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THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

PATRON

His Majesty King Charles III

PRESIDENT

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal **CHAIRMAN**

The Rt Hon John Healey MP

VICE CHAIRMAN

Vice Admiral Peter Hudson CB CBE

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His Excellency
The Hon Stephen Smith

The High Commissioner for Canada to the UK

His Excellency
The Hon Ralph E Goodale PC

The High Commissioner for India to the UK

His Excellency Vikram K. Doraiswami

The High Commissioner for New Zealand to the UK

His Excellency Hamish Cooper The High Commissioner for The Republic of South Africa to the UK

His Excellency Jeremiah Nyamane Mamabolo

Dame Judith Mayhew Jonas DBE

Vasuki Shastry

Sir Timothy Hitchens KCVO CMG

Keryn James

Lieutenant General Sir Ben Bathurst KCVO CBE

Air Marshal Sir Stuart Atha KBE CB DSO

Chris Evans MP

The Rt Hon Tom Tugendhat MBE VR MP

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

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Major General Alastair Bruce of Crionaich CB OBE KStJ VR DL

The Rt Hon The Lord Beamish

The Rt Hon Philip Dunne

Sir Adrian Montague CBE

Captain Jay Singh-Sohal OBE VR

Julian Evans

Gerald Allison

Christopher Walsh

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Director General Claire Horton CBE
Chief Operating Officer Barry Murphy
General Counsel Vincent Collins
Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Ian Hill

Director of International Relations and Global Strategy Charles Garrett OBE

Chief Marketing Officer and Director of the FoundationMichele Jennings

Chief People Officer Martha Desmond Chief Technology Officer Nigel Randall

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HIGHLIGHTS 2024-2025

A SELECTION OF HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR'S NUMEROUS ACHIEVEMENTS CELEBRATED IN THIS REPORT







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CAPE TOWN MEMORIAL

South Africa





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DEEPENING RELATIONS

Engaging with Parliament & international partners

FOREWORD BY THE VICE CHAIRMAN PETER HUDSON CB CBE

Our work over the past year has been defined by renewal and resilience as we navigate an increasingly complex world. In the pages that follow, among our wide range of activities you will see how we have cared for an ageing global estate in the face of a changing climate, responded to wildfires in Gallipoli, and advanced programmes that address historical inequalities in commemoration.

The work of the Commission is diverse, but our people and our purpose remain united by one enduring mission: to honour the memory of those who served and sacrificed their lives in the two World Wars, and to ensure their stories continue to resonate with future generations.

Supporting this mission is a dedicated Board of Commissioners whose expertise and

commitment are fundamental to our success. During this period, we saw several changes in membership as long-standing friends completed their terms, and new voices joined our ranks. We bade farewell to The Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson DBE MP and The Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP, whose contributions have been invaluable. We are delighted that Philip will continue his association as a trustee of the Foundation. In their place, we welcomed Chris Evans MP and The Rt Hon Tom Tugendhat MBE VR MP. The departure of the New Zealand High Commissioner, Philip Goff, left a gap, but we are delighted that his successor, His Excellency Hamish Cooper, has now joined us.

This year, we also celebrated individuals whose dedication exemplifies the spirit of the Commission. Former Area Director Geert

Bekaert, who retired in 2024, was awarded an Honorary MBE for his contribution to First and Second World War commemorations. Albert Sifrar received an Honorary British Empire Medal for his extraordinary commitment to Klagenfurt War Cemetery in Austria, which he has cared for over four decades. Our Chief of Staff, Peter Francis, was appointed as an OBE in the King's Birthday Honours for his leadership in global commemoration. We congratulate them all.

The past year has been marked by significant events that reaffirm the global reach of our work. Our President, HRH The Princess Royal visited many Commission sites worldwide and led several key commemorations. These included reopening the restored Menin Gate in July, a programme made possible through



Our Vice Chairman Peter Hudson CB CBE (right) with our Director of France Area Jeremy Prince (left) visit the graves in Dunkirk War Cemetery during the 85th anniversary commemorations of the Dunkirk evacuations (Operation Dynamo).

generous support from partners in Flanders. The ceremony, attended by Her Royal Highness and HRH Princess Claire of Belgium, was a truly joyous occasion. Our President also joined us in January for the landmark unveiling of the Cape Town Memorial, with descendants of those previously uncommemorated, and her presence at Canada Day commemorations in Bramshott added greatly to this youth-focused event. The 110th anniversary of the Battle of Gallipoli saw the Governor General of Australia, Sam Mostyn, and the New Zealand Prime Minster Rt Hon Chrisopher Luxon, join Her Royal Highness for a series of events held at our sites across the peninsula.

We were also honoured to welcome the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron to Mazargues War Cemetery in Marseille.

Across the globe, our teams have continued their vital work: we laid to rest 43 casualties in France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Papua New Guinea, and identified another 32 individuals who were previously buried in our sites but were "Known unto God". Elsewhere, we responded swiftly to challenges such as the fires in Gallipoli that threatened our sites and operations on the peninsula. We are deeply grateful to our Turkish partners for their



The completion of extensive conservation work at the Menin Gate in leper, Belgium, was officially marked with a ceremony in July 2025. HRH The Princess Royal, President of the Commission, and HRH Princess Claire of Belgium attended as guests of honour, reviewing the completed work, unveiling a UNESCO plaque and officially opening our new Visitor Centre beside the Gate.

bravery and professionalism. Without their intervention, the damage could have been far worse. Important initiatives to improve headstone cleanliness, especially in Northern Europe, have started whilst our strategy to become more environmentally sustainable remains central to our operations.

We continue to feel the consequences of unrest and war in regions such as Gaza, Sudan, Yemen, and Iraq; ensuring the safety of our colleagues has been a priority. Our strategic outlook includes a strong focus on sustainability and diplomacy, exemplified by the Commission's accreditation with the Commonwealth Secretariat and participation in events such as the RUSI forum and a VE Day exhibition at Portcullis House.

As we close this reporting period, we do so with gratitude - for the dedication of our staff, the support of our partners, and the trust placed in us by the nations we serve. Together, we ensure that the memory of those who gave their lives endures.

WELCOME FROM DIRECTOR GENERAL CLAIRE HORTON CBE



Director General Claire Horton CBE lays a wreath on behalf of the Commission during the Last Post Service under the Menin Gate, leper, Belgium.

As we reflect on 2025, we do so with a profound sense of gratitude and responsibility. This year has been marked by both commemoration and innovation, as we honoured previously uncommemorated casualties in South Africa and advanced our commitment to sustainable stewardship across our global estate. Our work - preserving memory, honouring sacrifice, and adapting to a changing world - remains as vital as ever.

The challenges we have faced, from the emergence of blackspot staining on headstones and structures in France and Belgium, to environmental pressures, to evolving expectations of remembrance, have only strengthened our resolve.

Our teams have embraced new technologies and sustainable practices, ensuring that our cemeteries and memorials remain places of dignity and reflection for generations to come. Initiatives such as the "cemetery of the future" and our ongoing efforts to address historical inequalities in commemoration demonstrate our dedication to both tradition and progress.

I was especially delighted to see two major projects completed this year - the inauguration of our newest memorial in Cape Town and the re-dedication, following a multi-year and multi million Euro restoration, of one of our first, and perhaps most iconic memorials, The Menin Gate in Belgium. For both events, our President, HRH The Princess Royal, led the commemorations - just two of the many engagements she took part in over the period as she visited war graves from as far afield as Australia to the Caribbean.

