower Hamlets and, for four days, the Germans launched three powerful attacks on a wide front between Tower Hamlets and Polygon Wood which led to incursions into the British lines before the enemy was pushed back.

On the 27th, the day on which the Battalion was relieved, it was noted that *Our casualties are heavy being 94 killed and wounded* although the number of fatalities wasn't recorded.

Although it is possible that Alfred Jellicoe's home address was in West Kirby around the time of his death he is not commemorated on the Hoyle and West Kirby War Memorial on Grange Hill, West Kirby.

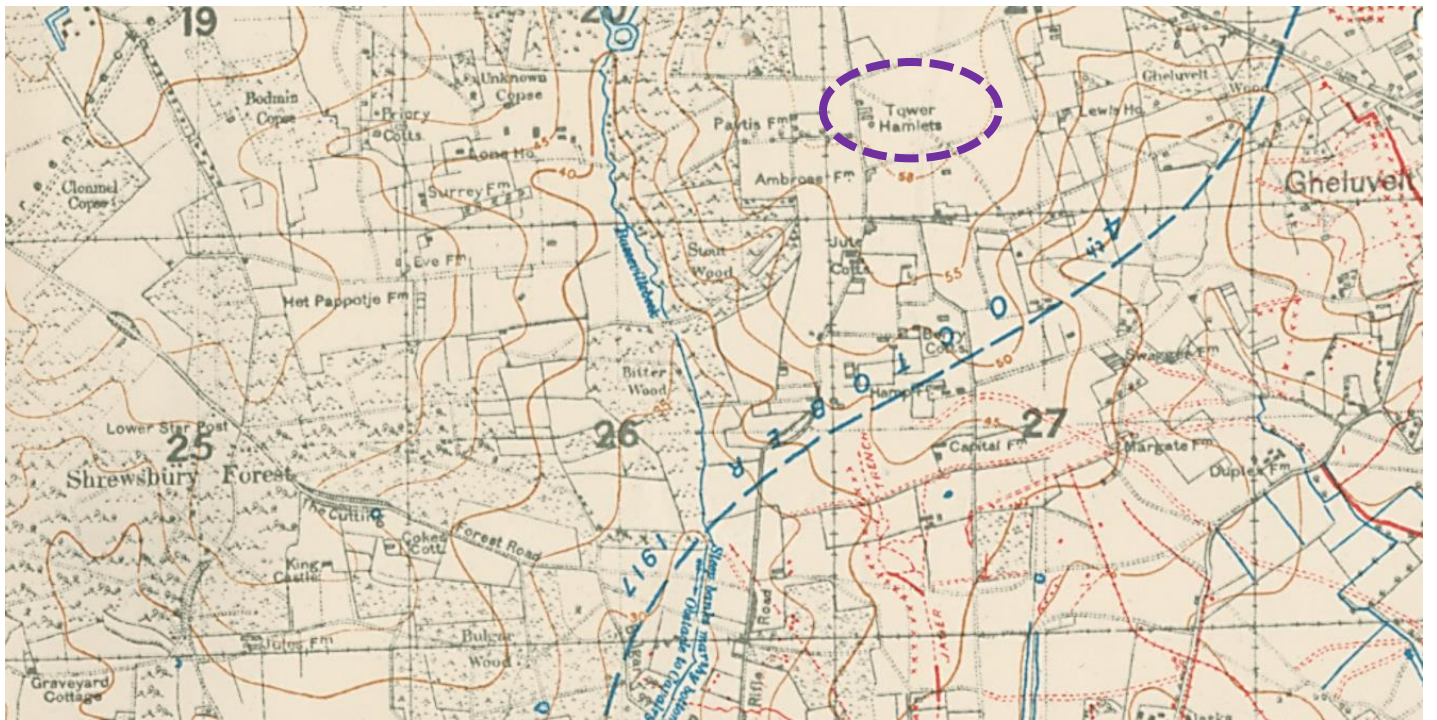
The *Chester Chronicle* notes, incorrectly, that he was the eldest son of E Jellicoe of Raby Park, Neston but notes also that Alfred had been in the Neston Church Choir.

Whilst the headstone inscription at the family grave at Neston Parish Church, and some newspaper reports, record that Alfred died in France, he actually died, and was buried subsequently at Hoge Crater Cemetery to the east of Ypres, Belgium.

