

DRAFT.  
CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS  
at the 430TH MEETING of the  
IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

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

on  
WEDNESDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER, 1959.

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Present:

MEMBERS

The Rt. Hon. CHRISTOPHER SOAMES, C.B.E., M.P., Secretary of State for War, Chairman of the Commission, in the Chair.

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

The Rt. Hon. IAIN MACLEOD, M.P.,  
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

His Excellency The Hon. GEORGE A. DREW, Q.C.,  
The High Commissioner for Canada.

His Excellency The Rt. Hon. Sir ERIC J. HARRISON, K.C.V.O.,  
The High Commissioner for Australia.

G.R. LAKING, Esq.,  
The Acting High Commissioner for New Zealand.

His Excellency Dr. The Hon. A.J.R. VAN RHIJN,  
The High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa.

Brigadier D.G.R. RAJWADE,  
Representing the High Commissioner for India.

Brigadier SULTAN MOHAMMED,  
Representing the High Commissioner for Pakistan.

A.J. ISAAC, Esq.,  
Representing the Minister of Works.

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

G.O. SYLVESTER, Esq., M.P.

Sir ARTHUR RUCKER, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.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.

General Sir HUGH STOCKWELL, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C.

SECRETARY

W.J. CHALMERS, Esq., C.B.E.

ADVISER

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

There were also present:

S.H. FIELD, Esq., (Colonial Office).  
Major-General R.W. KNIGHTS, O.B.E., (Australia).  
E.A. BROADBRIDGE, Esq., (New Zealand).  
F.W. THOMASHOFF, Esq., (South Africa).  
W. WYNNE MASON, Esq., M.C., Assistant Secretary (External Relations  
and Records).  
A.K. PALLOT, Esq., Assistant Secretary (Finance and Establishments).  
Major-General J.F.D. STEEDMAN, C.B.E., M.C., Director of Works.  
H.L. SIMMONS, Esq., LL.B., Legal Adviser.  
W.F.W. HARDING, Esq., O.B.E., B.Sc.(Hort.), Chief Horticultural  
Officer.

P.J. COOK, Esq.

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The CHAIRMAN said that a distinguished gathering was present for this Meeting. He would like, first of all, to welcome the Secretary of State for the Colonies, who was attending a Commission Meeting for the first time since his appointment. He (the CHAIRMAN) felt sure that Members would wish to join with him in offering their congratulations on this exacting and challenging appointment. He would also like to welcome the High Commissioners of Canada, Australia and South Africa and the Acting High Commissioner of New Zealand, all of whom were attending a Commission Meeting for the first time, and the representatives of the High Commissioners of India and Pakistan.

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

#### MINUTES OF THE 429TH MEETING

The CHAIRMAN said that the Minutes of the previous Meeting had been circulated: there was an amendment necessary on page 6 where, in the second line, the figure of £1,828,000 should be amended to read £1,742,000.

1. The Minutes of the 429th Meeting were approved and signed as amended.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that any points arising out of the Minutes of the 429th Meeting be dealt with at the normal monthly Meeting to be held on Thursday, 19th November. (This was agreed).

#### MODIFICATION OF THE COMMISSION'S TITLE

The CHAIRMAN said that the question of modification of the Commission's title had been discussed at the 425th Meeting of the Commission held on the 21st May, 1959, and at earlier meetings. It had been agreed at the May Meeting that the question should be referred again to the individual participating Governments with a request for an expression of their views on the propositions that the time had come when a

change in the title was desirable, and that the most appropriate new title would be "The Commonwealth War Graves Commission". He understood that all the participating Governments had replied in favour of the two propositions and he, himself, had been authorised on behalf of the United Kingdom Government to support the proposal that the Commission's title should be altered to "The Commonwealth War Graves Commission".

He would ask the official Members, in turn, commencing with the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether they wished to comment on the proposal.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES said that, firstly, he would like to say how very glad he was that his new appointment had brought him in touch with the Commission. So far as the change in the Commission's title was concerned, it seemed to him most right and wise to change it to the suggested new form which, he thought, would be accepted generally in the territories for which he was responsible.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA said that he was authorised by his Government to say that they approved the change and to express the sentiment that it was a very wise decision.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR AUSTRALIA said that his Government had already agreed to the proposed change of title.

THE ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR NEW ZEALAND said that his Government was entirely agreeable to the change.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR SOUTH AFRICA said that his Government also agreed to the change.

