

## 72: William Prosser

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

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: W. Prosser

Rank: Private

Battalion / Regiment: 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Cheshire Regiment

Service Number: 50391

Date of Death: 09 July 1918

Age at Death: ?

Buried / Commemorated at: Les Baraques Military Cemetery, Bleriot-Plage, Departement du Pas-de-Calais, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France

Additional information given by CWGC: None

William Prosser was the eldest child of gardener Edward (he died 22 January 1892, aged 42) and Martha Prosser. Edward Prosser married Martha Thomas of Brimstage at St John's Church, Chester, in late 1877; Martha was the daughter of agricultural labourer Edward and Jane Thomas.

In 1881 the family was living at Woodbank House, Disley (East Cheshire, close to the Derbyshire border) although they had started married life in Neston where William had been born and baptised at the parish church on 10 May 1878:

Edward Prosser	Head	Mar	32	Gardener	Cheshire - Disley
Martha Do	Wife	Mar	29		Staffordshire - Goddall
William Do	Son	Unm	2		Cheshire - Barnston
Evaline Do	Daughter	-	1		Do - Neston
					Do - Disley

### 1881 census (extract) – Woodbank House, Disley, Cheshire

Edward Prosser	32	gardener	born Godsall, Staffs.
Martha	29		born Barnston
William	2		born Neston
Evaline	1		born Disley

By the time of the 1891 census the family had moved back to Neston:

1	Edward Prosser	Head	39	Gardener	Cheshire - Disley
	Martha Do	Wife	37		Staffordshire - Goddall
	William Do	Son	12		Cheshire - Barnston
	Evaline Do	Daughter	11		Do - Neston
	John E. Do	Son	9		Do - Disley
	Edith Do	Daughter	6		Do - Disley
	Cecil Do	Son	4		Do - Disley
	Harry Do	Son	1		Do - Disley
	Agnes Do	Daughter	17		Do - Disley

### 1891 census (extract) – Five Lane Ends, Neston

Edward Prosser	39	gardener	
Martha	37		
William	12		
Evaline	11		
John E.	9		
Edith	6		
Cecil	4		
Harry	1		
Agnes	17	niece, dressmaker's apprentice	

No birthplace data recorded for any of the family



The 1891 census has failed to record the birthplace of the members of this family although it is known that Evaline, John and Edith were born in Disley and William, Cecil and Harry were born in Neston.

By 1901, after Martha was widowed, the family had moved to Parkgate:

Martha Prosser	Head	Wid.	60	✓		Barnston Ches
John Prosser	Son	19	✓	Bricklayers labourer	Do	Disley Ches
Edith Do	Daughter	16	✓			Do
Cecil Do	Son	14	✓			Neston Cheshire
Harry Prosser	Son	11	✓			Neston Cheshire
Arthur E Prosser	Son	8	✓			Do

1901 census (extract) – Parkgate

Martha Prosser	60	widow	born Barnston
John	19	bricklayer's labourer	born Disley
Edith	16		born Disley
Cecil	14		born Neston
Harry	11		born Neston
Arthur E.	8		born Neston

Martha Prosser's age is, clearly, shown incorrectly; she would have been about 47.

William Prosser had married Mary Ellen Cross (born 18 January 1879 she subsequently recorded her birthplace as both Neston and Heswall) at St Nicholas Church, Liverpool, on 18 September 1899 and in 1901 they were living on Brook Street, Neston:

William Prosser	Head	M.	23	✓	groom - domestic	Neston, Cheshire
Mary E. Do	Wife	M.	22	✓		Do Do
Gertrude Do	Daughter		11 months	✓		Do Do

1901 census (extract) – Brook Street, Neston

William Prosser	23	groom, domestic	born Neston
Mary E.	22		born Neston
Gertrude	11 months		born Neston

No record of Evaline Prosser (born 7 November 1879) has been found in the 1901 census but she married cotton warehouseman Henry Bach Thomas at Christ Church, Moss side, Manchester, in early 1904 and in 1911 they were living with their son (Harold, 5 - another child had died) at 7, Sherrington Street, Longsight, Manchester. Henry Bach Thomas died, aged 54, in mid-1934 and in the 1939 Register Evaline was recorded as still living at the same address with her unmarried son Harold Thomas (born 13 August 1905, a warehouseman (cotton piece goods). Evaline died in the Manchester district in early 1964 aged 84.



