

Our Heroes Graves.

The N.W.C.A. in the centre of this plot a small temporary cross made of stone and painted. It looks cheap and unworthy. I propose to plant a yew hedge round two sides and use the stone for the other sides. I also think we shall have a simple granite cross in the centre of the plot. (A cross has been erected by some private person to Chesley Mercer, the name and particulars of death were painted on the stone, but have now become quite illegible.)

I understand the N.W.C.A. has had the special care of this site in hand and has under consideration the erection of a memorial, but up to the present I have not been able to see Mr. Reeve, to whom I have written on the subject. Meanwhile, since I am responsible for all Newfoundland graves in Europe, I presume the N.W.C.A. will have no objection in co-operating with me.

In the course of time I propose to visit all the graves, have them put in proper order, and a photograph taken of each.

In cemeteries such as Brookwood, Magdalen Hill, Wandsworth and Ayr, I think besides the Regimental Headstone we should have a central cross in each cemetery. I was accompanied by a monumental mason and sculptor, Mr. Buchanan, an alderman of the Borough of Wandsworth, and most reliable man. He priced the various crosses in Wandsworth cemetery, the cheapest, about three feet high, was £40. An average stone costing about £75.

Photo No. 1 gives you an idea of a £100 stone cross. Anything cheaper than that would be out of place.

Gallipoli.
I had an interview recently with an officer who had been to Gallipoli in connection with the Australian Graves. He told me that our graves are still there, but in a very bad condition.

France and Belgium.
I have just returned from a preliminary visit to France and Belgium. I was accompanied by Hon. R. K. Bishop, and Captain Anderson, M.D. I so that they, on their return to Newfoundland may be able to give an idea of the work done by the Directorate of Graves' Registration and Enquiries. I am very glad I had them with me, because it is impossible for anyone who has not seen the battlefields to realize the work required. The task in hand has been greatly augmented by subsequent fighting over our battlefields. The healing forces of nature having made it impossible to recognize old landmarks—not to speak of isolated unmarked graves.

I first visited Passchendaele and the Ypres Sector. As the object of this visit did not extend to identifying individual graves, I looked for none, but the graveyards are in good condition. From Ypres I passed through Lissebeek where several of our men killed in the retreat from Armentieres, are buried. This is the largest cemetery in France, containing some 12,000 bodies, and is kept in excellent condition.

Our next visit was to Douai on the way to Monchy, where we found the graves of four of our men who died in the course of the battle. Originally they had buried four bodies in one grave. They have now exhumed them and placed each in a separate grave. This plot was surrounded by a Portland stone border, but during the exhuming some of the slabs were broken. There was also erected by

(Continued on next page.)

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Prisoners of War.

This will have to hold over for some time until other graves are located.

Newfoundland.
In answer to your letter of August 9, 1919, I have instructions from the Directorate General to say that all Sailors' and Soldiers' graves in all parts of the world will eventually come under the I.W.G.C. Written instructions will follow as to particulars.

Isolated Graves.
After so many years of fighting over densely populated and civilized countries such as France and Belgium, it is inevitable that there must be single graves and groups in positions where, when the life of the land goes forward again, they cannot be reached or tended.

Some lie in what were once towns or village thoroughfares, and will be so again; others by the side of railway stations and goods' yards, houses and factories, in arable or pasture fields, parks, gardens and the like. The objections to leaving these graves where they are, need not be dwelt upon. No precautions can save them from being encroached upon or obliterated in the course of time. There is, moreover, a strong sentiment among all ranks that such scattered graves look lonely, and the instinct of the Regiment demands that those who fell by the wayside should be gathered in to rest with the nearest main body of their companions. That is what the D. G. R. & E. with all due care and reverence are doing.

Removal of Bodies.

In view of the enormous number (over half a million British dead in France), the removal of bodies to England or elsewhere would be impossible, even were there a general desire for it. But the overwhelming majority of relatives are content that their kin should lie, officers and men together, in the countries they have redeemed. The Allied nations have freely given their land to our dead forever, and that offer has been accepted by the Governments. To allow exhumation and removal in the few cases where it has been suggested, would, it seems to the Commission, be undesirable, if only on the principle of equality, and, judging from what many gallant fighters have said and written before they in their turn fell, a violation, in all but a few special cases, of the desire of the dead themselves.

Bodies having been exhumed, collected into cemeteries, and registered, the D. G. R. & E. hand them over to the Imperial War Graves' Commission to be permanently marked.

