

DRAFT.

CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
at the 463RD MEETING of the
COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION
held at
32, GROSVENOR GARDENS, LONDON, S.W.1.
on
THURSDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER, 1962.

Present:

MEMBERS

General Sir JOHN CROCKER, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Vice-Chairman,
in the Chair

Mr. H.F. CLARK,
Representing the High Commissioner for Canada.

Mr. P.A.K. MANTON,
Representing the High Commissioner for Australia.

Mr. M. HILLEBRAND,
Representing the Ambassador of South Africa.

Major S.P. BARUA,
Representing the High Commissioner for India.

Major BASHIR AHMAD,
Representing the High Commissioner for Pakistan.

Mr. J.W.T. PRITCHARD,
Representing the Minister of Public Building and Works.

Air Chief Marshal Sir ARTHUR LONGMORE, G.C.B., D.S.O.

The Rt. Hon. Lord SPENS, K.B.E.

Admiral Sir JOHN EDELSTEN, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., C.B.E.

Air Marshal Sir CHARLES GUEST, K.B.E., C.B.

Mr. DAVID GRIFFITHS, M.P.

ADVISER

Sir EDWARD MAUFE, R.A., F.R.I.B.A., Chief Architect and Artistic Adviser.

SECRETARY

Mr. W.J. CHALMERS, C.B.E., Director-General.

There were also present:

Mr. W. WYNNE MASON, M.C., (Assistant Secretary), Director of External
Relations and Records.

Mr. A.K. PALLOT, (Assistant Secretary), Director of Finance and Establish-
ments

Major-General J.F.D. STEEDMAN, C.B.E., M.C., Director of Works.

Mr. M.T. SENNETT, M.A., Senior Legal Assistant.

Mr. W.F.W. HARDING, O.B.E., B.Sc. (Hort.), Chief Horticultural Officer.

Mr. P.J. COOK.

At the request of the CHAIRMAN, the SECRETARY read the apologies for absence.

MINUTES OF THE 462ND MEETING

The CHAIRMAN said that the Minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated: no amendments had been suggested.

1. The Minutes of the 462nd Meeting of the Commission were approved and signed.

The following points arose out of the Minutes:-

(a) The Thiepval Memorial (Page 2)

The CHAIRMAN said that he would be referring to the question of Structural Maintenance at this Memorial under the first item of the Finance Committee Report, which was Item 2 on the Agenda.

(b) Percentages of Contributions to the Commission by Participating Governments (Page 3).

The CHAIRMAN said that replies were still awaited from certain Participating Governments to the Secretary's letter of 21st June, submitting the Commission's proposals with regard to percentages of contributions and future financial arrangements. Since the proposal to unite the accounts for the two wars and adopt conjoint percentages of contribution, as from 1st April, 1963, affected the form in which the Commission's estimates of expenditure for 1963/1964 must be prepared and since the preparation of these estimates had already started in the Regions and Agencies, it had become a matter of urgency for the Commission to know that the proposed arrangements were acceptable to all the Participating Governments. The Commission would, therefore, be grateful if those Governments which had not yet replied would do so as soon as possible.

(c) Tour by Air Marshal Sir Charles Guest in South-Western Area, United Kingdom Region (Page 3).

The CHAIRMAN said that, at the time of the July meeting of the Commission, Air Marshal Sir Charles Guest had been visiting Commonwealth war graves in Shropshire, Flintshire, Denbighshire and Caernarvonshire and perhaps he would care to say something about them.

Air Marshal Sir CHARLES GUEST said that he had been accompanied by the Area Superintendent and the tour had covered about sixty burial grounds. It had been extremely interesting and, although the Area Superintendent had taken note of a number of points requiring attention, maintenance of the plots of war graves had been good; the flowers had been in full bloom and, in many cases, the plots had stood out in sharp contrast to their surroundings. At a number of places the authorities had been making gallant efforts

to keep the grass cut but, owing to shortage of labour, it had been impossible for them to deal with the situation adequately. Some of the authorities had obviously been forewarned of his visit and had done what they could to improve maintenance by way of cutting grass and generally tidying up. In this respect, he thought that visits from Commissioners helped considerably to stimulate local interest in the war graves and he suggested that the more such visits could be made, the better.

The plots of war graves were visited by some relatives and other people but there was, in general, a lack of interest in war graves in as much as they were not being visited as frequently as they used to be. He thought that this was only to be expected as the relatives of the 1914-1918 War dead had either passed away or were now too old to take an active interest in the graves and the younger generation had not been actively concerned in war.

