

70th

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

at the

70th MEETING OF THE IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

held at

H.M. OFFICE OF WORKS

on

WEDNESDAY 8th OCTOBER 1924.

PRESENT:

Major-General SIR FABIAN WARE, K.C.V.O., K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G.,  
Vice Chairman in the Chair.

J. HOWARD, Esq.,  
Representing the High Commissioner for Canada.

Lieut. Colonel G. J. HOGBEN, O.B.E.,  
Representing the High Commissioner for Australia.

Colonel the Hon. SIR JAMES ALLEN, K.C.B.,  
High Commissioner for New Zealand.

Lieut. Colonel T. NANGLE,  
Representing the High Commissioner for Newfoundland.

SIR WILLIAM GARSTIN, G.C.M.G., G.B.E.

Admiral SIR MORGAN SINGER, K.C.B., K.C.V.O.

Colonel LORD ARTHUR BROWNE, K.B.E.,  
Principal Assistant Secretary.

THERE WERE ALSO PRESENT:

Lieut. Colonel SIR HERBERT ELLISSEN, C.B.E.

Lieut. Colonel C. P. OSWALD, O.B.E.

Major H. F. CHETTER, O.B.E.

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The minutes of the last meeting were considered and agreed.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN referred to the death of Lord Long and suggested that the Commission should send a letter of sympathy to Lady Long and her family. Lord Long had been chairman of a small Cabinet Committee which was appointed in 1917 to consider the formation of the Imperial War Graves Commission and the proposal that the war graves of the Empire should be cared for by a body on which all parts of the Empire were represented. He also presided at the two sessions of the Imperial War Conference at which the Commission's Charter of Incorporation was discussed. He took the chair at the first meeting of the Commission, and while Secretary of State for the Colonies took the most active interest in their work. His interest was moreover of a personal character, as his son, General Long, had been killed in action early in 1917.

It was moved by the Vice Chairman, seconded by Sir William Garstin and agreed unanimously, that the Vice Chairman should convey to Lady Long and her family the sympathy of the Commission.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN said that Signor Mussolini had recently paid a visit to two of the Commission cemeteries in the Asiago Plateau and laid a wreath.

The Commission would soon be prepared to erect in other French Cathedrals tablets similar to the one that had been recently unveiled at Notre Dame by the Prince of Wales. One which would soon be ready was that for Rouen, and he proposed to ask General Sir Nevill Macready to unveil it. General Macready had been responsible for the Army organisation at Rouen during the war. As regards the other tablets, he suggested

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that the High Commissioners should each undertake one of these unveilings.

It was agreed that the High Commissioners should be approached when the time came.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN read two letters he had received from Sir Henry Maddocks and Sir Herbert Nield appreciative of the work of the Commission in France.

Mr. Macdonald, the Canadian Minister of Defence, was in England and had expressed his intention of attending the meeting of the Commission that afternoon. At the last moment he had been prevented, but he had asked the Vice Chairman to express his deep interest in the work of the Commission and his regret at not being able to attend. It would be remembered that Mr. Macdonald had recently unveiled the Naval Memorial erected by the Commission at Halifax and had taken the opportunity to express great approval of the work of the Commission and to explain to the people of Canada the Imperial nature of the Commission organisation. Mr. Macdonald had also discussed with him a suggestion that he (the Vice Chairman) should take an early opportunity of visiting Canada and repeating there the lecture which he had given in different towns in England and Scotland. Mr. Macdonald had expressed the hope that this visit should take place as early as possible. The Vice Chairman desired to know the views of the Commissioners on the subject.

After some discussion it was agreed that it was most desirable for the Vice Chairman to visit Canada as soon as he could spare the time and it was hoped that he might also be able to visit other Dominions.

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REPORT OF 101st MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The following resolution was moved by Sir James Allen, seconded by Sir Morgan Singer and agreed:-

- (2) "That the report of the 101st Meeting of the Finance Committee be adopted."

