

DRAFT.

CONFIDENTIAL.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

at the

289TH MEETING

of the

IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

held at

32, GROSVENOR GARDENS, LONDON, S.W.1.

on

THURSDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY, 1947.

PRESENT:

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER, K.G., P.C., K.T.,  
K.P., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.,  
President in the Chair.

The Rt. Hon. F.J. BELLENGER, M.P., Secretary of State for War,  
Chairman of the Commission.

Brigadier H.D. GRAHAM, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D.,  
Representing the High Commissioner for Canada.

The Rt. Hon. J.A. BEASLEY,  
High Commissioner for Australia.

C. KNOWLES, Esq., C.B.E.,  
Representing the High Commissioner for New Zealand.

I.T. MEYER, Esq.,  
Representing the High Commissioner for South Africa.

Colonel W.F. RENDELL, C.B.E.,  
Representing the Government of Newfoundland.

General Sir ROBERT GORDON-FINLAYSON, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.,

Admiral Sir MARTIN DUNBAR-NASMITH, V.C., K.C.B.

Colonel Sir JOHN SHUTE, C.M.G., D.S.O., J.P.

Colonel the Rt. Hon. the LORD WIGRAM, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., C.S.I.

The Rt. Hon. SIR RICHARD HOPKINS, G.C.B.

There were also present:-

Lieut.-Colonel HOWARD KERR, C.M.G., C.V.O., O.B.E., (Equerry to  
H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester)

V.C. DUFFY, Esq., M.V.O. (Australia House).

G. SAVAGE, Esq. (Colonial Office).

Lieut.-Colonel Sir FREDERIC KENYON, G.B.E., K.C.B.

Sir WILLIAM HALCROW, M.Inst. C.E. (Honorary Consulting Engineer).

Lieut.-Colonel Sir HERBERT ELLISSEN, C.B.E. (Adviser on Post-War  
Organisation and Reconstruction).

Brigadier F. HIGGINSON, C.M.G. (Controller and Secretary of the  
Meeting).

F.C. SILLAR, Esq., C.B.E. (Assistant Secretary, Finance).

Brigadier J.K. McNAIR, C.B.E.

Lieut.-Colonel R.W. MURPHY, M.B.E.

E.J. KING, Esq., M.C.

Major W.K.K. KINNEAR. (Director of Records).

Major F. TYRRELL, M.B.E.

P.R. TREVELYAN-THOMSON, Esq.

H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester, President of the Commission, took the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN of the Commission said that members were very happy to have the pleasure of welcoming His Royal Highness at the first Meeting of the Commission after his return to this country. It was a source of great satisfaction and encouragement to the Commission that in the midst of all his other duties in Australia, His Royal Highness had been able to follow their work closely.

He would like to mention that the Commission had felt that His Majesty the King would wish before his departure to have some information relating to their work in the Union of South Africa, and they had therefore sent a short statement to His Majesty's Private Secretary, together with particulars of the Commission's Agency in South Africa.

The CHAIRMAN, continuing, said that unfortunately Major-General Sir Fabian Ware, the permanent Vice-Chairman, was unable to be present, being confined to his house on medical advice. They had heard today that he was much better in health, but that his doctors would still not allow him to go out. Apologies for their inability to attend had also been received from several other Commissioners. The Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Creech Jones, had fully intended to be present that morning, but unfortunately he had been called away at the last moment to a conference. The Minister of Works also regretted that he would be unable to attend owing to a Cabinet Conference. Mr. Norman Robertson, the High Commissioner for Canada, who was attending a conference, Mr. Jordan, the High Commissioner for New Zealand, who was attending a ceremony in Glasgow, Mr. Heaton Nicholls, the High Commissioner for South Africa, who was at present in the Union, and Sir Samuel Runganadhan, the High Commissioner for India, who was now in Geneva (the Deputy High Commissioner was also abroad) had all sent apologies.

The PRESIDENT said that the Minutes of the last Meeting had been circulated. No amendments had been suggested, and he asked if it was agreed that he should sign them as correct.

This was agreed, and the Minutes were signed.

The PRESIDENT asked if the Secretary of the Meeting had anything to report.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

##### (Review of Recent Events)

The Secretary of the Meeting, Brigadier HIGGINSON, said that there were certain items to report since the last Meeting.

## THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW COMMISSIONER.

The Royal Warrant, appointing Mr. Harold Neal (M.P. for the Clay Cross Division of Derbyshire), a Member of the Commission, had now been received from the War Office. Mr. Neal had just telephoned to say that he had caught a severe cold and must thus unfortunately miss his first Meeting as a Commissioner.

## THE RETIREMENT OF LIEUT.-COLONEL H.F. CHETTLE, C.M.G., O.B.E.

The SECRETARY referred to the recent retirement of Colonel Chettle and suggested that the Commission might wish to place on record their appreciation of Colonel Chettle's long and valuable services.

It was proposed by the CHAIRMAN, and unanimously agreed that the Commission's appreciation should be recorded in the Minutes, and be conveyed to Colonel Chettle by the Secretary in the following terms:-

The Commission desire to place on record their appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Lieutenant-Colonel H.F. Chettle, C.M.G., O.B.E., who retired on the 31st January, 1947. In 1915 he entered the service of the Directorate of Graves Registration and Enquiries in France, and subsequently he has been an active member of the Commission's staff as head of the Records Department, for 30 years. In 1943 he was appointed Deputy Controller. The Memorial and Cemetery Registers (of the Dead of the Commonwealth and Empire of the First World War) which he compiled will be a permanent reminder of his industry, accuracy, and outstanding historical and literary ability. In the sphere of international co-operation and goodwill Colonel Chettle's work as Secretary-General for many years of the Commission's Anglo-French and Anglo-Belgian Mixed Committees has been of the highest value. On his retirement the Commission, and the relatives of the Dead of the British Commonwealth for whom they work, have lost a valued servant, and a loyal friend.

## THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The SECRETARY went on to report that galley-proofs of the Twenty-seventh Annual Report had now been received from the printers. Copies would be circulated to Members at the end of the month for any comments they might have to make. This Report would be the subject of a paper at the next Meeting of the Commission.

## INSPECTIONS ABROAD.

A thorough inspection of all war cemeteries from El Alamein to Algiers was carried out in November 1946 by the Deputy Director of Works, Western Mediterranean District, Lieut.-Colonel G.H. Peek, O.B.E. He had reported that the cemeteries in the Western Desert were well cared for, particularly El Alamein, on which German prisoners of war had been working. The general condition

of all the cemeteries visited was good. The object of this tour, in addition to a normal inspection, was to arrange for materials and water supply for the permanent construction of these cemeteries.

Great assistance had been rendered to the Commission by the French Military Authorities in Tunisia, and the Commission's thanks had been sent to them through the Foreign Office.

A Member of the Commission, Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Longmore, was now in India, having already visited New Zealand, Australia and the new war cemeteries in the South-West Pacific. A preliminary Report had been received from him, which had been circulated to those concerned.

#### MEMORIALS TO THE MISSING OF THE MERCHANT NAVY

Discussions had begun between the Ministry of Transport and the Commission on the commemoration at Tower Hill of members of the Merchant Navy who had died in the war of 1939-45 and who had no known grave. The principle already agreed was that commemoration should not be inferior in any respect to that accorded to the Merchant Seamen who died in the First World War or to the Royal Navy. The Commission were grateful to Admiral Sir Martin Dunbar-Nasmith, who had taken a great interest in this matter.

#### AUSTRALIA DAY.

The Commission were represented by Lieut.-Colonel R.W. Murphy, M.B.E., at the annual Australia Day Service which was held at the church of St. Martin in the Fields on the 25th January.

#### HANDING OVER OF CEMETERIES TO THE COMMISSION BY THE ARMY GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE.

One further cemetery had been taken over for maintenance - Uden British Cemetery, Holland, containing 688 war graves.

#### REPORT OF THE 333RD MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

*omit* [ Sir Robert GORDON-FINLAYSON said that unfortunately the Vice-Chairman, Sir Fabian Ware, had been unable to attend the Meeting of the Finance Committee and he therefore had been voted into the Chair at the last minute. He did not feel it was necessary to go through every item in the Report, but would take certain important ones and then if there were any questions he would do his best to answer them.

He first wished to draw attention to items 2 and 3. It was of interest to note that expenditure on 1914-18 graves was approximately the same as the estimate. The work had progressed as foreseen, which showed that the Commission could make an accurate estimate when it had something solid upon which to work. In regard to the 1939-45 graves expenditure was very much under the estimated figure, because construction was not proceeding as fast as had been hoped and the Army had been unable, during the earlier part of the period to which the estimates related, to hand over cemeteries to the Commission as quickly as had been expected.

