

DRAFT.
CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
at the 432ND MEETING of the
IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION
held at
32, GROSVENOR GARDENS, LONDON, S.W.1.
on
THURSDAY, 17TH DECEMBER, 1959.

Present:

MEMBERS

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

Mr. CAMPBELL MOODIE,
Representing the High Commissioner for Canada.

Air Vice-Marshal A.M. MURDOCH, C.B.E.,
Representing the High Commissioner for Australia.

Mr. E.A. BROADBRIDGE,
Representing the High Commissioner for New Zealand.

Mr. F.W. THOMASHOFF,
Representing the High Commissioner for South Africa.

Major K.T. PARNAIK,
Representing the High Commissioner for India.

Lieutenant-Colonel FAHIM AHMAD KHAN,
Representing the High Commissioner for Pakistan.

Mr. S.H. FIELD,
Representing the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

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

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

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

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.

Mr. JOHN HOGG, T.D.

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
Establishments.

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

Mr. H.L. SIMMONS, LL.B., Legal Adviser and Solicitor.

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.

The CHAIRMAN welcomed Air Vice-Marshal Murdoch who, as the new representative of the High Commissioner for Australia, was attending a Commission meeting for the first time.

MINUTES OF THE 431ST MEETING

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

1. The Minutes of the 431st Meeting of the Commission were approved and signed.

The following point arose out of the Minutes:-

Second Meeting of the Commonwealth-German-French Joint Committee (Page 10).

The CHAIRMAN said that at the meeting of the Commonwealth-German-French Joint Committee on the 22nd October, reference had been made to the permanent arrangements proposed for the maintenance of German war graves in the United Kingdom. He would mention in connection with this matter that Herr Margraf, General Secretary of the Volksbund (German War Graves Organisation), accompanied by two members of his staff, had visited the Commission's Head Office in London during the week commencing 7th December for discussions on the establishment of a German war cemetery at Cannock Chase in Staffordshire and other matters affecting the permanent maintenance of German war graves in the United Kingdom.

In reply to Air Marshal Sir CHARLES GUEST, the SECRETARY said that there was a plot of Commonwealth war graves at Cannock Chase which contained some German war graves of the 1914-1918 War; the site for the new German concentration cemetery was on adjacent land.

VISIT BY LORD SPENS TO CEMETERIES IN CORNWALL

The CHAIRMAN said that Lord Spens, during a recent visit to Cornwall, had visited a number of cemeteries, and he asked him if he would care to say something about them.

Lord SPENS said that, altogether, he had visited twelve cemeteries or churchyards. The cemeteries controlled by local authorities, with one exception, at Falmouth, were very well maintained but some of the churchyards appeared to receive little or no attention and, although the grass on the war graves had been trimmed, the state of their surroundings was deplorable.

Falmouth cemetery, although controlled by the local authority, was not well maintained; the 1939-1945 war graves were on a very steep slope which was obviously inclined to slip from time to time and the 1914-1918 war graves were marked with small granite headstones, not of the Commission's pattern, with no regimental badge or particulars. He thought these should be replaced by Commission headstones. He had given the Secretary details about the individual cemeteries and churchyards. He thought it particularly important, in view of the large numbers of tourists who visited Cornwall, that everything possible should be done to improve maintenance there.

The CHAIRMAN thanked Lord Spens for his report, and said that the problem of badly maintained cemeteries and churchyards in the United Kingdom was not unfamiliar to the Commission. Members already knew most of the facets of the problem, some of which were very difficult to resolve. In many of the churchyards, the grass was cut roughly twice in the season but somebody who had undertaken this duty might fail to carry it out. Where neither labour nor money were available, nothing was done.

Lord SPENS agreed that in many cases the problem was lack of money.

Air Marshal Sir CHARLES GUEST said that he had previously raised this matter and considered that the problem should be tackled by approaching clergymen at certain times of the year, such as Remembrance time, with a view to improving maintenance.

The CHAIRMAN said that there was no simple once-for-all solution; each case had to be tackled on its merits. Whereas it might be effective in some cases merely to get the clergyman interested, in other cases, the clergyman was already interested but had no means of dealing with the problem; neither he nor the parish council had any money available and there was nobody available, able and willing, to give his time and labour to do the job.