Sadly, not all news is positive and the many ongoing conflicts around the world continue to hinder our ability to care for sites in Yemen, Iraq, Gaza and the Sudan, underscoring the fragility of peace. When the time is right, we will return and rebuild.

This report highlights not only our achievements but also the collective spirit of our staff, volunteers, and partners. Their resilience and dedication are the foundation of our success. As we look ahead, I am confident that the organisation is well-positioned to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future, continuing to honour the memory of those we serve.

Our strategy, Towards 2039, continues to set a clear course: maintaining relevance, striving for equality of commemoration, and creating spaces that invite quiet reflection on the human cost of war. We are addressing climate change, managing rising costs, and educating new audiences about our shared histories. We have strengthened our effectiveness through revised planning and IT innovations, including a new casualty database, and expanded our volunteer programme beyond the UK into Canada. Our charitable arm, The Commonwealth War Graves Foundation continues to grow, funding non-core activities and helping us reach new and wider audiences.

We concertedly align our work with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, aiming to embed sustainability, longevity and impact in everything we do - from reducing environmental impact to providing fair employment and engaging communities through education and storytelling. We remain committed to equality of commemoration and ethical practice, ensuring remembrance endures and the lessons of the past resonate for generations to come.

On a personal level, I had to step away from the day to day running of the Commission from the latter part of the reporting period for an operation and recuperative treatment. I am hugely grateful to my senior team, among them Chief Operations Officer Barry Murphy, for managing in my absence. I am, nevertheless, looking forward to returning fully fit in the New Year.

We honour our promise of equality of commemoration, actively addressing historical inequalities, and we remain determinedly ethical and fair in our dealings with our partners and suppliers. Through these commitments, we ensure that remembrance endures, and that the lessons of the past continue to resonate for generations to come.



Our Executive Leadership Team at the Commission's annual Care Awards. Right to Left: Director of Finance and Corporate Services Ian Hill, Chief Operating Officer Barry Murphy, Chief Marketing Officer and Director of the Foundation Michele Jennings, Director General Claire Horton CBE, Director of International Relations and Global Strategy Charles Garrett OBE, General Counsel Vincent Collins, Chief People Officer Martha Desmond.





UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





While our cemeteries and memorials preserve the memory of the fallen, each is part of a wider environment that is changing and developing. We are working hard to ensure that our sites are environmentally sustainable and bio-diverse, giving back to the landscapes they are forever part of. Jerusalem War Cemetery, Normandy, France.

The Commission is proud that much of its work contributes to progress towards the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs). The United Nations devised the UNSDGs in 2015 to measure progress towards global peace and prosperity.

Of the 17 UNSDGs, we have chosen five which are most relevant to our work. These

relate to quality education, decent work, reduced inequalities, responsible consumption, and peace and justice. These are not specific targets for our work, but rather a way to track how the Commission's work brings benefit in these important areas to people across our global network.

A piper leads the service at the annual commemorations at the Thiepval Memorial on the Somme, France, 1 July 2025.

ACHIEVEMENTS TO 2025



70,800Reached through educational programmes.

Events include Liberation 80; Lighting Their Legacy; Black History Month; South Asian Heritage Month.



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

12.6% reduction in water consumption achieved between FY 22/23 & FY23/24.



Progressive switch to renewable electricity so is now **25**% of supply.

94% reduction (by volume) in the use of pesticides, herbicides and biocides in FY23/24 against a 2019 baseline.



UNESCO conferred World Heritage Status to **139** WW1 cemeteries and memorials in Belgium and France.

Regular engagement with **60%** of all international commemorations organisations.

Ethical policies launched: Suppliers Code of Conduct; Anti-Modern Slavery.



Employer of Choice practices: 'Fairness at Work'; 'Speaking Up'.





Cape Town Labour Corps Memorial now open to the public.

Sierra Leone Carrier Corps Memorial to commemorate over 900 Sierra Leonean military labourers, will open early 2026.

Nairobi (Kariokor) War Cemetery will be the site for a contemporary space for those who have not been properly commemorated in Kenya.

11,600 Casualties identified not previously commemorated.

OUR PEOPLE

Over the past year, we have continued to invest in our people, building on the foundations laid in previous years to strengthen engagement, leadership, learning, and workforce planning. These efforts reflect our commitment to creating a workplace where individuals feel valued, supported, and empowered to grow.

Since the last employee survey in 2023, our Employee Engagement score has risen by 3% to 79%, a clear indication that the initiatives and activities we've introduced are having a positive impact. Over the past two years, we've significantly increased internal communications, expanded employee voice groups, and fostered greater global collaboration, ensuring that our people feel heard and connected across all levels of the organisation.

Our CARE values have become deeply embedded in our culture, with high levels of engagement across teams. This remains a constant focus, supported by a dedicated working group that is exploring new ways to enhance their impact in everything we do.

Recognising the vital role leaders play in shaping the employee experience, we've developed a Leadership Competency Framework and toolkit to support ongoing development. These resources will be rolled out in 2026, complementing our flagship Insights programme, which helps individuals understand how to engage effectively with different people. Our Managing with CARE programme continues to support leaders in becoming the best they can be.

Workforce planning has taken a significant step forward through centralised



Left: Commission staff from around the world attended the annual CARE awards in Windsor to celebrate outstanding individuals nominated by colleagues for a variety of awards.

Right: Blacksmith Aurele Jestin works the forge at our operational hub in Beaurians. France.



OUR CARE VALUES HAVE BECOME DEEPLY EMBEDDED IN OUR CULTURE, WITH HIGH LEVELS OF ENGAGEMENT ACROSS TEAMS

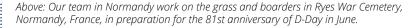
analysis of demographics and organisational structure. This has enabled leadership teams to access consistent reporting and take a risk aware based approach to decision-making. A new digitised talent identification and succession tool is currently being piloted, helping to drive strategic conversations around organisational design and future capability needs.

Our internal Academy remains central to our learning and development strategy, offering a home for both in-person and digital content. Within our Learning Management System (LMS), we've created 719 learning modules and hosted 502 learning events, covering a broad range of topics and supporting employees at all levels. This approach has led to strong engagement, reduced costs, and improved consistency in training across our global workforce.

We've also made significant progress in our Horticulture and Works Curriculum, which delivers high-quality, standardised, and safety-focused content globally. This initiative is raising performance and operational standards and aligns closely with our broader learning and development goals.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on nurturing a culture of care, collaboration, and continuous learning. By investing in our people and listening to their voices, we are building a stronger, more resilient organisation, one that is ready to meet the challenges of the future and honour the legacy of the past.





Right: Volunteers make wreaths during a workshop. Each wreath is a work of art and they are available for sale in our leper Visitor Centre at the Menin Gate, leper, Belgium.









AS A CONSERVATION ORGANISATION, WE ARE COMMITTED TO PRESERVING THE BUILT HERITAGE IN OUR CARE

Maintaining our global estate to the highest standards is central to our mission of commemorating the service personnel we honour. This year, we've continued to invest in both large-scale restoration and everyday care across our international estate.

As a conservation organisation, we are committed to preserving the built heritage in our care. We only replace materials where absolutely necessary, and we work as sustainably as possible, reducing the environmental impact of our projects and carefully considering the long-term consequences of decisions made today on the future.

One of the greatest challenges we currently face is the impact of reduced use of chemical biocides, pesticides, and fertilisers. While this is the right step for environmental sustainability, it has caused some short-term impacts, including the growth of black spot algae on headstones in Western Europe. This algae was previously masked by chemical cleaning and we are

actively working with external scientific experts to find effective and sustainable solutions to this issue.

