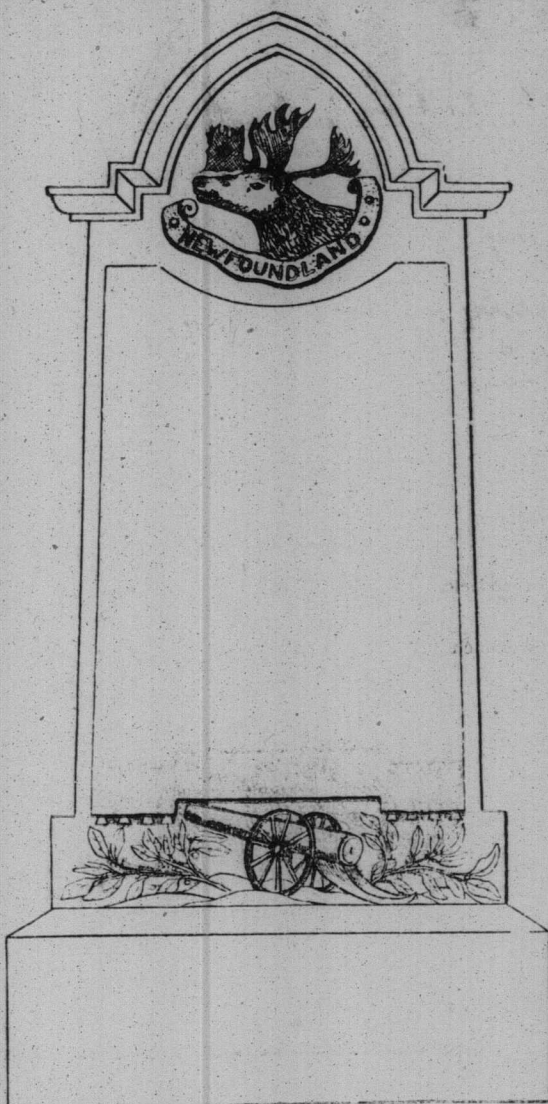


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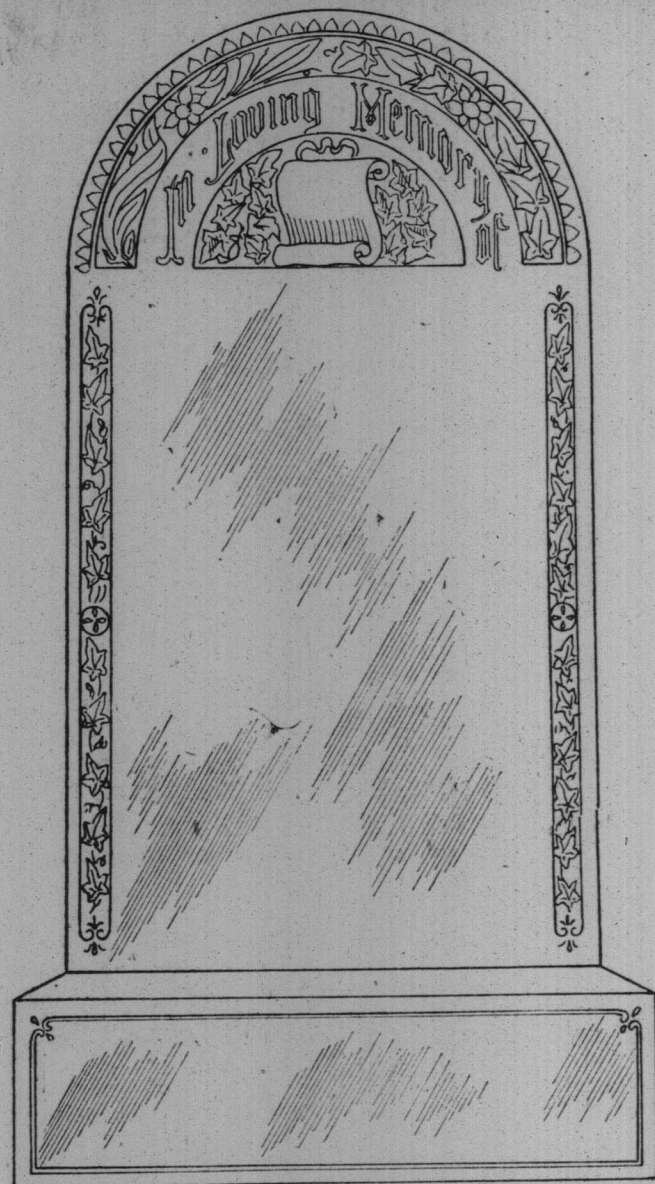


# MUIR'S

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## Third Report of The Director of Graves Registration

(CONTINUED FROM WEDNESDAY'S PAPER)

I am sorry to say the facts related above are true. I visited Wandsworth on April 29th and found that nothing had been done since my visit last August. You can hardly distinguish the graves; the kerbing was scattered over the ground outside the plot; the central stone has been removed some distance; none of the graves were marked with a temporary wooden cross; the whole plot was a mass of weeds.

