

Brothers Killed On The Same Day

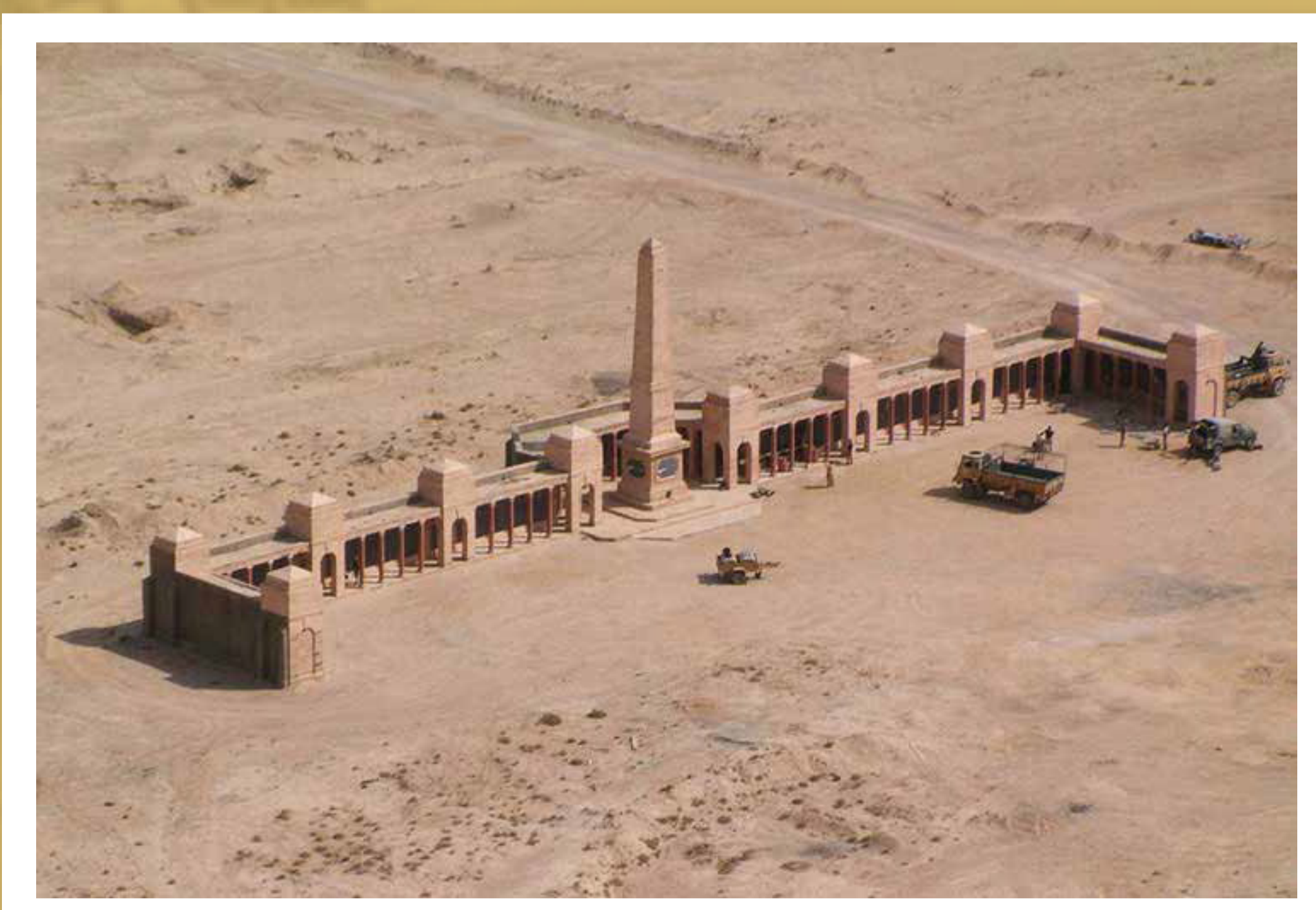
NOVEMBER 1915 - JANUARY 1916

Sidney and Harold Clark were two brothers from Marlow who joined up shortly after the War started. They were both killed on the same day in January 1916, fighting in what is modern-day Iraq.