The area of the cemetery changed hands many times throughout the war and the CWGC notes that

Hoge Crater and its stables were the scene of very fierce fighting throughout the First World War. On 31 October 1914, the staff of the 1st and 2nd Divisions were wiped out when the crater was shelled; from 24 May to 3 June 1915, the crater was defended against German attacks and in July 1915, the crater was made by a mine sprung by the 3rd Division. On 30 July, the Germans took the crater, and on 9 August, it and the crater were regained by the 6th Division. The Germans retook Hoge Crater on 6 June 1916 and on 31 July 1917, the 8th Division advanced 1.6km beyond it. It was lost for the last time in April 1918, but regained by the 9th (Scottish) and 29th Divisions on 28 September. Hoge Crater Cemetery was begun by the 7th Division Burial Officer early in October 1917. It contained originally 76 graves.....but was greatly increased after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the battlefields of Zillebeke, Zantvoorde and Geluveld and.....smaller cemeteries. There are now 5,916 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 3,570 of the burials are unidentified, but special memorials record the names of a number of casualties either known or believed to be buried among them, or whose graves in other cemeteries were destroyed by shell fire.

It is quite probable that Alfred Jellicoe was buried initially in one of the smaller or temporary cemeteries close to Geluveld; there was, at the time, a Tower Hamlets Cemetery here which *contained the graves of 36 soldiers from the United Kingdom who fell in the winter of 1917-1918* [CWGC] and whose bodies were reinterred at the Hoge Crater Cemetery in mid-1919.



The two trench map extracts show exactly the same area encompassing Shrewsbury Forest (south-west corner), Tower Hamlets (encircled in purple on the lower map) and eastwards to Gheluvelt [now Geluveld]. On both maps the German positions and trenches are depicted in red and the north-south valley of the Bassevillebeek (shown in blue) bisects the area centrally.

The top map is dated 3 July 1917 when the German forces occupied the whole of this area. The lower map shows the position on 1 October 1917 with the front line of 4 October shown by the broken blue line. By the beginning of October the Allied forces had overrun the German defences on the west and central areas.

Alfred Jellicoe was wounded on 22 September (and died the following day) somewhere in the region between the eastern side of Shrewsbury Forest and the western side of the Tower Hamlets spur of higher land, most probably in the water-logged valley of the Bassevillebeek.

[Map source: <http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/index.cfm#zoom>]

Name.	Corps.	Rank	Regt. No.
JELlicoe	L N Lan R	Pte	32491
etfred.			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	H/2/101B/6	2330	
BRITISH			
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920

Chester Chronicle - Saturday 13 October 1917

It seems that Gunner Jack Whiteway, mentioned in this article, survived the war. A John C. Whiteway died, aged 65, in early 1941.

ROLL OF HONOUR.—Another of Neston's heroes has made the supreme sacrifice. News arrived during the week of the death in action of Private Alf. Jellicoe. He succumbed a few hours after being wounded, last Tuesday week, in France. He was 39 years of age and married. He leaves a widow and one child to mourn his loss. He was the eldest son of Mr. E. Jellicoe, Raby Park, Neston, a well-known Neston family. Pte. Jellicoe was a well-known man and highly respected, was connected for some years with the Neston Church Choir and a regular attendant at the late Mr. Ariel Gray's Sunday Classes, and assisted Mr. Gray in connection with his commercial business. He joined up with a company of the North Lancashires two years ago, and it is only a short time ago was in England on special leave, although cheerfully accepting the situation in having to go back he had a kind of presentiment that he would not return again. There is another brother at the Front and one awaiting tribunal orders. Genuine sympathy is extended to the widow and parents and other relatives in their bereavement. The wife of Gunner Jack Whiteway has also received an intimation that he (her husband) has been wounded in France. He will be remembered as the manager of Nelson's Meat Stores, Neston, commonly called "John Bull" by the Neston folk. Gunner Whiteway was a popular Nestonian and a sport, and it is hoped his wounds are not so serious as reported. Further particulars are anxiously awaited.



Alfred Jellicoe's War Grave at Hoge Crater Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium [Source: <https://www.loyalregiment.com/32491-pt-e-a-jellicoe-l-n-lan-r/>]

Neston Man Killed.

Official intimation has been received of the death from shell fire of Private Alfred Jellicoe, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Jellicoe, of Neston. He enlisted in the Liverpool Pals soon after the outbreak of war, but was afterwards attached to the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, and had been at the front for several months. He was very well-known in the district, and sincere sympathy is felt for his relatives in their bereavement.

Birkenhead News – Saturday 20 October 1917

