

DRAFT.

CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS  
at the 437TH MEETING of the  
COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION  
held at  
32, GROSVENOR GARDENS, LONDON, S.W.1.  
on  
THURSDAY, 19TH MAY, 1960.

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., 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 E.K. HARI KRISHNA,  
Representing the High Commissioner for India.  
Mr. S.H. FIELD,  
Representing the Secretary of State for the Colonies.  
Mr. A.J. ISAAC,  
Representing the Minister of Works.  
The Rt. Hon. Lord SPENS, K.B.E.  
Mr. G.O. SYLVESTER, M.P.  
Admiral Sir JOHN EDELSTEN, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., C.B.E.

SECRETARY

Mr. W. WYNNE MASON, M.C., Director of External Relations and Records.

ADVISERS

Sir EDWARD MAUFE, R.A., F.R.I.B.A., Chief Architect and Artistic Adviser.  
Mr. H.D. MORGAN, M.Sc.(Eng.), M.I.C.E., Consulting Engineer.

There were also present:

Mr. H.L. SIMMONS, LL.B., Legal Adviser and Solicitor.  
Mr. M.J.W. TAYLOR, F.C.A., Chief Accountant.  
Mr. D.H. LLOYD, A.R.I.C.S., Deputy Director of Works.  
Mr. W.F.W. HARDING, O.B.E., B.Sc.(Hort.), Chief Horticultural Officer.  
Mr. P.J. COOK.

Item 2 covered the excess expenditure of £692 over the amount of £23,576 authorised on the construction of the Brookwood Memorial. The excess had been foreseen and was due largely to the necessity to put in special foundations owing to running sand and water underground which had been encountered in excavation. Additional expenditure had also been incurred as a result of increases in labour costs and on a number of minor items, but much of it had been covered by the contingencies included in the sum of £23,576.

Item 3 dealt with the writing-off of the loss of a sum of £45.15.0d stolen from the office in Brookwood Military Cemetery of the South Eastern Area, United Kingdom Region. The burglary at the office had occurred over a weekend in October, 1959, the money having been stolen from the office safe, the key of which had been obtained by breaking into a locked drawer. Steps had been taken to ensure that increased precautions for the safe custody of cash and keys was taken in the future. The police had made extensive enquiries and had been given every co-operation, but, unfortunately, they had been unable to discover the person or persons responsible.

Item 7 covered the annual allocations of funds for welfare purposes. Up to and including the year 1959, the annual grants had remained substantially the same since they had first been introduced in 1950 and this year it was proposed to increase the total sum by approximately £100, mainly to cover some extension of welfare activities, the cost of which could not now be met from the normal allocations. The additional money would be used, for instance, to encourage exchange welfare activities between staff in the United Kingdom and Europe, from which much value was obtained.

It was proposed by Lord SPENS, seconded by Air Vice-Marshal MURDOCH, and carried unanimously:-

2. That the Report of the 481st Meeting of the Finance Committee be adopted.

COMMONWEALTH-FRENCH JOINT COMMITTEE -  
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper was formal and dealt with the appointment of a French Official Member on the Commonwealth-French Joint Committee to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Medecin-Général Hamon.

The new member proposed, who was an official of the Ministry of Finance, had stated his willingness to serve if appointed by the Commission.

Mr. WYNNE MASON said that there had not previously been a representative of the French Ministry of Finance on this Committee, and the Commission were pleased that the French Government had now proposed one.

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

3. That the Commission, having considered a Paper No. CM.13/14/2 dated 3rd May, 1960,

RESOLVE:

That Monsieur Marcel Serre, Administrateur, Chef de Division à la Direction Générale des Impôts, Ministry of Finance, be and is hereby appointed a member of the Commonwealth-French Joint Committee.

UNMAINTAINABLE GRAVES, UNITED KINGDOM -  
LOCKWOOD (EMMANUEL) CHURCHYARD, YORKSHIRE.

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper dealt with arrangements for the permanent commemoration of three unmaintainable Commonwealth war graves - two of the 1914-1918 War and one of the 1939-1945 War - in Lockwood (Emmanuel) Churchyard, Yorkshire.

This burial ground was in a neglected state and maintenance of the graves had been unsatisfactory for a number of years. The Rector could offer no hope of improvement and had agreed to the Commission making alternative arrangements for commemoration.

Because of this, it was proposed to remove the headstones from the three graves and to commemorate the casualties on a panel with an appropriate inscription on the 1914-1918 Screen Wall at Huddersfield (Edgerton) Cemetery, which also contained a considerable number of war graves of both wars and a Cross of Sacrifice. This cemetery, which was about 1½ miles from Lockwood Churchyard, was under the control of the Huddersfield Corporation and they had given their approval in principle to the Commission's proposal.

