



## Historical Cases of Non-Commemoration Progress Report, Number 12

Research efforts to date have found 11,003 names – predominantly of servicemen and carriers from the African theatre of operations during WW1. Research is underway into the Punjab Registers which may reveal as many as 10,000 names of servicemen from Undivided India. The Cape Town Labour Corps Memorial is now complete, and we are preparing for an inauguration event in January. In addition, we are making significant design progress for new memorials in Nairobi and Freetown. Tailored education and outreach initiatives progress well.

- Practical completion for the Cape Town Labour Corps Memorial was achieved at the end of October, followed by one-week review period with an inspection conducted in early November. Minor outstanding tasks are being addressed including revised bench dimensions and horticultural adjustments to finalise delivery of the contract, with no issues expected
- 24/7 security is now in place, which includes a site visitor book. Site cameras are monitored through remote access
- The list of casualties and post locations are now live on the database and public website. The memorial register book has been designed and is in production for display in the Iziko South African Museum. Visitor information signage is designed for two locations in the Company's Garden and wider Garden signage has been updated to direct to the CWGC Labour Corps Memorial
- The epitaph – *your legacies are preserved here* – and poem have been announced to media in South Africa and RSL channels, with supportive cultural editorials in IOL, City Life arts, Channel Africa, Rove SA and ZA Times Live
- Education materials on South Africa in World War One are now available on our website and include an education pack and Virtual Reality films, developed in collaboration with Aston University, Birmingham, the Great War in Africa Association and KwaZulu Natal Museum
- Opening event invitations have been issued to all guests. Preliminary responses are warm and receptive.
- The South Africa Youth choir has been reserved for the ceremony and our agreement includes composing a bespoke piece for the event, and inclusion in follow up content.
- The programme committed to exploring Commission activities during and after the Second World War and a report on this subject is currently being evaluated by a re-convened group of experts
- In October, we published a report confirming what has been long assumed about lost carrier burial grounds in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. This opens the conversation about wider memorialisation in this part of East Africa. The report was presented to the Great War in Africa conference and has been well received on our public website.

- A successful research tour in India was completed in November, this included archival visits, a speaking slot at the United Services Institution conference, a NAM/CWGC Indian Army legacies roundtable and Punjab/Haryana village memorials tour.
- Interviews with 74 WW2 Veterans in Kenya underway for 2024 completion
- Architects for the project in Sierra Leone have been interviewed, with strong contenders emerging.
- A Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Works and Public Assets was signed in Freetown at the end of November.
- In partnership with Freetown City Council an additional site has been identified in the historical Wilberforce Cemetery where it is now known that 27 African soldiers of the West African Frontier Force were buried. Local stakeholders are keen to have the names of these men commemorated at this site.
- The programme funded Education Officer, based in Nairobi, continues to make significant progress in promoting awareness and understanding of our work within a Kenyan context.
- The partnership Engage Talk - [\*Until the Lions Tell Their Story\*](#) - has been successful in using storytelling to reach broader audiences. We used a range of speakers including our own heritage manager to share the lesser-told histories of the World Wars.
- Tailored educational materials have been developed to resonate with Kenyan audiences, complementing a steady flow of school visits to the Nairobi War Cemetery
- We are working with the horticulture course at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) to provide apprenticeships.
- In this period, we actively aligned the programme's content with UK Black History Month. Using the theme – *Reclaiming Narratives* – we showcased stories such as that of George Williams DCM whose gallantry during the East African campaign was previously overlooked and the programme's commitment to the digitisation of records. This content was also part of the engagement with armed forces networks to further connect diverse audiences with these lesser-told narratives.

ENDS

Next report due in May 2025 – an annual review will be published in March 2025