

WG

458

1500/1/82

PRE WAR CEMETERIES

TRIPOLI BRITISH
PROTESTANT CEMETERY
N. AFRICA.

1896/1/82

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CWGC Archives
Item: WG 1500/1/82
Catalogue no.: 1003
Box 1091

FOR IMPORTANT CROSS REFERENCES.

Heading.	Precis.	File No.	Date of Letter.
	<i>Acquisition Palestine & Syria</i>	<i>663</i>	

Copy file
Please P/A.
P.P. 9/11/50
N.L.4284/50.

25th October, 1950. xxx

Sir,

I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of the information accompanying your letter of the 2nd October, 1950, K.5/56.

2. With reference to the letter dated the 11th September 1950, from the British Embassy, Copenhagen, it is necessary to explain as regards the query raised in the third paragraph of that letter that the expenditure authorised by the Admiralty concerns the maintenance of the monument in the Sonder Nissum Cemetery, North Jutland, to men of the "DEFENCE" and "ST. GEORGE" who were lost in the disaster of the 24th December 1811. It is regretted that Admiralty Letter of the 10th August 1949 left the impression that graves were concerned.

3. As to the query in the fourth paragraph of the Embassy's letter, the reason for payment for the upkeep of the grave of Signalman Percival G. Lake, who died on the 4th October 1932, by the Admiralty is that, in view of the date of death, the Imperial War Graves Commission were unable to undertake responsibility for the grave. *Copenhagen Denmark*

4. As regards the letter dated the 13th September 1950, from the British Legation, Beirut, I am to refer you to Admiralty Letter of the 28th June, 1926, N.L.1632/26, which dealt with the subject of the maintenance of the naval graves in the British Protestant Cemetery at Tripoli, North Africa and to Foreign Office letter of the 5th February 1926, K.1625/158/222, which forwarded a list of the naval etc., personnel concerned, together with the numbers of the graves.

5. A copy of this letter is being forwarded to the Imperial War Graves Commission.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(sd) A. J. Osley

The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
Whitehall,
S.W.1.

WDC.



K5/56.

With the Compliments

of the

Under-Secretary of State

for Foreign Affairs.

The Secretary

Imperial War Graves

Commission

Foreign Office

3^d Oct. 1950.

C O P Y

K5/56

FOREIGN OFFICE,
S.W.1.

2nd October 1950

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Attlee to enclose for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, with reference to their letter NL/1700/50 of the 11th May, the attached copies of letters from the British Legation, Beirut and the British Embassy, Copenhagen, about the maintenance of graves of naval personnel in Syria and Denmark.

Copies of these reports are being sent to the Headquarters of the Imperial War Graves Commission for information.

It would appear that, with one exception, the grave of Signalman Lake at Vestre Kirkegaard, Copenhagen, the charges for the maintenance of these graves have been met by the Imperial War Graves Commission. Admiralty letter NL/848/48 dated the 6th January 1949 approved the expenditure of Kroner 52 per annum with effect from the 1st April 1948, for the upkeep of Signalman Lake's grave.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(sgd.) C.G. KEMBALL

The Secretary
of the Admiralty.

CWGC/1/1/11/27 (WG 1500/1/82)

British Legation
(Consular Section)
BEIRUT.

(570/3/7/50)

13th September, 1950.

Dear Consular Department,

Please refer to our letter (570/3/5/50) dated 26th August about the graves of British Naval personnel in Lebanese cemeteries.

2. The Vice-Consul at Tripoli informs us that the Victoria Cemetery is the responsibility of the Imperial War Graves Commission (I.W.G.C.) and he was under the impression that the I.W.G.C. assumed responsibility for the naval graves there. The graves in question are tended by the I.W.G.C. gardener and are surrounded by an iron railing. The Vice-Consul is of the opinion that this railing requires re-painting.

3. No trace of any British grave could be found in the Protestant Cemetery, Tripoli. If further details of the plots for which expenditure was incurred during the period 1934 - 1937 can be given, we will make further enquiries.

Yours ever,

BEIRUT CONSULAR SECTION *B*

Consular Department,
Foreign Office,
LONDON, S.W.1.

BR. COPY.

*Original on
F209.*

WG 1500/1/82

S. 28468.

*

TREASURY CHAMBERS,

9th June, 1926.
10/F26/4/F.1.

