



## HISTORICAL CASES OF NON-COMMEMORATION PROGRESS REPORT

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This was a busy quarter as projects in Sierra Leone and South Africa moved forward apace. In addition, there are promising signs for the commemoration of Sudanese war dead from the Second World War following talks in July between the CWGC and a Sudanese military delegation to the UK. While progress in Egypt has temporarily stalled, elsewhere opportunities exist to progress the search for previously uncommemorated Indian war dead.

This quarter's headlines are...

- In June CWGC launched the community engagement element of a project in Sierra Leone to begin the process of commemorating more than 900 men of the Sierra Leone Carrier Corps. The launch, in the form of a small exhibition and official handing over a book of names of the dead, was held at the National Museum in Freetown and was supported by a nationwide social media and radio campaign to uncover community links to the world wars and the views of the government and populace as to the form and location of any commemorative structure.
- The campaign proved hugely popular, with national media coverage and the social media elements of the campaign generating almost 300 comments and 30,000 plus engagements – many of which hint at personal stories we will follow up in the coming months.
- The exhibition has also been well received by local schools – so much so that several special resources were delivered to enhance their learning activities while visiting the exhibition. In addition, CWGC is working with the National Museum to see what more might be done to include opportunities for schools with more limited resources.
- A visit to Kenya earlier in the year by members of the non-commemoration project revealed several new collections of interest. A further visit at the end of August, with the personal support of the Director of Kenya's National Archives, will largely determine if significant records, bearing names, survive or not in Kenya's archives.
- As highlighted above, the search for names remains a top priority and to date, **6,760 names** have been found. Considerable work has also gone into understanding the wider context around missing names and numbers of war dead.
- The architectural competition for the proposed new Cape Town Memorial received more than 100 registrations of interest and 58 final submissions. The successful design (to be announced on 1 September) was chosen by an adjudication panel led by newly appointed CWGC Artistic

Advisor Sir David Adjaye. The successful design will undergo a further round of public comment, but we remain on target to commence construction in 2023.

- Remaining in South Africa, CWGC commissioned a grassroots community engagement project to uncover the stories of the individuals the new memorial will commemorate. It is hoped the project will prove a rich source of information for future CWGC education and engagement activity within South Africa and beyond.
- Word of the Commission's work on the uncommemorated prompted a visit by a high-level military and diplomatic delegation from Sudan to our headquarters in Maidenhead in July. Among the topics discussed was the issue of commemoration by physical memorial of more than 700 Sudanese who died while serving alongside British forces during the Second World War. In the post war period, it proved impossible for the Commission to commemorate these men in Khartoum (although the names were always in our records) but we are now hopeful that a site for a memorial may be forthcoming. A formal visit to South Sudan later this year will firm up the details for a memorial's new potential and further discussions will take place around education and research opportunities.
- CWGC has agreed to support research by Dr Gavin Rand and Amdeep Madra into the potential offered by the "Punjab Registers" – an important collection of contemporary records, recently digitised and acquired by the United Kingdom Punjab Heritage Association, that offers new insights into the scale and distribution of Indian Army casualties. CWGC's support for further research may yield up to 10,000 names of previously unknown and uncommemorated Indian army war dead.
- On 23 August, a multi-disciplinary group of Kenya's leading experts met with the CWGC and representatives of key external bodies to outline a methodology for the investigation of suspected abandoned graves in Kenya dating to the First World War.
- Given the volume of work now underway in East Africa, CWGC is expanding its team on the ground to include expertise in historical research and anthropology. The new posts will be in place in September.

**DATE OF NEXT REPORT: DECEMBER 2022**