BRIGADIER RAJWADE said that the Government of India agreed with the proposed change.

BRIGADIER SULTAN MOHAMMED said that the Government of Pakistan was also agreeable to the change.

The CHAIRMAN then asked non-official members if they wished to comment on the proposal. (The non-official members indicated their agreement with the proposal).

The CHAIRMAN said, in reply to a question from the High Commissioner for South Africa, that the change from "Imperial" to "Commonwealth" would be a change in name only and would not affect the areas covered by the Commission.

In reply to a question from the High Commissioner for Australia, THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES said that he was sure the territories for which he was responsible would be content to be included in the wider sense of the word "Commonwealth" in the Commission's title.

The CHAIRMAN then asked Mr. Simmons to explain the procedure which would be required to alter the Commission's title.

MR. SIMMONS said that the procedure was by way of a Petition to The Queen in Council and the Commission would be requested at an early Meeting to authorise that the Common Seal be affixed to the Petition in order that it could be formally presented. It was then the usual procedure for The Queen to refer the matter to a Committee of the Privy Council, who, after formal notification in the London Gazette, would make a recommendation. If the Supplemental Charter would then be approved it would be promulgated under the Sign Manual and would become legally effective. As meetings of the Privy Council were arranged in relation to the current affairs of State requiring attention, it could not be stated precisely as to the period of time between the lodging of the Petition and the grant of the Charter but according to precedent that would be unlikely to be less than three months. It could therefore be envisaged that the new Charter would become operative at about 1st April 1960. The new title of the Commission would be effective from the same date.

The Supplemental Charter would provide, amongst other things, that the change in the name of the Commission would not prejudice or affect the Commission's existing rights or obligations, or anything done under or by virtue of the previous title. Appropriate preliminary steps would be taken prior to the coming into force of the new Charter, concerning consequential legal and administrative action in order that the Commission's interests would be safeguarded. Whilst detailed examination would be necessary in the case of each territory concerned, it was considered that the immediate requirement could be met by providing an official copy of the new Charter to the appropriate Governmental authority, leaving any amendments of existing records as might be desirable to be dealt with according to the circumstances.

It was proposed by BRIGADIER RAJWADE, seconded by the HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA, and carried unanimously:-

2. That the Commission, having considered a paper numbered CON/179 dated 2nd November, 1959,

RESOLVE:

That it appears to the Commission to be requisite for the carrying into effect of the purposes or powers of the Commission's Original Charter that formal application be made, subject to the concurrence of the President, for the grant to the Commission of a Supplemental Charter authorising that the name of the Commission be altered from "The Imperial War Graves Commission" to "The Commonwealth War Graves Commission".

ANZAC AGENCY - MODIFICATION OF TITLE

The CHAIRMAN said that the next paper on the Agenda, Item 3, dealt with the Modification of the Title of the Commission's Anzac Agency. When the Commission, at its

425th and earlier Meetings, had considered the proposal that its title be altered to "Commonwealth War Graves Commission" it had been pointed out that this might be thought in the Commonwealth of Australia to connote a purely Australian War Graves Commission. This aspect of the matter had been discussed in correspondence with the Commission's Anzac Agency, by whom the point had been raised and, as a result, the Australian Minister for the Interior, who was the Commission's Anzac Agency, had now proposed that the title of the Agency be altered to "The Anzac Agency for the Pacific Region of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission" and that the designation of the Secretary-General be altered to "Secretary-General and Regional Director".

In reply to the CHAIRMAN, the HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR AUSTRALIA said the reasons for the proposals had been fully explained. He thought that the suggested change would make it perfectly clear that the responsibility of the Agency was gathered geographically within the larger organisation of the Commission and would thus help to correct some misunderstanding of the word "Commonwealth" in the Commission's new title.

It was proposed by the HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR AUSTRALIA, seconded by BRIGADIER SULTAN MOHAMMED, and carried unanimously:-

3. That the Commission, having considered a paper numbered CM/78 dated 2nd November, 1959,

RESOLVE:

That the proposals by the Commission's Anzac Agency as set out in the said Paper regarding the title of the said Agency and the designation of the Secretary-General be and are hereby approved.

