MEDIA RELEASE

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- To mark the end of the First World War Centenary, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission has shared 11 stories of British and Commonwealth Servicemen who died on the last day of the First World War

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) is marking the end of the First World War centenary with the personal stories of 11 Commonwealth servicemen who died on the very last day of the war. The photographs of these men have been colourised for the very first time.

CWGC records reveal that more than 860 British and Commonwealth servicemen and women died on 11 November 1918.

Eleven for the Eleventh is the culmination of the CWGC’s Road to Peace campaign, during which a total of 120 personal stories of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the last months of the war (known as the “100 Days”) have been told each day across the CWGC’s website and on CWGC’s digital channels on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

The Road to Peace campaign uses the personal stories of those who served and made the ultimate sacrifice to highlight the human cost of the war and the diversity of those who served. 120,000 men and women died between 8 August (Battle of Amiens) and 11 November 1918 and are remembered by CWGC.

The 120 stories have been compiled by the CWGC’s team of historians. From famous casualties like war poet Wilfred Owen, through to relatively unknown individuals; from those dying in battle to those who died of Spanish Flu; each story has been carefully chosen to shine a light on the human stories on the costly Road to Peace.

CWGC Chief Historian Dr Glyn Prysor said: ‘The Commonwealth War Graves Commission’s records reveal that more than 860 servicemen and women from across Britain and the former Empire died on 11 November 1918, when the fighting on the Western Front came to an end. It’s a poignant statistic, but every name carved on our headstones and memorials represents not just a death but also a life. There were families and communities across the world which would never be the same. This Remembrance Sunday is an opportunity to reflect on all those who died on the long road to peace and those they left behind. We’ve been honouring them for over a
hundred years, and the end of the centenary of the First World War is another milestone in our work which continues today, tomorrow and forever.’

To access the full list of stories featured in the CWGC Road to Peace campaign, visit https://www.cwgc.org/history-and-archives/first-world-war/themes/road-to-peace

Notes to editors:

1. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (www.cwgc.org)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) commemorates the 1.7 million Commonwealth servicemen and women who died during the two world wars. It also holds and updates an extensive and accessible records archive.

The Commission operates in more than 23,000 locations in more than 150 countries.

Get to know the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Read: http://www.cwgc.org/

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Watch: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuyv7WCJv_NYL04eKG3oyVA