He had met a good many local people during his tour and, as usual, they had all been most courteous and helpful.

The CHAIRMAN thanked Air Marshal Sir Charles Guest for his report and said he agreed that visits by Commissioners were most valuable in arousing the interest of other people.

(d) Anzac Agency for the Pacific Region - Instrument of Agency (Page 5).

The CHAIRMAN said that the new Instrument of Agency had been duly executed on the 19th July and the formal exchange of Letters recording the understanding with regard to appointments to the Agency's staff had been completed on the 24th July. There had been a typing error in the draft Instrument submitted to the Commission which had come to light when it was being engrossed for execution; on page 2 of the draft, the style and title of the Agency had been shown as "The Anzac Agency of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission" instead of "The Anzac Agency for the Pacific Region of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission". The omission had been corrected in the Instrument which had been executed.

(e) Billing Road Cemetery, Northampton, and other cemeteries at Northampton (Page 11).

The CHAIRMAN said that the Bill promoted by the Northampton Corporation had received The Royal Assent on 1st August and was now the Northampton Corporation Act 1962. The clause protecting the Commission's interests appeared in the Act in substantially the same form as submitted to the

Commission at their meeting in July, 1962. The Commission were most grateful to Lord Spens for having drawn the attention of the House of Lords and the public generally to the Commission's interests in the matter and to Mr. Griffiths for his attention in the House of Commons.

Replying to the CHAIRMAN, Lord SPENS said that he had been rather surprised at the interest taken in the Bill in the House of Lords and the murmurs of approval which had followed his short speech.

Replying to the CHAIRMAN, Mr. DAVID GRIFFITHS said that he had spoken to a number of members of the House of Commons who, he thought, would be particularly interested in the Bill and he had found no objection to it.

(f) Annual Reunion and Flower Show - Northern Region
(Page 14).

The CHAIRMAN said that on Saturday, 21st July, accompanied by Lady Crocker, he had attended Northern Region's Annual Reunion and Flower Show, which had been held this year at Ypres instead of Arras. The Town of Ypres possessed an excellent arena for this type of function and had generously given the use of it to the Commission. As usual, it had been a highly successful occasion and had provided an excellent opportunity for the scattered staff and their families to meet each other.

COMMONWEALTH-NETHERLANDS JOINT COMMITTEE - DEATH OF
MR. C.P. HEBERT.

The CHAIRMAN said that Members would have learned with great regret of the sudden death on 29th July of Mr. C.P. Hébert, the Canadian Ambassador to the Netherlands.

As a member of the Commonwealth-Netherlands Joint Committee and, previously, as a member of the Commonwealth-Belgium Joint Committee while Ambassador in Brussels, he had always been ready to give his support to the Commission's work. His constant helpfulness and good advice had been much valued by the Commission and their staff.

Letters of sympathy, on behalf of the Commission and his fellow-members of the Commonwealth-Netherlands Joint Committee, had been sent to Mrs. Hébert and to the Canadian High Commissioner in London.

RETIREMENT OF ADMIRAL SIR JOHN EDELSTEN, G.C.B., G.C.V.O.,
C.B.E., AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION.

The CHAIRMAN said that he was sorry to say that this was the last meeting which Admiral Sir John Edelsten would be attending as a Member of the Commission. He had expressed

earlier in the year his desire to retire in order to make way for a younger man. Sir John had been appointed in 1956; he had been a Member of the Finance Committee since 1957 and he had regularly attended the Meetings of the Commission and the Finance Committee. He had also been a member of the Commonwealth-Belgian and Commonwealth-Italian Joint Committees and had attended Meetings of these Committees in Rome and London. He had visited war graves in a number of places, had represented the Commission at ceremonies and had taken part in many Commission functions. He had always been ready to give his time and energy to the Commission's affairs and he had been a valuable and helpful Commissioner. He (the Chairman) felt sure that Members would wish to join with him in expressing to Sir John their appreciation of his services, their regret that he was leaving and their best wishes to him and Lady Edelsten for the future.

Admiral Sir JOHN EDELSTEN thanked the Chairman for his remarks.