SECRETARY AND OTHER PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS  
OF COMMISSION - DESIGNATION

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper had been circulated and dealt with the designation of the Secretary and other principal officials of the Commission. He would ask the Vice-Chairman to introduce it.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN said that the proposals were that the Secretary should have the additional designation of "Director-General", that the two Assistant Secretaries should have the additional designations "Director of External Relations and Records" and "Director of Finance and Establishments" respectively, and that the Legal Adviser should be renamed "Legal Adviser and Solicitor".

The present designations "Secretary" and "Assistant Secretary" did not convey the full functions of those appointments and were particularly open to misunderstanding in foreign countries. They were moreover confusing in

relation to the various other appointments of "Director", "Secretary-General" and "Secretary" within the Commission's own organisation. The proposed additional designations would rectify this without in any way affecting the procedure laid down in the Original Charter whereby the Secretary and Assistant Secretaries were appointed by the President of the Commission, His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester.

With regard to the Legal Adviser, his present designation did not immediately convey to those with whom he had to deal that he practised professionally as a Solicitor in handling transactions on behalf of the Commission. The proposed new title would make this clear.

The United Kingdom Treasury which, through the Treasury representative on the Finance Committee, furnished advice to the Commission on matters of finance and administration, had been consulted and was agreeable to the proposals.

He thought it would be helpful and of interest if the Secretary were to explain the Commission's organisation.

The SECRETARY said that three charts had been laid on the table in front of each member. The chart numbered One showed the Head Office organisation, divided by subjects under five principal officials - an Assistant Secretary responsible for External Relations and Records, an Assistant Secretary responsible for Finance and Establishments, a Director of Works, a Chief Horticultural Officer and a Legal Adviser. For permanent maintenance purposes the Works and Horticultural departments might later be combined under a Director of Maintenance.

The chart numbered Two showed the Regional and Agency organisation. Appendix J at pp. 34 and 35 of the Annual Report which had also been laid on the table detailed the countries covered by those Regions and Agencies. They varied considerably both in their geographical extent and in the numbers of graves and Memorials to the Missing they looked after.

The Commission maintained, in all, about one and one quarter million graves, of which one in six were unidentified, and Memorials bearing the names of three-quarters of a million who had no known grave.

The United Kingdom Region which was comparatively small in geographical extent, was divided into four Areas and looked after some 180,000 war graves mostly in civil cemeteries and churchyards.

The Northern Region, which covered Northern and Western Europe, included the principal battlefields of the 1914/1918 War, was divided into six Areas and looked after some 700,000 graves mostly in war cemeteries under the Commission's direct control. This Region also contained many of the largest Memorials to the Missing such as the Somme Memorial, Thiepval and the Menin Gate at Ypres.

The Southern Region, which was vast in geographical extent, and divided into eight Areas, covered Italy, Austria and the Balkans, the Middle East and the whole of Africa except the Union of South Africa, South West Africa and the High Commission Territories; it had 200,000 graves in its care, mostly in war cemeteries.

The Eastern Region, which covered most of the Far East had 50,000 graves in its care, mostly in war cemeteries of the 1939/1945 War.

The Agencies were all in Commonwealth countries and in each case the Government of the country was responsibly associated with the Agency. For example, the Minister of Veterans' Affairs in Canada was the Commission's Canadian Agency, the Minister for the Interior in Australia was the Commission's Anzac Agency and a Committee headed by the Secretary for Public Works in the Union was the Commission's South African Agency.

The Anzac Agency, in addition to maintaining 25,000 war graves in the Pacific Region, also looked after nearly 40,000 ex-Servicemen's graves on behalf of the Australian Government.

Each of those Regions and Agencies was responsible direct to the Head Office of the Commission but in the case of each of the four smaller Agencies, as indicated by the dotted red lines on the chart, a Region maintained liaison and gave assistance as might be necessary.

The Governments of Ceylon and of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland met the costs of the work of the Commission's Agency in caring for the Commonwealth war graves in their territory and a similar gesture was being made by the Governments of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika where new Agencies were to be established.

The chart numbered Three showed a typical Regional Organisation, with the Regional Director supported by a Deputy Regional Director (who was also Regional Finance and Administrative Officer), a Regional Works Officer and a Regional Horticultural Officer, each with the necessary supporting staff. Also shown on this chart was a typical Area Organisation with the same three sub-divisions - Administration, Works and Horticulture, the Area Superintendent being also Area Horticultural Officer and being supported by an Area Works Officer. The Works staff included technical and supervisory staff and teams of craftsmen and labourers. The Horticultural staff similarly included technical and supervisory staff and the gardeners in the cemeteries.