The next item of particular interest was No.7. Horticultural treatment was being actively carried out and the money was required for expenditure on manure and bulbs for planting in the cemeteries, which were well advanced in Holland and Belgium, so that they might be in a good state for the Spring and Summer, when many visitors would undoubtedly see them.

Item No.8. regarding headstone beams for the Rome Cemetery was of special interest because it was the first contract to be placed for headstone beams in Italy and would be followed by others in the near future. The lowest tender was recommended for acceptance as was usual, provided the tenderer was of the first grade.

The contract for 5,000 headstones (item No.10) marked a step forward in the Commission's work.

Item No.11, regarding the construction of Tobruk Cemetery, was very important. Tobruk was an expensive cemetery. The Finance Committee endeavoured to keep down expense so far as consistent with the policy of maintaining, as in the past, the nobility and beauty of the war cemeteries. The Finance Committee wished to maintain the standard but money did not go so far as it did; transport, materials, labour and other charges were increasingly heavy and it was very difficult to keep down expenses. In the case of Tobruk the cost would work out at £30. per grave. The estimate submitted was for over £100,000. The Finance Committee had reduced this by £17,000 and now wished the work to go on because six months at least must elapse before architects could visit the cemetery and prepare new designs to effect any further reduction. The Commission were very anxious to get this cemetery into good order because many visitors would undoubtedly see it during the Summer. Men from several Dominions as well as United Kingdom forces had taken part in the fighting in and around Tobruk.

Item 13 concerned the unit cost per grave of the 1939-45 war. So far the procedure had been for the Commission to send an architect out to Greece, or Africa, or France, or Belgium and say, in effect, "here is a cemetery; will you please make a design?" This the architect did, and a number of fine designs had been submitted. But on examination of the designs and the cost of construction it was, however, often found by the Commission that they were unduly expensive. This was in part due to the architect having no guide as to the amount of money to which his design should conform. In an effort to find a solution of this difficulty the Finance Committee recommended that £15. per grave should be the general allocation, and that architects should plan accordingly. This would leave little to be done in the way of modification of the designs after they came before the Finance Committee and the Commission. The average of £15. would be operated on a sliding scale, giving rather more for small cemeteries and less for large cemeteries where the overhead charges were not so great in proportion to the number of graves. It might be found that the £15. per grave did not cover the cost or that it more than

covered the cost, but it was always open to the Commission to add to or subtract from the details of the design to suit the circumstances.

He did not consider there were any other points of particular importance in the Report and was prepared to answer questions from Members.

The PRESIDENT asked if there were any questions. There being none, he asked the Meeting if the Report were adopted.

On the proposal of Lord WIGRAM, seconded by Mr. MEYER  
2. The Report of the 33rd Meeting of the Finance Committee was adopted.

NAVAL MEMORIALS, CHATHAM, PORTSMOUTH AND PLYMOUTH -  
AGREEMENT WITH PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT.

The PRESIDENT asked Admiral Sir Martin Dunbar-Nasmith to present the item regarding Naval Memorials.

Admiral Sir Martin DUNBAR-NASMITH said that the paper itself merely asked for the Seal of the Commission to be affixed to the Agreement between the Imperial War Graves Commission and their Principal Architect in the United Kingdom, Mr. Edward Maufe, for his services in the design and supervision of the Naval Memorials to the Missing at Chatham, Portsmouth, and Plymouth, and for his services as assessor in the proposed competitions for the Naval Memorials to the Missing at Lee-on-Solent, Lowestoft and Liverpool. But in presenting the paper he thought it would be of interest to the President and to the Commissioners if he explained briefly the nature of the work which Mr. Maufe was undertaking.

There were three 1914-18 memorials; at the manning-ports, Portsmouth, Plymouth and Chatham. A total of 25,563 names of the Missing of the Royal Navy were recorded on panels on these Memorials. For the 1939-45 war an endeavour had been made to produce designs which would serve to enhance the existing memorials and at the same time to ensure that the commemoration of those who had died in the Second World War and had no known grave was in no way inferior to that accorded in respect of the First World War.

The three existing memorials were identical except insofar as the names were concerned; but their surroundings differed so much that the architect had found it necessary to produce three entirely different designs for the extensions. As they would see from the drawings (which he showed to the Meeting) these extensions consisted of walls standing as high as the plinth or base of the existing memorials. A further problem which had arisen was how to include in the space available along the top of the wall the many Naval battle honours of the Second World War.