I am placing these facts before you in order to remove the responsibility from my shoulders. It was not until April 26 that the High Commissioner for Newfoundland acting for the Newfoundland War Contingent Association, handed over the plot to me, instructing me that the Newfoundland War Contingent had washed their hands clean of it. Three days later I visited the place and gave instructions for the kerbing and turfing of the plot and gave Maile & Son the order for the cutting of the central monument.

I am sorry that this letter should have appeared in the press because of the pain it may cause any relatives of friends of Newfoundland soldiers. However, I am not responsible and shall take action and bring the facts before General Sir Fabian Ware and the other authorities.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant  
T. NANGLE, Major  
D.G.R. & E. Newfoundland  
Contingent.

Amiens,  
May 6th 1920.  
On my return to England, May 14th, I again took up the matter of Wandsworth.

XII.

The High Commissioner for Newfoundland

Dear Sir,—With reference to your letter of 30th April, enclosing a communication from Mr. A. T. Sharp, Organizer, Anzac Day Pilgrimage, and an article which appeared in the English edition of the Daily Mail on April 30th under the heading of "Neglected War Graves," I wish to state that the condition spoken of in the letter and article were true, but the responsibility for such conditions rests with the Newfoundland War Contingent Association, as it was only on April 23rd that the plot was handed over to me.

I immediately visited the cemetery and gave orders to have the plot put in proper condition. Since my return from France I have again visited Wandsworth and found the necessary tidying had been done. The work of cutting the Central Memorial is in hand, also the marking of the individual graves and the turfing and kerbing of the plot, and I hope to have the plot completed in a week or two.

Yours faithfully,

T. NANGLE, Major  
D.G.R. & E. Newfoundland  
Contingent.

XIII.

Mr. A. K. Kirk,  
58, Prentis Road, S. W.

Dear Sir,—While in France I chanced to see a copy of the English edition of the Daily Mail of April 30th in which it quoted a letter from you to that paper. Although at that time not being responsible for Wandsworth, it had since been handed over to me for attention.

I say, although not responsible, and your article affecting this Department in no way whatsoever, I am now dealing with the matter, and so I wish to inform you that I regret your rushing into print an article without at first acquainting the competent Newfoundland authorities in London, as an unmanly and ungentlemanly action.

Likely, neither the High Commissioner (Newfoundland's representative) nor this Department, were responsible for the condition you saw; but the Newfoundland War Contingent Association, a Society of English people interested in Newfoundland.

I think you would have something to write about had you seen the Australian plot before it was turfed, and put in its present condition.

The day before the article appeared, your Organizer, Mr. A. T. Sharp, wrote to the High Commissioner on the same subject. I regard Mr. Sharp's action as that of a kindly act from one Colonial to another, but I am sorry to say I cannot regard yours in the same light.

Yours truly,

T. NANGLE, Major  
D.G.R. & E. Newfoundland  
Contingent

17 May 1920.

XIV.

A. T. SHARP, Esq.,  
Organizer, Anzac Day Pilgrimage,  
Strand, London, W.C.2.

Dear Sir,—Your letter of the 29th ultimo to the High Commissioner for Newfoundland concerning the Newfoundland Plot at Wandsworth has been handed to me for attention. This plot was the property of the Newfoundland War Contingent Association, a Society of English people

interested in Newfoundland. It was not until the 22nd April that the property was handed over to me as the D.G.R. & E. of the Newfoundland Government.

Before your letter was received by the High Commissioner, or the article from Mr. Kirk appeared in the "Daily Mail", the reconstruction of the plot was in hand.

I thank you for the kindly interest you have taken in the matter and the gentlemanly way in which you brought it to the attention of the authorities, but I cannot say the same of a Mr. Kirk (one of your Pilgrims) who seems to have an itch for writing, as he published an article in the "Daily Mail" on April 30th on the subject without saying anything to our people about it.

The article does not affect me in the least, but it will cause distress and heartpangs for the relatives in Newfoundland who may have boys buried in the United Kingdom. I have written to Kirk, telling him now how I think in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

T. NANGLE, Major  
D.G.R. & E. Newfoundland  
Contingent.

17th May 1920

XV

Major T. Nangle,

Dear Sir,—I acknowledge receipt of your letter, and whilst admitting not being responsible for the publication of the letter you mention, I accept responsibility.

You state that your Department is in no way responsible for the care of the graves of your fellow Countrymen. I take it, judging from the tone of your letter, that you yourself must have been directly or indirectly connected with the Graves Department.