John Edward Prosser married Gertrude Huxley at St Anne's Church, Old Swan, Liverpool, in late 1909 and in the 1911 census John, 29, was living at 10, Leighton Road, Neston, where he was recorded as a bricklayer's labourer at the Mersey Iron Works, once the largest employer in Ellesmere Port. Gertrude, 26, was shown as having been born in Liverpool and they had a 6-month old son, James Edward Prosser.

The family emigrated to Canada in 1912 and in the 1916 census of the Prairie Provinces are shown as living in Strathcona, Alberta, although John - recorded as a labourer in the city - is shown as serving overseas with the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion, presumably the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Edith Prosser (born 19 March 1895), William's youngest sister, had married (St Philip's Church, West Derby, Liverpool, towards the end of 1905) plumber Charles Percival Palfreyman (born 14 June 1883), the son of publican John and Jane Palfreyman who kept The Harp in Little Neston. By the time of the 1911 census they were living at Parade Cottage, Parkgate; Charles, 27, a plumber had been born in Liverpool and Edith was 26. They had two children, Eric (5) and Barbara (3), both having been born in Parkgate. Eric Palfreyman married Phyllis Southern at Neston Parish Church in mid-1936

In the 1939 Register Charles Palfreyman is recorded as the innkeeper of the Old Harp Inn and with him was Edith and unmarried daughter Barbara Jane Palfreyman (born 1 April 1908, paid domestic duties). It is possible that Barbara married a Clifford Hircock in the Sheffield area in late-1940 although nothing further is known of her.

Charles Percival Palfreyman had taken over the Old Harp Inn in 1923 and he ran it until forced to retire in 1947; having contracted diabetes he had both his legs amputated.

Edith Palfreyman died in on Wirral in mid-1946 aged 61 and Charles died in mid-1953 aged 69.

In 1911 Martha Prosser, then recorded as being 58, was living on Mostyn Terrace, Parkgate, with two of her unmarried sons; Cecil, 24, a plumber and Harry, 21, a joiner. The census recorded that of Martha's eight children, seven were still living.

Cecil (Pat) served in WW1 with the Labour Corps (170621) and was injured by a shrapnel bullet to his right leg at Vimy Ridge on 13 May 1916 for which he received treatment at a hospital in Leeds. As a plumber in Neston he was employed by W. Hough.

Cecil married Elizabeth Jane Cain (born 13 July 1896) at Neston Parish Church in late 1946. Cecil died on 16 February 1963 aged 75 and Elizabeth (known and recorded as Janet) died on 11 June 1970 aged 73. They are buried at Neston Parish Churchyard.

Harry Prosser, a builder's joiner (born in Neston on 30 July 1889), married Joyce Mealor (born 25 August 1890) at St John's Church, Chester on 6 January 1912.



Daughter Doris, was born and died in early 1912 and there were three subsequent daughters: Phyllis (born 13 March 1913), Eileen (born 7 September 1915) and Joyce Doreen (born mid-1922). Harry joined the RAF on 13 August 1918 when he was 29 and was transferred to the RAF Reserve on 13 February 1919. It is not known whether he saw active service.

The family lived at New Cottage, Parkgate but, in 1939, were living at the Deeside Café on The Parade in Parkgate where Harry was recorded as a joiner (building contractor). Harry died on Wirral in mid-1964, aged 75 and Joyce died later that year aged 74.

