

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~WG 10/12~~

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MAJ. GEN. SIR. JOHN KENNEDY, K.B.E.,
C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

WG 10/12 Successor to Sir John Kennedy

*PA 10/12
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CWGC Archives

Item: WG 10/12

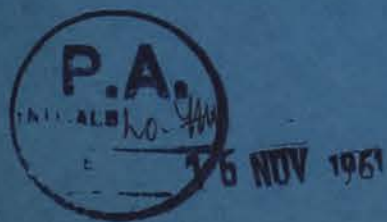
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Box 1131

CWGC/1/1/12/13 (WG 10/12)

Successor to Lord Stanley as Member of The Commission
appointed -

Lord Stanley - W.G. 1674.



307th Meeting
16.9.48

DEATH OF MAJOR-GENERAL SIR JOHN KENNEDY, GBE, CB.,
CMG, DSO.

The CHAIRMAN said that Major-General Sir John Kennedy, Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee of the British Red Cross Society, had become a Commissioner in May 1939 as the representative of the British Red Cross Society in succession to the late Lord Stanley. From then until March 1946, when many other commitments forced him to relinquish his direct connection with the Commission, he had taken a deep and sympathetic interest in the work of the Commission.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the following Resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

3. That the Commission place on record their profound regret at the death of Major-General Sir John Kennedy, GBE, CB, CMG, DSO, a Member of the Commission from 1939 to 1946. They recall with gratitude the close and sustained interest taken by this distinguished soldier in the work of the Commission and they desire to express to his family their sincere sympathy.

The Members of the Commission and their staff then stood for a few moments in silent tribute to the memory of the late Colonel Sir John Shute and Major-General Sir John Kennedy.

From: Admiral Sir Martin Dunbar-Nasmith, VC., KCB

16th September, 1948.

Dear Lady Kennedy,

At the 307th Meeting of the Imperial War Graves Commission, held today, tribute was paid to the memory of your husband, Major-General Sir John Kennedy. The following Resolution, which was moved from the Chair, was carried unanimously and the members afterwards stood in silence.

What the Commission place on record their profound regret at the death of Major-General Sir John Kennedy, GBE, CB, CMG, DSO, a Member of the Commission from 1939 to 1946. They recall with gratitude the close and sustained interest taken by this distinguished soldier in the work of the Commission and they desire to express to his family their sincere sympathy.

In sending you this may I add my own very deep sympathy and also that of my wife in your loss?

Yours sincerely,

M.D.N.

Lady Kennedy,
32, Hereford House,
Park Lane,
London, W.1.

Times 7.9.48

Sept. 7/48

R 7 1948

Obituary

MAJ.-GEN. SIR JOHN KENNEDY

A LIFE OF SERVICE

Major-General Sir John Kennedy, G.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., vice-chairman of the executive committee of the British Red Cross Society, and Lieutenant of the Tower of London since 1945, died at his home in London on Sunday after a short illness.

He was one of the many distinguished soldiers produced by The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and won a great reputation during the 1914-18 war as a bold and resourceful leader and an excellent trainer of troops. His sense of humour and zest for life had a tonic effect upon officers and men alike, and between the wars he played a valuable part in Army training until his military career was cut short by ill-health. He did not, however, relax his efforts in the service of his country, for he did sterling work for the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem almost up to the time of his death.

The son of Lieutenant-Colonel John Kennedy, 5th Dragoon Guards, of Dumfriesshire, he was born on November 20, 1878, and went to Haileybury before entering Sandhurst. Gazetted to The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in 1898, he was adjutant of the 2nd Battalion from 1903 to 1906. In 1909 he was accepted for employment under the Egyptian Army, where he served on the staff, and was A.D.C. to the Sirdar, Sir F. R. Wingate.

When war broke out in 1914 he lost no time in rejoining his regiment, arriving in November in Flanders, where the 2nd Battalion, then serving in 6 Division, was settling down to a winter in the trenches. He was appointed adjutant early in 1915, but in July he was severely wounded by a shell. When again fit for active service, in May, 1916, he was selected to command the 7th Seaforth Highlanders in 9 (New Army) Division. With the Seaforth he fought in the battles of the Somme, including the dawn attack at Longueval, July 14, where he showed his powers of leadership; and in August he passed to the command of the 10th (New Army) Battalion of his own regiment, which he led in the concluding stages of the offensive. In December he was selected to command the 26 Brigade.