Air Chief Marshal Sir ARTHUR LONGMORE thought that, perhaps a campaign with travelling gardeners in the Spring would be the answer, so that the graves were in reasonably good condition during the summer season.

The SECRETARY said that he thought Lord Spens would agree that all the war graves had received some attention but that it was their surroundings which in some cases left so much to be desired. There was no ready answer to this difficulty and each case had to be treated as a separate problem and the best means found of producing results in the particular circumstances. It was a slow process but maintenance had already been improved in hundreds of cases as a result of action taken by the Commission's officials. The travelling gardener was not a complete answer to the problem owing to the number of burial places involved and because, so often, nothing short of maintaining the whole churchyard would remedy the situation.

Mr. WYNNE MASON said that the Commission's Area Superintendents never lost an opportunity of calling upon the incumbents and impressing upon them the need to improve maintenance.

Sir ARTHUR RUCKER said he thought that the maintenance of churchyards in the West Country was improving a little. He considered that anything the Commission could do in the way of propaganda, especially through their film, would help to improve maintenance.

In reply to Lord SPENS, the SECRETARY said that the Region had submitted a proposal for the replacement of the non-Commission headstones at Falmouth and were now providing further information and a scheme for dealing with the unsatisfactory maintenance.

The CHAIRMAN, in concluding the discussion, said that all Commissioners and officials shared the concern at the condition of some of the cemeteries and churchyards in the United Kingdom and were doing all they could to improve the situation.

ESTIMATES 1960-61.

The CHAIRMAN said that the next item was the Estimates of expenditure for the year 1960-1961. The memorandum considered by the Finance Committee, together with the accompanying schedules and appendices, had been circulated to Members. At their meeting on 9th December, the Finance Committee had gone into the Estimates very thoroughly and had recommended that the Revised Estimate for 1959-1960 should be £1,830,000, which was the same as the Approved Estimate for the year, and that the Estimate for 1960-1961 should be £1,760,000.

The detailed build-up of the Estimates was given in the three schedules: Schedule I being a summary of the combined estimate for the graves of both wars, Schedule II the estimate for 1914-1918 war graves, and Schedule III the estimate for 1939-1945 war graves. The figures on the schedules were in groups of three; the top figure (in red) was the approved estimate for the current year, below it (in green) was the revised estimate for that year, and the third figure (in black) was the estimate submitted for the next year, 1960-1961.

The approved estimate for 1959-1960 had been arrived at after a very substantial overhead cut on the total of the detailed estimate figures. In the event, it was unlikely that the overall underspending would be as much as had been anticipated and there would be an overspending on staff costs due to increases in pay and allowances throughout the service. Fortunately, however, there would be a net saving in the year through the devaluation of the French franc in December, 1958, which should redress the balance. Thus the Commission's net expenditure during the year, estimated at £1,830,000, should be within the funds available.

The estimate submitted for 1960-1961 at £1,760,000 was £70,000 less than both the approved and revised estimates for the current year.

The Commission's expenditure had reached its post 1939-1945 War "peak" in 1952-1953 at a figure of £2,600,000. This had dropped to about £2,000,000 in 1956-1957, and expenditure had since levelled out at about £1,800,000. The level should drop to between £1,500,000 and £1,600,000 in three years' time, and eventually to something under £1,500,000. It was estimated that next year there would be approximately £285,000 "abnormal" expenditure and something under this for the following two years. Due to political and other factors, the final clearing up of outstanding work had inevitably dragged out longer than had been hoped and, as costs of normal maintenance had been rising all the time, the progression of expenditure did in fact reflect the decrease of outstanding work each year since 1952 and the savings made, such as in the number of staff employed, which, but for rising costs, would have effected a greater reduction in expenditure.

Practically without exception, national expenditure had been rising during the period since 1952 throughout the world. In the United Kingdom this, of course, had been very much the case in nearly all aspects of governmental expenditure until this year when there had been a measure of stability in costs. The Commission, over this period, had been fortunate in that, owing to the run-down of the work, expenditure had either decreased or remained fairly constant, but the Commission had to face the fact that in the future there would be no run-down of work to compensate for any rise in costs.

