

CHARLES NOEL HARRIS

Second Lieutenant

**123rd Outram's Rifles,
attached 125th Napier's Rifles
died on
Wednesday 21st March 1917
aged 19**

CHARLES NOEL HARRIS
is commemorated on the
BASRA MEMORIAL
Iraq

*. Additional information in the
Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register*
Son of the Rev. Dr. Charles Harris, D.D., and Emily Mary Harris,
of Colwall Rectory, Great Malvern, Herefordshire.

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. Because of the sensitivity of the site, the Memorial was moved by 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. 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. Noel Harris's name is on Panel 51 and 67



Ledbury Guardian
& Herefordshire Advertiser
Saturday 28th May 1917

District Intelligence
COLWALL

RECTOR'S SON KILLED IN ACTION

We greatly regret to report that the elder son of the Rector of Colwall's son has been killed in action. 2nd Lieutenant Charles Noel Harris was gazetted to the Indian Army fell in action in Mesopotamia on Sunday last. Next Sunday morning at 8 o'clock at the parish church there will be a Solemn Eucharist for the repose of the soul of the late 2nd Lieutenant Harris.

Ledbury Guardian
& Herefordshire Advertiser
Saturday 17th November 1917

District Intelligence

LIEUTENANT C NOEL HARRIS
How He Fell

The first letter of May concerning Lieutenant CN Harris 128th Rifles to the Rector of Colwall seems to have been lost in transit. The following is a second one which repeats the details concerning the death of Second Lieutenant Harris. It was written from Samaria, Mesopotamia and is dated September 9th and states" Your son was killed at Salabulah on 21st April. At the time he was hit he was engaged as Acting Adjutant and was carrying a message to the front line from the Commanding Officer. He was hit in the stomach and death was almost instantaneous. I wrote to you before, but the letter must have been lost. He was a promising young officer and his death is much regretted. Will you please accept the sincere condolences of myself and those of the rest of the regiment for the loss you have suffered"

Charles Noel Harris was the son of Charles and Emily Harris. He was born in Haggston London 1897 where his family lived in the Church Institute and was baptised in the parish church by his father on December 31st 1897. The family soon moved to Lampeter where his father was a lecturer. His father Dr Charles Harris became Rector of Colwall in 1909 and was there throughout the First World War. He was the composer of the tune for "*O Valiant Hearts*". At the time of the 1911 census Charles Noel at 13 was boarding at The Elms. He went to Sandhurst and was commissioned in June 1915 first into the Worcestershire Regiment, but this was cancelled and he was commissioned to the unattached list of the Indian Army. He went out with the 123rd Outram's Rifles and was attached to the 125th Napier's Rifles at the time of his death at Salabulah.

Noel Harris is commemorated on a brass plaque on the north wall of St James'.