As a brigade commander he took part in the battles of Arras, 1917, where he was buried by a shell burst, and dug out practically unharmed; at "Third Ypres" in September and October; and during the German offensive of March, 1918. In the last-named struggle he conducted a masterly withdrawal across the Canal du Nord and the old Somme battlefield, having one horse shot under him. When the tide turned, 9 Division was in Flanders, and in July he recaptured Meteren with his brigade. This proved to be his last engagement of the war for he was then brought home for a rest and, after commanding the Sheppey Reserve Infantry Brigade, was appointed an Inspector of Infantry in October, 1918. He had gained a brevet in June, 1916, he had been awarded the D.S.O. and a bar, and his services were mentioned in dispatches six times. In 1918 he was created C.M.G.

In June, 1919, he left the War Office, being promoted brevet colonel, and in September he became Commandant of the Senior Officers' School at Woking, a post he held until the end of March, 1923, when he was appointed to command the 2nd Buffs. Leaving the battalion in November, 1926, when his substantive promotion to colonel was ante-dated to the date of his brevet, he commanded an Indian infantry brigade until May, 1930, when he went on half-pay. In April, 1931, he reached the rank of major-general, and he was created C.B. in 1932. His appointment to command 44 (Home Counties) Division of the Territorial Army in January, 1933, was the preliminary to his arrival at Aldershot in April, 1934, as G.O.C. I Division, and here he applied himself with energy and success to training for war on modern lines. It was to the genuine regret of all who knew him that in November, 1936, he was obliged to retire owing to the state of his health, and his departure was a distinct loss to the army. He was created K.B.E. in 1937 and was Colonel of the Buffs from 1937 to 1943.

In 1919 he married Mrs. C. R. Pawson, daughter of Captain Upton Caskell, Ingersley Hall, Cheshire. There were two sons of the marriage.

W, writes:—

By the death of Sir John Kennedy this country loses the services of a man who, in his prime, earned distinction as a soldier and, since his retirement from active service, has earned even more widespread recognition for his efforts to alleviate the suffering that inevitably follows war. For these services he was awarded high decorations by many nations. He was given the G.B.E. by his own country; in addition to the Knight Grand Cross of Dannebrog, he was made Knight Commander of the Royal Order of St. Olaf, Grand Officer of the Royal Order of George I of Greece, Grand Officer of the Order of Orange Nassau, and was one of the first three holders of the Prince Carl Gold Medal of Sweden.

Before the outbreak of the 1939-45 war he joined the British Red Cross Society as deputy chairman, and in the same year became the first chairman of the Emergency War Committee of the Red Cross and the Order of St. John, and when the Joint War Organization was formed he became vice-chairman of that body over which Field-Marshal Lord Chetwode presided. The magnificent efforts that the Joint War Organization of the British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John made for the health of prisoners of war and for the care of the sick and wounded in every theatre of war is one of the great stories of British philanthropy, and Sir John was unsparing in his devotion to its cause.

When the war ended he might, with much reason, have found excuse for a greater and richly earned leisure. Instead, day in and day out, he devoted his vast experience and his clear brain to the building up of the Red Cross on a peace-time basis. His quiet enthusiasm for the work and his personal example of sacrifice left the rest of us struggling to follow in his wake; always he was leading, always giving us the clear definition and precise thought that long experience as a regimental soldier had made into a habit with him. He never relaxed his efforts to get the Red Cross on to a realistic basis; if ever he was aggravated—and he had exemplary patience—it was by sloppy thinking; he was a man of principle and in the Red Cross he laid down principles of action which were as cogently put forward in Geneva as in London. His interest in distressed ex-Service men was shown in his membership of the executives of the Soldiers', Sailors', and Airmen's Help Society, in the Lord Roberts' Memorial Workshops, and in the Star and Garter Home at Richmond.

This catalogue of a very full life speaks for itself of the man in public affairs, but it gives but a part of the story of his life. It was in his personal relations that he excelled. Modest almost beyond belief, he endeared himself to all who worked with him; he had an enviable capacity for friendship and for interest in people even greater than his interest in movements and beneficent works. Those of us who were privileged to work with him, loved him, and the inspiration that he gave us will long outlive him; his friendship remains a dear possession.

WG 10/12

**WAR ORGANISATION
OF THE
BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY and ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM**
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:



Chairman:
FIELD-MARSHAL LORD CHETWODE, G.C.B., O.M., G.C.S.I.,
K.C.M.G., D.S.O.

