



HISTORICAL CASES OF NON-COMMEMORATION PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT NUMBER 4
8 JUNE 2022

HEADLINES

At the start of our second year, we are pleased to report that the improving pandemic situation has enabled travel to several key countries for face-to-face meetings that have proved significant – both in enhancing our understanding of certain issues and a potential approach to their resolution, and in establishing or reinforcing partnerships with key stakeholders in those affected countries.

This quarter's headlines are...

- Visits by the Vice Chairman to Egypt, Kenya and Tanzania proved highly effective in establishing willing contacts within the various government and military departments of those countries to facilitate access to various archive collections.
- A visit to Kenya by members of the non-commemoration project revealed several new collections of interest. This discovery was reinforced by the Vice Chairman's visit to Kenya and his meeting with senior members of the Kenyan Defence Force and National Archives. In all cases, the Commission's project was warmly received and offers of assistance forthcoming – the Director of Kenya's National Archives volunteering his services personally in the ongoing search for names.
- In Egypt, the British Council is supporting the Commission by identifying a university partner that might gain access to the archives in Cairo to search for lists of names of Egyptian Labour Corps war dead. Worthy of note is the interest the Egyptian authorities have expressed in some form or reciprocal recognition in the UK of the contribution and sacrifices Egyptians made during the Great War.
- The search for names remains a top priority and although more modest finds have been made over the last quarter, we remain hopeful that larger discoveries may be possible. To date, **6,608 names** have been found.
- The architectural competition for the new Cape Town Memorial was successfully launched on 5 May. The launch garnered significant media coverage within South Africa, and to date **over 40** architectural firms have registered to enter the competition. The winning design will be announced in September, and we remain on target to commence construction in 2023.

- Remaining in South Africa, CWGC has 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.
- On 22 June CWGC will launch the community engagement element of a project in Sierra Leone to begin the process of commemorating circa. 900 men of the Sierra Leone Carrier Corps. The launch will be held at the National Museum in Freetown and will introduce the nationwide radio campaign to uncover the stories of these individuals and the views of the government and populace as to the form and location of any commemorative structure.
- In East Africa, an initial site reconnaissance in Taita-Taveta by the CWGC Kenyan Field Research Team, Dr. George Hay and David McDonald, raised questions about how CWGC might identify, and potentially secure, abandoned graves and cemeteries. As a direct result, a multi-disciplinary 'working group' has been established with leading Kenyan experts to develop a methodology for examining suspected grave sites.
- In education and engagement, our concept of using CWGC sites and records to demonstrate the global nature of the world wars continues to prove popular. This thinking was incorporated into War Graves Week activity in May, when **more than 250** events were held at sites in the UK and overseas. Planning is also well underway for inclusive events later in the year for South Asian Heritage Month (July – August) and Black History Month (October).
- An Annual Review of the Commission's progress against the Special Committee's ten recommendations was published and well received.

DATE OF NEXT REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2022