

## POLLARD John

Private John Pollard of 8<sup>th</sup> Btn Cheshire Regiment – 33367

John served in the Middle East and is remembered on the Basra War Memorial. He was not killed in action nor died of wounds. On 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1917, while a prisoner of war, he died in hospital at Mosul which was then in Turkey but is, at the time of writing, part of Iraq. It is possible his death was due to disease or an accident.



Basra Memorial

Until 1997 the Basra Memorial was located on the main quay of the naval dockyard at Maqil, on the west bank of the Shatt-al-Arab, about 8 kilometres north of Basra. It commemorates the 40,681 fallen who died in the operations in Mesopotamia from the Autumn of 1914 to the end of August 1921 and whose graves are not known. Because of the sensitivity of the site, the Memorial was moved by Saddam Hussein's presidential decree. The move, carried out by the authorities in Iraq, involved a considerable amount of manpower, transport costs and sheer engineering on their part, and the Memorial has been re-erected in its entirety in the desert.

The Basra Memorial is now located 32 kilometres along the road to Nasiriyah, in the middle of what was a major battleground during the first Gulf War.

John Pollard was the son of Joseph and Sarah Frances. The 1911 Census records him as having been born at Willaston, baptised there and single. He and his family lived at Corner House Farm, Willaston. He is listed both as an apprentice and as a dentist. The rest of the family were farm workers.

### Other information

1911 Census

Father, Joseph, was already dead.

Mother (nee Mealor) is listed as a farmer aged 49

Siblings

Frances – 29 - Farmer dairy work

Joseph – 25 – Farm work

Adam – 23 – Farm work

William – 16 – Farm work

Alfred – 15 – Farm work

Elsie – 12 – At school