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1st December 2013

Dear Duncan,

WW1 CENTENARY COMMEMORATIONS – AMARA

Thank you for your e-mail, dated 24th November 2013, where you enquired whether it would be possible for a British Legion Poppy to be placed in the cemetery at Amara, as part of the WW1 Centenary Commemorations.

Just over 54,000 Commonwealth war dead of the two world wars and some 700 of other nationalities are buried or commemorated in eleven sites in the Republic of Iraq. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission is committed to the maintenance and renovation of these sites and members of staff from the British Embassy will always visit to pay the appropriate respect if the opportunity arises.

We fully support your idea to place a poppy at the Amara site on behalf of your village, but because the security situation in Iraq severely impacts our ability to travel around the country we would not be able to guarantee that a visit would take place before 1st November 2014. That said, even if a visit could not take place in time, we could certainly incorporate the laying of the poppy in the Remembrance Service held in the British Embassy and to subsequently transfer it to Amara at a later date.

If you do get approval from your town council then please send the cross to the address detailed above. Please do not address the parcel to me personally as I return to the United Kingdom in the New Year and it could end up following me in the postal system!

I wish you all the very best and hope that you are successful with this venture.

Yours sincerely,

