



## **John William (Willie) Mellor**

### **1875 – 1916**

Willie was born in Ravensthorpe on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1875 and baptised on 12<sup>th</sup> September at St. Mary's Church, Mirfield. His father was James Alfred Mellor, born in Huddersfield in 1841 and died in 1901. His mother was Evangeline (née Binns) born in Huddersfield in 1854 and died in 1941. They were married at St. Mary's Church in November 1873.

Their other children were; Sarah Binns, born in 1874, Mary Jane, born in 1877, Agnes, born in 1880, Lizzie, born in 1882, Eleanor, born in 1885 and died in 1886, Joe, born in 1883, Albert, born in 1887 and died in 1888 and Harry Austin, born in 1890.

On the 1891 Census the family were living at North Road, Ravensthorpe; Willie was employed as a cloth finisher. He subsequently changed employment to work on East Coast trawlers working out of the port of Kingston-upon-Hull

Willie has not been found on the 1901 and 1911 Census Records, presumably he was at sea. In 1904 he was married in Hull to Ada Ann Coatham (born in Flamborough in 1876 and died in 1925). They had three sons; Alfred, born in 1905 and died in 1905, William Binns, born in 1908 and Harry, born in 1910. They lived at 6, Glasgow Street, Newington, Hull.

He joined the Mercantile Marine in July 1915. This civilian navy was responsible for acting as a supply service to the Royal Navy, transporting troops and supplies to the Army, transporting raw materials to overseas munitions factories and fetching the finished munitions back. It also had to carry on its normal import and export business, including food supplies. On 21<sup>st</sup> January 1916 he set sail from Hull aboard the Great Northern Steam Fishing Trawler Company's vessel H436 'Earl', skippered by William D. Coates. Willie was the vessel's First Engineer, one of nine crew. The North Sea fishing trip normally lasted 10-12 days. However, nothing more was heard of the trawler, despite exhaustive enquiries by its owners all the men on board were presumed drowned, their date of death being recorded as 21<sup>st</sup> January 1916. His body was never recovered and so he is commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial, London. Willie was awarded the British War Medal and the Mercantile Marine Medal.

The Tower Hill Memorial commemorates men and women of the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets who died in both World Wars and who have no known grave. It stands on the south side of the garden of Trinity Square, London, close to The Tower of London. The First World War section of the Tower Hill Memorial commemorates almost 12,000 Mercantile Marine casualties who have no grave but the sea. The memorial was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens with sculpture by Sir William Reid-Dick. It was unveiled by Queen Mary on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1928.

Willie is also 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 Memorial in St. Saviour's Church.

In Memory of  
First Engineer  
**J W Mellor**

Steam Trawler "Earl" (Hull), Mercantile Marine who died on 21 January 1916 Age 40

Husband of Mrs. Mellor, of 6, Glasgow St., Hull. Born at Ravensthorpe.

Remembered with Honour  
**Tower Hill Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

