

Casualty Details

Name: RAYNER, ARTHUR EDWARD

Initials: A E

Nationality: United Kingdom

Rank: Serjeant

Regiment/Service: Hampshire Regiment

Unit Text: "D" Coy. 1st/8th Bn.

Age: 24

Date of Death: 02/11/1917

Service No: 330227

Additional information: Son of Thomas and Eliza Fanny Rayner, of "Hughenden," St. John's Rd., Ryde, Isle of Wight.

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead

Grave/Memorial Reference: B. 31.

Cemetery: [DEIR EL BELAH WAR CEMETERY](#)

Cemetery Details

Cemetery: DEIR EL BELAH WAR CEMETERY

Country: Israel

Locality: unspecified

Visiting Information: Note: April 2008 - The Commonwealth War Graves Commission is saddened to have to report that Deir El Belah War Cemetery has been damaged during a bomb attack. The bomb severely damaged the Stone of Remembrance and Cross of Sacrifice but no graves were affected. The Commission appreciates the distress this news may cause to families of those buried at Deir el Belah but we wish to reassure the public that the damage will be assessed and repaired as soon as possible. Casual visits to the Cemetery are possible but can be difficult. If using vehicles, ie Israeli standard number plates, the vehicle MUST be parked at the crossing point outside of the barriers. For further information and guidance, visitors should contact the Local Supervisor in Israel; Tel: 008 9221220 / Fax: 008 9241493 Wheelchair access to cemetery possible via main entrance. For further information regarding wheelchair access, please contact our Enquiries Section on telephone number 01628 507200.

Location Information: Deir El Belah is in Palestine about 16 kilometres east of the Egyptian border, and 20 kilometres south-west of Gaza. To reach

the cemetery, travel along main road number 4 and the entrance is to be found down a sand track just before a junction. Look out for a sign over the road on the right of the junction.

Historical Information:

On 28 February 1917, the cavalry of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force entered Khan Yunus, midway between the Egyptian border and Deir el Belah causing the Turks to withdraw to Gaza and Beersheba. The railway was pushed forward to Deir el Belah, which became the railhead in April 1917, and an aerodrome and camps were established there. The cemetery was begun towards the end of March and remained in use until March 1919. Most of the burials were made either from field ambulances from March to June 1917, or from the 53rd, 54th, 66th and 74th Casualty Clearing Stations, and the 69th General Hospital, from April 1917 until the Armistice with Turkey. A number of graves, the majority of which were originally at Khan Yunus, were brought into the cemetery after the Armistice. The cemetery contains 724 Commonwealth burials of the First World War. There are also ten war graves of other nationalities

**No. of Identified
Casualties:**

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