Security of tenure of the site of the Screen Wall at the Edgerton Cemetery had already been provided to the Commission and arrangements were in hand to obtain an assurance that the burials at Lockwood Churchyard would remain undisturbed.

An attempt would be made to contact the next-of-kin in the usual way.

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

4. That the Commission, having considered a Paper No. CM.225/1/250/L dated 10th May, 1960,

RESOLVE:

That the arrangements set out in the said Paper for the removal of the Headstones from three Commonwealth War Graves at Lockwood (Emmanuel) Churchyard, Yorkshire, and the commemoration of the three Commonwealth War Burials concerned on a panel on the 1914-1918 Screen Wall at Huddersfield (Edgerton) Cemetery, be and are hereby approved and confirmed.

### UNMAINTAINABLE GRAVES IN NORTHERN RHODESIA

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper dealt with arrangements for the permanent commemoration of the burial in an unmaintainable Commonwealth war grave of the 1914-1918 War at a remote and isolated site in Northern Rhodesia.

After the 1914-1918 War, when other isolated graves had been brought into Commission cemeteries and plots, this grave had been left in situ, probably at the request of the next-of-kin, who could not now be traced.

The grave was situated some 25 miles from the nearest road and, after several unsuccessful attempts to trace it in recent years, a native scout had recently succeeded after a two-day trek. He had obtained a photograph, which indicated that the grave and headstone were in a dilapidated condition.

Because of the impossibility of maintaining the grave in its present site, it was proposed that the headstone should be removed and that permanent commemoration should be carried out by the erection of a headstone, with a suitable explanatory inscription, at the nearest cemetery containing a war graves plot, which was at Broken Hill some 160 miles away.

This proposal was in line with the action approved by the Commission at their meeting in June, 1959, in the case of certain similarly isolated graves of the 1914-1918 War in Tanganyika.

It was proposed by Mr. THOMASHOFF, seconded by Mr. FIELD, and carried unanimously:-

5. That the Commission, having considered a Paper No. CM.1/23 dated 5th May, 1960,

#### RESOLVE:

That the arrangements set out in the said paper for the commemoration of Rifleman D.A.C. Russell be and are hereby approved.

### THIRD MEETING OF THE COMMONWEALTH-BELGIAN JOINT COMMITTEE

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper was for the information of the Commission and was a report on the third meeting of the Commonwealth-Belgian Joint Committee, which had been held in London on Wednesday, 4th May, 1960. It gave information under the headings of "Programme of Events" and "Business of the Committee". Attached to the paper was a list of the members who had been present together with a copy of the Agenda.

Members would see from the opening paragraph of the paper that Marshal of the Royal Air Force The Lord Tedder had been prevented by illness from taking the Chair and that his place had been taken by His Excellency Sir George Labouchère, the United Kingdom Ambassador at Brussels. After the meeting, a telegram had been sent by Mr. Wynne Mason, the Secretary-General, to Lord Tedder on behalf of the Commonwealth and Belgian Members regretting his absence from the meeting and sending their best wishes to him for a complete and speedy recovery. Lady Tedder,

in a letter dated 12th May, had replied as follows:-

"I have been asked by my husband to thank you and the Belgian and Commonwealth Members of the Commonwealth-Belgian Joint Committee for their kind telegram. He is making very good progress, and I hope to have him back at home in about a month's time."

With regard to the meeting itself, he thought that it had gone very well as, he felt, Admiral Sir John Edelsten would agree. (Admiral Sir JOHN EDELSTEN indicated his agreement).

At the invitation of the CHAIRMAN, Mr. WYNNE MASON said that the last sentence on page 1 should be amended to read: "He expressed the sorrow felt by all at the recent deaths of General Maton, of his predecessor, Sir Christopher Warner, of General Sir Robert Gordon-Finlayson and of Sir Frank Higginson, all of whom had attended the last meeting."

VISIT BY SECRETARY-GENERAL, CANADIAN AGENCY, TO  
WAR GRAVES IN THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA -  
MARCH, 1960.

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper was a report by Mr. C.B. Fuller, Secretary-General of the Canadian Agency, on a tour of inspection in the Southern United States of America. The report was of particular interest since it was not possible for these graves to be visited very often by a Commission official.

It was gratifying to note that the system initiated during the Director-General's visit to the United States in June, 1959, whereby the various Commonwealth Ambassadors at Washington had arranged for their Consular officers to visit regularly and report on the Commonwealth war graves scattered throughout the United States, was having good results.

He thought it would be agreed that a striking feature of the report was the repeated reference to local residents and organisations who took an active interest in the Commonwealth war graves.

The report also made reference to the proposed erection of a Cross of Sacrifice at Oakwood Cemetery Annex, Montgomery, Alabama. This had been approved in principle by the Commission at their meeting in December, 1959. The first estimates for the erection of a granite Cross and kerb along the front of the plot had been received, but the cost was high and further inquiries were being made about the possibility of providing a limestone Cross at lower cost.

PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1960.

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper was the Progress Report for the quarter ended 31st March, 1960, which showed in statistical form the work of the various Divisions.

Mr. WYNNE MASON said that in connection with the report of the Enquiries Branch, an interesting point was that the proportion of enquiries between the 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 Wars was now one to two; previously the proportion had been about one to five.

REPORTS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM,  
SOUTHERN AND EASTERN REGIONS AND CANADIAN AGENCY  
FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1960.

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper covered reports from the United Kingdom, Southern and Eastern Regions and Canadian Agency for the quarter ended 31st March, 1960. The reports for Northern Region and Anzac Agency for the Pacific Region would be included in the Agenda for the June meeting.

The only point he wished to raise was in connection with the Curragh Military Cemetery in the Republic of Ireland. He had visited this old military cemetery in September, 1959, when it had been in a completely neglected state, but members would see from paragraph 3 on Page 1, that extensive work was now in progress, including the resowing with grass of the whole cemetery.

GENERAL NOTES

The CHAIRMAN said that he would like to draw the attention of Members to the notes about Anzac Day ceremonies and the Annual Act of Commemoration at the Air Forces Memorial at Runnymede. Mr. Wynne Mason had one further ceremony to mention.

Mr. WYNNE MASON said that, on Anzac Day, 25th April, 1960, a Pilgrimage of approximately 40 Australian ex-Servicemen, accompanied by their wives and members of the Istanbul Branch of the British Legion, had arrived at Gallipoli by sea.

They had been welcomed by the Turkish General commanding the 2nd Corps and had visited first the Chunuk Bair New Zealand Memorial, where wreaths had been laid by both Australian and Turkish representatives. Similar ceremonies had followed at the Nek Turkish War Memorial and at Lone Pine Cemetery.

After luncheon, at which they had been the guests of the Turkish Army, the Pilgrimage had laid a final wreath at Ari Burnu Cemetery before embarking at Gallipoli for their return journey to Istanbul.

The Turkish press and radio services had given considerable publicity to the occasion.

Lord SPENS said that, regarding Anzac Day, he had acted as host on behalf of the Royal Commonwealth Society to four New Zealand newspaper editors who had been on a tour in this country, organised by the United Kingdom Government. As a result of this he thought it likely that the work of the Commission would be given more publicity. The visitors had all been immensely impressed by what they had seen and intended to write about the ceremonies in their newspapers.

### OTHER BUSINESS

The CHAIRMAN said that four papers had been laid on the table.

#### EXAMINATION OF SKETCH DESIGN FOR CEMETERY CONSTRUCTION: BUCHAREST WAR CEMETERY, ROUMANIA - SOUTHERN REGION.

The CHAIRMAN said that the first of these papers dealt with the sketch design for Bucharest War Cemetery, which contained 84 Commonwealth war graves of the 1939-1945 War.

Before dealing with the design he would mention the history of this Cemetery, which had been one of difficulty owing to its situation in an "Iron Curtain" country. It had not been possible for Commission officials to visit it during the early years of the "cold war" and an additional difficulty had been the unfavourable rate of exchange obtaining during this period. In 1952 the Commission had arranged through the British Embassy in Bucharest for headstone markers to be erected, and the Embassy had continued to keep a general eye on the Cemetery and had arranged for annual ceremonies of remembrance to be held.

In 1956 the Commission's Regional Architect in Rome had been able to enter Roumania. He had visited the Cemetery and had subsequently completed the design. At the same time the Roumanian authorities had begun to take greater interest in the Cemetery, more particularly in the annual ceremony. The Foreign Office advice, however, had continued to be that no useful purpose would be served by requesting the usual assurances in writing from the Roumanian Government either to confirm the Commission's rights in the land or their right to control and maintain the Cemetery.

In December of 1959, a representative of the British Legation at Bucharest had been asked to call at the Roumanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss this Cemetery. On calling at the Ministry, he had been informed of the Municipality's plans for improving this Cemetery, including moving some of the graves - work which they had proposed to start as soon as possible. The Ministry had been informed that the Commission would wish to carry out their own plans for construction and that, in any case, they would not wish the graves to be regrouped. Subsequently the Commission's Deputy Regional Director, Southern Region, and Area Superintendent, Greece Area, had visited Bucharest and had discussed with the Roumanian authorities the Commission's plans for construction. The present design was substantially the same as that prepared in 1957 but embodied the results of the latest discussions.