Every site is carefully inspected by our specialist teams and recorded as part of our Condition Survey programme. This ongoing work is transforming how we understand and manage our built heritage. By using digital tools to track the condition of thousands of structures, we can plan repairs more effectively, prioritise resources, and ensure long-term sustainability across diverse global environments.

A major milestone this year was the completion of restoration work at the Menin Gate Memorial in leper. After two years of conservation, the memorial officially reopened in July with a ceremony attended by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal. The project included structural repairs, improved drainage, and the installation of a living roof - all designed to preserve this iconic site for future generations.

Left: Though-out the year our dedicated stonemasons work to care for and refurbish our headstones. Here we see a team member reengraving a worn inscription on a headstone in Bucquoy Road Cemetery, Ficheux, France.

Right: Wall repairs underway in Feuchy Chapel British Cemetery, Arras, France.



Across our estate, ongoing maintenance and restoration continues at many locations. At St Sever Cemetery in Rouen we completed an extensive restoration of the large chapel building, supported by grants from the local French government.

As many First World War sites approach their centenaries, the urgency of restoration work increases. Every site presents unique challenges, but boundary walls, often the largest built feature of a cemetery, require particularly specialist attention. We've undertaken major wall restoration projects at numerous locations, frequently with financial support from external partners. We would like to particularly thank Flemish Heritage for their ongoing financial support for work on sites in the Flanders region.

In the UK, our Eyes On, Hands On volunteer programme continues to thrive. This year, volunteers contributed over 25,000 hours across more than 13,000 locations, helping to inspect, report issues, and clean scattered graves. Their dedication is a vital part of our care network and a testament to the public's ongoing commitment to remembrance.

Our role as an agency for other organisations and governments continues to expand. The Agency Services team brings specialist Commission expertise to a wide range

of projects - from maintaining memorials across former battlefields to supporting military units and working on behalf of the UK Ministry of Defence and other Governments to care for graves, cemeteries and memorials around the world.

One standout example is Cannock Chase German Military Cemetery, where we've been commissioned by the German government to undertake a full renovation of the Grade II Listed cemetery building and create a new education centre. This project ensures the site remains not only a place of remembrance but also a space for learning and reflection.



The large chapel building at St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France, under scaffolding during the extensive restoration project undertaken this year.



New Zealand No.2 Outpost Cemetery is a green oasis against a background of destruction. In August 2024, wild fires on the Gallipoli Peninsula left the landscape a burned and charred wasteland. Our staff have been hard at work restoring the cemeteries but the surrounding area will take years to recover.

HORTICULTURE

WE ARE ALREADY SEEING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Horticulture plays a vital role in shaping the spaces that define our global estate. These landscapes are not only places of remembrance and respect, they are living environments that require thoughtful stewardship. As climate change increasingly affects ecosystems around the world, horticulture has become central to our response, helping us adapt, protect, and future-proof our sites.

To better understand the direct impact of climate change on our cemeteries and memorials, we've invested in the Willis Tower Watson Global Peril and Climate Diagnostics tool. This advanced software helps us assess potential risks and vulnerabilities, guiding our long-term planning and conservation efforts.

We are already seeing the effects of climate change. In Western Europe, rising temperatures and shifting rainfall patterns are altering growing conditions of some of our plant species, while in Africa and Asia, prolonged droughts and extreme weather events are becoming more frequent. One of the most dramatic examples occurred in



Ovillers British Cemetery, Somme, France, during the reburial of two unknown soldiers in April 2025.

Gallipoli, where a prolonged drought led to wildfires in August 2024 which damaged numerous cemeteries and destroyed nearly all vegetation across a huge area of the peninsula. Numerous buildings were caught in the inferno, including our operational base site and several unoccupied workers cottages which were burned down. Despite the scale of the damage, our teams responded with

resilience and urgency. Restoration began immediately, and by ANZAC Day in April 2025, many sites were once again ready to welcome visitors. Today, signs of horticultural recovery are visible, a testament to the dedication of our staff.

Our commitment to sustainability is reflected in projects across the estate. At the Menin Gate, a two-year restoration included

OUR AMBITIOUS 39,000 TREE PROJECT IS A CORNERSTONE OF OUR FUTURE STRATEGY

the installation of a living roof, a green space that enhances biodiversity, improves drainage, and protects the structure from water damage. This initiative is a model for how conservation and innovation can work hand in hand.

At Medjez-El-Bab War Cemetery in Tunisia, we are installing an alternative landscape design that will significantly reduce water demand by transitioning away from extensive traditional lawns to drought-resilient planting schemes. The introduction of over one hundred new trees and a focus on a more natural approach using ground cover plants, many of which are native to the surrounding landscape, will maintain the distinctive feel of our sites in the region whilst supporting local ecosystems, enhancing biodiversity and reducing environmental impact.

Our ambitious 39,000 Tree Project is a cornerstone of our future strategy. With over 17,000 trees already mapped and managed, we're working towards establishing 39,000 trees globally by 2039. This initiative supports biodiversity, provides shade and shelter, and helps mitigate the effects of climate change. To support this work, we've adopted a new software tool called Tree Plotter, which helps us identify suitable planting locations across our global estate. This data-driven approach ensures that every tree contributes

meaningfully to the landscape and its long-term sustainability.

As we care for the landscapes of remembrance, we remain committed to innovation, resilience, and environmental responsibility. Through thoughtful horticulture, strategic planning, and the dedication of our global teams, we are not only preserving the past, we are preparing for the future. These sacred spaces will continue to offer peace, beauty, and reflection for generations to come.



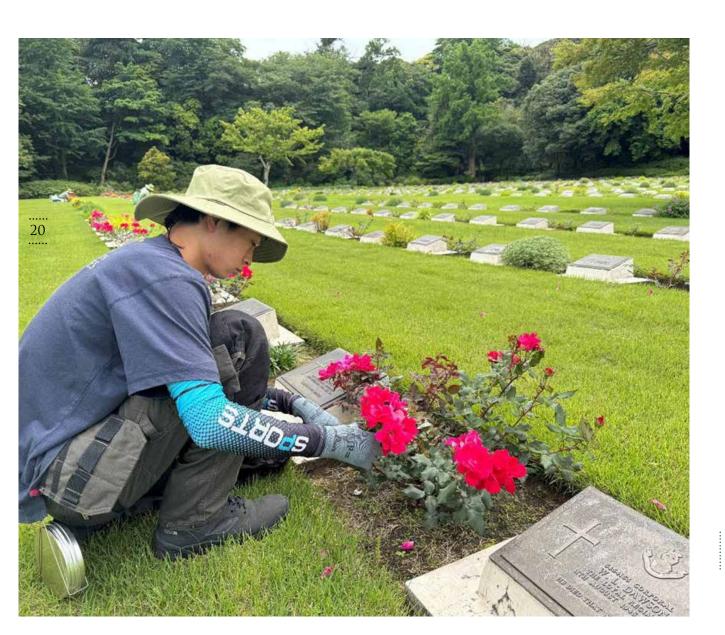
Tending headstone borders in Alexandria (Hadra) War Cemetery, Egypt.



Our team inspect the beautiful horticulture in Chungkai War Cemetery, Thailand.

ENVIRONMENTAL Sustainability

OUR INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE IS STEADILY DEVELOPING AS WE TRIAL AND ADOPT NEW WAYS OF WORKING



In the main, we have achieved, or are on track, to meet the wide-ranging sustainability objectives that we set ourselves, demonstrating the extent to which our teams around the world are working to support our sustainability agenda.