No record of Arthur Edward Prosser (born 16 November 1893) has been found in the 1911 census but it is known that he enlisted in the army in July 1908 and, in WW1, served with The King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment) and The King's (Liverpool Regiment). On 26 December 1918 Arthur married Clara Isabella Howard (born 25 November 1895) at St Andrew's Church, Bebington, and he died on Wirral in mid-1958 aged 65. It is believed that Arthur and Clara had one son, Arthur Howard (born 23 May 1921 in Neston) who, unmarried, was living with them at the time of the 1939 Register (29 September). The family was then at 4 Mostyn Gardens, Parkgate and Arthur snr was a builder's labourer and Arthur jnr an apprentice plumber. Arthur snr died in mid-1958 on Wirral and Clara died in early 1980.

At the time of the 1911 census William and Mary were still living on Brook Street:

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Married	Single	Widow	Divorced	Occupation	Place of Birth
1	William Prosser	Head	32	Married	11	7	7	Gardener (domestic)	Neston, Cheshire
2	Mary Prosser	Wife	32	Married	11	7	7		Heswall, Cheshire
3	Gertrude Prosser	Daughter	10	Single	-	-	-		Heswall, Cheshire
4	Isaline Prosser	Daughter	9	Single	-	-	-		Neston, Cheshire
5	Henry Edward Prosser	Son	7	Single	-	-	-		Neston, Cheshire
6	William Mornington Prosser	Son	5	Single	-	-	-		Neston, Cheshire
7	Joyce Prosser	Daughter	3	Single	-	-	-		Neston, Cheshire
8	Beatrice Prosser	Daughter	2	Single	-	-	-		Neston, Cheshire
9	Vincent Prosser	Son	2 months	Single	-	-	-		Neston, Cheshire

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)			(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)	
<p>I certify that:-            (1) All the names on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex columns.            (2) I have counted the males and females in Columns 2 and 3 separately, and have compared their sum with the total number of persons.            (3) After making the necessary inquiries I have compared all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.</p>			<p>Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (House, Tenement, or Apartment). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom; nor warehouse, office, shop.</p>	
<p>Total:            Males 4 Females 5 Persons 9</p>			<p>I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.</p> <p>Signature <u>William Prosser</u>            Postal Address <u>Brook St Neston, Cheshire</u></p>	

#### 1911 census (condensed) – Brook Street, Neston

William Prosser	32	gardener (domestic)	born Neston
Mary	32		born Heswall
Gertrude	10		born Heswall
Isaline	9		born Neston
Henry Edward	7		born Neston
William Mornington	5		born Neston
Joyce	3		born Neston
Beatrice	2		born Neston
Vincent	2 months		born Neston

William and Mary had been married for 11 years and all seven of their children had survived.



The dates of births are known for William and Mary's children:

Gertrude	born 21 April 1900
Isaline	born 28 November 1901
Henry Edward	born 16 May 1903
William Mornington	born 8 May 1905
Joyce	born 19 October 1907
Beatrice	born 22 February 1909
Vincent	born 15 January 1911

It is known that an eighth child, Herbert Mellor Prosser, was born 29 November 1913, just a few months before Britain declared war on Germany (4 August 1914).

William Prosser, of Liverpool Road, attested for the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Cheshire Regiment in Birkenhead on 28 November 1914 having already served in the 1<sup>st</sup> Volunteer Cheshire Regiment for 9 years. His age was recorded as 35 years 1 month, he had a 37½-inch expanded chest, satisfactory vision and very good physical development. He was given the Service Number 2887.

The 1/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion was a Territorial Force formed in August 1914, in Birkenhead, as part of the Cheshire Brigade, Welsh Division. They moved immediately on mobilisation to Shrewsbury and Church Stretton but by the end of August 1914 had moved to Northampton. In December 1914 they moved again, to Cambridge, and by March 1915 were at Bedford. On 13 May 1915 the formation became the 159<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 53<sup>rd</sup> (Welsh) Division. In July 1915 the Battalion sailed from Devonport, going via Alexandria to Gallipoli, but William had been transferred on 18 June to the 46<sup>th</sup> Provisional Battalion (which became eventually the 23<sup>rd</sup> Battalion) and which was serviced by "home service only" men.

