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The fourteenth meeting of the Imperial War Graves Commission was held on Tuesday, July 22nd, at 3-30 p.m. at the War Office.

There were present :-

Lieut. General Sir H.V. Cox, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., C.S.I., representing the Secretary of State for India,
The Rt. Hon. Sir Alfred Mond Bt., M.P.,
W. L. Griffith Esq., representing the High Commissioner for Canada,
E.A. Box Esq., representing the High Commissioner for Australia,
V. Gordon Esq., C.H., J.P., representing the High Commissioner for Newfoundland,
R.A. Blankenberg Esq., O.B.E., representing the High Commissioner for South Africa,
Sir William Garstin, G.C.M.G., G.D.E.,
Rudyard Kipling Esq.,
Admiral Sir Edmund S. Poe, G.C.V.O., K.C.B.,
Major-General Fabian Ware, C.B., C.M.G., (Vice-Chairman).

J.E. Talbot Esq., Principal Assistant Secretary.

In the absence of the Chairman, the chair was taken by the Vice-Chairman.

1. With regard to the minutes of the last meeting, the Vice-Chairman said there was an inadvertent omission of one of the three cemeteries - Le Troport - from the resolution recorded in section 6, and he asked that it might now be inserted. This was agreed to, and the minutes as altered were confirmed, and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

2. The Vice Chairman said that as this was the first regular meeting since the death of Mr. Schreiner, the Commission would doubtless wish to put on record their sense of what they owed to him. He was a personal friend to most members, and his sympathy, his unrivalled judgment, and his great experience were known to all. He devoted himself constantly indefatigably to the work of the Commission which appealed in a very particular way to his wide sympathies.

The Vice-Chairman then moved the following resolution :-

The members of the Imperial War Graves Commission desire to express their profound regret at the loss of their distinguished colleague, The Rt. Hon. W.P. Schreiner, K.C., C.M.G., High Commissioner for South Africa, by whose death the Commission loses not only a most valued member, but one whose unremitting labours on its behalf and wide sympathies with its objects have proved of inestimable value alike to South Africa and to the Empire; they wish to convey to Mrs. Schreiner and her family their heartfelt sympathy in their heavy loss.

Admiral Poe in seconding the motion said it was a great privilege for him to do so. Mr. Schreiner was a man of the greatest ability, intelligence, and loyalty to the Empire, and his death was a terrible loss not only to the Commission but also to the Empire.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

3. The report of the sixth meeting of the Finance Committee has been circulated to members. It was resolved on the motion of Sir William Garstin, seconded by Mr. Box, that the report be adopted.

4. The Commission considered a memorandum by Sir Frederic Kenyon on the cost of constructing cemeteries which had been

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circulated to members.

The Vice Chairman said that the rough estimate of £10, a grave was mentioned to the Imperial War Conference last year, but owing to the great increase in the cost of labour and material this estimate had been found to be altogether under the mark. Sir Frederic Kenyon's report showed that the present cost worked out at £17-0-0 a grave instead of £10. It could be reduced to £15, a grave if there were no buildings at all in the smallest cemeteries; it could be reduced to £12.14.0. if the buildings and the war stone were omitted in the smaller cemeteries; it could be reduced to £11.2.0, if both the cross and the war stone, and, of course, the buildings, were omitted. The matter had been considered by the Finance Committee, and they felt very strongly that some steps should be taken to reduce the cost. It appeared to the Committee that in the small cemeteries the whole plan was overburdened by the inclusion of both the cross and the warstone, and it was a question whether economy could not be effected in cases where several small cemeteries were close together by putting one cross and one war stone on some high ground so that they could apply to all the cemeteries in the group.

Sir Frederic Kenyon thought that the method suggested by the Vice-Chairman was a perfectly reasonable one. He would be very sorry if the cross were dropped from all small cemeteries, but he did not feel so strongly about the war stone. If a considerable economy must be effected, he would be in favour of cutting down the cost of the buildings from £4, to 22/- per grave and omitting the war stone in the very small cemeteries.

