

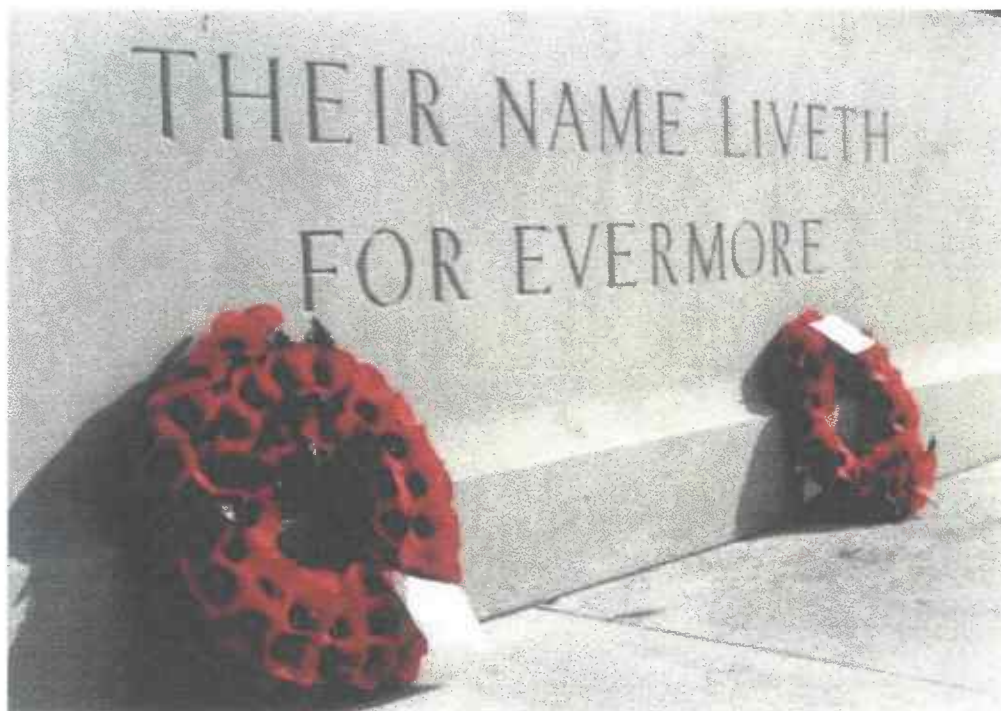


In Memory of

Company Serjeant Major B A GENERY

*5th Bn., Wiltshire Regiment
who died on Thursday, 25th January 1917.*

*Remembered with honour
AMARA WAR CEMETERY, Iraq.*



*In the perpetual care of
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission*

In Memory of**B A GENERY**

**Company Serjeant Major
32252
5th Bn., Wiltshire Regiment
who died on
Thursday, 25th January 1917.**

Commemorative Information

Cemetery: AMARA WAR CEMETERY, Iraq
**Grave Reference/
Panel Number:** XVII. A. 6.
Location:

Amara is a town on the left bank of the Tigris some 520 kilometres from the sea. The War Cemetery is a little east of the town between the left bank of the river and the Chahaila Canal.

**Historical
Information:**

Amara was occupied by the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force on the 3rd June, 1915, and it became at once a hospital centre. Accommodation, on both banks of the river, was greatly increased during 1916, and in April, 1917, seven British and Indian General Hospitals, as well as other medical units, were stationed at Amara. Besides the "Old Cemetery" (which became the present War Cemetery), other cemeteries were made at Amara for Hindu, Sikh and Muhammadan soldiers of the Indian Army and for Turkish prisoners of war. The graves brought in from other cemeteries and from the battlefields numbered in excess of 3,000. The burial grounds or battle fields from which British graves were brought into Amara include, among other places made famous by the War, ABU RUMMAN MOUNDS, occupied in April, 1916; ES SINN, where Field Ambulances were in September, 1915; FALLAHIYA and SANDY RIDGE, Field Ambulance positions facing each other across the river, North-East of Sannaiyat; IMAM AL MANSUR, a position occupied in December, 1916; ORAH, which became the Advanced Base in February, 1916; "R19", near the right bank, between Kut and Bassouia; SANNAIYAT, passed in September, 1915, attacked in April, 1916, and taken in February, 1917; Amara New Cemetery, on the right bank, which was begun in February, 1918, and used until July, 1920; it contained 71 graves; and SHAIKH SAAD OLD CEMETERY, where 473 British officers and men were buried. In 1933 all of the headstones were removed from this cemetery as salts in the soil caused a rapid deterioration of the stone used. Instead a screen wall was erected with all of the names engraved upon it.