On 11 July 1916 William moved to the 4<sup>th</sup> Reserve Battalion which, in March 1915, had been formed as the 3/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion in Birkenhead but which became the 4<sup>th</sup> Reserve on 8 April 1916. Between 31 October 1916 and 6 November 1916 William was in hospital suffering from scabies.

On 21 December 1916 William embarked at Southampton, disembarking at Rouen the following day and, on 23 January 1917 was transferred to the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion Cheshire Regiment with the Service Number 50391. The 16<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion (also known as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Birkenhead) had been formed at Birkenhead on 3 December 1914 by Alfred Bigland MP as a Bantam Battalion. William joined the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion in the field on 25 January 1917 and in 1917 would have fought with them (alongside the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion) in The Pursuit of the German Retreat to the Hindenburg Line, the fighting in Houthulst Forest and at The Second Battle of Passchendaele.

In early 1918 it appears that William took leave between 3 - 17 January and would then have been engaged in the First Battle of Bapaume (24 - 25 March) before, on 21 May, being in Rouen where he was re-posted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Cheshire Regiment (5<sup>th</sup> Division) which he joined on 2 June 1918.



William had been with his new battalion for just a month when, on 3 July 1918 he suffered a shell gas wound and was taken to the 13<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance and immediately transferred to the 39<sup>th</sup> Stationary Hospital at Ascq, a small village in northern France. It was probably two or three days after this that William was transferred to the 10<sup>th</sup> Canadian Stationary Hospital at Calais, 65 miles from Ascq, where, at 9.0am on 9 July 1918 he died of gas wound poisoning.

The War Diary entry for the 1<sup>st</sup> Cheshire regiment notes the gas and high-explosive shell attack on the Villorba Camp during the night of 2 July/ early morning 3 July when William was one of 17 Other Ranks who suffered gas wounds:

WAR DIARY			
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.			
<small>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.</small>			
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
VILLORBA CAMP.	1st		<b>July, 1918.</b> Battalion in VILLORBA CAMP, Brigade Reserve. Battalion cleaning up, kit inspections, etc. "A" Company bathing. "C" Coy digging new reserve line, "B" Coy digging support trench, "D" Coy working under Divisional Roads Officer. "A" Coy constructing shelters at Bde H.Q.
	2nd		Battalion providing working parties as for yesterday. "D" Company bathing. Camp shelled at night and during early morning of 3rd, with both gas and H.E. shells. Casualties : 5 other ranks killed, 13 other ranks wounded, 17 other ranks wounded (gas). A/Major (Capt) L.L.B. ANGAS wounded.
	3rd		Battalion providing same working parties as before. "C" Company bathing. Lieut T. GROARKE, 2nd Lieut A. ROBERTS and 13 other ranks proceeded to United Kingdom on leave.
	4th		Battalion providing same working parties as before. "B" Company bathing. 2 other ranks proceeded on leave.
	5th		"B" and "C" Coys working during morning. Battalion relieved by 1st EAST SURREY Rgt about 4 p.m. and withdrew to Divisional Reserve in LA LACQUE Camp arriving about 9 p.m. Good accommodation for all ranks. Major E.F. CLARKE D.S.O. re-joined Battalion. Capt W.A. WILSON M.C. joined the Battalion as re-inforcement.

No mention is made later in the War Diary of William's subsequent death.

William Prosser had served, since his attestation on 28 November 1914, for 2 years and 22 days in Britain and 362 days in France, a total service of 3 years 224 days.

Although the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion had taken part in The Battle of Hazebrouck and the defence of Nieppe Forest, a 3-day engagement in mid-April 1918, at the time of William's death they were encamped and were not engaged in front line conflict. In fact, at around the time of William's death, the battalion was engaged in route marches, church parades and a Brigade Football Competition - won by the Cheshires who beat the 16<sup>th</sup> Warwicks 1 – 0 at Steenbecque.

It has not been possible to identify the position of Villorba Camp although it may have been located to the east of the village of Aire-sur-la-Lys in northern France.