It was proposed by the HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR SOUTH AFRICA, seconded by the ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR NEW ZEALAND, and carried unanimously:-

4. That the Commission, having considered a paper numbered CM/146 dated 2nd November, 1959,

RESOLVE:

- (1) That the Secretary to the Commission be and is hereby given the additional designation of "Director-General".

- (2) That the two Assistant Secretaries responsible, respectively, for the External Relations and Records Division and the Finance and Establishment Division at the Commission's Head Office be and are hereby given the additional designations of "Director of External Relations and Records" and "Director of Finance and Establishments", respectively.
- (3) That the designation of the Commission's Legal Adviser be and is hereby altered to "Legal Adviser and Solicitor".

#### REPORT ON PROGRESS OF COMMISSION'S WORK

The CHAIRMAN said that he would ask the Vice-Chairman to say a few words in introduction of the Commission's Fortieth Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1959, which was before Members and which had been published that same day.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN said that he would like to refer to the form in which this Annual Report was presented. It consisted of a relatively short General Report for the year ended 31st March, 1959, (occupying pages 12 to 25) to which were appended: the Accounts (Appendices "A" to "G"); the details of the Regional and Agency Organisation (Appendix "J"), to which the Secretary had already referred; and a Table (Appendix "K") showing the progress of the constructional work. The detailed Reports from the Regions and Agencies followed on pages 40 to 91 and an Index of Countries at the end enabled the reader to find the report on any country in which he was particularly interested.

The Report was illustrated by a number of photographs of Cemeteries and Memorials in different parts of the world and had a colour frontispiece which was, in fact, a photograph taken by Sir Arthur Longmore, during a visit to South Africa. These photographs illustrated something of the beauty of the Cemeteries and Memorials and he would like to say how much was owed to the inspiration of the distinguished architects who had designed them. The Commission's debt was particularly great to their Honorary Chief Architect and Artistic Adviser, Sir Edward Maufe.

The Report, as he had already said, covered the events of the year ended on 31st March, 1959, and his Foreword (on pages 6 to 10), commented on some of the more important events recorded in the Report and mentioned one or two events which had occurred since 31st March, 1959. There were three points of which he would like to make special mention. The first was the continuing interest in the Commission's work by members of the Royal Family, which was a source of consolation throughout the Commonwealth to relatives of those who had given their lives. The second was the Commission's very deep regret in the death, in November 1958, only two and a half years after his retirement,



of Sir Frank Higginson, the former Secretary to the Commission, who had entered the Commission's service as a young Architect at the end of the 1914/1918 War and had served for 37 years. Finally he would like to mention the pleasure of Members in the elevation to the Peerage of their friend and fellow-Commissioner of long standing, Lord Spens.

The CHAIRMAN asked the Secretary to describe the progress of the Commission's work.

The SECRETARY said that the Commission were now approaching the end of the phase of construction of 1939/1945 war cemeteries and memorials and special rehabilitation of those of the 1914/1918 War after their neglect and deterioration during the second war. The task ahead was that of regular, permanent maintenance.

There was still some constructional work to do, which had been delayed mainly by political conditions in such places as the Middle East, South East Burma and Indonesia and there were one or two places where changing conditions were raising new problems. For instance, in the Sudan and also in Iran it was no longer possible effectively to maintain the war graves in outlying places and they were, therefore, being concentrated into a single cemetery in each capital, Khartoum and Teheran. Apart from any other new problems which might arise the Commission should be on a basis of permanent care and maintenance by 1963.

In preparation for the future, a good deal of re-organisation and reduction of staff had been done. During the past six months, a special team, consisting of Mr. Thomashoff of South Africa, Mr. Suter of the United Kingdom Treasury, and Mr. Laing the Commission's own Deputy Establishment Officer had been examining the staff organisation with a view to advising on possible economies. The Commission were most grateful to the Governments of South Africa and the United Kingdom for allowing them to have had the services of those experienced officers and thus making this independent examination possible. The team had stated that, in general, they had found the organisation to be efficient and economical but they had nevertheless been able to make a number of valuable suggestions for greater efficiency and economy and he was at present studying the first sections of their Report.