I. W. G. C.

The Commission instructed Sir Frederick Kenyon, K.C.B., to report how these aims could be best realized, and he, after consulting with the Service, Religion and Art, and knowing the practical limitations, particularly in obtaining labour for carrying out such a vast undertaking, recommended that in each cemetery there should stand a Cross of Sacrifice, and an Altar Stone of Remembrance, and that the headstones of the graves should be of uniform shape and size. Stone crosses to succeed the temporary wooden crosses were at first suggested, but crosses of the small size necessitated by the narrowness of the graves to each other do not allow sufficient space for the men's names and the inscriptions, and also by their shape would be too fragile and too subject to the action of frost and weather for enduring use. Plain headstones, measuring 2 ft. 6 in. by 1 ft. 3 in., were therefore chosen upon which the Cross or other religious symbol of the dead man's faith could be carved, and his Regimental badge fully displayed. The Regimental design approved by the former Minister of Militia, Hon. J. R. Bennett, is enclosed. In due time, therefore, wherever a man may be buried, from Newfoundland to Gallipoli, his grave will be marked in the same manner as the rest of his comrades, officers and men alike.

Inscriptions.

In addition to the name and rank upon the headstone, the Commission asks that the relatives should, if they wish, add a short inscription of their own choice as an expression of personal feeling and affection. These inscriptions will be at the relatives' expense, and to avoid unduly crowding the stones with very small lettering, which does not weather well, it has been found necessary to restrict the length of the inscription to sixty-six letters. Every cemetery will keep a record of the dead buried there and in these registers it is hoped that it will be possible with the assistance of his kin to enter the age, parentage, and birthplace of each man. I shall send particulars of this later.

The planning and planting of the cemeteries must depend largely on their site and the climate of the country, but it is proposed that, as a general rule, the cemeteries should have buildings designed for services, ceremonies, and shelter, where the register of that cemetery will be kept under permanent safeguard. For example on Gallipoli, it is proposed to lay a tombstone in place of the headstone used in France and Belgium, as is the opinion of experts this monument will be more durable.

Missing.

Besides those graves that are found, we have the "Missing." There are three suggestions.

(1) That in each graveyard one

monument be erected with the names of all the missing in that sector carved upon it.

(11) That mural tablets be erected to each man in the nearest cemetery.

(111) That a mound be made and a headstone placed over it as if the body was buried there.

If it were left for me to decide, I should choose the second, as cheaper than number one, and as having a certain individuality about it. The third suggestion I think out of the question. It would be better to tell the relatives that he body has not been found than to deceive them with a dummy grave.

Royal Naval Reservists.

The Admiralty are compiling a list of all our deceased Royal Naval Reservists. As soon as it is completed they will furnish me with a copy. In the meantime all graves are being marked by them with temporary wooden crosses pending the erection of permanent memorials.

Headstones.

Do you think it feasible to have our Regimental Headstone made in Newfoundland of native granite or other stone? This would be distinctive and easily recognized in large cemeteries because the majority of the others are made of Portland stone or concrete. It will also be quicker because of strikes in this country and the quarry people refusing to sell the stone in order that they may secure the contract for the headstones themselves. Moreover, it will give parents in Newfoundland an opportunity of seeing their sons' headstone, who otherwise may never have the opportunity of doing so. All those things considered I do not think that the difference in cost (if any) will be considered by you.

This work is very tedious and slow owing to so many people who must be consulted, and whose consent has to be obtained, being away on holiday. However, it is work that must be done thoroughly if we wish it to endure for all time. Some progress is being made and I hope to have everything in full swing very shortly.

Battle Exploits Memorials Committee.

This is a Military Committee appointed to look into the claims to memorials commemorating the parts borne by particular armies, Divisions, Regiments, or Dominions, in campaigns and battles. The claim having been allowed, it is passed to the I.W.G.C., whose function it is to apply to the French or Belgian Government for the necessary grant of ground. The Committee will also have a voice in the selection of the sites to be acquired, the approval of the design, and subsequently the events to be commemorated.

Memorial Sites.

As regards sites, all claims should be in by September 1st, but as Newfoundland was not represented on this Committee, although Major Timewell represented that it should have been, I have asked that the time may be extended in order to make our claim. I might add that Monchy le Proux is also claimed by the 13th Division, and as that site may be granted before our claims are put through, I have asked that site be given to Newfoundland. This claim has been backed up by the Historical Section, and by General Ware, and I am sure the claim will be granted.

