



## **Fred Mellor**

### **1877 – 1916**

Fred was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1877 at Whitley Lower, Thornhill, Dewsbury. His father was Abraham Lee Mellor, an operative dyer and later a blacksmith and a publican born in Whitley Lower in 1844 and died in 1907. His mother was Charlotte (née Wigglesworth) born in Briestfield in 1845 and died in 1910. They were married at St. Mary and St. Michael's Church, Whitley Lower on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1871.

They also had two daughters; Hannah, born in 1872 and Mary, born in 1874.

Fred was to married Gertrude Littlewood (born in 1877 and died in 1952) on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1901 at St. Saviour's Church, Ravensthorpe. They had four children, Edith Mary, born in 1902, twins Harry, born in 1904 and died in 1906 and Willie, born in 1904 and died in 1905, and Amy, born in 1908. He owned a Butcher's shop at Crackenedge Lane, Dewsbury and upon the death of his father also became the licensee of the family pub, the New Albion Inn; although in 1911 the family lived at Charles Street, Ravensthorpe.

He served as Private 29846 in the 12<sup>th</sup> Labour Company, Lincolnshire Regiment. His battalion was not intended to be involved in any of the fighting. He had been called up on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1916 and was not passed fit for front line duties; he had only been serving for 12 days when he was dispatched to France on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1916. Being classed as B1 his grading meant that he was eligible for overseas garrison duty. He landed in Le Havre and was sent up the coast to Dieppe, an important port for the receiving of munitions and supplies and the battalion's work seems to have involved assisting in the railway yard at Roux Mesnil which had a large ammunition dump adjacent to it.

Gertrude Mellor received a telegram in December 1916 to say Fred was dangerously ill in the hospital in Dieppe, after suffering for two weeks with bronchial catarrh. Gaining permission to travel, she and her sister-in-law Mary Clough, Fred's sister, who herself had been widowed earlier in the year, arrived in Dieppe on 14<sup>th</sup> December 1916 after some delays on the French railways. Sadly, Fred had died earlier that day from chronic bronchitis. He was buried in Janval Cemetery, Dieppe, Seine Maritime, France. Fred was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Gertrude and Mary stayed for his funeral on 16<sup>th</sup> December, returning home three days later.

Dieppe was used by Commonwealth forces as a minor base from December 1914 onwards, From January 1915 to May 1919; "A" Section of No.5 Stationary Hospital was stationed in the town. During this period, 219 Commonwealth burials were made in Janval Cemetery.

Fred is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church.

In Memory of

Private

**Fred Mellor**

29846, 12th Labour Coy, Lincolnshire Regiment who died on 14 December 1916 Age 39

Husband of Gertrude Mellor, of 2, Charles St., Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

**Janval Cemetery, Dieppe**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