Sir Alfred Mond did not suppose that anybody contemplated that this great scheme of stones and crosses was going to be applied to the 1,200 cemeteries containing less than 150 graves each; apart from its costliness such a proceeding would be wholly inartistic.

Sir William Garstin and Admiral Poo thought that if the cross were omitted it would greatly increase the agitation against headstones.

Mr. Kipling said he would be disposed to leave it to the architect to decide whether in the smaller cemeteries the cross or the war stone or both should be omitted, and then it would be open to private enterprise to supply the omission, if there were demand for it.

The Vice-Chairman pointed out that Sir Edwin Lutyens, who had designed the war stone, attached great importance to it as the permanent mark of a British cemetery all over the world.

It was agreed that in the smaller cemeteries, if either of the central memorials had to be omitted, the war stone should be the first to be omitted.

Sir Alfred Mond suggested that the architects should be instructed to arrange for a grouping of the small cemeteries so that their treatment could be less expensive. He could not see why a smaller and cheaper cross could not be designed where it appeared suitable.

The Vice Chairman said that the architects' view was that if money was to be saved on the cross, they would have to make an entirely new design for it.

Sir Frederic Kenyon said that the architects' main objection to having a smaller cross in the small cemeteries was that the present design had been put before the public and had been received with favour.

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Mr. Kipling urged that whatever they eventually submitted to the Governments, they should make it clear that the prices were not fixed and could not be fixed in present circumstances.

After further discussion the following resolution moved by Mr. Box, and seconded by Sir William Garstin, was passed unanimously :-

That in the case of Classes 6, and 7., buildings or shelters be entirely omitted; that in the case of Class 5, buildings shall be omitted unless found to be absolutely necessary, and that where they are erected, the buildings in Class 5, shall be limited to the minimum required and be constructed on as economical a scale as possible.

Sir William Garstin considered that when revised estimates were submitted to the Governments, it should be clearly stated what was omitted from the original scheme and why it was omitted and the public should be informed as well as the Governments.

Sir Alfred Mond said he should like to see whether the architects could not work out a more economical scheme for the small cemeteries. People did not realise the appalling financial condition of the country, and it would be a matter of the greatest difficulty to find the four or five millions required to carry out the Commission's plans. He begged to move the following resolution:-

That the matter be referred back to see whether it is not possible, in spite of the rise in prices, to get nearer to our original estimate, and that especially the question of the treatment of the smaller cemeteries should be gone into again with this view.

This was seconded by General Cox and carried unanimously.

The Vice Chairman said he proposed to take it as an instruction to the staff of the Commission to cut down the expenditure as near as possible to a limit of £10. a grave and in the meantime to carry on with the work.

This was agreed.

5. Mr. Box submitted to the Commission a memorandum signed by the Chief of the Staff of the Australian Imperial Force explaining the proposals of the Australian Government with regard to the construction of cemeteries in Gallipoli; The memorandum was as follows :-

"With reference to the preparation of cemeteries, etc. in Gallipoli, I submit for your consideration the following proposals which have received the approval of the Australian Government :-

1. The Commonwealth Government is prepared to take over as its portion of responsibility the entire work of cemetery construction and maintenance for the whole of the Gallipoli area.
2. If this be accepted the work will be carried out under the instructions and in accordance with the requirements of the Imperial War Graves Commission.
3. The cost will be borne by the Imperial War Graves Commission, Australia to bear her proper proportion for the care of her own dead.
4. The work will be taken over as soon as the preliminary graves work now being carried out has been completed and the care of graves vested in the Imperial War Graves Commission.
5. The present position with regard to preliminary graves work in Gallipoli is that the larger area is fairly complete. It is at least complete so far as the Australian and New Zealand graves

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are concerned. The work is also far advanced in the Helles and Suvla areas.