APPOINTMENT OF ADMIRAL SIR GUY GRANTHAM, G.C.B., C.B.E.,
D.S.O., AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION

The CHAIRMAN said that he had approached the Secretary of State for War, as Chairman of the Commission, about the appointment of a new Commissioner and he had submitted to Her Majesty The Queen the name of Admiral Sir Guy Grantham, who until a few months earlier had been Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Malta. He anticipated that the formalities of his appointment would be completed before the next meeting of the Commission in October.

COMMONWEALTH-INDONESIAN WAR GRAVES AGREEMENT

The CHAIRMAN said that he was glad to be able to report that the Commonwealth-Indonesian War Graves Agreement had been signed at Djakarta on September 10th. He felt sure that Members would wish him to record their appreciation of the help of the Australian Department of External Affairs and the Australian Embassy in Djakarta. He thought that all Members would share the relief and satisfaction of Mr. Wynne Mason and Brigadier Brown that their labours had finally been rewarded.

VISIT BY MR. DAVID GRIFFITHS M.P., TO
NORTHERN REGION

The CHAIRMAN said that Mr. David Griffiths was shortly making his first visit to Northern Region. As Chairman of the Joint Negotiating Council for Manual Staff, it would be extremely valuable in affording him an opportunity of meeting the staff and seeing something of the work in the cemeteries.

REPORT TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION
ON THE TOUR BY VICE-CHAIRMAN IN SCANDINAVIA -
2ND TO 14TH AUGUST, 1962

The CHAIRMAN said that, at the beginning of August, 1962, accompanied by the Regional Director, Rear Admiral Rolfe, he had spent about a fortnight visiting Commonwealth war Graves in Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

The Commission received most willing and sympathetic co-operation from the authorities in those countries, in which there were no real problems. He had found, almost without exception, the plots and scattered Commonwealth war graves, most of which were looked after by the local authorities without cost to the Commission, maintained to a very high standard.

The purpose of his tour had been threefold: firstly, to call on as many as possible of the Scandinavian officials and personalities concerned with the Commission's work and to express appreciation of their interest and of what they were doing on the Commission's behalf. This had been of particular value at that juncture because it had also given opportunities to introduce Admiral Rolfe, who was making his first visit to that part of his Region, thus enabling him to establish personal contacts which would be of great value to him and to the advantage of the Commission's work in the future; secondly, to call on all the Commonwealth Missions in Copenhagen, Stockholm and Oslo upon whose good offices the Commission depended; and thirdly, to visit as many of the war graves as he could in the time available and particularly to see the two new plots at Kviberg near Gothenburg in Sweden and at Fredriksstad some 100 kilometres from Oslo in Norway, into which, Members would remember, the Commission had recently concentrated a number of burials from inaccessible localities.

The concentration had been completed in both cases and construction and horticultural development were now about to begin. He could assure the Commission that both sites were excellent, and, when completed, he was sure that they would be satisfactory in every way. In both countries, the local authorities had given most generous co-operation in the provision of the sites and were showing most valuable practical interest in their development. He had been particularly pleased with what he had seen.

In reply to Air Chief Marshal Sir ARTHUR LONGMORE, the CHAIRMAN said that, although all the Commission's headstones in the north of Norway were made of granite, there were quite a number of Portland headstones in the southern part of the country. Some of these had been a little marked by stains from adjoining vegetation but, in general, they were in excellent order. He had been particularly struck during his tour by the real local interest in the graves. In one tiny cemetery on the coast, where nobody had known that he was coming, he had found little bunches of fresh flowers on all the Commonwealth war graves - between twenty and thirty of them. He thought that that was a remarkable thing.

REPORT OF THE 505TH MEETING OF THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE

TOUR BY VICE-CHAIRMAN IN SCANDINAVIA
AND TO THE ALBERTA, 1962

The CHAIRMAN said that, at the beginning of August, 1962, accompanied by the Regional Director, Rear Admiral Rolfe, he had spent about a fortnight visiting Commonwealth war graves in Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

The Commission received most willing and sympathetic co-operation from the authorities in those countries, in which there were no real problems. He had found, almost without exception, the plots and scattered Commonwealth war graves, most of which were looked after by the local authorities without cost to the Commission, maintained to a very high standard.