As part of our decarbonisation efforts, for example, we have now switched 47% of our global electricity consumption to renewable electricity contracts and have introduced further electric vehicles and electrical machinery to replace fossil-fuelled models. Also of note is the drive to enhance the biodiversity and sequestration potential of our estate, which are both now an accepted part of our responsibilities.

Our institutional knowledge is steadily developing as we trial and adopt new ways of working, alternative products, and new technologies that. have been introduced to help reduce the environmental impact of our activities. Whilst we have made significant strides, there is work to be done to ensure that our sustainability transition is sufficiently embedded throughout the organisation, standing firm alongside competing priorities. For a more detailed account of our progress, please take a look at our 2025 Environmental Sustainability Report.

Issen Sanmonji tends the roses in Yokohama War Cemetery, Japan. The cemetery is the only Commission site on the Japanese mainland and is the final resting place of over 1,500 service personnel of Australian, Canadian, Dutch, Indian, New Zealand, and United Kingdom forces who died as prisoners of war.

Combatting climate change - key achievements by end of FY 24/25



electricity



self-generation



Emissions reductions Energy-efficiency audits

Energy-efficiency audit

offices & base sites

programme established for







Timetable in place for transitioning to 100% renewable electricity by FY



16 PV systems installed Scope 1 & 2 emissions

steadily reducing

Rate of reduction needs to 101 energy-efficiency audits increase to align with our near-undertaken over last 3 years, covering 37% of all





% distance travelled by electric vehicles is low but

identify tree planting

Protecting biodiversity - key achievements by end of FY 24/25



Variable grass management zones

+ 121868 m²



Bee/insect hotels

Ш

x 171 1717



bulb/nectar rich lawns

zones & bulb/nectar rich

lawns at 147 sites



Deadwood piles/hedges/



Reducing usage of pesticides, herbicides & biocides







130 sites

under variable grass

management

Amounting to 121868 m²

At certain sites, aiming to assist with the control of less & crafted in-house desirable species

Grass allowed to grow longer

Installation of 432 bird nesting Installation of 171 bee/insect

Introduction of wildflower in carefully selected zones at boxes & 38 bat boxes hotels, aiming to provide a suitable egg-laying

Trialling the efficacy of Amounting to 146007 m2 of atract specific bird species to various types, many designed biodiversity enhancements

Introduction of 94 deadwood Continuing to progressively features in the form of piles, reduce usage of herbicides, hedges & log pyramids

food supply for a variety of

Providing a place for nesting Achieved a 98.6% reduction (by & hibernation, & providing a volume) in the use of these chemicals in FY 24/25 against a

pesticides & biocides

2019 baseline

Above: Long-tailed macaques in Taiping War Cemetery, Malaysia, 2025.

Below: In 2025, we completed an extensive horticultural renovation at Rome War Cemetery, Italy. The work included the installation of several pathways that weave through the lush borders between the Roman aqueduct and the Commission graves.

Promoting a circular economy - key achievements by end of FY 24/25



reduction



21% reduction in water

consumption achieved

Water-efficiency audit programme established for hetween FY 22/23 & FY 24/25 offices & base sites

Water-efficiency

audits

Reduction mainly driven by 61 water-efficiency audits water-efficiency targets undertaken over last 3 years tailored to each irrigation



Re-use & recycling

Proportion of waste that is

being landfilled has

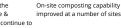
decreased

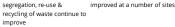


Composting of



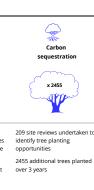












COMMEMORATION

Commemoration is at the heart of our mission. This has been an especially active year, given the combined creation and strategic planning for new commemorative sites – including the now-completed Cape Town Memorial, the Freetown Memorial in Sierra Leone and the updated Brookwood 1914-1918 Memorial.

Much of this work is led by our Commemorations Team. Beyond acting as the custodians of our casualty data, they play a vital role in ensuring those who served are honoured with dignity, accuracy, and care. Everything they action is treated meticulously; from processing new headstones and updating memorial panels, through to correcting typographical errors or amending historical records. In 2025 the Department was instrumental for the delivery of a major Commission programme which has upgraded our entire casualty database and headstone ordering system (VIGIL).

Submissions received from public researchers have continued to grow, a reflection of sustained interest in our work alongside the improved digitisation and accessibility of relevant historical records. This year has seen the Commemorations Team process high volumes of casework across four principal strands, working with the relevant military authorities. These strands incorporate the acceptance of new casualties for commemoration, alongside investigative research into potential grave locations. The Team furthermore collaborates closely with our Member Governments, for investigating, identifying and rededicating the graves of previously unknown casualties.



Reburial service in Loos British Cemetery Extension, France, 16 July 2025. Eight First World War service personnel were laid to rest including Corporal Alfred Morrant and Private Henry Rycraft of the Essex Regiment, and Private Lewis Lambert and Private Arthur Grayston of the Bedfordshire Regiment.

22

Another key function provided by the Team is the recovery and reburial of war casualties still being found on former battlefields, supported by our integrated Recovery Unit (Forensic Archaeology) colleagues. In France this year, construction of wind turbines revealed a mass grave containing sixteen Commonwealth casualties, which was the largest single recovery of Commonwealth soldiers since 2017. In Belgium, a further twenty-six sets of human remains - nineteen German and seven French - were recovered at Palingbeek in Messines, Belgium, during an international recovery effort led operationally by the Commission, and in support of Flanders Heritage. It has also been a busy reburial schedule, with over eighty soldiers laid to rest with full honours, via ceremonies which brought together families and communities in remembrance.

International collaboration remains integral. The Commemorations Team has also supported delivery of a project at the request of the Japanese Government, to exhume and repatriate Japanese casualties buried at Maynamati War Cemetery in Bangladesh –

reinforcing our shared commitment to dignity in death and remembrance beyond borders. It has proved another successful period for supporting our Non-Commemoration Programme too; we have ensured the fitting commemoration of previously unrecognised war casualties, including the marking of previously abandoned graves across sites, particularly in Africa.

IN 2025 THE DEPARTMENT
WAS INSTRUMENTAL FOR
THE DELIVERY OF A MAJOR
COMMISSION PROGRAMME
WHICH HAS UPGRADED OUR
ENTIRE CASUALTY DATABASE
AND HEADSTONE ORDERING
SYSTEM (VIGIL)

.....



Architectural visualisation of the new Brookwood 1914-1918 Memorial. Designed by Studio Wignall & Moore with the support of internationally acclaimed landscape architect Tom Stuart-Smith, the design seeks to honour the fallen while enhancing the natural environment. Initially, over 400 service personnel will be commemorated.

ARCHIVES

The CWGC Archive plays a vital role in preserving and providing access to the Commission's heritage, supporting our global operations and fostering public understanding of commemoration.

Based at our headquarters in Maidenhead, the archive holds over 65,000 items, including correspondence, photographs, staff records, and architectural plans. These materials offer a detailed view of the Commission's history, from day-to-day operations to long-term strategy. Our ongoing programme of cataloguing and digitisation continues to expand access via our online portal, enabling researchers, historians, and the public to explore our story from anywhere in the world. This year, we catalogued, digitised, and published 1,027





First World War enquiry files online. The next phase will add a further 4,000 files, completing a major project that enhances access to early records and deepens understanding of our commemorative legacy.

