

61: Samuel Mealor

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

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: Samuel Mealor

Rank: Corporal Recorded in CWGC as a Private

Battalion / Regiment: Cheshire Regiment (Battalion unrecorded by CWGC but believed to be the 2/7th Bn.)

Service Number: 200780 Date of Death: 03 November 1917* Age at Death: 33

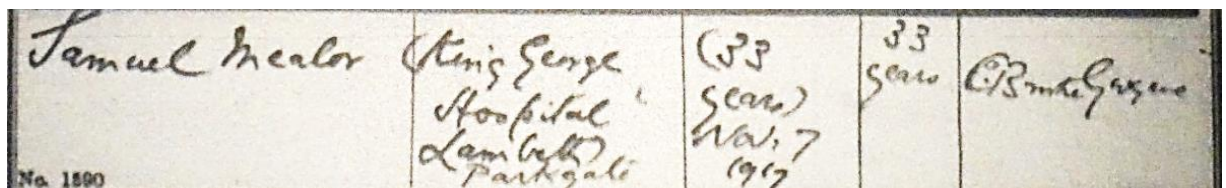
Buried / Commemorated at: St Mary & St Helen Churchyard, Neston

Additional information given by CWGC: None

* the date of death is different from that shown on the headstone in Neston Parish Churchyard - 3 January 1918)

Samuel Mealor is recorded by the CWGC as a Private and the 'official' date of death is different from that shown on the headstone in Neston Parish Church churchyard. The headstone records his date of death as being '3 January 1918, aged 33 years' - a two-month difference - and that his parents were William & Mary Mealor.

The significant discrepancy in the dates is puzzling but the correct date of death certainly appears to be 3 November 1917 (corroborated from the newspaper reports and other records) and the entry in the Burial Register of Neston Parish Church records that he was buried on 7 November and that he died in the King George Hospital in Lambeth:



In the 1881 census, before Samuel was born, his family was living in Parkgate:

William Mealor	Head	Mar	32		Fisherman	Cheshire Neston
Mary do	Wife	Mar		32	do	do & do
Elizabeth do	Daughter			12	Scholar	do Parkgate
Ann do	Daughter			9	do	do do
Martha do	Daughter			5	do	do do
Jane do	Daughter			3	do	do do
John do	Daughter			8	do	do do

1881 census (extract) – Parkgate

William Mealor	32	fisherman	born Neston
Mary	32	fisherman	born Little Neston
Elizabeth	12		born Parkgate
Ann	9		born Parkgate
Martha	5		born Parkgate
Jane	3		born Parkgate
John	8*		born Parkgate

John is recorded as a daughter, aged 8 – he would, in fact, be about 8 months old.

Fisherman William Mealor, 19, married Mary Pritchard, also 19, at Neston Parish Church on 24 August 1868. William's father was recorded as fisherman John Mealor and Mary's father was labourer Joseph Pritchard.

Elizabeth, their first child, was baptised (as Betsy) at Neston on 9 April 1869 and by the time of the 1891 census, when they had already buried two young sons, Samuel had been born. Elizabeth, then 23, was recorded as a domestic cook for a retired solicitor in West Kirby at the time of the 1891 census.

William Mealor	Mary	Elizabeth	John	William E.	Joseph	Samuel	Florence
41	41	13	10	9	7	5	3
fisherman							
born Neston	born Neston	born Neston	born Neston	born Neston	born Neston	born Neston	born Neston

1891 census (extract) – Leighton, Neston

William Mealor	41	fisherman	born Neston
Mary	41		born Neston
Jane	13		born Neston
John	10		born Neston
William E.	9		born Neston
Joseph	7		born Neston
Samuel	5		born Neston
Florence	3		born Neston

The known details of William and Mary's eventual eleven children are:

Elizabeth	baptised 9 April 1869	
Joseph Henry	baptised 10 June 1870	died, aged 2, 26 June 1872
Ann	baptised 5 April 1872	married fireman Thomas Henry Francis of Hoole at Neston on 1 August 1896
Thomas	baptised 26 November 1873	died, aged 2, 30 August 1876
Martha	baptised 3 October 1875	married joiner Edwin Hooson at a Civil Marriage in Liverpool in mid-1896. Edwin was the son of Edwin Hooson, also a joiner, who was accidentally killed at Neston Colliery on 26 January 1882
Jane	baptised 21 December 1877	married joiner William Aird (born Scotland) at Neston on 3 August 1900
John	baptised 30 July 1880	died, aged 14, 24 February 1894
William Ernest	baptised 24 March 1882	
Joseph	baptised 25 April 1884	
Samuel	baptised 29 January 1886	died of wounds 3 November 1917 and buried at Neston 7 November - he is the subject of this account
Florence Mary	baptised 21 October 1887	died, aged 8, 10 February 1896