The purpose of his tour had been threefold: firstly, to call on as many as possible of the Scandinavian officials and personalities concerned with the Commission's work and to express appreciation of their interest and of what they were doing on the Commission's behalf. This had been of particular value at that juncture because it had also given opportunities to introduce Admiral Rolfe, who was making his first visit to that part of his Region, thus enabling him to establish personal contacts which would be of great value to him and to the advance of the Commission's work in the future; secondly, to call on all the Commonwealth Missions in Copenhagen, Stockholm and Oslo upon whose good offices the Commission depended; and thirdly, to visit as many of the war graves as he could in the time available and particularly to see the two new plots at Kiviberg near Gothenburg in Sweden and at Fredrikstad some 100 kilometres from Oslo in Norway, into which, Members would remember, the Commission had recently concentrated a number of burials from inaccessible localities.

The concentration had been completed in both cases and construction and horticultural development were now about to begin. He could assure the Commission that both sites were excellent, and, when completed, he was sure that they would be satisfactory in every way. In both countries, the local authorities had given most generous co-operation in the provision of the sites and were showing most valuable practical interest in their development. He had been particularly pleased with what he had seen.

In reply to Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Lomax, the CHAIRMAN said that, although all the Commission's headstones in the north of Norway were made of granite, there were quite a number of Portland headstones in the southern part of the country. Some of these had been a little marked by stains from adjoining vegetation but, in general, they were in excellent order. He had been particularly struck during his tour by the real local interest in the graves. In one tiny cemetery on the coast where nobody had known that he was coming, he had found little bunches of fresh flowers on all the Commonwealth war graves - between twenty and thirty of them. He thought that that was a remarkable thing.

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper submitted the draft of the 4th Annual Report of the Commission. The draft Report had been circulated and he would like to take the opportunity of thanking members for the care they had taken in reading it and the suggestions they had made, all of which had been helpful and most of which would be reflected in the final printed text. The Report would be published early in November, 1962.

The Commission's accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1962, which would be presented at the meeting of the Commission in October, 1962, would be appended to the Report, as also would the accounts of the Endowment Fund and the Superannuation Scheme, copies of which had been laid on the table.

The draft Resolution asked the Commission to adopt the Report.

It was proposed by Mr. CLARK, seconded by Lord SPINNEY, and carried unanimously:-

3. That the Commission, having considered a Paper No. C.M. 11/12 dated 2nd September, 1962,

RESOLUTION:

That the Report of the Commission for the year ended 31st March, 1962, be and is hereby adopted.

COMMONWEALTH-FORIGN JOINT COMMITTEE:
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper was formal and dealt with the appointment of an Italian member to fill a vacancy that had arisen in the membership of the Commonwealth-Italian Joint Committee. Professor Paolo Rossi had been nominated by the Italian Government to succeed Duke Galimberti-Gottli. The Commission were sorry to lose Duke Galimberti-Gottli from the Committee but fortunate to have as his successor Professor Paolo Rossi, Vice-President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies.

It was proposed by Admiral Sir JOHN KENNEDY, seconded by Mr. HILLIARD, and carried unanimously:-

4. That the Commission, having considered a Paper No. C.M. 13/14/2 dated 12th September, 1962,

RESOLUTION:

That the following be and is hereby appointed a member of the Commonwealth-Italian Joint Committee as set out hereunder:

It was proposed by Air Chief Marshal Sir ARTHUR LONGMORE, seconded by Mr. MANTON, and carried unanimously:-

2. That the Report of the 505th Meeting of the Finance Committee be adopted.

43RD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper submitted the draft of the 43rd Annual Report of the Commission. The draft Report had been circulated and he would like to take the opportunity of thanking Members for the care they had taken in reading it and the suggestions they had made, all of which had been helpful and most of which would be reflected in the final printed text. The Report would be published early in November, 1962.

The Commission's accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1962, which would be presented at the meeting of the Commission in October, 1962, would be appended to the Report, as also would the accounts of the Endowment Fund and the Superannuation Scheme, copies of which had been laid on the table.

The draft Resolution asked the Commission to adopt the Report.

It was proposed by Mr. CLARK, seconded by Lord SPENS, and carried unanimously:-

3. That the Commission, having considered a Paper No.CM. 11/12 dated 3rd September, 1962,

RESOLVE:

That the Report of the Commission
for the year ended 31st March, 1962, be
and is hereby adopted.

COMMONWEALTH-FOREIGN JOINT COMMITTEE:
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper was formal and dealt with the appointment of an Italian member to fill a vacancy that had arisen in the membership of the Commonwealth-Italian Joint Committee. Professor Paolo Rossi had been nominated by the Italian Government to succeed Duke Tommaso Gallarati-Scotti. The Commission were sorry to lose Duke Gallarati-Scotti from the Committee but fortunate to have as his successor Professor Paolo Rossi, Vice-President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies.