G. The Government of the Commonwealth of Australia has considered the reports of Sir John Burnet and Captain Koesing, and it appreciates the care and study given to the matter by the eminent British Architect and his overseas assistant. The Government desires, so far as Anzac is concerned, that the treatment should be carried out in accordance with the following main principles :-

- (a) A minimum concentration of isolated graves and cemeteries which are on bad ground.
- (b) Slabs for all casualties irrespective of the recovery of the body.
- (c) One imposing obelisk, one altar stone, and one record house for the whole of Anzac and 'Lone Pine'.
- (d) Cemeteries to have concrete curbs where necessary as retaining walls with super-imposed iron uprights and wire fence.
- (e) A cross at each cemetery except where it can be shown that one cross will suffice for two or more cemeteries.
- (f) Anzac to be fenced with cattle proof fence. The Imperial War Graves Commission to determine the policy in this respect in regard to Helles and Suvla.
- (g) One road to each area to be built for use in all weathers.
- (h) Remaining roads to be put in order for dry weather and renovated by caretakers with local working parties each spring.

It is not proposed, however, to submit any complete scheme for the Gallipoli areas as there has not been time to give the full consideration to the proposals of these gentlemen which the undertaking demands.

(7) I am, however, to forward for your consideration the attached proposal for the preliminary work in the Anzac area. Proposals are not put forward herein for the Suvla and Helles areas as Australian interests did not predominate in these places, and the personnel employed will carry out the scheme in the Helles and Suvla areas as required by the Imperial War Graves Commission.

8. It will probably take some time before the final scheme can be approved and put in hand. In the meantime, it is to be anticipated that with the advent of next summer a greater amount of shipping facilities will be available, and there will be a very great number of visitors to Gallipoli. It is therefore, desirable that the work should be advanced as rapidly as possible. There is a considerable amount of preliminary work which should be put in hand without delay, and which will be essential irrespective of the final decision as to details of design and arrangements.

9. I submit herewith Appendix 'A', an outline of the whole of this preliminary work, with regard to the Anzac area.

10. I attach also Appendix 'B' a statement of the personnel which it is considered will be required for carrying out the work irrespective of labour.

The establishment submitted is estimated on the total personnel which will be required for work in all areas in Gallipoli area full control is assumed by the Imperial War Graves Commission. Appointments will not be filled until they become necessary in each case.

It is desirable that the following appointments should be made at once to allow preparation of plans, and organization generally:-

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Inspector of Works and Supervising Engineer,
 Surveyor,
 Secretary and Accountant,
 Clerk of Works,
 Draughtsman,
 Interpreter,
 Officer-in-Charge Transport,
 Clerks necessary.

Recommendations for certain of those appointments can be made at an early date after the establishment is approved.

11. With your approval, it is proposed to appoint Captain C.E. Hughes, A.I.F., to be Inspector of Works and Supervising Engineer in Gallipoli.

12. Captain Hughes will proceed to Egypt at an early date and will prepare at once reports, estimates, etc. in connection with the work set forth in the attached Appendix 'A' for approval by the Imperial War Graves Commission.

In view of the weather conditions which exist in Gallipoli from November to the end of March, and in order that the work should be well in hand for next Spring, it is necessary that the working drawings of plans and quantities of materials be immediately got ready. No memorial work should be put in hand until these are completed.

The Inspector of Works will have to visit Gallipoli and the East to ascertain the prices ruling for material and labour, in order to compile estimates - also to arrange for preliminary work such as road making and camp sites, which may immediately be put in hand when sanctioned by the Commission.

13. It is understood that the rates of salaries and pay will be determined by the Finance Committee of the Imperial War Graves Commission, accordingly no recommendations are submitted on this matter.

14. All sea transport should be arranged by the Imperial War Graves Commission for building and contractors' material.

15. In the attached Appendix 'B' the staff required for the whole Gallipoli area is set out. If this be agreed to also, Captain Hughes will be in a position to promptly put in hand work approved by the Commission.