In 1901 the Parkgate census recorded the family living on, or close to, The Parade, near Manorial Road:

William Mealor	Head	M	52	✓	Fisherman	Own Account	Ireland	✓
Mary Do	Wife	M	52	✓			Parkgate, Cheshire	
William Do	Son	L	19	✓	Fisherman	Worker	Little Neston, Cheshire	
Joseph Do	Son	L	17	✓	Apprentice bricksetter	Worker	Parkgate, Cheshire	
Samuel Do	Son	L	15	✓			Parkgate, Cheshire	
Samuel Bennett	Head	M	50	✓	Sl. Bootm		Parkgate, Cheshire	

1901 census (extract) – Parkgate

William Mealor	52	fisherman	born Parkgate
Mary	52		born Lt. Neston
William	19	fisherman	born Parkgate
Joseph	17	apprentice bricksetter	born Parkgate
Samuel	15	no occupation recorded	born Parkgate

By 1911 Samuel had joined the family shrimp-fishing business in Parkgate:

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.														Number of Schedules 174 (To be filled up by the Enumerator after collection.)				
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.																		
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					
<p>of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who</p> <p>(1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or</p> <p>(2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere.</p> <p>No one else must be included.</p> <p>(For order of entries, names see Examples on back of Schedule.)</p>																		
		For Infants under one year state the age in months as "under one month," "one month," etc.	Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.		State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of —		Personal Occupation.		Industry or Service with which worker is connected.	Whether Employee, Worker, or Working on Own Account.	Whether Working at Home.	(1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish.		(2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, etc., and of the Province or State.	(3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country.	(4) If born at sea, write "At Sea."	(5) If of foreign nationality, state whether "French," "German," "Russian," etc.	If any person included in this Schedule is — (1) "Totally Deaf," or "Deaf and Dumb," (2) "Totally Blind," or "Blind," (3) "Lunatic," or "Feeble-minded," state the infirmity opposite that person's name, and the age at which he or she became afflicted.
		Aggs of Males.	Aggs of Females.	Completed years of present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year write "under one year."	Total Children born alive.	Children still living.	Children who have died.	The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c.	This question should generally be answered by stating the business carried on by the employer. If this is clearly shown in Qd. 10 the question need not be answered here.	Write opposite the name of each person engaged in any Trade or Industry: (1) "Employed" (that is, employed person other than domestic servant), or (2) "Worker" (that is, working for an employer), or (3) "Own Account" (that is, worker employing others not working for a trade employer).	Write the name of each person carrying on Trade or Industry at home.							
William Mealor	Head	62	—	Married 42	—	—	—	Fisherman	Shrimp Trawling	Employer	—	Parkgate, Cheshire						
Mary Mealor	Wife	62	—	Married 42	11	4	4					Little Neston, Cheshire						
William Mealor	Son	29	—	Single	—	—	—	Fisherman	Shrimp Trawling	Worker	—	Parkgate, Cheshire						
Samuel Mealor	Son	25	—	Single	—	—	—	Fisherman	Shrimp Trawling	Worker	—	Parkgate, Cheshire						

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that —

(1) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex columns.

(2) I have entered the names and families in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have compared their sum with the total number of persons.

(3) After making the necessary corrections I have completed all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.

In title of Enumerator: SSS

Total		
Males	Females	Persons
3	1	4

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

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (Kitchens, Parlours, or Apartments). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count cellars, landing, lobby, alcove, bathroom, nor warehouses, office, shop.

Seven

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

Signature: Wm. Mealor

Postal Address: Parade, Parkgate

1911 census (condensed) – The Parade, Parkgate

William Mealor	62	fisherman, shrimp trawling	born Parkgate
Mary	62		born Little Neston
William	29	fisherman, assisting father, shrimp trawling	born Parkgate
Samuel	25	fisherman, assisting father, shrimp trawling	born Parkgate

William and Mary had been married for 42 years and seven of their eleven children had survived.

It is known that Samuel Mealor enlisted at Birkenhead and that he was listed in the army list of 4 September 1917 as being wounded. When he died - he is recorded as having died of wounds - he was serving with the 2/7th Battalion Cheshire Regiment, a territorial force, although it is not known where he died or the circumstances.

Mealor (Manchester Regiment), 40713 S., Neston (wounded).