It was proposed by Admiral Sir JOHN EDELSTEN, seconded by Mr. HILLEBRAND, and carried unanimously:-

4. That the Commission, having considered a Paper No.C.M. 13/14/2 dated 12th September, 1962,

RESOLVE:

That the following be and is hereby
appointed a member of the Commonwealth-
Italian Joint Committee as set out
hereunder:

Italian Honorary Member:

His Excellency Oneverole Paolo Rossi
(Vice-President Camera dei Deputati)

INSTRUMENT OF AGENCY FOR UGANDA

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper was formal and requested authority for the Commission's Common Seal to be affixed to and for the Proper Officer to sign the original and duplicate of a new Instrument of Agency for Uganda, which would supersede the Instrument of Agency previously executed and dated 7th June, 1960.

The previous Instrument had provided for the appointment of the person for the time being holding the office of Chief Secretary in Uganda to be the Agency of the Commission but it had been envisaged that, when Uganda became independent, the Government of Uganda would decide, in agreement with the Commission, which Minister should become the Agency under the new arrangements.

A new constitution for Uganda had become effective on the 1st March, 1962, and the Territory would become independent on the 9th October, 1962. At the request of the Government of Uganda, it had been agreed that the person for the time being holding the office in Uganda of Minister of Internal Affairs should be appointed as the Agency of the Commission and that this change should be dealt with by a new Instrument rather than by means of a Supplemental Instrument. The draft of the proposed new Instrument was attached to the paper.

It was proposed by Air Marshal Sir CHARLES GUEST, seconded by Mr. DAVID GRIFFITHS, and carried unanimously:-

5. That the Commission, having considered a Paper No. CM. 129 dated 5th September, 1962,

RESOLVE:

That the Common Seal of the Commission be affixed to and the Proper Officer sign the original and duplicate of the formal Instrument of Agency for Uganda, which will supersede the Instrument of Agency previously executed and dated 7th June, 1960.

The CHAIRMAN said that the next two papers on the Agenda were both formal and dealt with the tenure of land forming the sites of two cemeteries in Nigeria.

OSHOGBO CEMETERY, WESTERN REGION,
NIGERIA

The first of these dealt with Oshogbo Cemetery in the Western Region which contained 46 Commonwealth war graves, 2 Polish war graves and 1 Post-War grave. The local Government had agreed to grant to the Commission a lease of the land for a term of 99 years at a nominal rent and approval was sought for the Seal of the Commission to be affixed to and for the Proper Officer to sign the Lease in duplicate.

It was proposed by Major BARUA, seconded by Air Chief Marshal Sir ARTHUR LONGMORE, and carried unanimously:-

6. That the Commission, having considered a Paper No. CM.230/9/L dated 7th September, 1962,

RESOLVE:

That the Seal of the Commission be affixed to and the Proper Officer sign the Lease in duplicate between Samuel Adeleye Adenle, The Ataoja of Oshogbo, and the Commission relating to the land forming the site of Oshogbo Cemetery, Western Region, Nigeria, the boundaries whereof are shown on Drawing No. SED/OSH/NIG/HORT/1A, subject to formal survey.

LAFENWA MILITARY CEMETERY, WESTERN REGION,
NIGERIA

The CHAIRMAN said that the second of these two papers dealt with Lafenwa Military Cemetery in the Western Region which contained 151 Commonwealth war graves and 20 Belgian war graves. In this case also, the local Government had agreed to grant to the Commission a lease of the land for a term of 99 years at a nominal rent and approval was sought for the Seal of the Commission to be affixed to and for the Proper Officer to sign the Lease in duplicate.

It was proposed by Mr. DAVID GRIFFITHS, seconded by Major BASHIR AHMAD, and carried unanimously:-

7. That the Commission, having considered a Paper No. CM.230/9/L dated 7th September, 1962,

RESOLVE:

That the Seal of the Commission be affixed to and the Proper Officer sign the Lease in duplicate between The Government of the Western Region of Nigeria and the Commission relating to the land forming the site of Lafenwa Military Cemetery, Western Region, Nigeria, the boundaries whereof are shown on Drawing No. SED/NIG/LAF/2C, subject to formal survey.

