



COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES



Historical Cases of Non-Commemoration Progress Report, Number 14

Historian-led archival research to find names and answer the outstanding questions of the programme is now approaching its conclusion. To date, the number of previously uncommemorated servicemen named and put forward for CWGC commemoration remains static, at 11,640 but is anticipated to rise as more names are being verified. This quarter continues to see steady progress in marking graves and creating memorials as well as a landmark research publication outlining inequalities in commemoration after the Second World War. Design development is well underway for the programme's second redress memorial, in Sierra Leone and continues to progress for the CWGC (Kariokor) Nairobi War Cemetery.

Archival research and the search for names

- The *British Journal of Military History* has published our new research which reveals that 88,285 East African dead from WWI were excluded from named commemoration by the Imperial War Graves Commission; this is the first comprehensive effort to account for all who died serving British and Imperial forces in the East Africa Campaign
- Our findings pave the way for new forms of remembrance and education, deepening public understanding of WWI's global impact and spotlighting overlooked contributions
- A new report outlining inequalities in commemoration of Second World War dead continues the CWGC's wider commitment to fully investigate how people of the former British Empire who died in the World Wars were commemorated has been published
 - The report finds no groups were systemically excluded after the Second World War but the then IWGC, operating within the British imperial system, delivered unequal outcomes for some of the war dead.
- The volunteer research programme to validate names from the Punjab Registers is on track to deliver up to 8,000 additional names by the end of the year
 - With support from UK Punjab Heritage Association, the Punjab war registers were digitised, enabling the identification of nearly 16,000 First World War dead. Initial cross-checks revealed that up to 70% of names—potentially 8,000 to 9,000 individuals—are missing from CWGC records. A scoring system is now guiding CWGC volunteers as they seek to verify all entries, with hopes of formal commemoration for those previously overlooked.

Global field work

- As a result of this combined field-team and research project, 106 African military dead whose burial location was previously unknown to CWGC, will now receive commemoration.

Planned developments for Nairobi (Kariokor) Cemetery

- Nairobi (Kariokor) Cemetery CWGC concept designs are in final development, and the design team will soon be gathering a final round of client feedback with a view to creating completed concept schemes this financial year

Sierra Leone Carrier Corps Memorial

- The Freetown Sierra Leone Carrier Corps Memorial is well in progress. Structural testing on the core structure in Freetown is now complete. Immediate timelines have been divided into three key phases: glass design and name layout, core reinforcement, and bronze/masonry work.

Sharing the fuller story of global contributions

- Youth and learner programmes are concluding in Cape Town, reaching over 5,000 learners, with sessions running with five Cape Flats schools. Delivered by Xhosa-speaking facilitators, it explores overlooked WWI contributions and fosters reflection, pride, and social purpose
- Students from the humanities and arts faculties at the University of Nairobi joined our teams, and alongside the Republic of Kenya's Ministry of Defence and met a veteran of the Burma campaign at a commemorative and reflective event to honour the 80th anniversary of VJ Day

- Ends
Date of next report December 2025