

**HISTORICAL CASES OF NON-COMMEMORATION
PROGRESS REPORT / NUMBER 6**



This quarter we have built upon historical research in archives across Africa and Europe and continue to make positive progress in using research to inform and geographically map our search for abandoned graves and burial sites. Behind-the-scenes work continues at pace and in our quest to find names numbers have risen to 6818 names, plus an additional 200 military service numbers.

Our commitment to community consultation and stakeholder engagement in Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Sierra Leone and South Africa proves invaluable, partners from local Government officials to Archaeologists and Heritage experts are helping us both plan for new memorials and investigate burial sites. This quarter's highlights are:

- We have finished work in the **Kenya National Archives** and are satisfied all relevant materials have been consulted in the search of missing names and burial locations, and that no further concentrations of these documents exist there.
- Separately, we have identified a collection of material still in the possession of the **Kenya Defence Force** that we believe contains the names of African personnel who served in both wars. These documents need conservation; we are exploring ways in which we might collaborate to both preserve and make them available for study. These records are of national importance to Kenya, and it is hoped they might help the CWGC commemorate fallen soldiers who are currently not in our records.
- A team visit to **Malawi** in November included meetings with the **Malawi Defence Force**, the **Veterans Ex-Service Members League of Malawi**, the **Malawi National Archives** and the Archaeologists and Historians at the **University of Malawi**, all of whom provided valuable groundwork for projects that should deliver further names, investigate potential grave sites, and bring the stories of Malawians who died in the wars to a wider audience.
- Archival material continues to steer our work in **Kenya** and combined with the latest mapping, radar, and Geographic Information System (GIS) techniques we are making good progress in identifying abandoned graves and burial grounds. We consulted with a multi-disciplinary group of Archaeology experts in Kenya and our own expanded team in East Africa, including a new Anthropologist and Heritage expert, significantly increasing our reach in a key area.
- In November, we responded quickly to a discovery of remains outside **Voi, Southern Kenya**. Voi is close to the battlefields and known to have been the site of a Carrier Depot and hospital, so it is likely further burials exist in the area. Dating of the remains has been inconclusive; we are working with the **National Museums of Kenya** as the situation develops.
- In **South Africa**, the winning design (architect's render image - top of page) from Durban-based architect Dean Jay has been chosen for the new **Cape Town Memorial** by Sir David Adjaye and our panel. We have now reached the final round of public consultation; construction should commence in mid-2023.



- In **Sierra Leone** we are consulting with the descendant community on the preferred location and form of the new memorial and, with this completed, Sir David Adjaye will recommend rising African architects that might be suitable to craft Freetown's first new memorial.
- In **Sudan** we continue to seek guidance from the diplomatic community on what is fitting for Khartoum's new memorial.
- The business case has been approved and project initiation activities are now underway to support a dedicated project that will offer new insights into the scale and distribution of **Indian Army** casualties. The project will research and document the **Punjab Registers** (an important register submitted by the UK's Punjab Heritage Association which may yield up to 10,000 names). This research activity will also facilitate wide-ranging education and engagement activities in both countries, and with diverse communities across the UK.
- **Education and heritage** connections continue. Over the weekend of 25 and 27 November we took part in an exhibition stakeholder event and remembrance ceremonies at Taita-Taveta to mark the First World War remembrance period in East Africa.
- We shared and released a short film, documenting our work in Kenya. *Kwaheri Mutava / Goodbye Mutava*, explains more about the First World War in Africa and tells the true story of a Second World War widow who waited to receive official notice of her husband Mutava's death. This story came to light through the work of our Heritage Manager in Nairobi.



- For **Black History Month** in October, we hosted four events with the Armed Forces Multicultural Networks at several locations in the United Kingdom and at Etaples, Northern France.
- Work has begun on an online public database to provide access to **oral histories** of the Indian, East African, West African, South African, Egyptian, and Somali personnel who fought in the First and Second World Wars. Additionally, we will begin interviewing First World War descendants and community members in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa and in Kariokor recruitment villages close to Freetown, from early 2023.

DATE OF NEXT REPORT: MARCH 2023