He would like to refer specially to staff costs which formed the bulk of the Commission's expenditure. In spite of increases in remuneration everywhere, the staff costs for 1959-1960 and 1960-1961 were very little above the original estimate for 1959-1960. This was due to reductions in numbers which had already been achieved and further reductions it was hoped to make shortly, and also to the saving resulting from the unexpected devaluation of the French franc.

As Members knew, a special Inspection Team led by Mr. Thomashoff, with a staff inspector from the United Kingdom Treasury and the Commission's Deputy Establishment Officer as members, had been looking thoroughly into the organisation over the past six months. In their Report, they had confirmed the planned reorganisation over the next few years for permanent maintenance and had made further most helpful recommendations and suggestions, the value of which to the administration in their work of re-organising for final maintenance could not be over-estimated. He knew he spoke for all Members in saying how grateful they were to Mr. Thomashoff for the time he had given to this work.

At the figure of £1,760,000 recommended by the Finance Committee as the Estimate for 1960-1961, the new money required, after allowing for the income of the Endowment Fund at £221,000 and a small carry forward of £3,000, would be £1,536,000, which the Participating Governments would be asked to provide. The amount which they had been asked to provide for the current year was £1,606,000.

Air Chief Marshal Sir ARTHUR LONGMORE said that he had noted from Appendix "D" to the paper that the establishment of staff for 1960-1961 would be reduced to 1,796. He thought it was remarkable, as also did other people outside the Commission who had asked him about the number of staff employed, how the Commission managed to fulfil their obligations throughout the world on that number. He asked if it was yet possible to give a guide on the comparative maintenance costs of the two wars.

The SECRETARY said that, in very round figures, the Commission were maintaining about 800,000 graves of the first war and 400,000 of the second war. The character of the two problems was quite different. The majority of the 1914-1918 war graves were concentrated in France and Flanders and were closely spaced in the cemeteries whereas the 1939-1945 war graves were, in general, much more widely spaced in the cemeteries and were dispersed all over the world. Construction of the 1939-1945 war cemeteries was of a simpler and less massive character. For 1960-1961, a sum of £880,000 was estimated to be required for each war and, in each case, that sum contained provision for some abnormal expenditure on repairs or construction. He would not care, at the present stage, to venture an estimate of the permanent cost of maintenance for each war but the indications were that the total cost of maintaining the graves of the second war would be a little less than for the first.

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

2. That the Commission, having considered a paper No. F.2210 dated 10th December, 1959,

RESOLVE:

1. That the revised estimate of expenditure for the year 1959/60 be approved at £890,000 for the 1914/18 war graves and £940,000 for the 1939/45 war graves.
2. That the estimate of expenditure for the year 1960/61 be approved at £880,000 for the 1914/18 war graves and £880,000 for the 1939/45 war graves.

REPORT OF THE 476TH MEETING OF THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE

The CHAIRMAN said that, continuing with the remainder of the Finance Committee's Report, Item 2 dealt with the provision of two glazed doors for the sides of the shelter feature of the Dunkirk Memorial. The glazed doors had originally been part of the design approved by the Commission in 1954, but they had been omitted from the construction in order to reduce costs.

It had now been found that, owing to the exposed position of the shelter, damage had been caused to the oak seat and Register Box feature by the rain which was blown in. The building also afforded little shelter from the wind and it was now recommended that the two flanking glazed doors should be provided in accordance with the original scheme.

The estimated total cost was £1,136, which compared favourably with the estimated saving by the omission of the doors at the time of construction.

At the request of the CHAIRMAN, Major-General STEEDMAN explained the proposal.

The CHAIRMAN said that Item 9 covered the vehicle replacement programme for 1960-1961, for which provision was included in the Estimates.

Item 10 dealt with the employment of staff during 1960-1961 and gave the annual authority for the application of rates of pay and allowances in certain instances. Changes in rates of pay and allowances not covered in the Resolution, such as in the salaries of United Kingdom based non-manual staff, were dealt with by special reference to the Finance Committee and the Commission as occasion arose. The establishment of staff for 1960-1961, as had previously been mentioned by Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Longmore, covered a total of 1,796 posts.