A key milestone has been securing grant funding for a film freezing project to safeguard over 50,000 glass and film negatives. These images, some dating back to the Commission's earliest years, document cemetery construction, memorials, and staff in the field. Freezing halts deterioration and prepares the collection for future digitisation, ensuring these rare visual records are preserved for generations to come.

We continued to grow our Voices of the Commission oral history project, capturing

the experiences of staff past and present. Interviews from the UK, northern Europe, Hong Kong, the Indian Subcontinent, and Japan reveal the care, dedication, and challenges behind our work, adding a human dimension to the historical record.

Governance remains a priority. This year saw a review of the policies and procedures that underpin the archive service, including a disaster recovery exercise. These efforts ensure our operations remain aligned with professional standards and support our strategic vision to retain Full Accreditation from The National Archives when reapplication begins in 2028.

The Archives Team has supported several high-profile engagements at HQ,

Above: The Archives team install an new exhibition exploring the history of our Headquarters building in Maidenhead.

Left: Archives staff undertake a disaster training exercise in the Commission's archive in Maidenhead, UK. This simulated a catastrophic flood of the main archive storage room and the process and procedure they would follow.

including visits from international guests such as a delegation from China and Viscount Henry Montgomery, grandson of Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery. Archival materials provided historical context and enriched the visitor experience.

In August 2025, the Eucalypts of Hodogaya exhibition opened at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne, Australia. Exploring the history of Yokohama War Cemetery and the work of the Commission's Anzac Agency, the exhibition featured large-scale reproductions of archive materials. It marked a significant moment of public engagement and international visibility for the archive

All these initiatives reflect our commitment to preserving not only the memory of the fallen, but the legacy of those who have worked to honour them. The CWGC Archive remains a vital resource for education, research, and engagement, and helps to bridge past and present in support of our commemorative mission.



Commission staff view items from the Archive during Archives Open Day, September 2025.

GOVERNANCE REMAINS A PRIORITY. THIS YEAR SAW A REVIEW OF THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES THAT UNDERPIN THE ARCHIVE SERVICE, INCLUDING A DISASTER RECOVERY EXERCISE









EVERY STORY, For evermore

In 2025, we marked an important moment in global history: the 80th anniversaries of Victory in Europe (VE) Day and Victory over Japan (VJ) Day. These key days of celebration, 80 years ago, marked the end of the Second World War and today hold deep national and international significance.

This was an opportunity for us all to reflect on the immense sacrifices made by millions and to honour the enduring legacy of those who served and died in the conflict. Across the UK and around the world, communities came together to remember, learn, and pay tribute.

To support these commemorations, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) provided funding to UK stakeholder organisations to organise commemorations and celebrations across the country. The Commission was proud to receive a significant sum, enabling us to deliver a wide-reaching and impactful programme.

Our commemorative journey began at Coventry Cathedral with a moving and respectful celebration. This marked the start of months of engagement across the UK with the For Evermore Tour, centred on a bespoke mobile exhibition that toured the country, visiting 31 locations. The exhibition featured interactive displays, storytelling, and outreach activities that connected new audiences with the legacy of the Second World War and brought our work to the heart of communities. Locations visited included Wembley Arena, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, and Leeds Royal Armouries.

Central to the Tour was the Torch for Peace, our physical symbol of remembrance, which played a central role in the national VE Day parade in London on 5 May and then travelled with the exhibition across the UK before heading to Europe to be part of commemorations in France, Belgium, and the Netherlands.





ACROSS THE UK AND AROUND THE WORLD, COMMUNITIES CAME TOGETHER TO REMEMBER, LEARN AND PAY TRIBUTE

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WE ALSO SUPPORTED 418 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EVENTS ACROSS 21 COUNTRIES, WITH 24,411 DIRECT ENGAGEMENTS WITH VISITORS

In addition, we delivered or supported 418 public engagement events across 21 countries, with 24,411 direct engagements with visitors. These events included international commemorations at our sites across Asia and Europe, where our teams provided historical expertise and, of course, ensured our sites were beautifully maintained for these important occasions.

Volunteers played a vital role throughout, delivering 353 tours during War Graves Week in May alone. Media coverage was extensive, with 3,611 pieces published globally, and our social media channels saw over 700,000 engagements, helping to share stories and inspire a broad audience.

The Torch for Peace continued its journey into June, playing a central role in the 81st anniversary of D-Day. As one of the last major commemorations to include surviving veterans of the Second World War, this event reminded us all of the importance of honouring those who remain with us and preserving their stories for future generations.



Bottom left: A school group is guided round Ambon War Cemetery in Indonesia by Commission staff. This special tour series explored the history of the Commission and the connection to VJ Day.

Top left: Simon Bendry, Director of Education, Engagement and Volunteering, explains the Commission's Torch for Peace to a school group during the For Evermore Tour, June 2025.

Top right: Mzee Ezekiel Nyanjom, veteran of the Second World War, attended a VJ Day 80 Ceremony at Nairobi War Cemetery, Kenya, and answered questions from students about his experiences.

Bottom right: Performers from The D-Day Darlings at Coventry Cathedral with the Torch for Peace and a Land Rover Defender loaned by Jaguar Land Rover to support the For Evermore Tour, May 2025.



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PUBLIC Engagement

OUR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TEAM PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN DELIVERING TAILORED PROGRAMMES ACROSS THE UK, EUROPE AND BEYOND



In 2025, we continued to strengthen the connection between communities and the stories of those we commemorate. Through a blend of outreach, education, and volunteering, our public engagement work ensures remembrance remains relevant, inclusive, and impactful.

Our Public Engagement team played a vital role in delivering tailored programmes across the UK, Europe and beyond. Working with schools, universities, and community groups, they led initiatives such as student-led cemetery tours in Canterbury, a local history project involving six schools in Worthing, and a series of events for over 1,000 students in the Netherlands. These activities empowered young people to lead how they remember, giving them the tools and a space to discover, learn and tell the stories in their way.

Our volunteer programmes have continued to grow, with over 2,500 volunteers giving up their time. The Eyes On, Hands On initiative in the UK saw volunteers inspect more than 160,000 headstones across 12,500 locations, contributing over 36,000 hours of service. Volunteers also supported archival work, public speaking, and research for the Non-Commemoration Programme.

We were also delighted to launch the National Volunteer Program in Canada, building on the success of Eyes On, Hands On in the UK. In Canada alone, the Commission commemorates over 18,000 service men and women who died in the World Wars. This new program enables community members across the country to act as our eyes in their local area. Like in the UK, volunteers visit nearby cemeteries and gather information about the condition of war graves. The programme has already proved a tremendous success, rolling out across eight provinces and one territory, and welcoming more than 400 volunteers. Building on this success, the program will expand and grow in the coming years.

War Graves Week, held from 2–11 May this year, is a cornerstone of our calendar. As it aligned with the 80th anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day, we were able to amplify its reach and significance. We hosted cemetery tours, talks, and interactive exhibitions, inviting communities to explore the VE/VJ Day history on their doorstep and to understand the global nature of the conflict.

The Public Engagement teams also supported the wide-ranging VE/VJ Day commemorations, delivering events around

A school group learns about the history and heritage of Nairobi War Cemetery, Kenya, during a visit. the world that honoured the sacrifices of Commonwealth forces. From guided tours in Shetland, to digital storytelling via the For Evermore app in Malta, to school visits in Kenya and Thailand, we engaged thousands of people in remembering the legacy of the Second World War. These events highlighted the diversity of those who served and the enduring relevance of their stories.

Our public engagement work in 2025 exemplified our commitment to remembrance through education, community involvement, and volunteering and ensured that the stories of those who served continue to inspire future generations.