He would like to draw attention to the main inscription which read:

"In honour of the Navy and to the abiding memory of those Ranks and Ratings of this Port who laid down their lives in the defence of the Empire and have no other grave than the Sea. 1914-18."

It was proposed to move the figures "1914-18" to the left of the inscription and add "1939-45" on the opposite side to make the main inscription applicable to both World Wars.

The number of names to be inscribed for the Second World War were, approximately, Chatham 10,300; Portsmouth 14,000; Plymouth 15,000, including, at the special request of the Australian Government, following the precedent of 1914-18, the names of some 2,000 men of the Royal Australian Navy.

In addition three new memorials would be erected, for the Auxiliary Patrol, the Fleet Air Arm, and the T.124 ratings who were Merchant Navy seamen serving in the Royal Navy. It had been decided to put up separate memorials for them at the ports where their depot had been during the war. Thus the Auxiliary Patrol would have a memorial at Lowestoft, the Fleet Air Arm at Lee-on-Solent, and the T.124 personnel at Liverpool. The designs would not be made by Mr. Maufe but had been thrown open to competition among young architects who had served in the Forces during the war.

He would like to conclude by paying a tribute to the admirable work done by Mr. Maufe. The Chatham Memorial extension had already been accepted by the Admiralty and the Portsmouth and Plymouth Memorial extensions were now being considered by their Lordships.

The PRESIDENT then put the Resolution to the Meeting, and on the proposal of Mr. KNOWLES, seconded by Sir John SHUTE, it was unanimously agreed that,

The Commission, having considered a statement No. F.845/1 dated the 30th January, 1947,

3. Resolve:

That the Seal of the Commission be affixed to, and the Proper Officer sign, the agreement between Mr. Edward Maufe, A.R.A., Principal Architect for the United Kingdom, for his services in the design and supervision of the construction of the Naval Memorials to the Missing at Chatham, Portsmouth and Plymouth and for his services as assessor in the proposed competitions for the Naval Memorials to the Missing at Lee-on-Solent, Lowestoft and Liverpool.

ANZAC AGENCY - STATEMENT OF PROGRESS.

The PRESIDENT said that the next item on the Agenda was "a statement on the progress of the Anzac Agency". The paper (No.4) had not been circulated but was laid on the table for the Commission to take note of it. He asked whether Mr. Beasley wished to say anything about the Agency.

Mr. BEASLEY said that Mr. Duffy, who on his behalf kept in close touch with the work of the Commission, considered that good progress had been made since the Agency was set up. Australia was well pleased with this part of the Commission's work and with the interest taken in it. Demobilization in Australia had only just been completed and it could not be expected that more could have been done in the short time the Agency had been in existence. That the item had been placed on the Agenda indicated the President's interest in the subject.

The PRESIDENT said that he had seen Brigadier Brown just before he left Australia and had discussed with him the work of the Agency. He personally had seen the cemetery at Lae when it had only just been begun, and had congratulated Brigadier Brown on obtaining for the Commission from the Americans much the best site on the island. He did not know whether the Americans were going to retain the site they had used up to the present, which was liable to floods, but he expected that they would take the bodies of their men back to America. In fact, while he was there they had already begun to do so and had left to the Commission for their cemetery a nice bit of greensward in a good position.

APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE OF SKETCH DESIGNS FOR  
CEMETERY CONSTRUCTION.

The PRESIDENT asked the Secretary of the Meeting to deal with item No.5.

Brigadier HIGGINSON said that the paper followed the normal procedure, under which all sketch designs were laid before the Commission in the first instance before they were submitted to the Finance Committee. They were illustrated in the small sketch designs placed on the table.

HAIFA (KHAYAT BEACH) Cemetery. Sir Frederic Kenyon, the Artistic Adviser, had commented on this design as follows:- "This is as simple as possible, and it is not clear why it is so expensive; but comparisons with 1914-18 are not very helpful unless one knows the relative costs then and now of labour and materials. If Haifa remained in British occupation a flag is unobjectionable, though it rather masks the Cross; if not, it would be difficult to protect it from insult." 11 point

The cost of Haifa (Khayat Beach) Cemetery was £14,800, which amounted to £25. per burial.

