PENRITH SUTTON BEAUCHAMP

Second Lieutenant

10th Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment died on Thursday 25th January 1917 aged 24

PENRITH SUTTON BEAUCHAMP is buried in AMARA WAR CEMETERY Irag

Additional information in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register Son of Frederick William Beauchamp, late of Colwall, and Minnie Blanche Beauchamp, of The Cottage, Colwall, Malvern.

Amara was occupied by the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force on 3 June 1915 and it immediately became a hospital centre. The accommodation for medical units on both banks of the Tigris was greatly increased during 1916 and in April 1917, seven general hospitals and some smaller units were stationed there.

Amara War Cemetery contains 4,621 burials of the First World War, more than 3,000 of which were brought into the cemetery after the Armistice. 925 of the graves are unidentified. In 1933, all of the headstones were removed from this cemetery when it was discovered that salts in the soil were causing them to deteriorate. Instead a screen wall was erected with the names of those buried in the cemetery engraved upon it.



Ledbury Guardian & Herefordshire Advertiser Saturday 10th February 1917

DISTRESSING NEWS

We are informed that Mrs Beauchamp, The Cottage, Colwall has received notification that her youngest son Second Lieutenant P S Beauchamp has fallen in action in Mesopotamia. He belonged to the Worcestershire Regiment and was formerly a King's Scholar and a member of the OTC at the King's Cathedral School, Worcester. He was a most promising young man and the embodiment of a young English gentleman.

KING'S SCHOOL, WORCESTER The Vigornian, March 1917, No.88, Vol.VIII

Penrith Beauchamp entered the School as a day boy as a King's Scholar from Tredennyke in January, 1907. He subsequently became a boarder in Castle House, of which he was Head when he left in 1912. He was prominent throughout his school time as an athlete, was for four years in the football team, which he captained with success in 1911, two years in the Cricket XI., and Secretary of Cricket for 1912. He was also Secretary of the Debating Society when he left and a prominent member of the VIth Form. He did excellent service in the O.T.C. of which he was a member from the start - having a remarkable girt of command - and was Cadet Officer 1911-1912 under Captain Fenton. As Officer-in-charge of the Landscape Target Squad he secured the second place for his team in the Country Life Competition in 1912. He was a born soldier and his word in his House was law. Precluded from going to the University or Army, he undertook preparatory school work on leaving, and was for some time Assistant Master at Gate House School, Kingston-on-Thames. On the outbreak of war he at once enlisted, and early in 1915 obtained a commission in the Worcester Regiment. In 1916 he took a draft to Mesopotamia, where he found the climate very trying and was some time in hospital at Amara. On recovery he took part in the march on Kut and first went into action on December 22nd. He was in several subsequent engagements and fell in action on January 25th before Kut. Second Lieutenant Beauchamp was one of only 4 officers to capture a Turkish trench mortar on the morning of 25th January 1917 during the battle of Kut-Al-Amara. A counter attack by the Turks was not long in coming during which Second Lieutenant Beauchamp was killed.

He was the third son of Mrs. Beauchamp, of The Cottage, Colwall, who has our deep sympathy in her loss.

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Penrith Sutton Beauchamp was born in Colwall and baptised in the parish church on February 24th 1893. His parents Frederick William and Minnie Blanche Beauchamp had seven children and Frederick Beauchamp was first a Railway Superintendent and later became the manager of the mineral water works in Colwall. Penrith attended King's School, Worcester and enlisted into the Worcestershire Regiment and was commissioned in January 1915. He served with the 10th Battalion and went with them to Turkey in April 1916. He was killed during the Battle of Kut-Al-Amara and he is commemorated there and also on the War Memorial and the Memorial window at King's College, Worcester.