Vice-Chairman:
MAJ.-GENERAL SIR JOHN KENNEDY, G.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

Deputy Chairmen:
SIR ERNEST BURDON, K.C.I.E., C.S.I. THE COUNTESS OF LIMERICK, D.B.E.

Joint Secretaries:
W. J. PHILLIPS, ESQ. MAJ.-GEN. J. E. T. YOUNGER, C.B.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"ASSISTANCE, KNIGHTS, LONDON"

14 GROSVENOR CRESCENT,
LONDON, S.W.1
SLOANE 5191.

PLEASE REPLY TO
THE JOINT SECRETARIES
AND QUOTE REF.

JK/SAK

23rd April, 1946.

Dear *Sir Fabian*

Very many thanks for your letter
with the kind message from yourself and
the members of the Commission and members
of your staff.

Will you thank them for their appreciation
of the small amount I have been able to
do and for their good wishes for the future.

Yours *Sincerely*

John Kennedy

Major-General Sir Fabian Ware, KCVO, KBE, etc.,
Imperial War Graves Commission,
Wooburn House,
Wooburn Green,
High Wycombe,
Bucks.

(6A)

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OF THE
BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY and ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**



Chairman:

FIELD-MARSHAL THE LORD CHETWODE, G.C.B., O.M., G.C.S.I.,
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MAJ.-GENERAL SIR JOHN KENNEDY, K.B.E., C.B. C.M.G., D.S.O.

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14 GROSVENOR CRESCENT,
LONDON, S.W.1
SLOANE 5191.

PLEASE REPLY TO
THE JOINT SECRETARIES
AND QUOTE REF.

JK/SAK

9th October, 1945.

Dear Sir Fabian,

Very many thanks for sending me a copy of the Duke of Gloucester's letter. It is very satisfactory to get such a good report of the Cemeteries.

I am very sorry to have missed so many meetings lately, we have so many here that it is difficult to fit in, and I have also been laid up for a bit with a threatening of an old heart trouble.

I think it might be a good thing if you had another Red Cross representative in my place with more time and energy. We have just appointed a Major-General Hawes as our Secretary General; an able man with a good record, and I was hoping he would relieve me of some Committees. Would you agree to this?

- over -

Major General L. A. Hawes CBE, DSO, MC

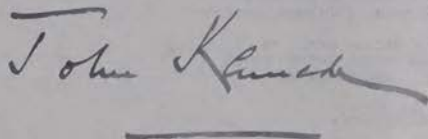
The V-C would like to discuss the replacement of Sir John at the Trustees Meeting on the 16th

CWGC/1/1/12/13 (WG 10/12)

14.10.45

I am afraid I have never given you
the help I should have liked, but the War has
been rather a big adventure for the Red Cross.

Yours sincerely,


A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Knuck", is written above a horizontal line.

Maj.General Sir Fabian Ware,
K.C.V.O., K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., LL.D.
Imperial War Graves Commission,
Wooburn House,
Wooburn Green,
High Wycombe,
Bucks.

18th April 1946.

My dear Sir John,

At their meeting yesterday, the Commission expressed great regret at losing you from their counsels and asked me to convey to you their most grateful appreciation of the valuable help and advice you have given them since you became a member in 1939. They also asked me to send you their good wishes for your happiness in your important new appointment.

Those members of my staff who have had the pleasure of being in touch with you during the past seven years would like to join in this expression of thanks and good wishes.

*Yours very sincerely
T.W.*

Major-General Sir John Kennedy, G.B.E.,
C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.,
British Red Cross Society,
14 Grosvenor Crescent,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Tel. No.—Whitehall 9400.

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to:—
The Under-Secretary of State,
The War Office,
London, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted.



THE WAR OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1.

45/Gen/4357 (C.2.)

31st May, 1939.

Sir,

With reference to your letter dated 26th April, 1939, No. W.G.10/12, I am directed to transmit herewith the Warrant, signed by the Counsellors of State, who have been appointed to act on behalf of His Majesty during His absence, and counter-signed by the Secretary of State, appointing Major-General Sir John Kennedy, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., to be a member of the Imperial War Graves Commission in the place of the late Lord Stanley, P.C., M.C.

It is requested that receipt of the Warrant may be acknowledged.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

T. B. Williamson

The Principal Assistant Secretary,
Imperial War Graves Commission,
32, Grosvenor Gardens,
S.W.1.

CWGC/1/1/12/13 (WG 10/12)

Warrant appointing Major-General

Sir John Kennedy, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G.,

D.S.O., to be a Member of the Imperial

War Graves Commission.

