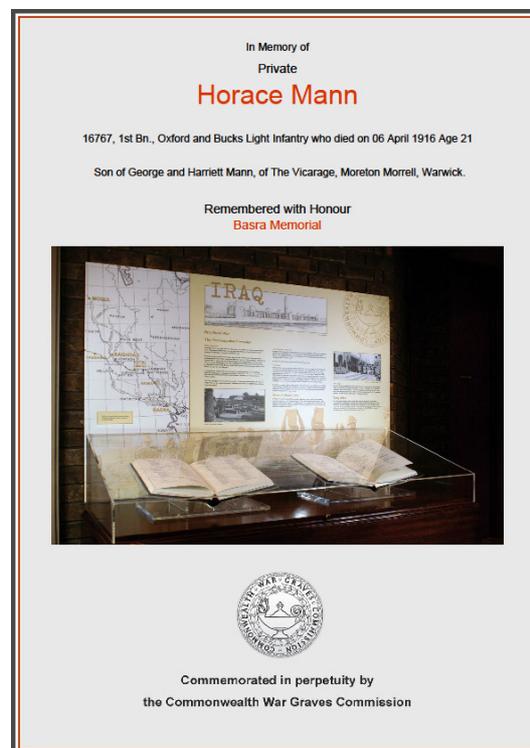


Horace James Mann

Horace was the third son of George and Harriet Mann he was born in 1895. George and Harriet were living in Moreton Morell where George had been born and worked as a gardener. By 1911, age 16, Horace was still at home and working as a bothy lad (plough or stable lad).ⁱ

He enlisted in Coventry and became a private, army number 16767 with the 1st Battalion, Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, 28th Brigade, 7th Indian Division. He arrived in France on Thursday 20 May 1915.

He was killed in action on Thursday 6th April 1916 in Iraq at the age of 21.ⁱⁱ



What happened to him in France and in what action he was killed in Iraq has not been established. However it is known that the 28th Brigade, 7th Indian Division was withdrawn from the Western Front to reinforce the army in Mesopotamia. It had arrived in Iraq at the beginning of 1916. At the same time a Provisional Battalion had been formed in January 1916 in Mesopotamia from reinforcements intended for the Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, who, as part of the 17th (Ahmednagar) Brigade, 6th (Poona) Division, were besieged by the Turks in Kut.

In April 1916, the 7th Division with the Provisional Battalion included, launched a desperate attack on the Turkish forces in what was a last ditch attempt to relieve the British forces besieged in Kut.

The following account may refer to the action in which Horace lost his life:

“The following day, 6th April, the 7th Division assaulted the Sannaiyat positions, into a hail of rifle and machine gun fire from both banks, There would be three attacks launched by the division that day. The assaulting brigades, 28th and 19th were cut to pieces - the Ox and Buck lost all their officers and 220 of 266 other ranks;”ⁱⁱⁱ

In a major disaster in late April the besieged army surrendered to the Turks.

“On 26 April 1916—supplies had dwindled significantly and many of the garrison's defenders were suffering from sickness—the garrison negotiated a cease-fire with the Ottomans and on 29 April the British-Indian force of 8,000 surrendered to the Ottomans, including 400 men of the 1st Ox and Bucks. Many of the Ox and Bucks taken at Kut, like the rest of the prisoners, suffered mistreatment by the Ottomans; only 71 of all ranks of the 1st Ox and Bucks who had been taken prisoner returned home to the UK. It is estimated that just under 2,000 Britons and up to 3,000 Indians perished in captivity.”^{iv}

George and Harriet, Horace's parents saw three of their sons go to war Albert, Harry and Horace. Although Harry was to return, Albert as well as Horace was killed in action.

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i 1911 Census

ii The Count of Warwickshire Roll of Honour 1914 -2008

iii The British Army in Mesopotamia, 1914-1918 By Paul Knight

iv http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxfordshire_and_Buckinghamshire_Light_Infantry