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

3. That the Report of the 476th Meeting of the Finance Committee be adopted.

MODIFICATION OF THE COMMISSION'S TITLE

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper requested authority for the Seal of the Commission to be affixed to and the Proper Officer to sign the Petition to Her Majesty The Queen for the grant to the Commission of a Supplemental Charter authorising that the name of the Commission be altered to "The Commonwealth War Graves Commission". The opportunity was being taken at the same time to bring up to date the provisions of Clause 4, Part VII, of the Original Charter, regarding the execution of documents by or on behalf of the Commission.

Copies of the draft Petition with draft Supplemental Charter were attached to the paper.

His Royal Highness, The Duke of Gloucester, President of the Commission, had been pleased to concur in the Commission's application for the grant of a Supplemental Charter for the purposes referred to in the draft.

The Resolution directed that as soon as might be the Petition, duly Sealed, with the draft Supplemental Charter, be formally presented to the Clerk of the Privy Council on the Commission's behalf.

In reply to Air Chief Marshal Sir ARTHUR LONGMORE, Mr. SIMMONS said he understood that there would be a Meeting of the Privy Council on 21st December and that, if the Petition, duly Sealed by the Commission, was formally presented without delay, this should enable the procedure to be initiated with a view to the Supplemental Charter becoming effective on 1st April, 1960.

It was proposed by Mr. THOMASHOFF, seconded by Sir ARTHUR RUCKER, and carried unanimously:-

4. That the Commission, having considered a paper No. CM.210/3/2/LC dated 10th December, 1959,

RESOLVE:

- (1) That the Seal of the Commission be affixed to and the Proper Officer sign the Humble Petition to Her Majesty The Queen for the grant to the Commission of a Supplemental Charter authorising, that the name of the Commission be altered to "The Commonwealth War Graves Commission", and also certain variations of and alterations to the provisions of Clause 4, Part VII, of the Original Charter as appearing in the draft Supplemental Charter with the said Petition.
- (2) That as soon as may be the said Petition, duly Sealed as aforesaid, with the draft Supplemental Charter, be formally presented to the Clerk of the Privy Council on the Commission's behalf.

UNMAINTAINABLE GRAVES - UNITED KINGDOM:
WIDNES CEMETERY, LANCASHIRE

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper dealt with the permanent commemoration of two Commonwealth war burials of the 1914-1918 War in Widnes Cemetery, Lancashire, which was owned and controlled by the Widnes Corporation.

The Public Graves Section of this cemetery, where the two war graves were situated, had recently been converted into a Garden of Rest as part of a new crematorium scheme and the cemetery authorities had offered to have the Commission's headstones re-erected on a suitable site in the new Garden of Rest.

It was recommended that the headstones be re-erected on the proposed site in the Garden of Rest with a suitable superscription engraved upon them.

Security of tenure of the existing grave sites was assured and it was anticipated that a suitable assurance would be provided to the Commission in respect of security of tenure of the new sites of the two headstones.

If the Commission were able to contact the next-of-kin, they would be notified of the position.

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

5. That the Commission, having considered a paper No. CM/43/1 dated 4th December, 1959,

RESOLVE:

That the proposals set out in the said Paper for the commemoration of the two Commonwealth war burials of the 1914-1918 War in Widnes Cemetery, Lancashire, by the re-erection of the headstones with suitable superscriptions at the south-east corner of the new Garden of Rest at the said Cemetery be and are hereby approved.

PROVISION OF CROSSES OF SACRIFICE, CANADIAN AGENCY -
FORT MASSEY CEMETERY, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA, AND
MONTGOMERY (OAKWOOD) CEMETERY ANNEX, ALABAMA,
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper dealt with the provision of two Crosses of Sacrifice in the Canadian Agency's region, at Fort Massey Cemetery, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada and Montgomery (Oakwood) Cemetery Annex, Alabama, United States of America.

At the Commission's Meeting in September, 1959, the Secretary, reporting on his visit to the United States and Canada, had said that these proposals would be coming before the Commission. There was one further case still to be submitted - a proposal to provide a Cross of Sacrifice at Esquimalt Naval and Military Cemetery, Victoria, British Columbia and this would be dealt with at a later meeting.

