

In Memory Of

JOHN WILLIAM BENT

Lance Corporal 10901
12th Bn., Cheshire Regiment
who died on Thursday, 19th September 1918. Age 40

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

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

Additional Inf. Husband of Annie Bent, of 36, Water Street, Hyde, Cheshire.

Commemorative Information

Memorial:

DOIRAN MEMORIAL, Greece

Location:

The Doiran Memorial stands near Doiran Military Cemetery, which is situated in the north of Greece close to the Yugoslav frontier and near the south-east shore of Lake Doiran. It is approximately 2 kilometres behind the village of Doiran and is reached via a farm track after turning left in the village by a large taverna. The Memorial stands on what was called Colonial Hill, and can be seen from a distance and is a landmark. It is the Battle Memorial of the British Salonika Force, for which a large sum of money was subscribed by the officers and men of that Force; and is also the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Memorial to over 2,000 British dead in Macedonia whose graves are not known. The Memorial takes the form of an obelisk, 12 metres high, guarded by two recumbent stone lions. It stands on a square platform, the sides of which are marked by shorter piers, and the names of the dead are inscribed on marble panels sunk in these piers. The architect was Sir Robert Lorimer and the monument was sculptured by Walter Gilbert. The Memorial was unveiled by Sir George Macdonogh on 25 September 1926.

Historical Information:

The monument, on what was called "Colonial Hill" overlooking Lake Doiran, can be seen from a distance and is a landmark. It serves two purposes: It is the Battle Memorial of the British Salonika Force, for which a large sum of money was subscribed by the officers and men of that Force; and it is the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Memorial to the British dead in Macedonia whose graves are not known. The Memorial takes the form of an obelisk, 12 metres high, guarded by two recumbent stone lions. It stands on a square platform, the sides of which are marked by shorter piers, and the names of the dead are inscribed on marble panels sunk in these piers. The architect was Sir Robert Lorimer and was the monument was sculptured by Walter Gilbert. The Memorial was unveiled by Sir George Macdonogh on 25 September 1926. The Memorial is roughly in the centre of the line occupied for two years by the Allied troops in Macedonia, but close to the West end of the British part of this line. It marks the scene of the fierce fighting in 1917-1918, in which the majority of British casualties on the field occurred. From October, 1915 to the end of November, 1918, the British Salonika Force suffered some 2800 deaths in action 1400 from wounds and 4200 from sickness. The campaign in which they fought was one in which few successes were gained, and none of any importance could be gained by them until the last two months. Their action was hampered throughout by widespread and unavoidable sickness (the British forces which attacked in September, 1918 had less than half their normal establishment present); by continual diplomatic and personal differences with neutrals or allies; by the presence on one front of a wide malarial river valley and on the other of difficult mountain ranges; and by the necessity of constructing by far the greater part of the roads and railways which it used. It overcame all difficulties, but this Memorial indicates the cost.