Left: Sarah Moody, Public Engagement Coordinator for the West Central Region of the UK, is shown artifacts from the Second World War by a visitor during our For Evermore Tour in Coventry.

Above: Girl Guides get hands on helping our gardening team in Bedford House Cemetery, Belgium.

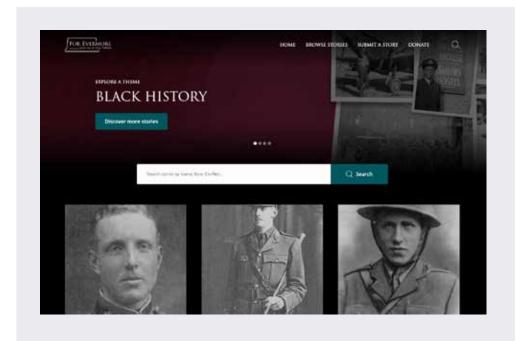
DIGITAL Commemoration

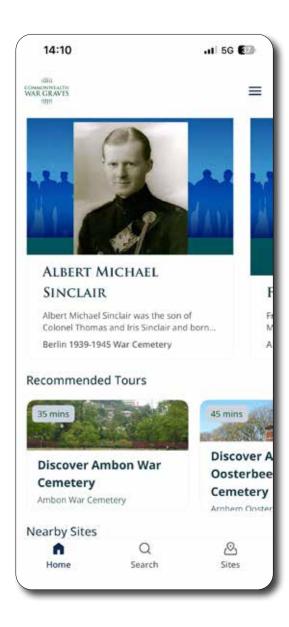
This year, we launched the For Evermore portal and mobile app, marking a major step forward in how we share the stories of those we commemorate. For Evermore: Stories of the Fallen is a digital archive where families, researchers, and communities can contribute stories, photographs, and memories of individuals who served and died in the World Wars. It is designed to preserve these accounts, creating a lasting tribute accessible to future generations.

The For Evermore app bridges physical and digital commemoration. The app offers curated walking tours and audio guides of

over 75 cemeteries and memorials worldwide. Whether on-site or at home, users can explore historical features, access expert commentary, and discover stories linked to specific graves. Visitors can even scan headstones to access stories or contribute their own.

Together, the portal and app have transformed how we engage the public, making remembrance more interactive, personal, and accessible. They empower users to connect with history in meaningful ways, ensuring that every story is remembered, for evermore.





Left: The For Evermore portal where the public can upload and discover the stories of service personnel commemorate by the Commission.

Above: The For Evermore mobile app.

The For Evermore portal and mobile app enable the public to share and discover the stories of service personnel commemorated by the Commission.

To mark the 80th anniversary of VE & VJ Day, six stories submitted to For Evermore were chosen to represent more than 580,000 Second World War personnel commemorated by the Commission. Each face was artistically created using thousands of names from their respective national forces, a powerful tribute to those who served.

For Evermore ensures these stories are captured, shared and preserved, so they can be told today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.

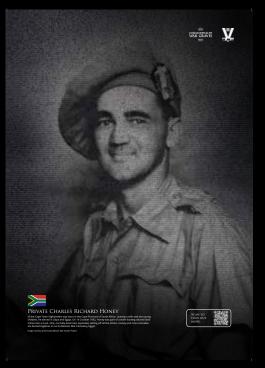
















FOUNDATION



The Commonwealth War Graves Foundation has enjoyed a year of remarkable growth, engagement, and impact, strengthening its vital role in supporting the mission of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have helped to deliver more educational and commemorative initiatives than ever before, ensuring that the stories of those who served are remembered and shared with new generations.

A major focus this year was the 80th anniversaries of VE and VJ Days. The Foundation worked with a number of celebrity ambassadors during this period, including Paul Hollywood - who generously shared his Chelsea bun recipe with the Foundation and filmed with Chelsea Pensioner Andy Lee - alongside

medals expert Mark Smith, and actors Michael Palin and Joanna Scanlon. These ambassadors helped us reach new audiences and deepen public engagement with commemoration.

The Foundation also proudly supported the Commission's national For Evermore tour, which travelled across the UK and beyond, inspiring communities to share the stories of those who served. This was complemented by our Legacy of Liberation campaign, which continued to build momentum and encourage gifts in wills. Legacy gifts remain vital to our success, and we were pleased to strengthen our partnership with Farewill, a leading free will provider, making it easier for supporters to leave a lasting impact.

Among our most significant achievements this year was the official opening of the new

Left: Internal Communications Assistant Becca North welcomes guests at the Foundation Christmas Carol Service in the Guards Chapel, London, UK, December 2024.

Right: The leper Visitor Centre, located beside the Menin Gate, leper, Belgium.



leper Visitor Centre, formally unveiled by The Princess Royal in July 2025. Located directly opposite the iconic Menin Gate, the Centre offers a welcoming space for visitors and features new merchandise, with proceeds supporting the Foundation's work. The reopening of the Menin Gate itself after extensive works, also in July, was marked by the unveiling of new lighting. Generously funded by a donor and delivered with support from the Foundation, this enhances the atmosphere and visibility of this historic memorial.

Our commitment to education and outreach was reflected in the support Commission projects such as the Kenyan Oral Histories initiative, the Speakers and Tour Guides Programme, and the Eyes On, Hands On volunteering programme. We also worked with

the Commission Archives team to launch a new film freezing programme to preserve the Commission's invaluable archives for future generations.

Membership of the Foundation grew steadily, reaching its highest number ever. This was partly thanks to the launch of Commonwealth War Graves Chats - a new online talks series that brings members closer to Commission experts and behind-the-scenes stories. In November, we held a "Thankathon" to personally thank our supporters for their continued generosity and commitment.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to expanding our reach, deepening engagement, and ensuring that every story is remembered, for evermore.