The cemetery at Fort Massey was an old garrison cemetery now under the direct control of the Canadian Department of Veterans' Affairs. It was well maintained and contained 126 war graves - 86 of the 1914-1918 War and 40 of the 1939-1945 War. There was a suitable site for a Cross of Sacrifice adjacent to a plot containing the majority of the war graves and there was strong local desire for a Cross to be provided. The Department of Veterans' Affairs was agreeable to provide the site and the cost of supplying and erecting the Cross, which would have to be of granite, was estimated at £1,800.

In the United States, where there were about 1,000 Commonwealth war graves scattered over 400 burial places, there was not at present an example of the Commission's Cross of Sacrifice. The largest concentration of war graves in that country was at Montgomery (Oakwood) Cemetery Annex, Alabama, where there were 78 graves in one plot of

members of the Royal Air Force who had died while undergoing training at Air Force Bases in the vicinity during the 1939-1945 War. A keen interest was taken locally in these graves, which were maintained at no cost to the Commission, and there was a suitable site for the erection of a Cross, which the private owner was prepared to sell to the Commission for approximately £125. The cost of supplying a Cross in Portland Stone from the United Kingdom was estimated at £1,000 but, if the proposal was approved, the possibility of supply in local stone, at less cost, would be investigated.

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

6. That the Commission, having considered a paper No. W/97/343 dated 8th December, 1959,

RESOLVE:

That the Commission approve the provision of Crosses of Sacrifice (Type A1) in Fort Massey Cemetery, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, and Montgomery (Oakwood) Cemetery Annex, Alabama, United States of America, subject to consideration by the Finance Committee of tenders for their supply and erection.

EXAMINATION OF SKETCH DESIGNS FOR CEMETERY CONSTRUCTION,
POLAND, NORTHERN REGION.

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper dealt with sketch designs for the construction of three cemeteries in Poland, at Cracow, Malbork and Poznan.

At Cracow War Cemetery, which contained 479 Commonwealth, one Allied and fifteen Polish war graves, the design covered the erection of a Type A.1 Cross of Sacrifice, a Register Box and a seat Feature at an estimated cost, based on United Kingdom prices, including the provision and erection of 479 headstones, of £4,203 as compared with the permissible cost of £7,812.

Sir Edward Maufe had approved the design.

At the request of the CHAIRMAN, Major-General STEEDMAN explained the design.

In reply to Air Chief Marshal Sir ARTHUR LONGMORE, the SECRETARY said that there was a general arrangement whereby the United Kingdom Government met the cost of marking and maintaining Polish war graves in the United Kingdom and the Commission, on behalf of all the participating Commonwealth governments, met the cost of marking and maintaining all Polish war graves situated in Commonwealth war cemeteries and plots throughout the world; this included the fifteen Polish burials in Cracow War Cemetery, notwithstanding that they were in Poland.

The CHAIRMAN said that the second design was for Malbork War Cemetery, which contained 222 Commonwealth and ten Allied war graves of the 1939-1945 War. The design proposed that the two existing entrances be closed and that a single entrance be formed centrally, incorporating the cemetery title, the Register Box and name panels commemorating 39 Commonwealth war dead from Lidzbark; the erection of a Type A.1 Cross of Sacrifice was also proposed. The estimated cost of construction, based on United Kingdom prices, including the provision of 222 headstones and erection, was £3,654 as compared with the permissible cost of £4,537.

Sir Edward Maufe had approved the design.

At the request of the CHAIRMAN, Major-General STEEDMAN explained the design.

In reply to Lord SPENS, the SECRETARY said that the cemetery at Lidzbark was reported to be unmaintainable and, as the Commonwealth war dead there were buried in mass graves, intermingled with other nationalities, their remains could not be removed. A paper with full details would be submitted to the Commission in due course.

The CHAIRMAN said that the last of the designs to be considered was for Poznan Old Garrison Cemetery, which contained 150 Commonwealth and five Polish war graves of the 1914-1918 War and 230 Commonwealth, 54 Allied and sixteen Polish war graves of the 1939-1945 War. It was proposed to combine two adjacent plots, at present separated by a bank, into a single cemetery unified by a single entrance and turfed terrace terminating in a Type 'A' Cross of Sacrifice on a circular podium. The estimated cost of construction, based on United Kingdom prices, including the provision and erection of 230 headstones, was £7,165, as compared with the permissible cost of £4,450. In this respect, he would draw the attention of Members to the remarks of the Director of Finance and Establishments which appeared at the foot of page 3 of the paper.