William's wife, Mary Ellen Prosser, was notified of his condition after he was admitted to the 10<sup>th</sup> Canadian Stationary Hospital, but was advised that she could not visit him. Although she requested further information of his condition, he died a



few days later and she received notification of his death before further information could be sent to her:

This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

Charges: **POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.**

If the Receiver of an Inland Telegram doubts its accuracy, he may have it repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission, any fraction of 1d. less than 2d. being reckoned as 1d.; and if it be found that there was any inaccuracy, the amount paid for repetition shall be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams.

At ..... See Stamp.

To .....  
By .....

Prefix ..... Handed in at ..... Office of Origin and Service Instructions ..... Words ..... Received here at .....

C. OR B. Collected ..... Paid out .....

7-0 Neston 31 7-34 HS

Bondg Records - Shrewsbury  
Relative telegram esteem favour if could  
receive little more information regards  
50391 William Prosser Cheshire Regt Dangerously  
ill Canadian Stationary Hospital Calais France  
Mary Prosser L'pool Rd Neston

9 - JUL 1918  
SHREWSBURY

Received at ..... From ..... By ..... NEXT OF KIN NOTIFIED

Rec'd 16591. Wt. 30000 P. 137. 15,600,000. 2/16. E. & S. Ltd. (E 1597.)

Transcription -  
Records. Shrewsbury.  
Relative telegram  
esteem favour if could  
receive little more  
information regards  
50391 William Prosser  
Cheshire Rgt.  
Dangerously ill  
Canadian Stationary  
Hospital, Calais,  
France. Mary Prosser,  
L'pool Road, Neston

SEE NOTICE AT BACK.

**POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.**  
(Inland Telegrams.)

No. of Telegram .....  
For Postage Stamps.  
To be affixed by the Sender.  
Any Stamp for which there is not room here  
should be affixed at the back of this form.

Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words. Sent .....  
Charge. To .....  
By .....

When a reply is to be prepaid, write the words "Reply Paid" in the space below. These words are not charged for.

TO { Prosser  
Liverpool Road  
Neston, Cheshire

FROM { Records

12 words, including the words in the address, 9 D. Every additional word, 1 D.

The Name and Address of the Sender, IF NOT TO BE TELEGRAPHED, must be written in the Space provided at the Back of the Form.

(This Paper Manufactured and Printed by MCCORQUODALE & CO. Limited.) A. Wt. 4411/275. 12,000,000. 5/9/17. Sch. 2.

PO Telegraph to Mary Prosser, 8 July 1918 (the day before William died)

eighth. Regret to inform you your husband 50391 Pte W. Prosser Cheshire Rgt. is dangerously ill at 10<sup>th</sup> Canadian Stationary Hospital, Calais, France. Regret permission to visit cannot be given.

SEE NOTICE AT BACK.

**POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.**  
(Inland Telegrams.)

No. of Telegram .....  
For Postage Stamps.  
To be affixed by the Sender.  
Any Stamp for which there is not room here  
should be affixed at the back of this form.

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12 words, including the words in the address, 9 D. Every additional word, 1 D.

The Name and Address of the Sender, IF NOT TO BE TELEGRAPHED, must be written in the Space provided at the Back of the Form.

(This Paper Manufactured and Printed by MCCORQUODALE & CO. Limited.) A. Wt. 1423/510. 10,000,000. 7/9/18. Sch. 1.

PO Telegraph to Mary Prosser after William died

Deeply regret to inform you your husband died at 10 Canadian Stationary Hospital, Calais, France, from gas poisoning, date not stated. I am to express the sympathy and regret of the Army Council in your sad bereavement



Madam,  
With reference to my May 10482 of the  
10th inst., notifying the death of your husband No. 30391.  
Private W Prosser, The Cheshire Regiment, I beg to inform  
you a further report has been received from the War Office  
stating that he died on the 9th day of July, 1918, from  
Gas Shell poisoning at 10th Canadian Stationary Hospital,  
Calais, France.

With deepest sympathy in your sad bereavement.

