

## **Wilfred Norman**

Wilfred, of Rampton, was the son of Tom and Lucy Jane Norman of Torksey. He joined up on 31st May 1911 at Lincoln, and joined the 82nd battery of the Royal Field Artillery as Gunner Number 65253. Wilfred died on 9th October 1916 as a Turkish POW and is buried in Baghdad (North Gate) Cemetery. His grave reference is XXI. M. 33.

### Historical Note:

He was with General C V F Townshend's force in his advance from Kut to capture Baghdad during the Mesopotamian campaign. At Ctesiphon they fought an inconclusive battle with Ottoman forces under Baron von der Goltz, but having lost a third of their strength retreated back to Kut, arriving on 7th December 1915. The Ottoman forces followed and besieged Kut. Relief forces failed to get through to them and General Townshend surrendered 29th April 1916 and Wilfred became a POW. The General lived in comfort near Istanbul as a POW, on a small island with the use of a Turkish navy yacht. Meanwhile more than half of the soldiers who surrendered died in Turkish captivity, many actually murdered by their captors.