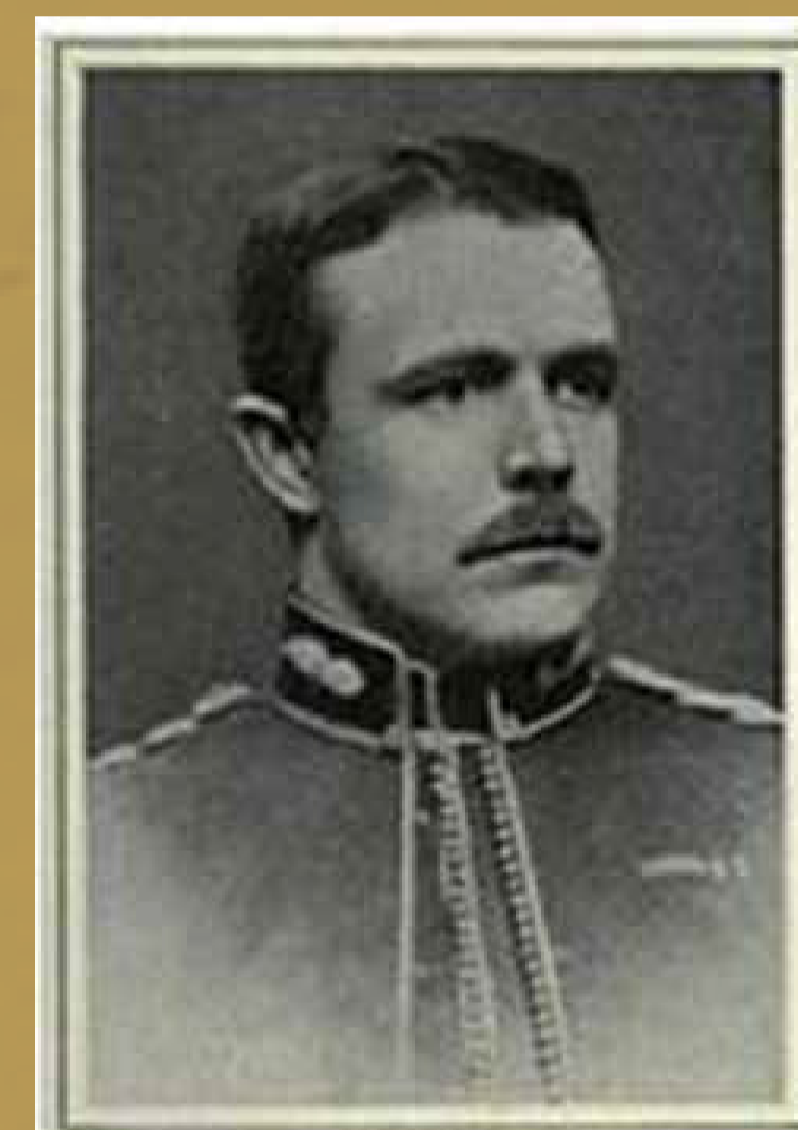
Sidney William and Harold Clark were the two youngest sons of Cooper Daniel Clark, a marine store dealer, and his first wife Sarah Jane, née Emery. Both parents came from Cambridgeshire and had married there in 1875.

Sidney was born in early 1892 in Reading and Harold at the end of 1895, after the family had moved to Marlow. Sadly their mother died in 1896 and in 1899 their father married Annie Margaret Willis from Maidenhead. By 1901 the family of eight were living at 19 York Road, Marlow.

By the 1911 census, Sidney and Harold had both moved out of the family home. Harold, aged 15, was now employed as an Ironmonger's Apprentice and was living with his sister, Emily, 30, and her husband, Frank Arnold, 36, a Brewery Correspondent Clerk, in Alton, Hampshire. Sidney appears not to have been recorded in the census, unless he was using his second name and working as a barman at the Vale of Health Tavern in Hampstead Heath.



War Memorial at Basra, modern day Iraq



LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR F. J. AYLMER,
K.C.B., V.C.,
Commanded the Relief Force until March, 1916.

Lieutenant-General Sir F J Aylmer who commanded the British-Indian forces at Hanna

MARLOW.
CASUALTY LIST.—Private S. W. Clark and Private Harold Clark, 4th Hampshire Regiment, sons of Mr. D. Clark, of 19, York-road, who were reported missing after the fighting for the relief of Kut on January 21, 1916, are now officially reported as presumed killed on that date. They enlisted together soon after war broke out.

The Bucks Herald, Saturday November 17, 1917

Soon after the outbreak of war, both brothers joined the 1/4th Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment which was stationed at Winchester. The battalion embarked for India from Southampton in October 1914. In March 1915 it moved to Mesopotamia, landing at Basra and joined the 33rd Indian Brigade. After some of the regiment were trapped as part of the British and Indian forces besieged in Kut, other companies tried to rescue them.

Sidney and Harold were killed on 21 January 1916 at the Battle of Hanna as the British unsuccessfully tried to lift the siege of Kut. Their deaths on this date were not confirmed until November 1917. The brothers are among the 40,500 men from World War One commemorated on the Basra Memorial in Iraq.