I am,  
Madam,  
Your obedient servant,

Captain for Lt. Colonel  
i/c No 2 Infy Record Office.

re M E Prosser  
Liverpool Road  
Neston  
Cheshire.

It is quite probable that William died from mustard gas, a chemical agent that causes severe burning of the skin, eyes and respiratory tract. It can be absorbed into the body through inhalation, ingestion or by coming into contact with the skin or eyes and early gas masks offered very little protection.



*First used during World War I, the gas is effective at incapacitating its victims en masse. Sulphur mustard is generally colourless in its gaseous state, though it may have a faint yellow or green tint. It's most easily recognized by its trademark "mustardy" odour, though some compare its smell to that of garlic, horseradish or sulphur.*

*The gas is a vesicant, or blister-agent, causing redness and itching of the skin that results in yellow, pus-filled blisters. Because mustard gas strips away the mucous membranes of the eyes, nose and respiratory tract, victims may also experience irritation of the eyes, temporary blindness, runny nose, cough, shortness of breath and sinus pain. The digestive tract is also affected, resulting in abdominal pain, diarrhoea, fever and vomiting.*

[Adapted from: <http://www.livescience.com/39248-what-is-mustard-gas.html>]

**WAR ITEMS.**—Deep regret was felt in Neston when it became known that two more of our local men have paid the supreme sacrifice for their country. Driver Alfred Crawford, R.F.A., of Leighton Cottages, Neston, joined the forces as soon as war was declared, and had been on active service about two years when he received the wounds which proved fatal. Driver Crawford leaves a widow and five children, to whom the greatest sympathy is extended.—Driver William Prosser died from gas shell poisoning in France. Driver Prosser joined the Cheshire Regiment in 1914, and had seen much service, having been in France over two years. Mrs. Prosser has received very sympathetic letters from the hospital nurses and also the chaplain, who described his condition as very serious from the first. He was buried in a little cemetery near the hospital. Driver Prosser, who was well known and respected by all he came in contact with, leaves a widow and eight children, with whom the greatest sympathy is felt.

*Chester Chronicle - Saturday 27 July 1918*

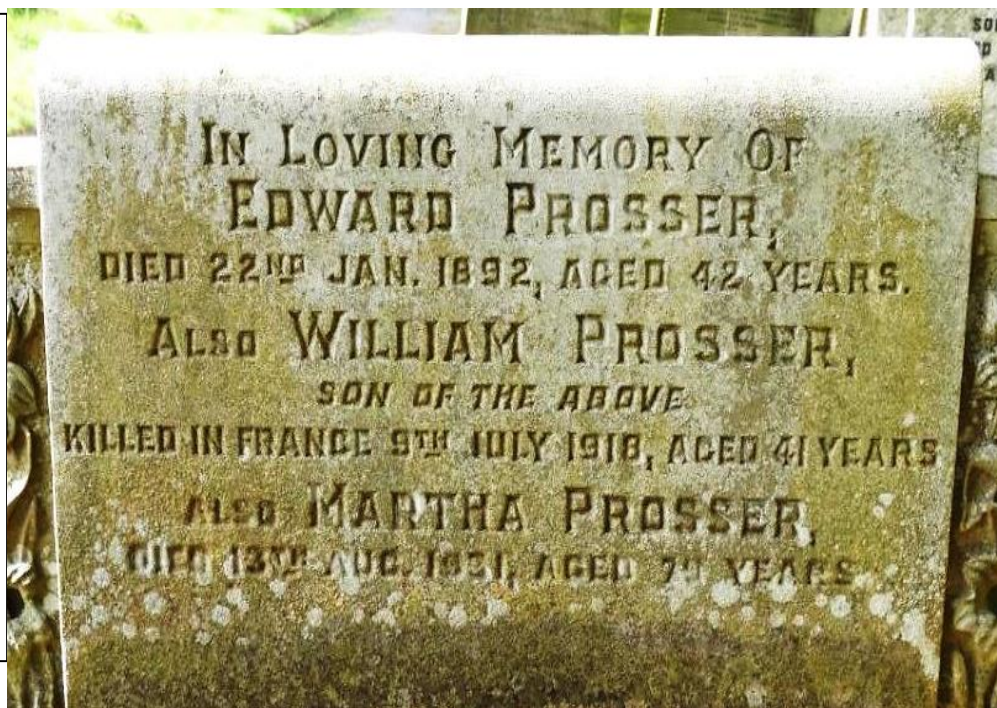
Transcription (part):