16. Appendix 'C' shows the transport which will be required. "

Mr. Box added that so far as the whole of Gallipoli was concerned, whether Sir John Burnet's report were accepted in toto or whether it were amended, and whether the Commission asked the Australian Section to amend their report; whatever was approved by the Commission would be done. With regard to Anzac, the Australian Government made certain minimum requests which they asked should be carried out, whether the work at Anzac was done first or last.

The Vice Chairman invited General Hobbs to say a few words on the subject.

General Hobbs said :- "I do not think there is really very much more that I can say, than what has already been read in this report. At the present time there are a certain number of cemeteries which I believe are in a very good state of preservation. The graves are there, although they have been disturbed. Captain Hughes, who has been there on the works, has been able to identify nearly the whole of the bodies. So far as the north portion of Anzac is concerned, the sites that the cemeteries now occupy

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are considered quite suitable. There is no fear of any wash away, or anything of that sort, and therefore it is desired, for many reasons, to keep them where they are. We felt that it was quite unnecessary to go to any great expense with each separate cemetery, but rather to concentrate the whole effort on the portion of the battlefield which every Australian who served there, and the Australian people, think so much of; that is round Lone Pine, where the greatest strain of effort was made. We propose to put up a Record House, and an obelisk about 50 feet high, designed very much on the same lines as those that were erected for the Australian divisions in France, and also in Palestine. It is not proposed to put any headstones there at all, but simply to put a slab of stone, with not quite a flat top, but just curved so that the water will run off, with the man's name and number on it. The idea of fencing the cemeteries is just to put a dwarf wall of concrete all round them, and on the top of that to put iron standards, with a wire fence to keep the cattle off, then round each cemetery to plant trees, if possible Australian trees. It is also thought desirable to fence the whole area, in order to keep the cattle out. Captain Hughes knows a great deal of the place, and a good deal about the conditions of the people there, and he does not think there will be any difficulty about that.

Then with regard to the roads, it is proposed to make some main roads that will carry heavy motor traffic, and roads that will be suitable all the year round, but so far as the battlefield of Anzac itself is concerned, we propose only to make, really, summer tracks, to get from one cemetery to another. We think that is all that is necessary.

General Cox pointed out that besides the Australians there were many British graves at Anzac and also graves of Indians; he asked whether the latter had been taken into consideration.

General Hobbs replied that if the treatment of the whole of the battle area on the peninsula were left to the Australians, they would treat all the graves and the whole of the area in a similar manner. He would like to mention a further point. He believed that Sir John Burnet proposed the erection of a Temple of Fame, or some imposing memorial, at Cape Helles. If that were done he thought Australia would be prepared to pay a share of the cost, but they would like to know beforehand what it was going to run to. Helles would be the most suitable point on the Peninsula for a Temple of Fame, because it would be seen from the sea by ships going up the Dardanelles, whereas at Anzac the ships could not see it.

Sir Alfred Mond said he presumed the Indian graves would be treated according to the manner which Indian experts considered right.

General Cox said there were Indian officers at Gallipoli who he supposed had been working with Captain Hughes.

General Hobbs further pointed out that, anticipating the proposal that had been made earlier in the meeting, they considered it unnecessary to put crosses in all the smaller cemeteries, and preferred to put one cross in some dominating position.

The Vice Chairman said he wished to make it quite clear that the appointments which they now proposed to make were appointments to an establishment which was going to carry out the whole work of the Commission in Gallipoli, and to look after the British and the Indian graves, as well as the Australian graves there. The Finance Committee had gone very carefully into the question of salaries, and in a few cases had proposed slight increases as compared with the salaries in France, owing to the isolation and difficulty of living in Gallipoli. The Committee had made the following recommendations :-

(a) That the work be undertaken on the lines set out in this

report and that the following preliminary establishment be approved at the salaries set out against the appointments :-

Inspector of Works & Supervising Engineer	£900 per annum.
Architect	£750 (suggested)
Surveyor	£600
Accountants.	£450.
Two Clerks of Works,	£3 50 each.
Officer in charge of Transport.	£400.
Interpreter.	£350.
1 Clerk	£200,
2. Draughtsmen	£550 each.
4 Clerks.	£180.
8 Lorry Drivers	£2.10.0. per week.
5 Light Car Drivers.	£2.10.0. " "
Motor Launch Driver.	£200 per annum.