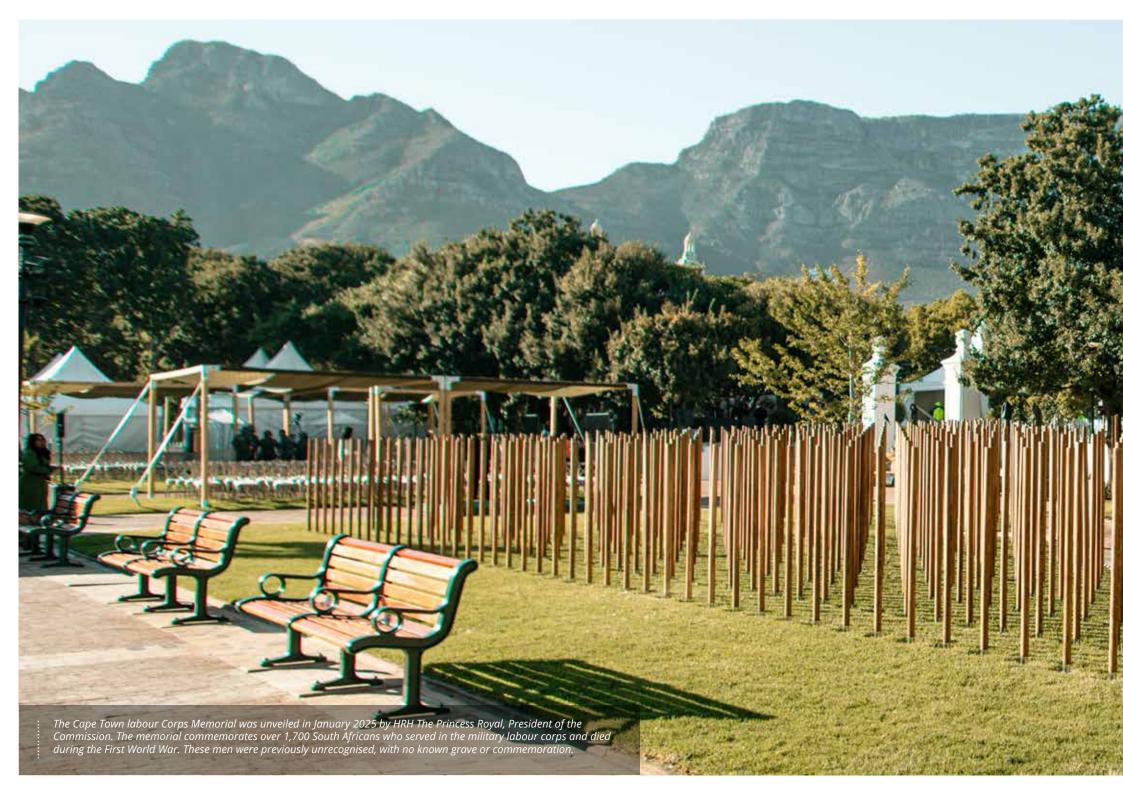


Above: Foundation Guides Florine Renaux and Sarah Shepherd welcome visitors to the Thiepval Memorial, 1 July 2025.

Below: A major focus this year was the 80th anniversaries of VE and VJ Days. The Foundation worked with celebrity ambassadors including Paul Hollywood - who shared his Chelsea bun recipe and filmed with Chelsea Pensioner Andy Lee - alongside medals expert Mark Smith, and actors Michael Palin and Joanna Scanlon.

THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY
OF OUR SUPPORTERS, WE
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MORE EDUCATIONAL AND
COMMEMORATIVE INITIATIVES
THAN EVER BEFORE









THE PROGRAMME CONTINUES TO PRIORITISE COMMEMORATING INDIVIDUALS BY NAME, WHEREVER POSSIBLE

In April 2021, the Commission pledged to examine how individuals from the former British Empire were commemorated – and to rectify historical inequalities. This includes identifying and honouring those previously overlooked.

This year, the global Non-Commemorations Programme has remained active across multiple regions; making progress with historian-led research, field investigations, new memorials, and transparent storytelling that aims to bring overlooked histories to the light. This work would not be possible without strategic in country partnerships with museums and institutions, as well as the testimonies of veterans in East Africa and local historians from all corners of the globe that help us share stories, as well as catalogue and interpret records.

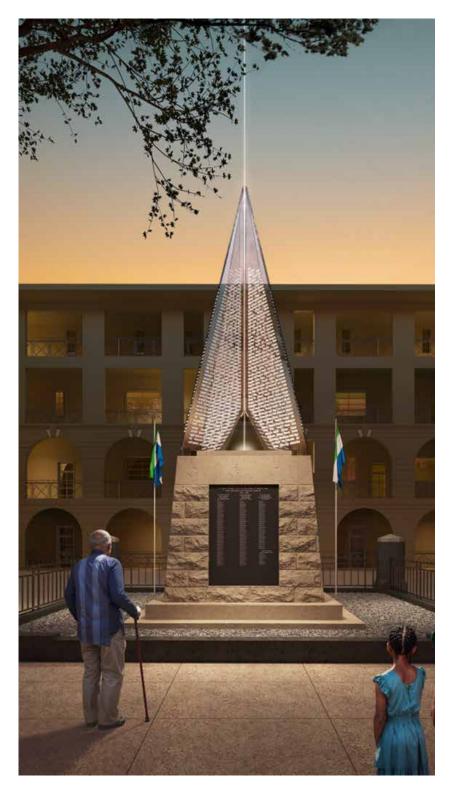
The programme publishes quarterly stakeholder updates and an annual review. Both these show the strong progress made in updating Commission records (over 11,640 names added to date) and honouring service personnel from the continent of Africa and pre-partition India. Records concerning the King's African Rifles, thought to have been destroyed

decades ago, have been unearthed by the programme with help from the Kenya Defence Forces, recovering the names and stories of more than 3,000 soldiers who served at the time.

Researchers estimate that the names of up to 10,000 soldiers from pre-partition India who are commemorated numerically on village memorials may be found through the Punjab Registers Project.

The programme has also concluded vitally important work to publish the most accurate estimate of casualties who died in the East African Campaign of the First World War - 88,285. This figure helps raise public awareness of the scale of commemoration gaps. A second report, focused on the period after the Second World War – Remembering the dead of the British Empire – was researched and written in this period.

This year saw a rise in inclusive education and community engagement initiatives driven by research. In Kenya and South Africa successful and popular programmes run to share the global story of the world wars with schools and learners. The Punjab Registers Project aims to uncover names of individuals who have



not been commemorated by name, and document the stories of the Punjabi soldiers who served in the First World War. Community outreach events led by the UK Punjabi Heritage Association have seen very positive responses from British Punjabis reconnecting with their ancestral military contributions.

A Conservation Management Plan (CMP) developed in partnership has been published, this marks a significant milestone in evaluating the cultural significance of the three African Memorials to the Missing, helping to ensure their meaning is fully understood in local contexts.

The programme continues to prioritise commemorating individuals by name, wherever possible, ensuring full visibility in remembrance and when this is not possible alternative approaches and solutions are being sought. In January 2025, a new Commission memorial was inaugurated by our president, HRH The Princess Royal in Cape Town. It is the first in South Africa to be dedicated to the South African men of the military labour corps who served in the First World

War but were not commemorated at the time. Another memorial, designed and planned in this period, is a contemporary addition to the Lutyens-designed Freetown Memorial. Designed by Oshinowo Studios, it will commemorate 900 servicemen from the Sierra Leone Carrier Corps and is the first Commission memorial to incorporate a beacon of light.

Planning also continued for new memorial sites in Kenya, including plans at Kariokor Cemetery in Nairobi which is a culturally and historically significant grave site for the Kenyan contribution to the World Wars. More widely, A Conservation Management Plan (CMP) has been published, this marks a significant milestone in evaluating the cultural significance of the three African Memorials to the Missing, helping to ensure their meaning is fully understood in local contexts.

The programme's global advisory panel continued to meet and play a key role in guiding the direction, ensuring local relevance, cultural sensitivity and best research practices.





DEEPENING Relations

TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN OUR PRESENCE IN WESTMINSTER, WE HAVE ESTABLISHED, AND NOW PROVIDE THE SECRETARIAT FOR, AN ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP (APPG)

In the wake of significant political change following the UK General Election in July 2024, we have taken proactive steps to strengthen our engagement with Parliament and international partners. These efforts reflect our commitment to ensuring that remembrance remains a visible and valued part of public life, both nationally and globally. Through targeted outreach, strategic partnerships, and high-profile events, we have worked to deepen understanding of our work and build lasting relationships that support our long-term objectives.

With over 50% of Members of Parliament (MPs) newly elected, we wrote to each of the 640 MPs who have a Commission cemetery or memorial in their constituency, offering them a personal site visit. These visits provide an opportunity to discuss our organisational objectives, share the challenges we face,

and highlight the importance of our work in local communities. So far, over 120 MPs have responded positively and requested site visits, a strong indication of growing parliamentary interest in what we do.

