



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



CWGC
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) is responsible for maintaining commemorations to world war dead at 8 locations in Ghana. There are a total of 1,831 Commonwealth casualties of the First and Second World Wars commemorated in Ghana. Many are those who served with the Gold Coast Regiment, W.A.F.F., or with Commonwealth air forces engaged in operations in Africa.

Kumasi Memorial

Kumasi, the chief town of the Ashanti region, lies some 275 kilometres inland from Accra. The Kumasi Memorial is located in the middle of Stewart Road, near to the Military Museum and Post Office.

The Gold Coast Regiment, a formation of Artillery and Infantry whose Battle Honours go back to 1873, formed part of the Royal West African Frontier Force. During the First World War, the regiment served with distinction in Togoland (now Togo), in the Cameroons and in the last phase of the East African campaign.

The Kumasi Memorial commemorates 768 men whose graves are unknown or cannot be marked.



Christiansborg War Cemetery

Christiansborg, one of the main suburbs of Accra, is 3 kilometres east of the city centre on the main coast road. Christiansborg War Cemetery is on Castle Road, near the State Building, Accra International Conference Centre and Sports Stadium, and Black Star Square. It is adjacent to Christiansborg Civil Cemetery.

CHRISTIANSBORG WAR CEMETERY was constructed in 1941 and was maintained by the Royal Engineers until taken over by the Commission towards the end of 1949. Graves from the following cemeteries have since been brought into this cemetery :

- Takoradi African Public Cemetery - 82 burials.
- Tamale African Cemetery - 43 burials.
- Tamale European Cemetery - 5 burials.

There are now 416 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War in Christianborg War Cemetery, one of them unidentified.



The CHRISTIANSBORG MEMORIAL, which forms the entrance to the cemetery, commemorates 451 men of Gold Coast enlistment who died in West African territory during the Second World War, and whose graves are unknown or are so situated that permanent maintenance is not possible.

Ghanaian casualties

The CWGC commemorate 2247 individuals who died while serving with a regiment associated with Ghana:

- Gold Coast Regiment R.W.A.F.F – 1375 individuals
- Gold Coast Regiment W.A.F.F. – 868
- Gold Coast Naval Volunteer Force – 3
- Gold Coast Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve - 1

The majority of these individuals are commemorated in memorials and cemeteries in Ghana. The largest numbers of Ghanaian casualties commemorated outside of Ghana itself can be found at the following sites:

- RANGOON MEMORIAL, Myanmar – 464 individuals
- EAST AFRICA MEMORIAL, Kenya - 111
- KIRKEE WAR CEMETERY, India - 46
- DAR ES SALAAM WAR CEMETERY, Tanzania – 44

In addition to the above, there are also 18 individuals recorded as being from, or with family connections to, Ghana, commemorated in five different countries worldwide, including France, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand and the United Kingdom. They are listed in our records with a connection to

'Gold Coast', 'Accra' or 'British West Africa'.

In total, Ghanaian casualties from the First and Second World War can be found buried or commemorated on memorials in 18 countries around the world.

BETHUNE TOWN CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France

Commonwealth War Dead (1914-1918)

LATHBRIDGE, Lieutenant, STAUGHTON CHARLES ARCHELUS. 1st/4th (London) Field Coy., Royal Engineers. 31 October 1915. Age 25. Son of William George and Ada Mercy Lathbridge, of Accra, Gold Coast Colony, West Africa. Born at Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. Grave Reference: II. L. 2.

CAPE TOWN (MAITLAND) CEMETERY, Western Cape, South Africa

Commonwealth War Dead (1914-1918)

ALI GRUNSHI, Gun Carrier, 274. Gold Coast Regiment, W.A.F.F.. Died of pneumonia, 15 September 1918. Age 26. Born in Tarsiah, Northern Territories, Gold Coast. Grave Reference: Sec. 4. 98481A.

DAR ES SALAAM (UPANGA ROAD) CEMETERY, Tanzania

Commonwealth War Dead (1914-1918)

BRAMWELL, Agent, WILLIAM DARGUE. Attd., East African Intelligence Department, formerly Bowker's Horse. Died of influenza, 1 December 1918. Age 26. Son of William James and Mary Bramwell, of late Victoriaborg, Accra, Gold Coast, West Africa. Enlisted 1914. Grave Reference: VII. G. 8.