(b) That the expenditure of a sum not exceeding £20,000 be authorised for the purchase of transport, stores, huts, materials, rations, etc. and for the payment of transport running expenses.

These recommendations were adopted by the Commission on the motion of the Vice Chairman seconded by Sir Alfred Mond.

It was further agreed that Captain Hughes should be appointed Inspector of Works.

The Vice Chairman said it should be clearly understood that Sir John Burnet was the principal architect for the whole of the work in Gallipoli, and that under him was an architect on the spot, as in the case of France.

6. On the motion of the Vice Chairman, seconded by Mr. Kipling, it was resolved that the sum of £65,2.2, expended by General Yarde-Buller in connexion with the erection of memorials on the graves of four British soldiers at Risoberga in Sweden should be refunded to him by the Commission.

7. The Vice Chairman reported that the following petition signed by about 2,500 persons had been submitted by a Mrs. Smith of Leeds to the Prince of Wales :-

"Your Royal Highness,

In the name of thousands of your heartbroken subjects, we, the undersigned, appeal earnestly to your Royal Highness, the President of the Imperial War Graves Commission, to help us in altering the regulations of the Commission in regard to their decision of prohibiting the removal of the remains of the fallen to this country. It has always been the view of every English family that their beloved dead belonged to them alone; yet we are not permitted to have the remains brought over, nor even to erect a cross or other emblem over their graves. Where possible, and where the relatives desire it, is it too much to ask that the bodies may be brought across, at our own expense, if necessary? We pray Your Royal Highness will grant that the right which has ever been the privilege of the bereaved may not be denied us."

Mrs. Smith had been asked whether those who signed would be willing to pay the cost of bringing the bodies home, and she had replied that a number of them would be willing and no doubt others would be helped to do so. He suggested that Mrs. Smith should be told that the Commission had considered the matter and that nothing could be done. The French Government, as the Commission knew, had forbidden for the present any transport of bodies from France.

The Commission agreed to the Vice-Chairman's proposal.

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The Vice Chairman reported as to the method of distributing "The Graves of the Fallen" to the next-of-kin. He could only recommend a very unambitious scheme, that publicity should be secured to the pamphlet by displaying posters in Post Offices throughout the Kingdom saying where it could be obtained. Any other plans of distribution would be too costly and laborious.

9. The Vice Chairman reported that an Anglo-Belgian Agreement similar to the Anglo-French Agreement, had been signed. They had now to appoint two Membres d'Honneur and three official members for the Anglo-Belgian Committee. Lord Cavan might be the military and Mr. Churchill the civil Membre d'Honneur.

On the motion of the Vice-Chairman, seconded by Mr. Box, it was resolved that Sir George Ferley, Admiral Poo, and General Fabian Ware be appointed official members of the Anglo-Belgian Committee.

10. The Commission considered a proposal that had been received that the organisation "Comrades of the Great War" should be affiliated to the Commission, and that the necessary alteration should be made in the Charter for the purpose.

It was agreed that the answer should be that the Commission were not prepared to recommend to the Imperial War Conference that such an alteration in the Charter should be made.

11. An application had been received from a Society called "The Circle of Hope" that the Commission should give their name as one of the patrons of the Society.

It was agreed that a letter should be written saying that the Commission were much interested in the work of the Society and wished it all success, but that they did not see their way to becoming patrons.

12. With regard to the appointments and resignation of staff, the Vice Chairman announced that Colonel Scorer was unable to continue as Inspector of Works in France. He would like to convey to Colonel Scorer their appreciation of the great energy and ability which he had thrown into the work and their thanks for his valuable services.

This was agreed.