EXHUMATION OF GERMAN WAR DEAD - SURRENDER
OF BURIAL RIGHTS

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper was formal and concerned the surrender by the Commission of burial rights in respect of graves from which the remains of German war dead had been transferred by the German War Graves Organisation to the new German War Cemetery at Cannock Chase in Staffordshire.

The Commission held documents conferring perpetual rights in a number of these graves and authority was requested for the

Seal of the Commission to be affixed to and for the Proper Officer to sign documents surrendering these rights, where appropriate, to the Cemetery Authority or other body properly entitled to receive them.

Air Chief Marshal Sir ARTHUR LONGMORE said that he had recently seen a number of German war graves marked by wooden crosses at Newport, Isle of Wight, and as the crosses were beginning to show signs of wear, he was wondering if something could be done about them until such time as the graves were transferred to Cannock Chase.

Mr. WYNNE MASON, replying to Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Longmore, said that it was quite possible that the German war graves at Newport had already been transferred to Cannock Chase. Exhumations by the Germans were now in progress and it was only a matter of months before their whole programme of concentration was completed.

It was proposed by Mr. PRITCHARD, seconded by Mr. CLARK, and carried unanimously:-

8. That the Commission, having considered a Paper No.CM.221/1/L dated 22nd August, 1962,

RESOLVE:

That the Seal of the Commission be affixed to and the Proper Officer sign such documents as may be requisite or necessary in order that, where appropriate, any burial or other rights vested in the Commission in respect of graves in the United Kingdom formerly occupied by German war burials of the 1914 to 1918 or the 1939 to 1945 Wars may be duly surrendered to the Cemetery Authority or other body properly entitled to receive the same.

PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1962.

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper was the Progress Report for the quarter ended 30th June, 1962, which showed in statistical form the work of the various Divisions.

The Works Report showed that construction had been completed at three cemeteries during the quarter - Maynamati War Cemetery in Pakistan, Digboi War Cemetery in Assam and Harar Catholic Mission Cemetery in Ethiopia. 81 headstones had been erected during the quarter. The Staff Return showed that, at 30th June, 1962, the staff had been 41 below the authorised establishment. The Report of the Enquiries Branch showed that numerous enquiries continued to be received from relatives and other members of the public.

He thought that the time had come when this quarterly statistical report might be discontinued. Progress would, of course, continue to be reported in the quarterly reports from Regions and Agencies and in the Annual Report. Before asking Members to agree to this, he would ask the Secretary to review the present position.

The SECRETARY said that he would run briefly through the items of work still outstanding, commencing with the Works Report. In the United Kingdom, all work had been completed. In the Northern Region, the new concentration plots in Kviberg Cemetery, Gothenburg, Sweden and Fredriksstad Military Cemetery, Norway, which the Vice-Chairman had mentioned earlier in the meeting, had still to be constructed; the plot at Fredriksstad contained only 1914-1918 War graves and was not included in the statistical Report, which covered the 1939-1945 War only. In the Southern Region, twelve cemeteries and one memorial had still to be completed: the erection of a Cross of Sacrifice in Rhodes War Cemetery had been deferred sine die because of an objection raised by the Greek archaeological authorities; at Suda Bay in Crete, construction was in progress and was virtually complete; at Damascus in Syria, construction had been delayed by political conditions but was now partially completed; in Iraq, construction at Khanaqin and Mosul had been delayed by political conditions but it was hoped that the work could now be carried out without any undue delay; at Tehran in Iran, construction was in progress; at Tel-el-Kebir in Egypt construction was also in progress and nearly complete; at Khartoum in the Sudan, the construction of the cemetery and Memorial was virtually complete; at Diego Suarez in the Malagasy Republic, formerly Madagascar, construction was in progress; in Algeria, construction at Le Petit Lac and Bougie had been delayed by political conditions; at the non-European plot in Salisbury Cemetery, Southern Rhodesia, a Cross of Sacrifice would shortly be erected; and it was hoped that construction at Kaduna in Nigeria would commence in the near future. Also in the Southern Region, 56 headstones had still to be erected at fourteen different sites and all were in hand except for fifteen in the Congo and seven in Algeria, which countries continued to be inaccessible for this purpose. In the Eastern Region, the only construction still outstanding was that at Thanbyuzayat in Burma, which was in progress and practically complete. In the Canadian and South African Agencies, all work had been completed. In the Anzac Agency for the Pacific Region, construction in Indonesia, including the erection of bronze plaque markers, was in progress at Djakarta while similar work at Ambon War Cemetery and Memorial was held up because of political conditions; there was also a proposal in abeyance to provide a Stone of Remembrance at the Australian National War Memorial at Canberra. In regard to other areas, the only construction outstanding was at Choc Bay Cemetery in Trinidad, which the Commission were pressing to get done. Concerning Records, the statistical report had already been discontinued; the work remaining to be done consisted of some printing of Registers, the Final Index of the 1939-1945 War, which was practically complete, and the punching of index cards for the 1914-1918 War, which was making good progress. On the Establishments side, the strength of staff was now nearing the final level for permanent maintenance and the position was reviewed annually when the Estimates were considered. Finally, enquiries from relatives and other members of the public were continuing at a pretty constant level and it seemed adequate just to mention these in the Annual Report.