Sir,

With further reference to Colonel Oswald's letter of the 15th December last (25/M25/5/F.1), I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to transmit herewith to be laid before the Imperial War Graves Commission a copy of a letter which They are this day causing to be addressed to the Admiralty relative to the upkeep of naval graves in the Protestant Cemetery at Tripoli.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sd) G. L. Barstow.

The Vice Chairman,
Imperial War Graves Commission.

BR. COPY.

wg 1500/1/82

S. 28468.

9th June 1926.

Sir,

In reply to Sir Charles Walker's letter (N.L.417/26) of the 3rd instant, I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to request you to convey to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty Their sanction to the grant of £2.10.0 per annum towards the maintenance of the Naval graves in the British Protestant Cemetery at Tripoli from the £50 provided for the upkeep of Naval graves in foreign Cemeteries.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd) G. L. Barstow.

The Secretary,
Admiralty.

KBB/BR.

Wly 1500/1/82

✓ 30/N25/1/F.

31st December, 1925.

Sir,

British Protestant Cemetery - Tripoli, Libya.

With further reference to Foreign Office Letter of the 24th November, K.14570/1401/222. I am directed to state, for the information of Secretary Sir Austen Chamberlain, that the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury have notified the Imperial War Graves Commission that the above Cemetery was classed as a Civil Cemetery by the Cemeteries Committee of 1889, and that Their Lordships regret that They are unable to depart from Their established policy of refusing to make contributions from public funds towards the upkeep of civil Cemeteries in foreign countries.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

for Major General,
Vice Chairman.

BR. COPY.
Original on F209

Wg 1500/1/82
✓ 30/N/1/F
TREASURY CHAMBERS,

S. 28468.

29 Dec. 1925.

Sir,

In reply to Colonel Oswald's letter of the 15th instant (25/M25/5/F.1). enclosing a copy of a letter from the Foreign Office dated the 24th ultimo and of Despatches from His Majesty's Consul at Tripoli relative to the upkeep of the old Cemetery at Tripoli I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to request you to inform the Imperial War Graves Commission that this Cemetery was classed as a Civil Cemetery by the Cemeteries Committee of 1889, and as stated in the letter under reply the annual contribution of £5. towards its upkeep was discontinued in 1891, in pursuance of the recommendations of the Committee.

My Lords regret that They are unable to depart from Their established policy of refusing to make contributions from public funds towards the upkeep of civil Cemeteries in foreign countries.

I am to add that the naval personnel drowned in the disaster to His Majesty's Ship Victoria are not interred in this Cemetery but in a Cemetery at El Mina, which is maintained by the Admiralty from the provision in Navy Vote 10 E. for the upkeep of Naval Graves in Foreign Countries.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sd) R. S. Meiklejohn.

KB/BR.

WG 1500/1/82

B7
16 Jan.
N.B.
12/12

25/M25/5/F.1.

15th December, 1925.

Sir,

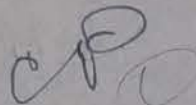
British Protestant Cemetery,
Tripoli, Libya.

I am directed by the Imperial War Graves Commission to forward the accompanying copy letter and despatches relative to the above cemetery, which have been received from the Foreign Office. So far as the Commission are aware, there are no British nor Dominion Great War Graves in the Cemetery, and any possible grant for up-keep would be a charge on Subhead "E".

In a letter to the Foreign Office of the 29th July, 1924, His Majesty's Office of Works expressed the opinion that, in view of the final grant of £30. made in 1891, the Consul's suggestion for an annual grant cannot be complied with; the Commission would be glad to receive a ruling from the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury in the matter.

It is probably within their Lordships' knowledge that in 1843 His Majesty's Consul at Tripoli stated that Messrs Drummond and Company would cause the sum of £200. to be lodged in the Bank of England on his behalf, the interest on this sum to be applied for Cemetery repairs, and that in reply to a recent application from the Foreign Office, the Bank of England stated that on the information given, they are unable to trace the said deposit.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,



The Secretary,
H.M. Treasury,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

for Major General,
Vice Chairman.

KB/BR.

W.G. 1500/1/82

25/M25/5/F.1.

12th December, 1925.

Sir,


British Protestant Cemetery,
Tripoli, Libya.

I am directed by the Imperial War Graves Commission to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th November, K.14570/1401/222, and to say that the question of a grant towards the upkeep of the above Cemetery is being referred to H.M. Treasury.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
LONDON, S.W.1.


for Major-General,
Vice-Chairman.

1500/1/82

HFC/IS.