(a) The following resolution moved by Admiral Poo and seconded by Mr. Blankenberg was passed unanimously :-

That the Commission approve the appointment of the following officers and the payment to them out of the funds of the Commission of the approved salaries as from the dates set out against their names :-

Mr. N. A. Row, Architect, France, - 2 5th. June,	£500.
Mr. F. Lind, Rationing Officer, France, - 21st. June,	£500.
Mr. E. de Savigny-Bower, i/c Survey Dept., Egypt, 1st. June	£550-2 0-£450.
Mr. F. Columb, Liaison Officer, France, - 30th. April, ..	£350.
Mr. A. J. McLean, A.R.B.A., Architectural Draughtsman, Italy - 18th. June,	£250.
Major H. Le M. Pottowes, Second Class Clerk, London, 5th. June,	£500.
Mr. H. C. Simpson, Accountant, London, - 23rd. June,	£500.
Lieut. J. E. Hollibone, i/c Transport & Workshops, France, - 8th. June,	£500.

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Mr. W.C. Von Berg, Architect, France, - 27th. June,£500.
 Capt. F.H. Frith, i/c Working Parties, France, 9th. April,£500.
 Mr. F. Skinner, Foreman Mechanic, France, 1st. June 1919, ...£2 50.
 Mr. A.J.E. Pottifor, Mechanic, France, . 6th. June,£250.
 Capt. F.J. Scrabble, Second Class Clerk, London, 19th. May,£500.
 Mr. G.F. Jenkins, Second Class Clerk, London, 2nd. June, ...£250.
 Captain R.W. Murphy, 1st. Class Clerk, London, 2nd. June, ..
 £500- 20 -£600.
 Major G. Hartley Goldsmith, Architect, France, 2nd. June, ..£500.
 Mr. L.D. Gibbs, Second Class Clerk, London, 25th. June,
 £250- 10 -£350.
 Mr. F. Blomfield Baro, Quantity Surveyor, France, 2 7th. May, .£500.
 Capt. F.J. Taylor, Staff Officer to Inspector of Works,
 France, - 27th. May,£500.
 Mr. H.F.S. Wilson, Second Class Clerk, London, - 18th. June, ...£250.
 Mr. W.G. Garrett, Deputy Asst. Rationing Officer, France,
 - 11th. July, "£2 50.
 Mr. W.H. Cowlishaw, Architect, France, - 2nd. July,£500.
 Capt. M.S. Briggs, Architect, Egypt, - 5th. June, -£500.

(b) The following resolution moved by the Vice-Chairman and seconded by Mr. Kipling was passed unanimously :-

That the Commission accept the resignation of the undermentioned officers as from the dates set out against their names, and that the Secretary be instructed to write to Mr. Dorrington, Colonel Scorer, and Captain Nicol, thanking them in the name of the Commission for their services.

Mr. A. Dorrington, Inventor, Acid Process - 21st. July,
 Lt. Col. G.O. Scorer, Inspector of Works, France.
 Capt. G. Salway Nicol, Architect, France, 16th. July,
 Mr. G.F. Jenkins, Second Class Clerk, London, - 17th. June,
 Mr. F. Columb, Liaison Officer, France, - 30th. June.

13. The Vice Chairman reported that Mr. Churchill in answer to a question in the House of Commons had said that he would ask the Commission to consider whether, in cases where the next-of-kin could not afford to pay for the additional personal inscription on headstones, the expense should not be met out of the Commission funds, and also whether regiments might not be allowed to select a uniform inscription to be used in cases where the relatives did not wish to provide an inscription of their own. He did not suppose, after the financial discussion, that had had at this meeting, that the Commission would be prepared to pay for these inscriptions.

Sir Frederic Kenyon suggested that where people could not afford to pay for inscriptions, they might be helped by private generosity in their own neighbourhood.

The Vice Chairman said he thought this was a matter in which they could not take any action. It was a case where private benevolence ought to come in.

The members present concurred in this view .