Driver William Prosser died from gas shell poisoning in France. Driver Prosser joined the Cheshire Regiment in 1914, and had seen much service, having been in France over two years. Mrs Prosser has received very sympathetic letters from the hospital nurses and also the chaplain, who described his condition as very serious from the first. He was buried in a little cemetery near the hospital. Driver Prosser, who was well known and respected by all he came in contact with, leaves a widow and eight children, with whom the greatest sympathy is felt.



The gravestone in Neston Churchyard (NW of church) inscribed: 'In Loving Memory of Edward Prosser, Died 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1892 Aged 42 Years Also William Prosser, Son of the Above, Killed in France 9<sup>th</sup> July 1918, Aged 41 Years Also Martha Prosser, Died 13<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1931 Aged 79'.

[William Prosser is not buried here: he is commemorated and buried at Les Baraques Military Cemetery, Calais].



On 6 November 1918, when she was living on Liverpool Road, Neston, Mary Prosser acknowledged the receipt of her late husband's property - 1 Testament, 2 pipes, 1 knife, numerals & badges, 1 ring, 1 identity disc and photos.

In 1920, by which time William had died of wounds in France, Martha Prosser had moved to Coast Guard Cottage, Parkgate, with Cecil, and Harry was living nearby in New Cottage. In 1920 John Prosser and his family were still living in Strathcona, Alberta.

Record No.	Registry No.	Soldier's Name	Regiment, Rank, No.	Date and Place of Death	CREDITS			CHARGES			Date of Authority	To whom Authorised	Amount Authorised			No. of List in which advertised
					Account and Date	£	s.	d.	£	s.			d.	Account and Date	£	
736931	1/14591/1	Prosser William	P. Sheshine Rte 50391	9-7-18 Breunshy 10-Can. Reg. Co France 9-18 11-18	17	13	6	18	-	10	M.O. 11-18 1.11.18	Mid: Mary B.	18	-	10	1 (Children)
					17	4	4	-	3	-	M.O. 12-18 16-12-18	Mid: Mary B.	-	3	-	
							3									

#### Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929

In June/July 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.

William Prosser had accrued a credit of £18 3s 10d which was paid to his widow, Mary, in two instalments. Mary also received the £17 War Gratuity. The total payment, £35 3s 10d, is approximately equivalent to a *labour value* (ie wages) of about £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.
PROSSER		Ches R	Pt	2987 50391
William				
Medal.	Bell.	Page.	Remarks.	
VICTORY	10/10	5/38		
BRITISH	do	do		
STAR				
Theatre of War first served in				
Date of entry therein				

British Army WWI Medal Rolls  
Index Cards, 1914-1920

At the time of the 1939 Register (29 September) Mary Prosser was living at 7 Raby Gardens, off Raby Park Road, Neston with unmarried daughter Isaline who was recorded as being a lady gardener. Nothing further is known of Isaline Prosser although it is believed that she did not marry and died locally in early 1999.

Martha Prosser, died 13 August 1931 aged 79.

Of William and Mary Ellen's other children it is believed that:

Gertrude - married John Henry Carr (born 30 August 1897) in a Civil Marriage on Wirral in early 1918.

John, born in Neston was a son of coal miner Edward and Margaret Carr; both had been born in Ormskirk but had lived in Neston from about 1898 with Edward working at Neston colliery.

At the time of the 1939 Register (29 September) they were living at 13 Talbot Gardens, off Talbot Avenue, Little Neston. Edward, described in the Register as a contractor's labourer, died a very short time later in Neston in late 1939. It is believed that John and Gertrude had four children (three lines of the 1939 Register entry are redacted): Evelyn (born mid-1918, died early 1986) ; William Henry (born 25 May 1920, died mid-2001) ; Peter (born early 1931) ; Roy (born mid-1932).