KANCHANABURI WAR CEMETERY, Thailand

Commonwealth War Dead (1939-1945)

HOLLAND, Gunner, JOHN LIONEL, 1470489. 7 Coast Regt., Royal Artillery. 16 July 1943. Age 22. Son of Lionel Walter and Amelia Christina Holland, of Bosuso, Gold Coast. Grave Reference: 4. A. 29.

CHATHAM NAVAL MEMORIAL, Kent, United Kingdom

Commonwealth War Dead (1939-1945)

BEARE, Petty Officer Steward, PHILLIP WALLACE, C/L 14552. H.M.S. Harvester, Royal Navy. 29 May 1940. Age 35. Son of Ernest Phillip Wallace Beare and Louisa Beare; husband of Louisa Violet Beare, of Accra, Gold Coast, British West Africa. Grave Reference: 39, 2.

TOWER HILL MEMORIAL, London, United Kingdom

Commonwealth War Dead (1914-1918)

AUBYN, Fireman and Trimmer, JOHN. "Ardglass" (Greenock), Mercantile Marine. Drowned, as a result of an attack by an enemy submarine, 1 April 1918. Age 24. Born at Cape Coast, Gold Coast.

COBLIN, Fireman, E. S.S. "Narragansett" (Greenock), Mercantile Marine. Drowned, as a result of an attack by an enemy submarine, 16 March 1917. Age 24. Born at Accra.

COKER, Ship's Cook, JOHN. S.S. "Gretaston" (Glasgow), Mercantile Marine. Presumed drowned, 11 April 1917. Age 27. Husband of Grace Alice Coker (nee Jacks), of 57, Blanche St., Plaistow, West Ham, London. Born at Accra.

FORSON, Assistant Steward, J E. S.S. "Apapa" (London), Mercantile Marine. Drowned, as a result of an attack by an enemy submarine, 28 November 1917. Age 28. Born in Gold Coast.

JOHNSON, Able Seaman, JAMES. S.S. "Saxon" (Glasgow), Mercantile Marine. Drowned, as a result of an attack by an enemy submarine, 7 May 1918. Age 22. Born at Accra.

LAMPTEY, Greaser, ROBERT ODARTEY. S.S. "Sapele" (Liverpool), Mercantile Marine. Died from exposure, as a result of an attack by an enemy submarine, 26 October 1917. Age 23. Son of Mah Tchoe, of Afiannah St. No. 37, Accra. Born at Accra.

QUAYSON, Trimmer, T B. S.S. "Akassa" (Liverpool), Mercantile Marine. Drowned, as a result of an attack by an enemy submarine, or killed by mine, 13 August 1917. Age 22. Born at Salt Pond, Gold Coast.

TAGO, Fireman, PRINCE. S.S. "Vasco" (Hull), Mercantile Marine. Killed by mine, 16 November 1916. Age 27. Born at Accra.

TAYLOR, Fireman, GEORGE. S.S. "Indore" (Liverpool), Mercantile Marine. Killed, as a result of an attack by an enemy submarine, 25 July 1918. Age 27. Born at Accra.

VAN DE GROOT, Assistant Steward, REGINALD STANLEY. S.S. "Tortuguero" (Glasgow), Mercantile Marine. Drowned, as a result of an attack by an enemy submarine, 26 June 1918. Age 18. Born at Accra.

Commonwealth War Dead (1939-1945)

DODOO, Fireman and Trimmer, ALBERT DARKU. S.S. Newton Pine (Cardiff), Merchant Navy. 16 October 1942. Age 33. Son of Asafoatse Ofei Dodoo (Adolphus Amoo Dodoo) and Madam Amerley, of Accra, Gold Coast; husband of Sarah Ablamah Quarcoopome, of Accra. Grave Reference: Panel 73

KODWO ESUON, Fireman and Trimmer. S.S. Grelhead (London), Merchant Navy. 2 December 1941. Age 46. Son of Kofi Amanyi and Ekuia Mafinaa; husband of Esi Esuon, of Cape Coast, Gold Coast. Grave Reference: Panel 53.

NORMAN, Fireman and Trimmer, EDWARD CHARLES. S.S. Cheldale (Newcastle-on-Tyne), Merchant Navy. 17 February 1940. Age 36. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Norman, of Cape Coast, Gold Coast; husband of Susan Norman, of Liverpool. Grave Reference: Panel 27.