Chester Chronicle - Saturday 17 February 1917

This notification referred to another Samuel Mealor from Neston. This soldier enlisted on 28 November 1914 and was discharged, being *sick*, on 28 September 1917. Serving with the 22nd Battalion Manchester regiment his Service Number has been misprinted – it was 40718.

Samuel's official date of death is given as 3 November 1917 when he would have been 31 although the *Chester Chronical* stated that he was 33.

Samuel was reported as wounded in the Daily List of 4 September 1917 (List N^o 5355) and it may have been this injury that led to his death. The report of his death in the *Chester Chronicle* notes that Samuel Mealor was wounded in the head in France and was brought to a London hospital. The *Birkenhead News* report of 6 October 1917 gives further information of his head wound, stating that he was hit in the left eye with the bullet egressing through the back of his head, but notes that he '...appears to be on the high way to recovery.' He died exactly 4 weeks later. Although recorded as being aged 33 Samuel would have been 31 years 10 months old.

Samuel Mealor's funeral was attended by Corporal Joseph Mealor and Seaman W Mealor, Samuel's two surviving brothers.

Corporal S. Mealor Recovering

The many friends of Corporal Samuel Mealor, who has been lying seriously wounded in France, will be pleased to hear of his satisfactory progress. He was shot in the left eye, the bullet going out at the back of the head, and he lay for many days unconscious. He has had every care and attention from doctors and nurses, and has now sufficiently recovered to be brought to a London hospital. He has written a letter to his parents at Parkgate, and appears to be on the high way to recovery.

Birkenhead News – Saturday 6 October 1917

DEATH OF CORPORAL S. MEALOR.—Wide-spread regret was expressed when it became known that this promising young man had succumbed to wounds received in action, in France. He was wounded in the head, and brought to a London hospital. Corporal Mealor was a native of Parkgate, and before the war was a fisherman. He was 33 years of age. He was a choir boy at the Parish Church, and subsequently joined as a senior, having a tenor voice. The funeral (which was not a military one) took place on Wednesday at the Parish Church, and was attended by a large number of fishermen and friends. The choir was present. The Rev. H. M. Harriss presided at the organ. The Vicar, Rev. C. Brooke Gwynne, conducted the service and gave an address. We extend our sympathy to the parents and relatives in their bereavement.

Chester Chronicle - Saturday 10 November 1917

In the 1911 census Joseph Mealor was recorded as 27, a bricklayer living at River Bank Road, Heswall, with his wife of 4 years, Elizabeth. Joseph had married Elizabeth Jane Taylor at St Peter's Church, Heswall, in early 1907 and, at the time of the 1911 census, had no children. Joseph Mealor died in mid-1958 aged 74.

It is believed that William Ernest Mealor married Alice Fewtrell, at Neston Parish Church, in early 1923 and that they had three children, each born in Neston:

William Fewtrell Mealor	born late 1923
Mary Mealor	born mid-1925
Alice Mealor	born mid-1931

William Ernest Mealor died in the Bebington area in early 1932 aged 49.

Mary Mealor, Samuel's mother, died in the Bebington area in late 1920 aged 72 and William, Samuel's father, died in Neston in early 1926 aged 76. They had outlived five of their eleven children.

Parkgate Soldier Dies from Wounds.

A gloom has been cast over Parkgate by the death of Corpl. Samuel Mealor, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. William Mealor, who are well known throughout the district. Corpl. Mealor, who was 30 years of age, enlisted in the 13th Cheshires in December, 1914, and after the necessary training proceeded abroad, where he was seriously wounded in the head last August. For some time he had been a patient at King George's Hospital, London, and his progress appeared to be satisfactory, but unfortunately, it was found necessary to perform an operation last Friday, and he gradually sank and passed away on Saturday afternoon. He took a keen interest in Parkgate Mission Church and was a member of the Men's Bible Class. He also belonged to the "Parkgate Entertainers," and his last appearance with the troupe was at the Town Hall in December, 1914, soon after he enlisted. Many messages of condolence have been received by his parents. The funeral took place at Neston Parish Church on Wednesday and was very largely attended, practically the whole of Parkgate residents and a large number from Heswall being present. The cortege was met at the church gates by the Vicar and the surplice choir, to which deceased formerly belonged, who preceded it into the church. The Rev. H. M. Harriss presided at the organ, the hymns used being "Rock of Ages" and "Jesus Lives." The 23rd Psalm was chanted, and the Lesson read by the Vicar, who also gave a very impressive address. The Nunc Dimittis was sung as the mourners passed down the nave following the coffin, which was covered with a Union Jack. The chief mourners were Seaman W. Mealor, Corpl. Joseph Mealor (brothers), Mrs. Read (sister), Messrs. R. Smith, John Smith, Jos. Smith, Thomas Smith, Richard Smith (cousins), R. L. Price, I. Lloyd, Mrs. Pinnington, Rev. J. E. Green, Messrs. Hunt, Mr. G. Lewis, William Campion, John Brierley, Richard Evans, William Evans, Wm. Maddox, S. Evans, M. Evans, H. P. Brierley, J. Evans, H. Webster, T. Campion, A. Maddox, W. Higgins, T. Robertson, E. Mellor, G. Mellor, J. Swift, H. Peters, G. Fewtrill, I. Fewtrill, J. Mellor, and many others. There was a large number of beautiful floral tributes, including an anchor from the Parkgate and Heswall fishermen.