TRIPOLI MILITARY Cemetery was designed, like the Haifa Cemetery, by Mr. J. Hubert Worthington, A.R.A. It covered a large area and adjoined the civil cemetery. The Stone of Remembrance was in the small annexe at the entrance, and the Cross of Sacrifice was in a central position, among the plots. Sir Frederic Kenyon had said "This plan seems simple and straightforward. There are perhaps more seats and shelters than are needed for practical purposes, but they are mostly simple and architecturally desirable."

The cost of Tripoli Military Cemetery was in the neighbourhood of £25,000, or about £19.8.0. per burial.



FLORENCE MILITARY Cemetery was designed by Mr. Louis de Soissons, A.R.A. The estimated cost was £21,200, or £18.13.0. per burial. The design consisted of a compact grouping of graves, with the Cross of Sacrifice at one end of the central axis and the Stone of Remembrance at the other. Sir Frederic Kenyon had said "Some explanation is needed to justify (1) the large amount of space taken outside the cemetery, which must add to the cost of upkeep, (2) the extent of paving round the Cross and Stone; (3) the elaborate entrance and iron gates which are out of keeping with our usual style. The type of Cross proposed is not stated."

These remarks of the Artistic Adviser were always a valuable guide to the Finance Committee when considering the designs in detail.

ADDIS ABABA WAR Cemetery. The Commission had been governed by the fact that this was already an existing cemetery. There were military plots within the existing wall, and the wall itself had already been completed, so that the architectural work to be done amounted to the erection of a Cross of Sacrifice, two small buildings, and a very small seat shelter. The estimated cost was £14.5.0. per grave. Sir Frederic Kenyon's opinion was "Subject to the remarks of Finance as to the excessive area, the design is simple and in accordance with the scheme of the Commission. I should have thought a second entrance undesirable from the point of view of supervision and for the convenience of visitors, who should always find the Register at the entrance."

General Sir Robert GORDON-FINLAYSON suggested the first line of the draft Resolution should be amended to read "that the Commission take note of" instead of "that the Commission approve in principle". If the Commission "took note of it" the Finance Committee would know that the Commission approved it within certain limits.

The PRESIDENT asked if the Commission agreed to the Resolution as amended.

It was proposed by Mr. KNOWLES, seconded by Sir John SHUTE and carried unanimously that,

The Commission having considered a paper No. A/41185 etc. dated the 7th February 1947,

4. Resolve:

- (i) That the Commission take note of the following sketch designs prepared by the Principal Architects, viz:
  - (a) By Mr. J. Worthington, O.B.E., A.R.A., for: Haifa (Khayat Beach) Cemetery and Tripoli Military Cemetery.
  - (b) By Mr. Louis de Soissons, O.B.E., A.R.A., for: Florence Military Cemetery.
  - (c) By the Senior Architect on the Staff - Mr. G. Vey, F.R.I.B.A., for: Addis Ababa War Cemetery.

- (ii) That the said sketch designs be referred to the Finance Committee to consider and report on the cost and method of construction.

COMMEMORATION OF INDIANS DYING IN INDIA.

The PRESIDENT asked General Sir Robert Gordon-Finlayson to explain item No.6. on the Agenda.

General Sir Robert GORDON-FINLAYSON said that this item should have been dealt with by the High Commissioner for India, but as Sir Samuel was unable to attend the explanation of the paper devolved upon himself.

The Government of India desired that war graves treatment should not be accorded to the graves of any statutory Indian personnel serving with the Forces or auxiliary organisations who died within the boundaries of India, except those whose graves were in one of the permanent war cemeteries within its boundaries.

The adoption of this policy necessitated certain modifications to the conditions under which a number of auxiliary organisations were accepted by Resolution 5 of the 281st Meeting of the Commission as eligible for war graves treatment. The revised schedule was attached to the paper.

The PRESIDENT asked if the Commission were in favour of the Resolution as suggested.

It was moved by Admiral Sir Martin DUNBAR-NASMITH, seconded by Colonel RENDELL, and carried unanimously,

The Commission, having considered a paper No.A/171 dated the 3rd February 1947,

5. Resolve:

- (i) That the Commission accept and adopt the policy desired by the Government of India in regard to statutory Indian personnel serving with the Forces or auxiliary organisations, as set forth in the paper before the present Meeting;
- (ii) that Resolution 5 of the 281st Meeting of the Commission be read as applying to the recommendations of the Government of India, in regard to certain auxiliary organisations, as now modified in accordance with the said policy and set out in the revised schedule attached to the said paper.