What Other Dominions Are Doing.

The United Kingdom, besides numerous Divisional and Regimental monuments, is erecting four small and one large national monuments, viz:—
1. At Mons, where the war began and ended.
2. On the Somme, for the fighting in 1916 and 1918.
3. At Arras, 1917.
4. At Cambrai, for the breaking of the Hindenburg line.

Besides those four at £25,000 each, they are erecting one huge National Memorial at Ypres. But besides those monuments, the United Kingdom has cemeteries all along the line to sustain for ever and ever.

Canada.

The Canadians are erecting monuments to extent of £100,000, viz:—
(1) The first Canadian Division at St. Julien.
(2) Seven Memorials to the Canadian Corps at: Passchendaele, Observatory Ridge (Sanctuary Wood), Vimy Ridge, Durr, Bourlon Wood, Courcellette, Caix.

New Zealand.

New Zealand proposes to erect monuments at:—
1. Piers.
2. Messines.
3. Passchendaele.
4. Le Quesnoy.
5. Palestine.
6. Anzac.

Australia.

(1) Australia is erecting two National Memorials viz:—
1. One at Villers Bretonneux, and another at Broodseinde.
2. Five Divisional memorials, (photo of which is enclosed) at £1,500 each:—
1. Posters.
2. Mont St. Quentin.
3. Bray-Corbis Road.
4. Bellenglise.
5. Polygon Wood.

Besides those Australia is erecting memorials at Gallipoli, Palestine, and Egypt, and wherever the Australian Contingents fought.

Newfoundland.

The foregoing is to give you some

idea of what the other Contingents are doing. For Newfoundland I suggest:—
(1) One at Gallipoli, on Caribou Hill.
(2) Four in France: (a) Beaumont Hamel. (b) Guedecourt. (c) Monchy. (d) Marceling.
(3) One in Belgium.
A Monument on Kibberg Ridge to commemorate in Belgium all those who were killed in the Ypres sectors in 1917, and during the advance of 1918.

With reference to your telegram No. A.Y.G. 87-16 dated 16-8-19, granting £100 for each of our battle memorials, I do not think that the situation is

quite clear. (From photo No. 1, you will see what £100 will do in buying a private headstone.) These memorials are not erected to the missing, each of whom has his own individual tablets or stone. The Battle Exploit Memorials are being erected by the other dominions to show Europe and the world what the Dominions have done. They are monuments to our glorious dead, and to our just as glorious survivors. They are monuments to the mothers that bore such brave sons and the land that bred them. They are to be an everlasting tribute to the men who gave their all that the land may live. Surely then, if St. John's could erect an expensive temporary arch for a two days' celebration, New-

foundland can spend more than £100 per monument to commemorate in perpetuity the doings of her Regiment, and her 1,200 dead. If £100 is all that can be spared per monument (about the price of a decent private monument in this country) I recommend that we erect nothing at all. Let us forget we ever had a Regiment.

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Legal Opinion of Maclean, Paton, Burchell & Ralston, Halifax, N.S.

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I respectfully suggest that a Committee of energetic citizens be formed and a public subscription list opened; the amount raised to be doubled by the Government. Anything under £1,000 in France per monument would be unworthy, as would anything less than £100 for each of our main cemeteries in the U. K. We would therefore need:—

1 in Gallipoli £1,000.00
4 in France 4,000.00
1 in Belgium 1,000.00
Wandsworth Cemetery 100.00
Brookwood 100.00
Ayr 100.00
Winchester 100.00
£6,400.00

Or say, about \$35,000 and that is, I think, the very lowest figure we can do anything worthy of the Regiment. I am also sending you maps of Syria and the Dardanelles. Trench maps of wherever the Regiment fought will be forwarded as soon as obtained from the War Office; a copy of each will be retained by me. If you opened an Information Department in one of your offices, men would be able to locate on the map places where they know the men were buried. This information and map reading could be forwarded to me by letter.

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Please publish orders that all enquiries and requests for photos, etc., re graves of the Royal Naval Reservists, and Officers and O.R. of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment must come through your Department whence they should be sent direct to me. Henceforth all requests to the D. G. R. & E. will be useless. Any further suggestions or criticism will be welcomed.

I have the honour to be sir,

Your obedient servant,

T. NANGLE, C. F., Major,

O. C. Graves and Monuments,

Newfoundland Cont.

Who's Who

AND WHY IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND CANADA—1919-20.

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