



**Commonwealth War  
Graves Commission**  
**Country Report:**  
**Cameroon**



**CWGC**  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Cameroon was formerly a French mandate territory (and later UN trust territory) before gaining independence from France in 1960, uniting with the much smaller former British mandate/trust territory of Southern Cameroons, which gained its independence from the United Kingdom in 1961. Cameroon became a member of the Commonwealth on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1995.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) is responsible for maintaining commemorations for 48 Commonwealth War Dead at four locations in Cameroon: Bamenda Upstation European Cemetery; Douala Cemetery; Limbe Botanical Gardens Burial Ground; and Limbe European Cemetery.

**Douala Cemetery**

This public cemetery is in the Akwa area of Douala on the opposite side of the road from the Catholic Cathedral of Rue Joss.

The Commission graves are in a single row of 26 headstones, set within a concrete covered plot on the left hand side, about 30 metres in from the entrance. Douala Cemetery contains the largest number of Commonwealth war dead, with 24 burials of the First World War and one burial of the Second World War. In addition, there is one Non-World burial.

**Limbe Botanical Gardens Burial Ground**



Limbe is a coastal town about 50 kilometres west of Douala. The Botanical Gardens are situated opposite the Limbe council offices, adjacent to the old port.

The special memorial headstones are in a kerbed plot by the river, close to the boundary fence and can be seen from the road. The plot is well signposted within the gardens.

There are six casualties from the First World War and 15 casualties from the Second World War (including one unidentified soldier from the African Pioneer Corps (West Africa), R.W.A.F.F.) commemorated here.

### **Cameroon casualties**

Within our records, there are no individuals recorded as being from, or with family connections to, Cameroon.

However, we do commemorate nine casualties from the First World War who are noted as having served in the Cameroons campaign (1914-15).

### **Commonwealth War Dead (1914-1918)**

#### **BIENVILLERS MILITARY CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France**

**McGRATH**, Major, BEAUCHAMP HENRY BUTLER. 5th Bn., East Lancashire Regiment. Killed in action, 2 June 1916. Age 44. Son of Maj. Gen. Beauchamp H. W. Mcgrath (Indian Army) and Mrs. Mcgrath; husband of Dorothy Stansfeld (formerly Mcgrath). Formerly Indian Army. Served in the Cameroons 1914/15; returned to volunteer for service in France. Grave Reference: XII. C. 1.

#### **CATERPILLAR VALLEY CEMETERY, LONGUEVAL, Somme, France**

**TRIMMER**, Second Lieutenant, FREDERICK GEORGE. 26th Bn., Manchester Regiment. 12 October 1916. Age 24. Son of Mrs. Rose Elizabeth Trimmer, of "Dil Kush," 47, Heyshott Rd., Southsea, Portsmouth, and the late Frederick Trimmer. Joined Cameroon's Expeditionary Force at Duala, and remained with that Force till disbanded. Grave Reference: XXIV. D. 2.

#### **POZIERES MEMORIAL, Somme, France**

**HUTCHINSON**, Lance Corporal, ARTHUR BUTLER, 72553. Fifth Army H.Q. Signal Coy., Royal Engineers. 30 March 1918. Age 24. Son of Robert William and Sarah Ellen Hutchinson, of 3, Harehills Place, Leeds. Also served with the Cameroon Expedition. Grave Reference: Panel 10 to 13.

#### **GAMBIA MEMORIAL, Gambia**

**MARKHAM-ROSE**, Lieutenant, KENNETH. Essex Regiment, and Gambia Coy., Royal West African Frontier Force. Killed in action, 3 May 1916. (Buried at Jaunde Rd., Cameroons).

#### **NAIROBI BRITISH AND INDIAN MEMORIAL, Kenya**

**EWEN**, Lieutenant, (Asst. District Comm.), GUY CUTHBERT. Special List, attd. 3rd Bn., Nigeria Regiment, W.A.F.F.. Killed in action near Dar es Salaam, 24 January 1917. Age 27. Son of Walter Charles Henry and Florence Mary Ewen, of Rustington, Littlehampton, Sussex, and a great nephew of the first Viscount Knollys. Educated at Blundell's School, Tiverton, and Sidney Sussex College, Cambs. (B.A.) Served in the Cameroons with the Gold Coast Regt.

**MANGOCHI TOWN CEMETERY, Malawi**

**MACIVER**, Captain, KENNETH OGG MACKENZIE. Twice Mentioned in Despatches. King's Royal Rifle Corps, attd. 1st, King's African Rifles. Accidentally killed, 30 October 1918. Age 37. Son of Malcolm and Rose Maciver (nee Mackenzie), husband of Hilda Mary Maciver (nee Taylor), of 22, Strathearn Rd., Edinburgh. A Mining Engineer. Volunteered Aug., 1914. Served in the Cameroons (1914-15), also in France (1916). Grave Reference: 25.

**HOLLYBROOK MEMORIAL, SOUTHAMPTON, Hampshire, United Kingdom**

**BRADFORD**, Captain, CECIL AUBREY. Yorkshire Regiment, attd., Nigeria Regiment, W.A.F.F.. Drowned at sea (from S.S. "Abosso"), 24 April 1917. Age 31. Second son of the late Lt.-Col. O. J. Bradford, of Welparke, Lustleigh, S. Devon, and Mrs. Mary Ann Ellen Bradford; husband of Mildred Ellen Grace Wyatt-Edgell (formerly Bradford), of Tettenhall Wood, Wolverhampton. Served in the Cameroons.

**PORTSMOUTH (HIGHLAND ROAD) CEMETERY, Hampshire, United Kingdom**

**BURN**, Commander, JOHN. R D. H.M.S. "Victory", Royal Naval Reserve. Died of sickness, 18 May 1920. Age 47. Awarded Royal Humane Society's Bronze Medal and Certificate. Born at Bradford, Yorks. Son of John and Isabel M. Burn; husband of Mary Ethel Burn, of "Anglesea," Auckland Rd. West, Southsea. Marine Officer (Nigeria, 1907-1914). Served in the South African War and in the Cameroons, 1914-15. Grave Reference: Horan Div. A. 4. 4.

**ROCHESTER (ST. MARGARET'S) CEMETERY, Kent, United Kingdom**

**HUMPHREYS**, Chief Engine Room Artificer 1st Class, JESSE WILLIAM, 268059. H.M.S. Cumberland, Royal Navy. Accidentally drowned, 18 February 1916. Age 43. Son of Isaac and Elizabeth Humphreys; husband of Ellen Humphreys, of 10, Castle Avenue, Rochester. Born at Rochester. Served in the Cameroons (1914). His brother Frederick William Humphreys also fell. Grave Reference: A. 390.