

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF BELGIUM AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, AUSTRALIA, CANADA, INDIA, NEW ZEALAND, PAKISTAN AND THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA RESPECTING THE WAR CEMETERIES, GRAVES AND MEMORIALS OF THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH IN BELGIAN TERRITORY.

The Government of Belgium of the one part:

and

The Governments of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, Pakistan and the Union of South Africa (hereinafter referred to as "the Commonwealth countries") of the other part:

Desiring to continue, subject to modifications, the provisions of an Agreement, signed at Brussels, on the 13th day of June 1919, between the Belgian Government and the British Government and entitled "Agreement between the Belgian Government and the British Government respecting British Military Graves in Belgian territory" (hereinafter referred to as "The Agreement of 1919"): and

Desiring further to make provision with regard to the Cemeteries, Graves and Memorials of members of the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth countries, who have fallen as a result of the War of 1939-1945 and have been interred in Belgian territory:

Have decided to conclude an Agreement for the purposes above-mentioned and have accordingly agreed as follows:—

ARTICLE 1

The present Agreement applies to the Cemeteries, Graves and Memorials for which provision was made by the Agreement of 1919 and also to the Cemeteries and Graves in Belgian territory in which are buried the bodies of members of the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth countries fallen in the War of 1939-45 and the Memorials erected, or which may be erected, in their honour.

In the present Agreement, the following expressions have the following meanings, respectively:—

"Commonwealth War Cemeteries, Graves and Memorials" include respectively both those for which provision was made by the Agreement of 1919 and those resulting from the War of 1939-45; where necessary, those of the two wars are distinguished as "Commonwealth 1914-18 War Cemeteries, Graves and Memorials" and "Commonwealth 1939-45 War Cemeteries, Graves and Memorials", respectively;

"The Commission" means the Imperial War Graves Commission incorporated by Royal Charter dated 21st May 1917.

ARTICLE 2

The Commission is recognised by the Belgian Government as the sole authority charged on behalf of the Commonwealth countries with the permanent care in Belgian territory of Commonwealth War Cemeteries, Graves and Memorials.