

*In Memory Of*

**JAMES RICHARD BAYLEY**

**Private 293174**  
**1<sup>st</sup> / 7<sup>th</sup> Bn., Cheshire Regiment**  
**who died on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1917. Age 23**

**Born** Hyde, Cheshire      **Enlisted** Hyde, Cheshire      **Residence**

**Died How** Killed in action      **Theatre of War** Egypt

**Additional Inf.** Husband of Beatrice Bayley, of 3, Meadow Street, Hyde.

**Commemorative Information**

**Cemetery:** BEERSHEBA WAR CEMETERY, Israel  
**Grave Reference/**  
**Panel Number:** E. 5.  
**Location:**

Beersheba is a town 43 kilometres south-east of Gaza, and about 74 kilometres south-west of Jerusalem. The Cemetery is situated on the south west of the town, south of highway 25. Turn right onto 25 from highway 40 at the shopping complex building traffic lights. Follow 25 to the second set of lights and turn left. Turn left at the second crossroads and the cemetery is on the left.

**Historical Information:** In October, 1917, General Allenby's forces were entrenched on the Gaza-Beersheba line, behind the road and the towns, and were ready to attack. The first move was to be the capture of Beersheba. It was carried out on the 30th and 31st October by the XXth Corps (10th, 53rd, 60th and 74th Divisions) on the West, and the Desert Mounted Corps on the East; and on the evening of the 31st the 4th Australian Light Horse Brigade charged over the Turkish trenches into the town. The Cemetery was made, adjoining Beersheba Christian Cemetery, immediately on the fall of the town, and it remained in use until July, 1918. The burials in that period numbered 139. The Cemetery was, however, greatly increased after the Armistice by the concentration of a number of scattered graves and small graveyards. There are now over 1,000, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, nearly 100 are unidentified. The Cemetery covers an area of 12,258 square metres and is enclosed by a wall. The more important graveyards or groups of graves concentrated into this Cemetery were the following:- ABUSHAR WADI MILITARY GRAVES. These were a group of 44 graves of men of the 60th (London) Division who fell on the 31st October, 1917, on the South-West side of Beersheba. HAREIRA DISTRICT MILITARY GRAVES. Abu Hareira is about midway on the road from Beersheba to Gaza, in front of the Wadi el Sheria. The Turkish lines here were attacked and captured by the 10th, 60th (London) and 74th (Yeomanry) Divisions on the 6th and 7th November; and 81 men, chiefly of the 60th Division, were buried in the neighbourhood. IMARA MILITARY CEMETERY, about midway between Beersheba and Rafa, contained 125 graves of men of various units who fell, for the most part, in November, 1917. IRGEIG DISTRICT MILITARY GRAVES. Abu Irgeig is about 9.6 kilometres North-West of Beersheba, on the road to Gaza, and was occupied by the 53rd (Welsh) Division before the capture of Beersheba. Three hundred and one men of various units, who fell for the most part in November, 1917, were buried in the neighbourhood. JERWAL DISTRICT MILITARY GRAVES. In the district immediately North of Beersheba were 382 graves of men, mainly of the 53rd (Welsh) Division, who fell in the operations following the capture of Beersheba. TEL EL FARA MILITARY CEMETERY. Tel el Fara is about 29 kilometres West of Beersheba, and was important as a station on the railway line from Rafa. Thirty men of various units, who fell in the period June to October, 1917, were buried in the Military Cemetery. WADI HALGON MILITARY CEMETERY. In this Cemetery, on the South-West side of Beersheba, were buried 30 men of the 60th (London) Division, who fell in the capture of the town.