Ref. 8/N25/47/R.
XY/3917.

DEPUTY FINANCIAL ADVISER.

11.N25.5 F2

TRIPOLI BRITISH PROTESTANT
CEMETERY, LIBYA.

I return my 28/M25/53/R.

So far as we are aware there are not
British or Dominion War Graves in Tripoli
British Protestant Cemetery, Libya.

W.F. Cheble

DIRECTOR OF RECORDS.

I.W.G.C.,
London.

9.12.25.

Copy to:- Registrar.

Copy on W9 663.

Ref. 28/M25/53/R.
XY/3917.

HFG/IS.

DEPUTY FINANCIAL ADVISER.

1500/1/82

TRIPOLI BRITISH PROTESTANT CEMETERY.

With reference to Colonel Oswald's 25/M25/303/S3 I attach a carbon of a minute by the Registrar.

So far as I know there are, or were, at Tripoli, on the coast of Syria, the following cemeteries:-

TRIPOLI MILITARY CEMETERY, which originally contained British and Indian burials. It appears to have been used in October and November, 1918, and December, 1918, and it was closed in January, 1919.

TRIPOLI INDIAN CEMETERY, which also was closed in January, 1919.

EL MINA MILITARY CEMETERY, which was used in December, 1918, and January and April, 1919.

EL MINA NEW INDIAN CEMETERY, which was begun in January, 1919 alongside EL MINA NAVAL CEMETERY, and contains two burials of March and July, 1919.

EL MINA NAVAL CEMETERY, which does not appear to contain any British or Dominion War Graves, but does contain the graves of 8 sailors of the Royal Navy who were drowned off the Syrian coast in 1895.

To establish absolute certainty on the subject I would suggest that enquiry should be made of the Deputy Controller, Eastern District.

Registrar

It was TRIPOLI in
LIBYA. Do you know

Many war graves
there? I don't.

DIRECTOR OF RECORDS.

H F Cheale

1000 3/12/25

I.W.G.C.,
London.

3.12.25.

CLM/DMJ.

1500/1/82
8/M25/47/L

Reference:- XY/3917.

DIRECTOR OF RECORDS.

TRIPOLI BRITISH PROTESTANT CEMETERY, Libya.

With reference to your 28/M25/53/R of 3.12.25 addressed to the Deputy Financial Adviser, and your manuscript notes of the same date.

It would appear from the Atlas that Libya is shewn under Tripoli, and under this heading (as you are aware) there were recorded two Naval ratings of the S.S. "Tara" buried at Port Sulieman, Barbis, Tripoli, and as these graves were desecrated and the remains destroyed, you decided that they should be commemorated on the "Missing" Memorial in Hadra War Cemetery, Alexandria under your 28/K25/11/R of 29.9.25.

These cases do not seem to connect with Tripoli British Protestant Cemetery.

C. J. ...
REGISTER

I.W.G.C.
London.

7.12.25.

CLM/DMJ.

28/11/25/53/R

1500/1/82

36765

Reference:- KY/3917.



DIRECTOR OF RECORDS.

BRITISH PROTESTANT CEMETERY AT TRIPOLI.

With reference to Colonel Oswald's minute of 25.11.25.

It is not clear whether Tripoli on the Syrian coast or Tripoli on the coast of Libya (Italian Territory) is intended. I imagine the former and I cannot trace any such recorded Cemetery or one containing the graves of British sailors.

For Tripoli (Syria) there are :-

El Mina Military Cemetery..... 8 Indians.

El Mina New Indian Cemetery..... 2 Indians.

El Mina Military Cemetery contained also one British grave but this was removed to Beirut War Cemetery (together with 42 British from Tripoli Military Cemetery) and there are now only the Indians left. It is possible that Tripoli Military Cemetery is concerned but without further particulars I am unable to say.

C. King
REGISTRAR.

I.W.G.C.
London.

28.11.25.

KB/BR.

26/M25/131/R

1500/1/82

25/M25/303/S.3.

3917.

DIRECTOR OF RECORDS.

British Protestant Cemetery at Tripoli.

In a copy despatch received from Foreign Office, His Majesty's Consul at Tripoli states that the above pre-War Cemetery "contains the graves of several British sailors who were drowned from time to time on this coast". Do we know of any Great War Graves in this Cemetery, please?

E. Oswald

I. W. G. C.,
LONDON.

Deputy Financial Adviser.

25th November, 1925.

Registrar

*Please say
me*

26/25.