Copy checked under original 7.6.39

IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

Request on behalf of Mrs Knapp (Sgt) Henry (Sgt) George

GEORGE THE SIXTH, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India:

To Our trusty and well beloved Sir John Kennedy, Knight Commander of Our Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Companion of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Companion of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of Our Distinguished Service Order, Major-General (retired),
GREETING:

WHEREAS His late Majesty King George the Fifth did by Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the Realm, bearing date at Westminster the Twenty-first day of May in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventeen and in the eighth year of His said late Majesty's Reign, create, constitute and establish by Royal Charter a Body Corporate by the name of "The Imperial War Graves Commission":

AND WHEREAS His said late Majesty did by the said Charter ordain that the Members of the said Commission should consist of the President and the Official Members therein designated, and such other persons, not exceeding the number of eight in all, as might from time to time be appointed Members by Royal Warrant under the Sign Manual of the Sovereign for the time being:

NOW KNOW YOU that We have thought fit to constitute and appoint and We do hereby by this Our Royal Warrant under Our Sign Manual constitute and appoint you, the said Major-General Sir John Kennedy, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., to be with the persons named in the said Charter and with the other persons duly appointed, a Member of the Imperial War Graves Commission, with the powers and authorities and subject to the directions and orders contained in the said Charter.

GIVEN at Our Court at St. James's this *Twenty-second* day of *May* in the *third* year of Our Reign and in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-nine.

(Sgd) *Leslie Anne Belcher*

IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

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To Our trusty and well beloved Sir John Kennedy, Knight Commander of Our Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Companion of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Companion of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of Our Distinguished Service Order, Major-General (retired),
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NOW KNOW YOU that We have thought fit to constitute and appoint and We do hereby by this Our Royal Warrant under Our Sign Manual constitute and appoint you, the said Major-General Sir John Kennedy, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., to be with the persons named in the said Charter and with the other persons duly appointed, a Member of the Imperial War Graves Commission, with the powers and authorities and subject to the directions and orders contained in the said Charter.

GIVEN at Our Court at St. James's this
day of in the year of
Our Reign and in the year of Our Lord One
Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-nine.

WG. 10/12.

19th. April, 1939.

My dear Stanley,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 6th. April, from which I am glad to learn that Sir John Kennedy is prepared to serve on the Commission. *I am announcing this to the Commission at their meeting this afternoon.*
I will take an early opportunity of getting into touch with him with a view to arranging an interview, but, as I have to go over to France myself to-morrow, this will have to be postponed until my return towards the end of next week.

Yours ever,

(Sa) YW

The Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, GBE., CB.,
The Treasurer's House, *14 Grosvenor Crescent.*
St. Thomas's Hospital,
London, S.W.1.

Extract from Who's Who 1939.

KENNEDY, Maj.Gen. Sir John, K.B.E. cr.1937;
C.B. 1932; C.M.G.,1918; D.S.O.,1916; b. 1878.
s. of late Lieut. Colonel John Kennedy, 5th.
Dragoon Guards; m. 1919 Mrs. C.R.Pawson, d.
of Capt. Upton Gaskell, J.P., Ingersley Hall,
Cheshire.

Educ: Haileybury; entered Argyll & Sutherland
Highlanders, 1898; Maj.Gen.1931; retired ill-
health 1936; Egyptian Army, 1909-1914; served
European War, France and Belgium, 1914-1918
(twice wounded, despatches six times, D.S.O. and
bar); Brevets Lt.Col. and Col. C.M.G.; 1914 star
and two medals; Commanded 7th. Seaforth Highlanders
1916; 26th. (Highland) Brigade 1917-1918; Inspector
of Infantry 1918; Instructor Senior Officers
School, 1919; Commanded 2nd. Buffs, 1923; 19th.
Indian Infantry Brigade 1926; 44th. Home Counties
Division T.A. 1932; 1st. Division, 1934-1936;
Colonel of The Buffs 1937. Orders of The Nile
and of Dannebrog. Address: 5 Cavendish Road,
St. John's Wood, N.W.8.

Club: Army & Navy.

TELEPHONE NO.
SLOANE 5191.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"ASSISTANCE, KNIGHTS, LONDON."

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1870. INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1908.



Patron
HIS MAJESTY THE KING.

President:
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

Chairman of the Council:
H.R.H. THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER, K.G.