It is not known when John Henry Carr died but it is believed that Gertrude died in late 2000 aged 100.

Henry Edward (Harry) - married Agnes Evans at St Peter's Church, Heswall, in late 1931 and it is believed that they had least one child, John Edward Prosser, who was born in early 1934 in the Bebington area.

In the 1939 Register Henry was recorded as a labourer living at 9 Brook Street, Neston. Agnes, although still alive, was not in the household and two lines of the entry have been redacted (as of March 2018).

Henry died in early 1987 in the Birkenhead area but it is not known when Agnes died.

William Mornington Prosser married Margaret Fewtrell (born 18 June 1905) at a Civil Marriage on Wirral in early 1926. In the 1939 Register William, living on



Poll Hill Road in Heswall, was recorded as a private chauffeur; two lines of the entry have been redacted (as of March 2018) but it is believed that they had at least two children: Margaret May (born mid-1926 in Neston) ; William George (born late-1928 in Neston). It is possible that a third child, Raymond, was born in late 1940 in East Wirral.

William Mornington Prosser died on Wirral in late 1967 aged 62. It is not known when Margaret died.

Joyce Prosser married Samuel Ellis (born 24 February 1908) in a Civil Marriage on Wirral in April / June 1930 and they appear to have had at least two children; Molly was born in early 1931 and Thomas E. Ellis was born in late 1935.

Samuel Ellis was the youngest brother of Thomas Ellis who was killed in France on 8 November 1915 [see [29: Thomas Ellis](#) in this work].

In the 1939 Register, when Samuel Ellis was a labourer at a brickworks, the family was living at 13 Cottage Close, off the Burton Road, Neston. Three lines of the 1939 Register have been redacted but it is believed that Samuel and Joyce had at least two children: Molly (born mid-1931) and Thomas Edward (born late-1935 in the Bebington area).

Joyce Ellis died in Anglesey in early 1977 but it is not known when Samuel died.

Beatrice Prosser married Norman Lewis (born 19 May 1910) at a Civil Marriage on Wirral in late 1932

and in the 1939 Register they were recorded as living on Mellock Lane; Norman was a plasterer and three lines of the entry have been redacted. It is believed that Norman and Beatrice had three children:

Norman Craig (born mid-1934 in the Bebington area) ; Beatrice Mary (born and died mid-1937 in West Wirral) ; Beatrice Joy (born mid-1942 in West Wirral).

Beatrice Lewis died 26 April 1976 aged 67 and Norman Lewis died 30 January 2005 aged 94 - both are buried at Neston Cemetery.



Vincent Prosser (born 15 January 1911) married Mary Jane Owen (born 23 April 1913) at St John's Church, Great Meols, in April / June 1937 and they seem to have had at least one son, Arthur Vincent Prosser, in mid-1938. It is



understood that Arthur Vincent died in mid-1967 following a motorcycle accident.

At the time of the 1939 Register Vincent, a bricksetter, and Mary were living at 'Nesta' in Mellock Lane - one line of the register entry has been redacted (as of March 2018).

Vincent Prosser died in June 1985 in the Birkenhead area but it is not known when Mary died.

Herbert Mellor Prosser married Edith Mary Bellis (born 8 June 1914) at Neston Parish Church in July / September 1936 and at the time of the 1939 Register they were living on Raby Road, Neston, where Herbert was recorded as a chauffeur / gardener (domestic).

Herbert and Edith may have had three children (in the 1939 Register one line has been redacted): Anthony J (born late 1939) ; Edith Ann (born early 1943 ; Roy (born late 1945).

Living with them was a child named as Geoffrey Clement (born 23 October 1929); he may have been the Geoffrey Hume Clement whose birth was registered in Birkenhead in late 1929 and whose mother's maiden name was Hume.

Herbert Prosser died on Wirral in late 2004 but it is not known when Edith died.