To further strengthen our presence in Westminster, we have established, and now provide the Secretariat for, an All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and Commemoration. The group brings together over 40 Parliamentarians from across the political spectrum, united by a shared commitment to remembrance and

heritage. The APPG provides a valuable forum for discussion, advocacy, and collaboration, helping to ensure that our work remains a priority in national policy conversations.

In March, to mark Commonwealth Day, our Director General was invited by the Speaker of the House of Commons, Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP, to address representatives from all Commonwealth Nations in Parliament. This prestigious invitation underscored the Commission's international significance and provided a platform to share our work with a global audience. The occasion also saw the launch of a six-week exhibition in Portcullis





House to mark VE and VJ Day, allowing Parliamentarians and visitors to learn more about our history and mission. The exhibition named every Commonwealth casualty of the Second World War, a powerful expression of the scale of our work at the heart of government.

Also in March, we held an international event in collaboration with the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) at their Whitehall headquarters, exploring the relationship between commemoration and diplomacy. The event brought together a diverse group of contributors, including commemoration organisations, diplomats, academics, military representatives, and sector experts from all Commission member and key host nations. The discussions were wide-ranging and insightful, and a thematic paper was published following the event to capture key ideas and outcomes. Building on this momentum, we have commenced a threeyear research partnership with the University of Chester to further explore the intersection of commemoration and diplomacy, a growing area of strategic importance.

Our international engagement has continued to expand, with the Commission hosting a range of global stakeholders



Officials from the Chinese Ministry of Veterans' Affairs were welcomed to Commission Headquarters, August 2025.

throughout the year. Among these was a delegation from China's Ministry of Veterans Affairs, reflecting our increasing visibility and relevance beyond traditional Commonwealth boundaries. We have also taken an active role in the European War Heritage Working Group, which brings together commemoration organisations from across Europe to share best practice and foster collaboration.

A key milestone in our international development was our accreditation with the Commonwealth Secretariat, confirmed during the year. This formal recognition opens new avenues for partnership and collaboration with Commonwealth bodies, enhancing our ability

to advocate for remembrance and heritage on a global scale.

These initiatives demonstrate the Commission's evolving role as both a custodian of built heritage and a proactive voice in international dialogue. By engaging with Parliament, building strategic partnerships, and expanding our global network, we are ensuring that the values of remembrance, respect, and shared history continue to resonate across borders and generations. Our work is not only about honouring the past, but about shaping the future of commemoration in an everchanging world.

LOOKING TO The future

We are dedicated to preserving the memory of more than 1.7 million men and women who gave their lives in the world wars. Today, our mission extends beyond caring for cemeteries and memorials across the globe, we strive to transform these places into vibrant spaces for reflection, education, and connection.

Through cutting-edge digital initiatives, inspiring learning programmes, and partnerships with communities and international organisations, we bring the stories behind every name to life, ensuring they resonate with new generations.

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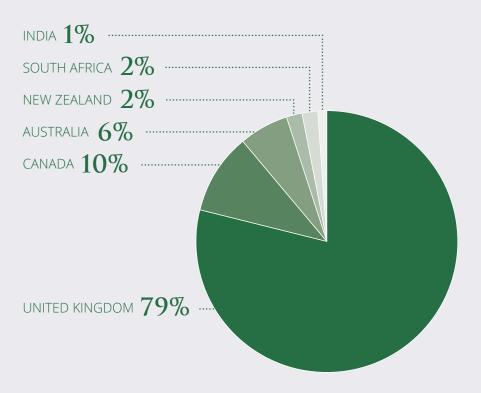
At the same time, we are embracing sustainability, reducing our environmental impact, and adopting eco-conscious practices to safeguard our heritage for the future. Looking forward, we see our work as a living testament to courage and unity, ensuring that the sacrifices of those who served will endure in memory forever.



CWGC FINANCIAL SUMMARY

£83.7M

TOTAL CONSOLIDATED INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 2025.



PERCENTAGES OF CONTRIBUTIONS
BEING MADE BY
PARTNER GOVERNMENTS

£87.6 million was spent during the year in ensuring the 1.7 million war dead were commemorated in accordance with the obligations set out in the Commission's Royal Charter. The money was spent ensuring that these cemeteries and memorials were maintained 'in fit provision'. Our member Commonwealth countries contribute to the funding of the Commission in proportion to the number of commemorations of each nations force we maintain.

The Commission's income for the year ended March 2025 was £83.7 million. Member governments' funding comprised £71 million (85%).

The Commission spent in line with expectations during the year resulted in a year-on-year increase of 5% in its consolidated expenditures to £87.6 million.

The financial outcome for the year, before pension scheme adjustments, was therefore - at an agreed forecast deficit of £3.9 million due to completion of major structural projects funded by reserves.

The Commission's consolidated balance sheet position reported a net liability position of £2.7 million. The pension scheme deficit of £17.2 million was an in-year decrease of £1.1 million. A long-term funding plan has been approved by the Commission with the pension scheme trustees to fund the pension scheme's agreed actuarial deficit.

Our full accounts are available on the website at www.cwgc.org

OUR COMMITMENT

BREAKDOWN OF NUMBERS OF WAR DEAD BY FORCES

	1914–1918 War		1939–1945 War		Both Wars		Overall
Nationality	Identified Burials	Memorials	Identified Burials	Memorials	Identified Burials	Memorials	Casualty count
Australian	39,156	23,184	28,607	12,090	67,763	35,274	103,037
Canadian	45,616	19,386	37,323	8,065	82,939	27,451	110,390
Indian	8,240	65,846	18,236	68,789	26,476	134,635	161,111
New Zealand	11,776	6,296	9,040	2,886	20,816	9,182	29,998
South African	6,798	4,904	10,058	1,857	16,856	6,761	23,617
United Kingdom	482,321	414,189**	245,186	138,721	727,507	552,910	1,280,417
Total	593,907	533,805	348,450	232,408	942,357	766,213	1,708,570 *

★ As a result of our investigations into historical cases of non-commemoration, this figure is likely to change.

** This figure includes casualties who are currently commemorated only by number at four sites, the Dar es Salaam African Memorial in Tanzania, the Basra (Tanooma Chinese) Memorial in Iraq, the Abercorn Memorial in Zambia and the Giza Memorial in Egypt.

There are 218,237 unidentified graves of World War I & II in Commission care, including 4,163 of non-Commonwealth casualties.

The names of 68,156 civilians of the Commonwealth, whose deaths were due to enemy action in World War II, are commemorated in the Civilian War Dead Roll of Honour, held at Westminster Abbey, UK.

The Commission also cares for the graves of non-Commonwealth casualties from World War I & II on behalf of their governments. In addition, we maintain the graves of service casualties from other conflicts on an agency basis for the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence.

Figures will vary on a daily basis as individuals are accepted for commemoration as war casualties, as human remains are recovered from the former battlefields for burial in a newly created Commission grave; existing graves are identified; and as casualties who have been named have their official point of commemoration moved from a Memorial to the Missing to the headstone marking their grave. Numbers may not be directly comparable i.e. some counts are for each individual, whilst others represent more than one individual.

For example, a collective grave may be counted as a single grave but is the resting place of multiple individuals.

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If you would like to get in touch with the CWGC, please visit www.cwgc.org/contact-us.



FRONT COVER IMAGE:

As part of the 80th commemorations of VJ Day, and in alignment with buildings across the UK such as The Shard and Buckingham Palace, our Singapore Memorial in Kranji was illuminated in tribute to those who never made it home.

WITH THANKS FOR IMAGES

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission would like to thank all those who have contributed to the production of this annual report with information and/or images. Your help is greatly appreciated.

www.cwgc.org