In any further communication
on this subject, please quote

No. K 14570/1401/222
and address—

not to any person by name,
but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State,"
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

25/m 25/5/71

1500/1/82

FOREIGN OFFICE. S.W.1.

24th November, 1925.

Sir,

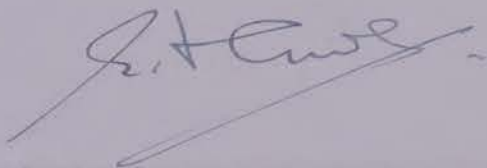
I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you herewith copies of two despatches from His Majesty's Consul at Tripoli, relative to the upkeep etc. of the British Protestant cemetery at that place. Copies of both despatches were sent by this department to His Majesty's Office of Works, to whom it was suggested that, before approaching the Admiralty in the matter, it might be well to obtain from Major Dodds further particulars as to the sailors whose graves are concerned and, in particular, information as to whether they formed part of the crew of one of His Majesty's ships.

2. The Board have however replied that the interest in the cemetery, together with all previous papers, has been transferred to your Commission, and I am therefore to enquire what reply you would wish to be returned to Major Dodds's enquiries.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,



The Secretary,

Imperial War Graves Commission.

OPY

(K 13710/1401/222)

No. 76

1500/1/82
BRITISH CONSULATE,

TRIPOLI, No. 1,

LIBYA, N. AFRICA.

October 9th, 1925.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a document of some interest, relative to the Consular house and Protestant cemetery at this place, which I have found among the archives. His Majesty's Office of Works will probably wish to keep this record with the other papers relating to the Consulate which I forwarded with my despatch No. 16 of February 28th last.

2. From this document it will be seen that a grant of land was made by the Caramanlis in 1830 to the Protestant consuls to be used as a burial ground and that since 1840 the cemetery has been under the exclusive care and control of this Consulate. Moreover His Majesty's Government were in the habit of granting £5 a year for the maintenance of the cemetery.

3. I have so far been unable to discover from the archives when or why this grant was discontinued. It occurs to me, however, to suggest, on the strength of the precedent for a grant, that His Majesty's Office of Works may see their way to reconsider the decision conveyed to me in Foreign Office despatch No. 36 (K 11010/7853/222) of August 9th,

1924/

The Right Honourable
Austen Chamberlain, M.P.,
etc., etc., etc.,

1500/1/82

1924, more especially as unless His Majesty's Government continue to care for the cemetery, which contains the tombs of several British consuls, no one else will do so and it will fall into complete disrepair.

4. For the sum of five pounds a year the cemetery could be maintained in proper order.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) Hugh Dodds.

COPY

1500/1/82

(K 14027/1401/222)

BRITISH CONSULATE,

No. 79

TRIPOLI, No. 1,

LIBYA, N.AFRICA.

October 17th, 1925.

Sir,

With reference to my despatch No. 76 of the 9th instant, relative to the Protestant cemetery at this place, I have the honour to inform you that I have now found, among the archives of this Consulate, Foreign Office circular of March 31st, 1890, dealing with the question of cemeteries abroad generally, together with Foreign Office despatch No. 7547/91 of June 3rd, 1891, which gave a final grant of thirty pounds towards the maintenance of the cemetery.

2. I regret that I had not found these documents before writing to you on this subject. The archives of this Consulate, which I am now putting into order, are in such a state of chaos that it is as yet quite impossible to find anything and it was only by chance that I came across these papers.

3. The Foreign Office circular of 1890 suggests that the cemeteries abroad should either be handed over to local committees or local authorities. I would observe, however, in this connection, that neither of these courses are practicable in Tripoli

The Right Honourable
Austen Chamberlain, M.P.,
etc., etc., etc.,

because/

1500/1/82

because there is no British Protestant community and the local Roman Catholic authorities would not take the slightest interest in the upkeep of a Protestant cemetery.

4. It occurs to me that the difficulty might be overcome if the Admiralty could be persuaded to make a small annual grant, in accordance with paragraph 4 of the circular referred to, if it was pointed out that the cemetery contains the graves of several British sailors who were drowned from time to time on this coast.

5. I regret very much to trouble you so often in this matter, but, I am anxious to find means to preserve the cemetery which is of considerable historic and sentimental interest to this Consulate.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) Hugh Dodds

CWGC/1/1/11/27 (WG 1500/1/82)

CWGC/1/1/11/27 (WG 1500/1/82)