DEBATE ON IMPERIAL WAR MEMORIAL IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

The PRESIDENT said that this item was merely for the information of Members. Copies of Hansard containing the recent debate in the House of Lords had been circulated. He asked if there were any comments.

General Sir Robert GORDON-FINLAYSON said that he only had one comment to make, on a point which the Vice-Chairman and he had already discussed. They had come to the conclusion that Lord Chatfield had not fully understood the difference between a Victory Memorial and a Memorial to the Missing. The Commission wished this difference clearly brought out if there were another debate on the subject. It was the Commission's duty to erect Memorials to the Missing to those officers and men who had no known grave, but if the Government had in mind a Victory Memorial on the lines of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, that would be a national undertaking and outside the Commission's powers under their Charter.

Lord WIGRAM said that he had attended the whole debate. He felt that the functions and the Imperial aspect of the Commission were not explained or understood in the debate. He was sure that the First Lord of the Admiralty would be sympathetic if the wide representative nature of the Commission were explained to him.

The CHAIRMAN of the Commission stated that, speaking on behalf of his colleague, the First Lord, he was quite sure that he was sympathetic to the Commission's work. He was sure that it was fully understood by all Ministers - and certainly by the First Lord - that the work of the Commission was of the first importance. With Members permission he would, at a later date, speak to Lord Hall and would give him the full picture of the Commission's work.

Lord WIGRAM thanked Mr. BELLENGER.

The PRESIDENT asked if Thursday, the 20th March at 11 a.m., was agreeable to the Members as the date and time of the next Meeting.

This was agreed.

The PRESIDENT said that before the Meeting adjourned he would like to say how glad he was, after more than two years absence in Australia, to be able to preside once more at a Meeting of the Commission. He shared their regrets at the absence, through indisposition, of the Vice-Chairman, Sir Fabian Ware, and hoped that he would soon be restored to health. He would like to thank Members for coming to the Meeting that morning.

Mr. BEASLEY said that it was his pleasing duty to express the thanks of the Members of the Commission to His Royal Highness for presiding at the Meeting. Their President had attended a Meeting of the Commission shortly before leaving for Australia. It indicated his intense interest in the progress of the work of the Commission that so soon after his return from Australia he had again come to preside over a Meeting. It was noteworthy that during their President's term of office as Governor-General of Australia the Anzac Agency of the Commission had been established to act as an added strengthening link between the various areas in which the work of this important organisation lay. The Japanese war had really brought home to all in Australia what war really meant when it was near their own doors. War was

a little different, if he might say so with all respect to the past, when fighting took place a long way away from one's own country. The Japanese war, however, was very close to Australia and very many Australian dead lay in the islands adjacent to the shores of their own country. Therefore the importance of the work which the Anzac Agency had undertaken was clear for all in Australia to see.

He wished also to pay a tribute to the work of the Commission in Belgium, France and other places which he himself had seen personally. In spite of the effect which the Second World War had had upon those cemeteries of 1914-18, the attention which the Commission had given to them so soon after the end of hostilities was highly creditable. He had written to the Vice-Chairman in this sense a little time ago after his visit to the Australian Memorial in France and to the graves of some of his own relatives in Belgium.

It was gratifying that their President had personally visited many of the places in which the work of the Anzac Agency would be carried out. In the near future an opportunity would be provided for relatives and friends to visit these places and he felt sure that the great sacrifices which had been made in those distant regions would sink deeply into the minds of all and would produce perhaps a deeper appreciation of the Australian part in the war and of the Australian place in the British Commonwealth of Nations.

It had given Australians great pleasure in having had his Royal Highness and his family with them during his term of office as Governor-General. His energy in visiting and the interest which he had taken in all parts of the Commonwealth were greatly appreciated. He himself had often sat at Executive Council Meetings in Australia over which His Royal Highness had presided, and this Meeting had reminded him of his own home country because of His Royal Highness' presence.

Mr. BEASLEY concluded by referring to the deep affection in which Australia held the Duchess of Gloucester, who was kind and sympathetic to everyone.

This concluded the business of the Meeting. The Commission adjourned at ten minutes to 12 o'clock, after which the President and Members examined drawings of the Chatham, Portsmouth and Plymouth Naval Memorial extensions, and Tobruk Military Cemetery.