Deputy Chairman Executive Committee:
SIR EDWARD STEWART, K.B.E., M.D., M.R.C.P.

Chairman of the Executive Committee:
THE HON. SIR ARTHUR STANLEY, G.B.E., C.B.

Chairman of Finance Committee:
ARTHUR C. ABRAHAMS, ESQ., C.B.E.

Chairman of Appeals Committee: THE RT. HON. LORD EBBISHAM, G.B.E., D.L.

Secretary: F. C. DAVIES, ESQ., O.B.E.

Assistant Secretary: R. C. MURCHISON, ESQ., M.B.E.

14, GROSVENOR CRESCENT,
LONDON, S.W.1

4th April 1939

Confidential.

My dear Ware,

Thanks for your letter dated 30th March.

Do you, by any chance, know Maj.Gen. Sir John Kennedy who was until lately Commanding a Division at Aldershot? He is now out of the Army and has come to work with the Red Cross. I should like to suggest him to you as a possible representative of the Red Cross on your Commission and if you wish for further details about him I will supply them. He is an extremely nice fellow and very pleasant to work with. I have not said anything to him and will not do so until I hear from you.

Yours ever,

Maj.Gen. Sir Fabian Ware, KCVO.,
KBE., CB.,
Imperial War Graves Commission,
32 Grosvenor Gardens, SW 1

CWGC/1/1/12/13 (WG 10/12)

30th. March, 1939.

My dear Stanley

I tried to get into touch with you to-day and found you were away and I had a short talk with Mr. Davies at the Red Cross .

We have been getting ahead very satisfactorily with the War Office as to the carrying on of our work in the case of war, but I very much miss the direct touch which I have always had with the Red Cross through their representative on our Commission. You will remember that we had several talks as to who should replace Lord Stanley in that capacity.

I have now to take some rather vital decisions as to the status of our personnel in France and Belgium in case of war and have an instinctive feeling that it might be an advantage for some of them to be associated with the Red Cross rather than being enlisted in the Army. That is the sort of question on which the advice of a representative of the Red Cross on the Commission would be invaluable. Do you think the time has now come when we ought to appoint somebody ?

I do hope everything has gone well with you since our last meeting in Harrogate .

Yours ever
W.S.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, GBE., CB.,
The Treasurer's House,
St. Thomas's Hospital,
S.E.1.

Personal

W.G. 1674.

7th. November, 1938.

My dear Hanley.

You will remember our conversation in June as to the temporary replacement of Lord Stanley on our Commission during his tenure of office as Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, and the suggestion that we might consider Lord Fairhaven in this connection. The pressure of other events since then, together with my absence abroad in connection with meetings of our various Mixed Committees, have prevented my taking any further action in the matter.

Now, alas, we have suffered a grievous loss by the death of Lord Stanley who, during the past ten years, had proved himself to be one of our most valued colleagues and had brought to our counsels his sound judgment and wide experience. It will be difficult to replace him.

We have, as you know, always regarded this Commissionership as one which should be filled by a representative of the British Red Cross, thus perpetuating the association of that body with the care of the graves during the war years.

May I therefore ask you to be good enough to suggest to me the name of a successor who would be acceptable to the British Red Cross? We have, in the past, had as representatives Sir William Garstin, Sir Robert Hudson and Lord Stanley, all of whom were men of experience and were keen supporters of our policy and of our work.

As the years go by, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find younger men who saw service in the War, and it is essential, as I think you will agree, that we should endeavour to find some younger men who, from their association with the older members of the Commission, would be able to learn the principles underlying our work and could become acquainted with the spirit in which that work has been built up during the past twenty years. At the same

2.

time, we want a man with administrative experience.

The present vacancy affords us an opportunity for putting this into practice and I should be grateful if, in considering the matter, you would have this aspect before you. It is only, I feel sure, by some such arrangement that we can ensure the carrying out of our work in the future on the foundations on which it has been established, and there may be some younger man now associated with the Red Cross who would fulfil these requirements.

I would, of course, come and see you if necessary, but I have now to leave England on duty, for a few weeks, on Friday or Saturday. If you could possibly let me have your views before then I could however get into communication with your nominee before leaving England, and the purely formal negotiations regarding his appointment could take place in my absence.

Yours very sincerely

Asa F.W.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, GBE., CB.,
The Treasurer's House,
St. Thomas's Hospital,
London, S.E.1.

CWGC/1/1/12/13 (WG 10/12)

CWGC/1/1/12/13 (WG 10/12)