



18 May 2017

Thank you for your email, concerning the grave of William Arthur Evans, in Basra War Cemetery, Iraq.

The CWGC has a medium term strategy for Iraq which broadly seeks to “secure and clear all of its accessible sites”, but where possible, we aim make improvements to those locations where it is safest and likely to have the most impact.

The CWGC has formal commemorations at 19 principle locations across Iraq - as an example of the broad spectrum in which we operate, Kut War Cemetery has been fully restored whilst others such as Mosul and Amara are often inaccessible, highly dangerous, and out of bounds for our contractors. Whilst the current climate of instability persists, it is extremely challenging for the us to manage or maintain many of our cemeteries and memorials to the standards that we would wish. Alternative arrangements for commemoration have therefore been implemented and a Roll of Honour, listing all casualties buried and commemorated, has been produced. These volumes are on display at our Head Office in Maidenhead and are available for the public to view. I have attached a general view photograph of the registers, for ease of reference.

At Basra War Cemetery we are conducting regular clearance of the site (i.e. removal of debris and foliage) to keep it in as good a condition as possible. It is well-fenced and secure with obvious CWGC signage. I can confirm that there are no headstones in place in Basra War Cemetery but the casualty remains are untouched.

We continue to monitor the situation in Iraq and once the security environment has improved to an acceptable level, we will commence a rehabilitation project for as many sites as possible. The timeline for that is unclear but we are dealing with all of our cemeteries on a case by case basis.

I hope my email has helped to explain that we are being as active as we can in the country, given the conditions there.