



COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES



Historical Cases of Non-Commemoration Progress Report, Number 10

We have appointed a primary contractor for the construction of the Cape Town Labour Corps Memorial. Their work is on schedule. Our site in The Company's Garden is prepared and secured with a new visual hoarding to provide the public with an explanation of the work taking place. Strong progress continues in Kenya, and we have appointed a new education officer, based in Nairobi. Highlights this quarter include:

Archival research and the search for names

- Total number of names not previously recorded on CWGC's records and found by the programme is now **9,610** – wider programme findings pertaining to scale of loss are in progress for validation, peer review and journal consideration.
- An initial summary providing an update on the findings of the programme's ongoing research into commemorative activities of the Commission and others during and following the Second World War is still being discussed with involved stakeholders.

Planned developments for Nairobi (Kariokor) Cemetery

- We continue to collaborate with stakeholders to appoint a multi-disciplinary design team who will work towards a concept for a meaningful place of commemoration and memory on the site.
- In line with the UN Sustainable Development goals and the recommendations of the 2021 Special Committee this will hold lasting community value.

Fieldwork – East Africa

- Fieldwork undertaken in May together with Queen's University Belfast and the National Museums of Kenya in which we successfully performed a series of carefully planned drone and Ground Penetrative Radar investigations at selected sites in Kenya.
- These confirm areas of interest that will guide future research and development activities.

The digitisation project in partnership with the Kenya Defence Force

- Photography for the initial phase is complete. We remain on track to deliver the images and cataloguing to the British Library by the summer, as enabled by the first grant. 13,000 detailed personnel files (including more than 1,000 belonging to men killed in the First World War) are now preserved for future heritage and research.
- As well as having wider social value in Kenya, these records are identifying new casualties, informing our fieldwork and the search for lost burial locations.
- An invitation to visit Defence Headquarters in Nairobi in May revealed the existence of thousands more records covering the 1890s to 1960s. We are considering options to seek external funding and expertise to assist with the expansion of the project.

Sierra Leone Carrier Corps Memorial

- A location in Freetown has been selected through stakeholder consultation. We will supply plaques for provincial capitals as part of the programme. The necessary process to secure permissions and source an architectural partner is underway.

Punjab Registers Project

- Recruitment for the PhD post at the University of Greenwich saw several high-quality applications, and an appointment has been made.

Oral histories

- Seven Second World War veterans who served in campaigns across East Africa and Burma (Myanmar) have had their stories recorded and translated for future research, as part of the programme. A proposal, which will require grant-funding, has been submitted to CWGC by the University of Dar-es-Salaam for wider work.

Cape Town Labour Corps Memorial

- In March, we delivered an inclusive and successful groundbreaking event in Cape Town, marking the formal start of construction.
- As the memorial takes its inspiration from African architectural references we are working with craftspeople and specialists from across South Africa to realise construction. We have now completed work on the central podium and the individual wood posts which are the main components for the site.
- The CWGC officially received endorsement from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) for the Cape Town Labour Corps Memorial.
- Progress is on plan, and we are working with the city, provincial and national government departments and wider stakeholders, to align timings for its opening.

- Ends

Date of next report is September 2024