Display Record of Commemoration

No. 32252, C/S/M BENJAMIN ARTHUR GENERY

Benjamin Arthur Genery was born in Weeley, Essex, the eldest son of Benjamin and Ada Genery, in 1887. Benjamin was one of five brothers who enlisted for service in the First World War; there was also, Leonard, who also died, Oliver, Christopher and Clifford, who all survived. The Genery family were living near Sawyers Farm in 1918.

Benjamin enlisted into the Somerset Light Infantry with the service No. 8325, (his Brother Leonard, was No. 8324). He saw service with the 5th Battalion The Wiltshire Regiment, with the regimental No. 32252.

The 5th Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment, was part of the 13th (Western) Division formed on 21st August 1914 as part of Kitchener's 1st new army (K1). The 13th Division left England in June 1915, and landed in Gallipoli in July 1915. On the 12th February 1916, they were moved to Mesopotamia – Iraq.

It would have been about this time, that Benjamin would have joined the Wiltshires in this theatre of war.

The Wiltshire regiment took part in most of the major battles leading up to The Battle of Kut al Amara, December 1916 – February 1917. This battle was a decisive defeat for the Turks, and was the beginning of the eventual defeat of the Turks and the end of German schemes in Turkey, which led to Turkey signing an Armistice on 1st November 1918.

The following war diary extract covers the period from 22nd – 26th January 1917, when the 5th Wilts were in the front line and C.S.M. Genery was killed.

“22nd – 24th – trench work and preparations for an attack on Turkish post line. On the eve of the 25th all was ready.

Thursday 25th January 1917 Mesopotamia, trenches.

At 9.42a.m under cover of intense bombardment we attacked the Turkish first line in four waves on a front of about 800 yards for the Brigade. We assaulted with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers on our right each taking 400 yards front. Our objective was to capture the Turkish first line and consolidate it and to take the strong point P10 N if possible. The enemy trench was strongly held but assisted by our artillery and all ranks working with great energy and determination, we successfully dislodged the enemy and firmly established ourselves under considerable enemy shellfire.

Our bombing parties worked along their communication trench to P10 N driving the Turkish Bombers before them. Later our bombers withdrew a short distance for the artillery to bombard P10 N after which they rushed in and captured it working along trench P10 N, P15 C to the West, and P10 N, P10 Q to the North and consolidating. Our captures included nearly 100 prisoners, 1 Austrian Machine Gun, practically new, two Trench Mortars, 1 Minenwerfer less breach block, many rifles, much S.A.A. and stores.

Casualties, Officers, Capt. A.P. Bosanquet and 2/Lt. W.M. McInnes, killed and 2/Lt. R.E.C. Spencer, 2/Lt. E. M. Trott and Lt. J.M. Moore (slight) being wounded.

Consolidation continued throughout day. This work being greatly assisted by Sappers from the 88th Field Coy, Royal Engineers. During the night of 25/26th the Turks counter attacked but were easily repulsed with loss.”

Messages of congratulation received from Army Corps, Divisional and Brigade Commanders. Lt. J.M. Dodington took over command of D Coy. 234 Turkish dead were counted in the section of the Trench assaulted and captured by the Regiment. The Regiment during the assault displayed great dash and conducted itself in a most gallant manner. This was the more praiseworthy in the view of the fact that only eleven officers of the Battalion were allowed to go into action the remainder being held in reserve. Several cases of gallantry were specially noted for reward and in two cases immediate rewards have been granted by the army Commander – No.25978 Pte. Cook H, Distinguished Conduct Medal and No. 9255 L/Cpl. Barclay S.G. Military Medal.

It is hoped that the Minenwerfer captured will eventually be sent to the Regimental Depot. Total Casualties 25/26th Jany. Officers 2 killed and 4 wounded. O.R's 33 killed and 110 wounded."

Benjamin was killed in action, on the 25th January 1917, and is buried in Amara War Cemetery, Iraq, plot XVII.A.6.

He was entitled to the British War and Victory medals.