In reference to putting me letter into print before notifying your Department would have been absolute waste of time, as such a letter would have been mislaid or purposely ignored.

I might add for your personal information that Mr. Sharp acted in the way he did through a letter which I forwarded to him.

Yours faithfully,

A. K. KIRK.

May 18th 1920.

XVI.

Major T. Nangle,

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of the 17th inst., and was surprised to hear that Mr. Kirk had written to the "Daily Mail" regarding

the Newfoundland plot at Wandsworth. It was he who brought the matter under my notice, and naturally I deemed it my duty to advise your High Commissioner. I certainly wish that he, Mr. Kirk, had let the matter rest, instead of giving it publicity and thereby causing needless distress to relatives.

Yours faithfully,

A. T. SHARP,  
Organizer, Anzac Day Pilgrimage, London W.C.2.  
17th May 1920.

XVII.

Dear Mr. Sharp,—I am in receipt of your letter of yesterday's date and as I said before you not only did your duty, but a kindly turn by bringing the condition at Wandsworth to our attention. But as regards Kirk I should like to know if he is an imbecile, a crank or an ignoramus, or all three combined. If he is I will go on further in the matter and pay no attention to his letter, a copy of which I enclose.

Yours faithfully,

T. NANGLE, Major  
D.G.R. & E. Newfoundland  
Contingent

XVIII.

Major T. Nangle,

Dear Major Nangle,—Yours of the 20th to hand. I have not met Kirk and not knowing of him except that when I appealed for assistance he volunteered and heartily co-operated with a lady who had undertaken to go to Wandsworth. He is evidently a very tactless sort of individual, and I think you would be well advised in treating his letter with contempt. I would however, like to get a copy of the letter which Kirk wrote to the Press, so kindly furnish date if you have not a spare copy by you.

Yours faithfully,

A. T. SHARP, Organizer,  
Anzac Day Pilgrimage,  
Strand, London, W.C.

21st May 1920

XIX.

A. T. Sharp Esq.,  
Dear Mr. Sharp,—I have not got a copy of the "Daily Mail" of April 30th, but I herewith enclose type-written copy of "Neglected War Graves".

I am following your suggestion of letting the thing drop with those who are responsible for the condition at that date.

I am Yours Sincerely,

T. NANGLE, Major,  
D.G.R. & E. Newfoundland  
Contingent.

25th May 1920.

I was again in France when I received the following message from you on May 25th (the day before the "Daily Mail" article appeared in the Newfoundland press.)

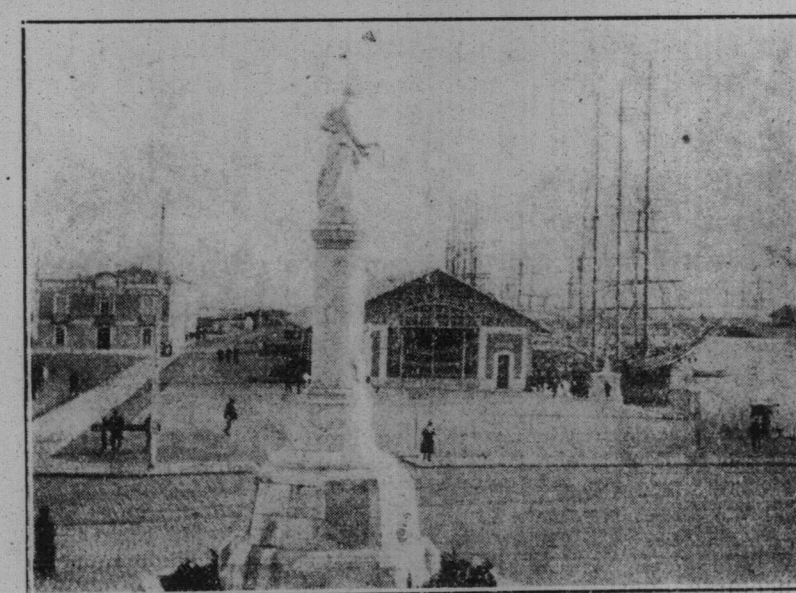
XX. (Telegram)

Major Nangle Care High Commissioner for Nfld.  
58 Victoria Street London.  
Kindly act vigorously in the matter of neglected graves in Wandsworth Cemetery and see that the whole matter is properly investigated and neglect immediately remedied.  
R. A. SQUIRES.

Dated 25th (May)

I only returned to England yesterday and visited Wandsworth and found that the work is in progress, and I hope to have it completed by the first of July.

From the foregoing you will see



The discharging pier Alicantie. The schooner "Sunset Glow" in the background.

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A snapshot taken by C. Bryant at Madrid before embarking on the train. The three front figures from left to right—Mr. Blanco, Mr. S. G. C. M. C. and Mr. S. G. C. M. C.