



Historical Cases of Non-Commemoration Progress Report, Number 11

This quarter has seen positive advancements across key commemorative projects in Kenya, South Africa, and Sierra Leone. Our work in UK and global archives has now recovered the names of 11,003 servicemen not previously commemorated by the CWGC, while research findings regarding the number of First World War casualties we believe to be missing from named commemoration are currently undergoing peer-review for future publication. The Kenya Defence Forces digitisation partnership continues allowing us to uncover new stories of those who perished without commemoration. Meanwhile, our memorial project in Cape Town is moving forward, despite weather related delays, with a planned inauguration in January 2025.

Cape Town Labour Corps Memorial

Construction is proceeding as planned, with key milestones such as foundations, timber post installation and horticultural landscaping well underway. Minor delays have occurred due to a lengthy period of unseasonably wet weather. The expected practical completion and handover date is in early October, with the site to remain behind hoardings until the opening date; the hoarding boards will be updated and a viewing panel introduced. In late October, the Iziko South African Museum will host a pop-up exhibition about the memorial. The museum will also provide a home for the memorial's register in a custom-designed Register box that has been created by architect, Dean Jay.

Research

To date the programme has recovered the names of 11,003 **personnel previously unknown to the CWGC**. An extensively researched article providing **broader analysis of the number** of East Africans still unaccounted for (and who will require commemoration, without names) has been submitted for peer-review and all-important validation. This is a significant milestone for the programme.

The second phase of the **Kenya Defence Forces digitisation** project is complete, with around 41,000 individual service records now digitised and catalogued. Increasing quantities of these extremely rare papers (potentially upwards of 250,000) as well as other records held by the KDF have continued to surface during this phase, and we are following up with external partners in search of support for an extension of this important work. A detailed **Conservation Management Plan** has been completed by heritage experts Purcell, alongside consultants in Tanzania and Kenya, following recommendations to enhance understanding surrounding the *Memorials to the Missing* that were created in the 1920s. A plan is being agreed for communications and outreach.

Sierra Leone Carrier Corps Memorial

A location in Freetown has been selected in consultation with stakeholders. In addition, we will provide **commemorative plaques for provincial capitals**. The process to secure permissions and source an architectural partner is underway.

Local Community Engagement

A new visitor information panel is planned for installation at the Memorial Tower in Zomba, coinciding with the centenary remembrance ceremony in November. This year, the programme's content will align with the *Reclaiming Narratives* theme for 2024 Black History Month. Two new CWGC resources *Honour our Heroes* and *Telling Our Stories*, highlight this often-overlooked aspect of our shared history. Events will take place at Seaford Cemetery in Sussex (British West Indies Regiment during WW1) and with the RAF Ethnic Minorities Network at Runnymede in Surrey.

An event *Until the Lions Tell Their Story* was hosted by the CWGC and the National Museum of Kenya in Nairobi – was a call to reclaim Africa's place in the history of the World Wars. The line up of speakers included CWGC's East Africa Manager Daniel Achini, Heritage Manager Patrick Abungu, NMK's Dr. Emmanuel Ndiema, Kariokor community member Dorcas Lukoye, and 32-year veteran History teacher Mrs. Gaudencia Waful. The event was supported by our new Education Officer in Kenya, Rose Maina, who was able to share new educational and heritage materials with the delegates.

Voices of the Past (oral histories)

CWGF funding is committed to enable the Nairobi field team to interview up to 74 Kenyan Second World War veterans. These men served predominantly in the East Africa and Burma (Myanmar) campaigns, but their contributions have been overshadowed and, in many cases, forgotten altogether. It is hoped this work will help reverse that trend, reinforcing in Kenya and across the Commonwealth the importance of their contributions and drawing greater attention to their comrades who did not come home. The programme is using the British Library's oral history training programme to support the outreach workers and post-graduate students who will undertake these crucial interviews.

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Date of next report December 2024