Air Chief Marshal Sir ARTHUR LONGMORE thought that that was a most comprehensive report. He was still amazed that the total strength of the staff was only 1,650 and he did not know

how, although he fully appreciated that they had a wonderful team and organisation, the Commission operated so efficiently with that number. He thought it was most remarkable and very creditable.

The CHAIRMAN said that the position concerning staff had to be watched so that the organisation was not strained too much. From the report by the Secretary, he thought it was clear that the outstanding items could be reported individually as they were completed and the purely statistical Progress Report discontinued. In making this suggestion, however, he did not want to give the impression that he thought the Commission could now look forward to a smooth and uneventful period of routine maintenance. On the contrary, it could be expected that new problems would arise every year, some of them quite unexpectedly. This was due, firstly, to the world-wide spread of the Commission's work; secondly, to the changing political conditions in many areas of the world; and, thirdly, to the immense commitments the Commission had, in both structural and horticultural work, under varying climatic conditions, all over the world. He was quite sure that, so far from the Commission's proceedings becoming just a matter of formal routine, they would have to continue dealing with many major problems which would demand the same standard of vigilance and care as in the past. There was always a tendency, particularly in financial matters, to look forward to the Utopia of routine maintenance, but he did not think that that time was yet in sight

(The Commission indicated their agreement that the outstanding items could be reported as they were completed and the purely statistical Progress Report discontinued.)

REPORTS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM, NORTHERN,
SOUTHERN AND EASTERN REGIONS, CANADIAN
AGENCY AND ANZAC AGENCY FOR THE PACIFIC
REGION FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1962.

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper contained the reports from Regions and Agencies for the quarter ended 30th June, 1962. It was gratifying to note from the third paragraph of Northern Region's report on page 2 that the horticultural mobile groups were operating most satisfactorily and that seventeen new groups had come into operation during the quarter.

Members would see from the second and third paragraphs of the report from Southern Region on page 3, that rehabilitation work was in hand at certain cemeteries in Iraq. Members would recall that the Commission had established an office in Baghdad earlier in the year in order to facilitate that work.

Under the heading of "Canadian Agency" on page 6, it would be seen from the third paragraph that the Honourable Gordon Churchill, Minister of Veterans Affairs and the Canadian Agency of the Commission, in an address to the delegates attending the 19th Dominion Convention of the Royal Canadian Legion, had paid warm tribute to the work of the Commission.

In the report from the Anzac Agency for the Pacific Region on page 7, Members would see an extract from a speech made by

the Canadian Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. John Diefenbaker, Q.C., in a broadcast to the Canadian people, after his visit to the British Commonwealth War Cemetery at Yokohama, Japan, in October, 1961. It was also pleasing to note from the final paragraph of this report that there had been large attendances at Anzac Day ceremonies throughout the Region and that many complimentary remarks had been made about the work carried out by the Commission.

GENERAL NOTES

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper contained the General Notes.

Under the heading of "Northern Region", details were given of a number of ceremonies, including ceremonies held at Dieppe to mark the anniversary of the raid in 1942 and at which the Honourable Gordon Churchill, Canadian Minister of Veterans Affairs, had been present. There were also reports of ceremonies held in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, of a visit by the Rt. Hon. Hugh Gaitskell, M.P., to Cracow War Cemetery, Poland, and of a visit by General Sir Hugh Stockwell to Lajes War Cemetery in the Azores.

Members would also note with interest, under the heading of "Southern Region", the information given about the visit of the Italian Minister of Defence and 50 members of the Italian Senate and Chamber of Deputies to El Alamein War Cemetery and Memorial in July, 1962.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The CHAIRMAN said that the next meeting of the Commission would be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, 18th October, 1962.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 12 noon.