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**Historical Cases of Non-Commemoration
Progress Report
Number Seven**

This quarter, we continue to make positive progress in using research to inform and geographically map our search for abandoned graves and burial sites. In Kenya and Sierra Leone, we have consulted with individuals and groups to understand the best practice for memorials. Our search for names has risen slightly this quarter to 6,819 names.

Strategies are in place to agree a research approach in Tanzania and, through diplomatic channels, in Egypt, where we believe additional names may be found. Research reports are planned for the coming months as this work reaches fruition. This quarter's highlights are:

- With work finished in the Kenya National Archives, our focus has moved to new collections recently uncovered in collaboration with the Kenya Defence Force. We have secured an emergency conservation grant to support the digitisation and preservation of some of this material, which we hope will deliver new names of Kenyans who died while serving with the King's African Rifles during the First World War.
- The review of archives conducted by our own historians and a wider group of academics has brought us much closer to being able to provide a more accurate, historically informed figure for the scale of losses in East Africa and Egypt during the First World War. Over the coming months we will be engaging with a focus group of historians and experts to validate our findings, which will also be published.
- Last year we created a radio campaign in Sierra Leone that encouraged members of the public to come forward with their stories related to the Sierra Leone Carrier Corps and the impact of the First World War on their country. Following this, our specialists have now completed oral history interviews with those who responded. We have also had discussions in Freetown and the provinces which have helped identify preferred locations for a new memorial to commemorate over 1,100 carriers who lost their lives.
- A team visit to Kenya in April to review progress was accompanied by the Rt. Hon David Lammy MP. Positive meetings took place with the Governor of Nairobi City County, the Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Heritage, and the National Museums of Kenya. The delegation visited ongoing works across four counties.
- In April, the Commission signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Museums of Kenya, to identify, secure and mark First and Second World War grave sites in Kenya which are identified through the work of the Non-Commemoration Programme. We continue to use Geographic Information System (GIS) techniques to help identify abandoned graves and burial grounds.
- The Special Committee report recommended that where appropriate, contextual panels should be added to some memorials to explain why they contain no names. In May we commissioned work to examine the three Memorials to the Missing (Nairobi, Mombasa & Dar es Salaam) to which this recommendation relates. An international team of specialists will examine this issue. As well as considering the complex history and modern social context of the memorials, this will also inform wider discussions on how we commemorate those whose name or grave may never be found.

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- The winning design for the Cape Town Memorial by Dean Jay Architects is undergoing the final stages of design development and is currently on target to break ground in 2023, as planned. The memorial will commemorate over 1,700 casualties of the First World War who served in South African Labour regiments.
- A multi-disciplinary consultancy and project team develops the digital context, the visitor experience, advocacy partnerships and a broader communications response for the new memorial. All CWGC communications channels are kept up to date and will deliver rich digital and oral history content to support the narrative for the memorial.
- The new Cape Town memorial continues to meet with positive response at both a local and national level, and we are looking forward to collaborating with partners to create an opening event in 2024.
- Discussions are underway with the relevant authorities in Malawi regarding the formal designation of the Kings African Rifles in Zomba as an official commemoration for over 1,200 Malawian soldiers who lost their lives in the First World War but were not on our records.
- As part of all our memorialisation work, our teams completed descendant memory interviews in the Eastern Cape, South Africa and Freetown, Sierra Leone. Collecting oral histories forms part of the fieldwork undertaken by our heritage managers in Nairobi. We interviewed a 104-year-old veteran of the King's African Rifles in Malawi.
- Our 15-person advisory panel has now held four meetings. We are keen to hear from those with experience of contemporary history, digital heritage and education or schools' programmes.
- Education outreach and partnerships are active in several countries, most notably in Kenya. We are sponsoring an animation to tell the story of the African porters. This 90-second animation is being jointly made by students in Nairobi and London.
- The project team have worked with the Magical Kenya – the Kenya Tourism Board's website – and contributed to a national initiative to market Kenya's heritage sites. Working with the team we have created a portal will allow tourists to easily access information on all Commonwealth War Graves Commission sites in Kenya.

Date of next report
September 2023