Birkenhead News – Saturday 10 November 1917

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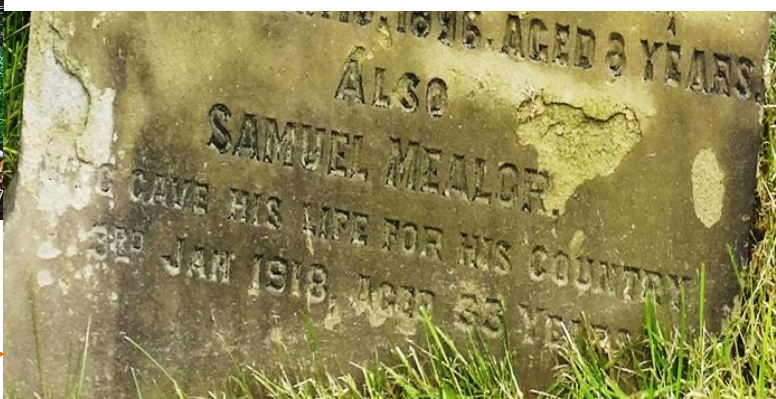
In the 1939 Register (29 September) Joseph Mealor (a bricklayer, born 31 March 1884), Samuel's slightly older brother, was living at 1 School Hill, Heswall, with his family. With Joseph was his wife, Elizabeth J (born 11 February 1885). Also in the household were William John Taylor (born 20 April 1916, a general labourer) and Dorothy Taylor (born 11 April 1916, domestic servant). Joseph died on Wirral in mid-1958 aged 74 and Elizabeth died on Wirral in early 1973.

Ann Francis (born 20 March 1872), Samuel's older sister, had been widowed in early 1929 when Thomas Henry Francis, 57, died in the Chester area. In 1939 Ann was living at 74 West Street, Chester; she died in early 1948, aged 75, in Chester.



Mealor family gravestone, Neston Parish Church

JOSEPH HENRY MEALOR
 Son of
 WILLIAM & MARY MEALOR
 Who died June 26th 1872 aged 2 years
 Also THOMAS, son of the above
 Who died Augst 30th 1876 aged 2 years
 Also of JOHN, son of the above
 Who died Febr^y 24th 1894 aged 14 years
 Also of FLORENCE MARY
 Daughter of the above
 Who died Febr^y 10th 1896 aged 8 years
 Also
 SAMUEL MEALOR
 Who gave his life for his Country
 3 Jan 1918, Aged 33 years



Detail of base of family gravestone in Neston St Mary & St Helen Churchyard showing the incorrect date of death of Samuel Mealor.
 The only viable explanation that can be proposed for the two-month discrepancy in the correct date of death recorded by CWGC and that shown on the gravestone is that the engraver was either given the incorrect date or made the error himself.

604773	6/533528	Mealor Samuel	2/7 Bthn Chester Pte 200780	3-11-17 London 1/184 Tounds no 2	12 5 6	12 5 6	01.0.4-18.15.4.18/1	12 5 6	11/1/19	11/1/19	11/1/19	11/1/19
				WAR GRATUITY. 1920. 7.9.17 Transfer 6423. Revd. Paper 2035 &c Serial No. 22724 43.	14 =							

Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929 (extract)

In July 1919 Mary Mealor, Samuel's mother was the sole beneficiary of Samuel's outstanding credit from the army – this was £12 5s 6d as wages and a War Gratuity of £14. The total of £26 5s 6d is approximately equivalent to a *labour value* (wages) of around £4000 in 2016.

This form confirms Samuel's date of death as being 3 November 1917 and records that he died in London. He is here recorded as being a Private.

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.