ANGLO-FRENCH MIXED COMMITTEE.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN said that they had recently lost through death two of the Honorary Members of the Anglo-French Mixed Committee, M. Lavisse and Maitre Clunet, but the French Government had now nominated two distinguished Frenchmen to take their places, M. Painlevé, President of the Chamber of Deputies, and M. Fromageot, the Jurisconsulte of the Foreign Office.

The following resolution was moved by Mr. Howard, seconded by Sir William Garstin and agreed:-

- (3) "That M. Painlevé, President de la Chambre des Deputes, Membre de l'Institut, be appointed Honorary Member of the Anglo-French Mixed Committee in the place of M. Ernest Lavisse, deceased, and that M. Fromageot, Jurisconsulte du Département des Affaires Étrangères, be appointed Jurisconsulte in the place of Maître Clunet, deceased."

MEMORIAL TO MISSING AT LA FERTE SOUS JOUARRE.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN said that in accordance with a resolution of the Commission at their 52nd Meeting the design of the Memorial to the Missing at La Ferte sous Jouarre was put out to competition among the Commission's Junior Architects, Sir Aston Webb being appointed Assessor. The prize had been awarded to Major Goldsmith, but Sir Aston Webb had suggested that the design should be varied so that the Memorial should stand astride of the road-

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way instead of to one side as proposed by the Architect. Owing to Sir Aston Webb's accident and subsequent illness the modification of the design had made no progress, but in the meantime they had ascertained that the land which would be required if the Memorial was to stand across the road could not be obtained, and they had therefore proceeded with negotiations for the acquisition of the site originally contemplated by Major Goldsmith. An option had been obtained to purchase this site at a price which would work out at about £1300 plus the usual legal costs. The land to be purchased was only a part of the site, the remainder being given by the town free of charge.

Meanwhile an offer had been made of a site on the south side of the river free of charge to the Commission on condition that a tablet be included in the design stating the gift was in memory of the donor's father, and the Municipality had suggested that the offer should be considered. The Architect considered that the south side was not so suitable from the point of view of his design and would also entail more expense in the way of foundations than the original site on the north side. The Commission's Director of Works concurred and held the opinion that the extra cost of making up the foundations on the south side would amount to at least the cost of the other site, so that there appeared to be no financial advantage to the Commission in accepting the offer of a free gift of the site on the south side. Sir Frederic Kenyon was satisfied with the site originally chosen by Major Goldsmith.

After some discussion the following resolution was moved by Sir Morgan Singer, seconded by Colonel Hogben and agreed:-

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(4) "That the Memorial to the Missing be erected at La Ferte sous Jouarre on the site originally selected by the Architect.

That it be referred to the Finance Committee to consider and approve the necessary expenditure in connection with the acquisition of the site."

DIVIDENDS ON STOCK AT BANK OF ENGLAND.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN said that certain sums were held by the Commission in respect of deposits under contracts. The dividends on these deposits were the property of contractors and were reinvested by the Commission as they accumulated. The Bank of England desired that the form of request for payment of the dividends to the Commission's account should be signed under seal.

The following resolution was moved by Sir James Allen, seconded by Colonel Mangle and agreed:-

- (5) 1. "That the seal of the Commission be affixed to and the proper officer sign the form of request to the Chief Accountant, Bank of England, to forward all dividend warrants due and to become due and payable on the £5,136. 19. 5 Local Loans 3% Stock standing in the name of the Commission at the Bank of England to Messrs. Glyn, Mills & Co., Holt's Branch, 3, Whitehall Court, S.W.1.
- 2. That the seal of the Commission be affixed to and the proper officer sign the form of request to the Chief Accountant, Bank of England, to forward all dividend warrants due and to become due and payable on the £2011. 5. 9 3½% Conversion Stock standing in the name of the Commission at the Bank of England to Messrs. Glyn, Mills & Co., Holt's Branch, 3,

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Whitehall Court, S.W.1."

STAFF OF THE COMMISSION.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN said there were the usual resolutions.

The following resolutions were moved by Sir William Garstin, seconded by Colonel Hogben and agreed:-

APPOINTMENTS.