The estimate for construction was high at £3,500 and was £1,613 above the permissible cost. However, it provided only for the minimum of construction to meet the particular requirements of the site and, as members would see from the remarks made by the Director of Works, the excess was due to a number of exceptional factors. These were the high transport and erection costs of the Cross of Sacrifice; a second entrance gate made necessary by the existing Roumanian lay-out; the removal or modification of existing paving; the removal and reprovision of a flag pole, of which the Embassy had strongly advised the retention; and hardstandings at the entrance for car parking in view of the fact that the Cemetery was situated

on a main highway. In addition, the estimate covered the replacement of the present grave markers, which had deteriorated badly, with the Commission's standard headstone in Botticino. The present markers were tablets on pedestals of the Gallipoli pattern and had been supplied in 1952 to correspond with those marking 1914-1918 war graves in Roumania.

The fenced area of this Cemetery had been the subject of a formal assurance by the Commune in 1946, which had been provided to the Allied Control Commission through the medium of the Roumanian Ministry of Agriculture and Government Property. Although the area covered was somewhat large it was recommended that, on the advice of the British Legation and following the discussions with the Roumanian authorities, it be retained.

At the request of the CHAIRMAN, Mr. LLOYD explained the design.

Sir EDWARD MAUFE said that the design seemed a satisfactory solution of the problem and that the expense appeared to be fully justified.

It was proposed by Major HARI KRISHNA, seconded by Mr. ISAAC, and carried unanimously:-

6. That the Commission, having considered a Paper No.W.97/495 dated 16th May, 1960,

RESOLVE:

That the Commission approve the sketch design by Mr. W.F. Stewart, A.R.I.B.A. as now modified for Bucharest War Cemetery (design No. SR/BUC/4A), subject to consideration by the Finance Committee of the final estimate for construction.

EXTRACT FROM "THE TIMES" -  
WEDNESDAY, 4TH MAY, 1960.

The CHAIRMAN said that this paper was a copy of an interesting article on the Commission's work entitled "Graves of Two World Wars", which had appeared in "The Times" on Wednesday, 4th May, 1960. It was a particularly clear article and well written. There was, however, a misstatement about the unveiling of the Athens Memorial and at the end of the extract Members would see a copy of the amendment which had appeared, at the request of the Commission, in "The Times" on Saturday, 7th May.

In reply to Mr. SYLVESTER, Mr. WYNNE MASON said that he would make enquiries with a view to the article being reproduced in other newspapers.

LETTER RECEIVED BY MR. C.B. FULLER,  
SECRETARY-GENERAL, CANADIAN AGENCY, FROM MR. KIM BEATTIE  
A CO-SPONSOR AND TRIP PLANNER OF THE "VETERANS' ADVOCATE"  
BATTLEFIELD TOURS IN EUROPE, MARCH, 1960.

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper was a copy of a letter received by Mr. C.B. Fuller, Secretary-General of the Canadian

Agency, from Mr. Kim Beattie, who had been one of the Directors of the recent "Veterans' Advocate" Battlefield tours in Europe. The letter was one of the most pleasant commendations he had seen, not only of the condition of the cemeteries but more particularly of the Commission's staff.

#### DESEQUESTRATION - EGYPT

The CHAIRMAN said that the paper was a formal resolution concerned with the desequestration of the Commission's assets in Egypt.

At their 427th Meeting on 16th July, 1959, the Commission had authorised the sealing of a Power of Attorney appointing Mr. C.R. Cameron, Area Superintendent, Egypt Area, to be the Commission's attorney to act on its behalf and in its name in relation to the desequestration of the Commission's assets in Egypt.

He was sorry to say that Mr. Cameron had now retired from the Commission's service, having left Egypt at the end of May, and although, before he had left, he had signed the formal release agreement for desequestration of the Commission's assets, he had been informed by the Egyptian authorities that certain additional formalities would be required in order that the desequestration procedure could be completed and, for this purpose, it was desirable that a new power of attorney should be provided to Mr. F.J. Hebden who had succeeded Mr. Cameron as Area Superintendent.

This information had not been received in time to prepare a formal paper for the Commission Meeting but it was desired to avoid any delay in sealing a new power of attorney if this should be required. The resolution was in similar terms to the previous resolution at the 427th Meeting except that the name of Mr. Hebden was substituted for that of Mr. Cameron.

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

7. That the Commission, having considered a Resolution No. CM.204/1/L dated 18th May, 1960,

#### RESOLVE:

- (1) That authority be and is hereby given for the Seal of the Commission to be affixed to and for the Proper Officer to sign a Power of Attorney appointing Francis James Hebden, Area Superintendent, Commonwealth War Graves Commission (Egypt Area) having its Offices at 6 Mohamed Saqib Pasha, Zamalek, Cairo, Egypt, to be the Commission's Attorney to act on its behalf and to appear in its name and on its behalf, in relation to all matters and formalities as may be requisite or necessary for the desequestration of any of the Commission's assets in Egypt.