With the Chairman's permission, he would call on the Heads of the various Divisions to give a short account of the work for which they were responsible.

MR. WYNNE MASON (Director of External Relations and Records) said that, from 1918 onwards, the Commission's activities abroad had been facilitated by treaties between the Commonwealth Governments and the governments of foreign countries. These war graves Agreements provided for the security of the graves from disturbance and for the granting to the Commission of adequate facilities for their maintenance. Such agreements had now been concluded with each of the Western European countries in which there was a significant number of Commonwealth war graves, as well as with certain Middle and Far Eastern countries. Several agreements were still under negotiation.

The wide scope of the work and its close impact on people's personal feelings demanded constant attention to public relations. The Commission prepared their own press releases and maintained close liaison with press, radio and television. They also maintained a comprehensive photographic record of the cemeteries and memorials throughout the world and they were publishing a series of books of photographs illustrating them. Copies of these books would be passed round for Members to see. (The books were passed round).

The Commission continued to receive large numbers of enquiries about graves and memorials of both world wars not only from relatives but from various ex-Service and Welfare organisations. A special section of the staff was required to deal with them.

The principal records of the Commonwealth war dead consisted, firstly, of Registers containing alphabetical lists, with full personal and regimental details, of those buried in each cemetery and commemorated on each memorial and, secondly, of a complete alphabetical and regimental index. The Registers for the 1914/1918 War had been published in 940 books each containing an average of approximately 1,200 names. The publication of the 600 Registers required for the 1939/1945 War should be completed in another year. The index was being prepared on the punched card system and should be complete by 1961. The list of Civilian War Dead compiled by the Commission had been published in six volumes; a set had been placed in Westminster Abbey and a set had been provided to each participating Government.

Major-General STEEDMAN (Director of Works) said that, for the 579,000 casualties of the 1939/1945 War, 565 cemeteries and memorials were required. Of these, 512 cemeteries and 31 memorials had been completed and 99% of all the casualties had been individually commemorated.

The greater part of the work yet to be done was situated in the countries in which disturbed conditions and difficulty of access had been hindering progress. For example, there were two cemeteries to be constructed in Algeria, one in Egypt, two in Iraq and one in Syria and a number yet to be decided in Indonesia.

As regards maintenance, the major task had been in France, making good the accumulation of deterioration in headstones and structures resulting from lack of maintenance during the war years.

The Commission were now passing to the stage where regular systematic maintenance all over the world was being established. In the areas where the Commission itself could employ and supervise good workmen, that would be the method on which reliance would be placed. In other areas the necessary contacts were being built up with the local authorities and their Works departments to carry out maintenance on behalf of the Commission.

A good deal of experience had been gained over the past four years in the use of modern methods of stone protection and preservation, which, he hoped, might be of

material assistance in the future in maintaining both headstones and structures clean and free from decay.

MR. HARDING (Chief Horticultural Officer) said that the great dispersion of the fighting and the graves of the last war had presented the Commission's horticulturists with many problems of soil and climate which had been new to them. Many new techniques had had to be developed but now, wherever an adequate water supply could be obtained, lawns and headstone flower borders had been created whether the climate had been temperate, Mediterranean, sub-tropical or tropical. He thought he could say that horticultural work was proceeding satisfactorily.

Horticultural maintenance was not a static or repetitive occupation. Apart from the vagaries of so many climates from one year to another there was always the steady growth of the trees and larger shrubs to contend with. Space was limited and it was essential that the cemeteries should appear neither bare nor overgrown. Adjustments and revisions were continually necessary to achieve this purpose.

New methods were constantly being sought of saving labour, which had so greatly increased in cost. The Commission endeavoured to make the fullest possible use of mechanical mowing, edge-trimming, hedge-clipping, cultivating, leaf-sweeping, spraying and fertilizing. Substantial advances had been made in achieving this during the past two years and real staff economies were being realised.

The CHAIRMAN thanked Mr. Harding and said that he thought one of the most striking features of the Commission's film, which had been shown at the House of Commons earlier in the year, had been the way in which the horticulturists had managed to make grass grow where none had grown before, particularly in the Western Desert. He considered that had been a remarkable feature and congratulated Mr. Harding on the work that had been done.