(6.A) "That the Commission hereby approve the appointment of the under-mentioned officers and of the payment to them out of the funds of the Commission of the approved salaries as from the dates set out against their names.

NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	SALARY.	DATE.	AUTHORITY.
Nicol, W.	Clerk of Works, B. East Africa.	£450 per annum.	22/6/24.	F.C.Res.4/63 of 14.9.22.
Rayner, T.B.	Junior Assistant, B. East Africa.	£270 per annum.	11/8/24.	F.C.Res.11/86 of 5.12.23.
Pinker, J.	Clerk of Works, B. East Africa.	£450 per annum.	29/7/24.	F.C.Res.4/63 of 14.9.22."



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PROMOTIONS.

(6.B) "That the Commission hereby approve the promotion of the under-mentioned officers and of the payment to them out of the funds of the Commission of the approved salaries as from the dates set out against their names.

NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	SALARY.	DATE.	AUTHORITY.
Capt. Stiles, R.	Asst.Reg.Officer, France..... to Reg. Officer, France.....	@ £350/15/400 p.a. @ £400/20/500 p.a.	19.9.24.	F.C.Res.S/10 of 22.2.21.
Webley, F.W.	Supt. Clerk, France..... to Ass.Reg. Officer, France..	@ £250/10/350 p.a. @ £350/15/400 p.a.	19.9.24.	F.C.Res.12/45 of 27.10.21."

RESIGNATIONS.

(6.C) "That the Commission hereby approve the resignation of the under-mentioned officers as from the dates set out against their names.

NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	SALARY.	DATE.
Pratt, E.L.	Draughtsman "A", France.	£300/15/350 p.a.	4/10/24.
Baker, H.	2nd Principal Asst., East Africa.	£700 per annum.	30/9/24.
Lacey, H.L.	3rd Principal Asst., East Africa.	£720 per annum.	7/10/24."

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TERMINATIONS.

(6.D) "That the Commission hereby approve the termination of the contract of the under-mentioned officers as from the dates set out against their names.

NAME.	APPOINTMENT.	SALARY.	DATE.
Laing, G.J.	Clerk of Works, "A", East Africa.	£475 per annum.	8.8.24.
Archibald, D.B.	Clerk of Works, "B", East Africa.	£450 per annum.	31.7.24."

GERMAN CEMETERIES IN THE OLD BRITISH ZONE IN BELGIUM.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN said the Army Authorities had made an arrangement with the French, which the Commission had carried out subsequently, that all work in connection with German graves and bodies in the old British zone should be carried out at British expense. Similar arrangements had been made with the Belgian Authorities to tidy and hand over to the Belgians the German cemeteries created by the Germans south of the Menin-Ypres-Poperinghe road. This agreement had never been carried out and he thought it was the duty of the Commission to do so. The Commission had considered that it was to their advantage to take over all the work that was being done by the Army organisation in France. There were 43 cemeteries concerned, 34 of which could be dealt with at once; for the remainder they were awaiting permission from the owners. The responsibility of the Commission ended

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with handing over the cemeteries to the Belgians.

The following resolution was moved by Sir James Allen, seconded by Sir Morgan Singer and agreed:-

(7) "That the Commission having considered a statement by the Principal Assistant Secretary No.6/L24/303/31 dated 6th October 1924, approve the proposal to put in order and hand over to the Belgian Authorities the Cemeteries created by the Germans in the old British zone south of the Menin-Ypres-Poperinghe road.

That the Finance Committee be authorised to consider and approve the necessary expenditure."

THE VICE CHAIRMAN said that the appointment of Colonel J. B. Wells as a member of the Anglo-Egyptian War Cemeteries Executive Committee had been approved by the Commission at their 68th Meeting provided that the appointment should not be valid until approved by the Egyptian Government. This approval had now been received and Colonel Wells had therefore been appointed.

Since the last meeting of the Commission five cemetery registers for seven cemeteries had been published containing nearly 5000 entries. 1826 copies had been sold. This amounted to 36.6 per cent of the number of names.

*L. M. ...*