Sir Edward Maufe had recommended an alteration to the original design, which Major-General STEEDMAN would explain to Members.

Major-General STEEDMAN explained the design and said that the alteration recommended by Sir Edward Maufe omitted steps flanking the main grass approach and provided, instead, steps on each side where the approach abutted the Cross of Sacrifice podium.

The CHAIRMAN then asked Members whether the pergola feature should be eliminated as it did not seem to him to be relevant to the main design and would create a small saving if omitted. (Members indicated that the pergola feature should be omitted).

In all three cases, the Polish Government had agreed to the Commission having permanent use of the sites, but it was considered advisable that plans showing the present proposals should be submitted to the authorities.

In reply to Mr. HOGG, who asked at what rate of exchange the estimated costs of construction had been calculated, the SECRETARY said that the estimated costs had been calculated at United Kingdom prices. It was necessary to have approved designs before approaching the Polish authorities for assistance with the work and the actual costs in Poland could only be estimated when the nature and amount of the help the Polish authorities could give became known. The estimates at United Kingdom prices gave a useful comparison with normal permissible costs and indicated that a margin of some £3,000 would be available to meet any higher costs in Poland.

Mr. HOGG said that he understood it was possible to obtain a specially favourable rate of exchange and, if desired, he would be glad to put the Secretary in touch with an expert.

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The SECRETARY thanked Mr. HOGG and said that the administration would be glad to take advantage of his offer. They had in the past received very great co-operation from the Polish authorities and had every reason to expect genuine help in this case.

It was proposed by Sir ARTHUR RUCKER, seconded by Major PARNAIK, and carried unanimously:-

7. That the Commission, having considered a paper No. W/97/428/1; W/97/428/2; W/97/428/3 dated 10th December, 1959,

RESOLVE:

That the Commission approve the sketch designs by Mr. J.D. Cox, A.R.I.B.A., for Cracow War Cemetery (design number NR/POL/CRA/3), Malbork War Cemetery (design number NR/POL/MALB/3A) and Poznan Old Garrison Cemetery (design number NR/POL/POS/4), subject to the omission of the pergola feature from the design for Poznan Old Garrison Cemetery and subject to consideration by the Finance Committee of tenders for construction of the said cemeteries.

BECCLES ROAD CEMETERY, LOWESTOFT

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper was formal and requested authority for the Seal of the Commission to be affixed to and the Proper Officer to sign the original and duplicate of the Deed of Grant by the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Lowestoft of the exclusive right of burial in a war grave of the 1914-1918 War in the Beccles Road Cemetery, Lowestoft.

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

8. That the Commission, having considered a paper No. CM.225/1/235/L dated 7th December, 1959,

RESOLVE:

That the Seal of the Commission be affixed to and the Proper Officer sign the original and duplicate of the Deed of Grant by the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Lowestoft of the exclusive right of burial in a war grave of the 1914-1918 War in the Beccles Road Cemetery, Lowestoft.

COMMONWEALTH-JAPANESE JOINT COMMITTEE:
THIRD MEETING

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper was for the information of the Commission and gave an account of the third meeting of the Commonwealth-Japanese Joint Committee which had been held in Yokohama on 30th September, 1959. Arrangements for this meeting had been made by Brigadier Brown, Secretary-General of the Anzac Agency, to coincide with one of his regular visits to Japan.

GENERAL NOTES

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper was headed "General Notes". It consisted almost entirely of reports on Remembrance Ceremonies held during November. He was sure Members were pleased to see that it had been possible to hold a ceremony in Jerusalem War Cemetery, Mount Scopus, on the 11th November. It was still not possible for normal maintenance to be carried out at this cemetery but the Area Superintendent had reported that, although he had been unable to inspect the cemetery, its general appearance had been not so bad as might have been expected considering the years of neglect.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The CHAIRMAN said that the next Meeting of the Commission would be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, 21st January, 1960.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 12.5 p.m.