

*In Memory Of*

**ALFRED BEELEY**

**Driver 63191  
82<sup>nd</sup> Bty., Royal Field Artillery  
who died on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> June 1916. Age 27**

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

**Died How** Died    **Theatre of War** Turkey

**Additional Inf.** Son of Joe and Eliza Ann Beeley .    Brother of Harold Beeley,  
19, Foundry Street, Hyde.

**Commemorative Information**

**Cemetery:** BAGHDAD (NORTH GATE) WAR CEMETERY, Iraq

**Grave Reference/  
Panel Number:** XXI. A. 36.

**Location:** Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery is 800 metres beyond the North Gate of the City of Baghdad on the south-eastern side of the road to Baguba. Within the cemetery is the Baghdad (North Gate)(Khanaquin) Memorial. The Commission, at their 480th Meeting in September 1965 approved a proposal for the erection of a memorial in Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery to commemorate 107 Commonwealth and 438 Polish burials of the 1939/45 War in Khanaquin War Cemetery which, owing to difficulty of access, could not be fully constructed or properly maintained. A memorial has also been erected at Khanaquin.

**Historical Information:** Baghdad is a city on both banks of the Tigris, 220 miles from the Persian Gulf. It was built in the year 763, and for some time it was the capital of the Caliphate. In 1914 it was a place of some 150,000 inhabitants, the capital of one of the three mesopotamian vilayets, the Headquarters of the Turkish Army in Mesopotamia, and a trading centre of supreme importance. It was the objective of Indian Expeditionary Force "D" from - at the least - March 1915, and it was the goal of the force besieged and captured in Kut. It fell into British hands on the 11th March 1917. The "Operations for the consolidation of the position at Baghdad" lasted to the 30th April; but meanwhile it had become the Advanced Base, with two Stationary Hospitals and three Casualty Clearing Stations. The North Gate War Cemetery is half a mile beyond the North Gate, on the right-hand side of the road to Baquba. It stands on low and level ground, and a high earth "bund" is built around it to protect it against floods; within the bund is an iron fence. It is entered by a domed gatehouse, and bisected by a wide avenue which separates the British plots, on the left, from the Muhammadan and Hindi plots. It covers an area of 74,609 square yards. The cemetery was begun in April 1917, and it continued in use until 1922. It was enlarged after the Armistice by the concentration of 2,975 graves from other cemeteries at Baghdad and in Northern Iraq and from the battlefields, and, later, from the cemeteries in Anatolia where British prisoners were buried. In over 1,000 instances graves identified as groups, but not individually, are marked by headstones superscribed: "Buried near this spot." The tomb of Lieutenant-General Sir Stanley Maude, who died at Baghdad in November 1917, is in the middle of the cemetery; and the Memorial of the 13th Division, which he commanded in 1916, is in the South-West corner among the graves of a number of officer and men of the Division. The burial grounds from which British graves were brought to this cemetery included the following: ADANA PROTESTANT and PRISONERS OF WAR CEMETERIES: 91 graves found. AFIUM KARA HISSAR ARMENIAN CEMETERY: 198 graves found. BAGHDAD ADVANCED BASE CEMETERY, near the right bank of the river, begun in March 1917. BAGTCHER PRISONERS OF WAR CEMETERY: 369 graves found. KIRKUK CHRISTIAN CEMETERY, close to the Chaldean Church. KONIA ROMAN CATHOLIC and ARMENIAN CEMETERIES: 26 graves found.