MR. PALLOT ( Director of Finance and Establishments) said that the Commission's expenditure was met partly by the income of the Endowment Fund provided by the Participating Governments to meet the cost of maintaining the 1914/1918 war graves and partly by grants made annually by the Governments. The cost of maintaining the 1914/1918 war graves was now nearly four times the amount of the income of the Endowment Fund and the difference plus the whole of the cost of the 1939/1945 war graves was met by the annual grants.

Those grants were made by the Governments in the proportions of the numbers of their graves of each war and the percentages were shown in Appendix "D" on page 30 of the Annual Report. The percentages for the 1914/1918 War were, of course, fixed finally and had been those in which the Endowment Fund had been provided. The percentages for the 1939/1945 War had been assessed provisionally in 1951 and it would shortly be possible to make a further, final, assessment. It was unlikely that there would be any substantial variation from the provisional percentages.

As the contributions of participating governments were calculated on a different basis for each war, the Commission had to keep separate accounts. On the running down of the work, in two or three years' time, to normal maintenance and the fixing of firm percentages for the second war, it would be possible to calculate a combined percentage and keep only one account for both wars. Each Government's share of the expenditure would remain much the same as at present but estimating and accounting would be simplified.

The Commission's expenditure was at present running at the level of about one and three quarter million pounds a year and it appeared likely that it would continue at about this level for the next two or three years while outstanding construction, recording and special repairs were being completed. Ultimately, it should be possible to reduce expenditure to something under one and a half million pounds of which about one million pounds would be the cost of staff and labour for the most part employed directly on the maintenance of graves, cemeteries and memorials. The number employed at present was 1,870 and this should eventually be reduced by about 200.

85% to 90% of the expenditure in the future would be on the Horticultural and Works maintenance services and the balance on general administration including external relations and records. The cost of administration of the work and staff in over 50 different countries, with the complex problems which inevitably had to be faced under modern conditions, was not likely to fall appreciably.

In addition to the work for which it was directly responsible under its Charters, the Commission carried out a good deal of agency work for participating and other governments and authorities. The amount involved in these agency services last year had been £125,000.

The CHAIRMAN said that, before leaving this Report, he would like to read three sentences from the Vice-Chairman's Foreword which had impressed him considerably; they occurred near the top of page 8 where he (the Vice-Chairman) was referring to the appreciative comments of relatives on the standard of maintenance of certain 1914/1918 cemeteries:-

"Nearly half a century has passed since these men died and few would now doubt that the policy of permanently commemorating each of them individually was right; or that the leaving of their graves in the lands where they fought and died together and entrusting them to a Commission representative of the whole Commonwealth was wise and far-sighted. Not only can the Commission, as a specialised organisation backed by the resources of the Commonwealth governments, deal effectively with the continuing task of maintenance to which relatives, despite loving care, often become unequal, but by keeping in touch with the views of next-of-kin the Commission can always see to it that the graves are cared for as they would wish. By reason of its permanence, the Commission can ensure that the grave of each individual, wherever it lies, and the memorials engraved with the names of all those whose

graves are unknown are constantly worthy of the sacrifices made - a source of pride to present and future generations of people from every part of the Commonwealth who visit them".

He (the CHAIRMAN) thought that to be a most admirable summing up of the purposes and work of the Commission.

Mr. SYLVESTER said that, if it had not already been done, he thought that arrangements should be made, through the local authorities, for a copy of the Report to be placed in every Public Library, in order to create interest in the Commission's work among the general public.

#### PRESS RELEASE

The CHAIRMAN said that a suitable Press release would be made after the Meeting, both in the United Kingdom and in the Commonwealth of Australia, concerning the modification of the Commission's title and that of the Commission's Anzac Agency.

#### VISIT BY MR. DAVID GRIFFITHS, M.P., TO A WAR CEMETERY IN ITALY.

Mr. SYLVESTER said that Mr. David Griffiths, Member of Parliament for Rother Valley, Yorkshire, together with his wife and family, had visited a Commonwealth War Cemetery in Italy in which they were particularly interested, and he had been asked by Mr. Griffiths to convey their appreciation of the Commission's work and of the way in which the cemetery was maintained. Mr. Griffiths felt that the Commission should receive public acknowledgement for the work they had done.

The CHAIRMAN asked Mr. Sylvester to thank Mr. Griffiths for the message he had sent.

#### DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The CHAIRMAN thanked all Members for their attendance and said that the next Meeting of the Commission would be held on Thursday, 19th November at 11 a.m.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 11.45 a.m.