

Memorandum of Understanding

Following their meeting on 11 October 2012 in Paris, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) and the Mission du Centenaire de la Première Guerre Mondiale (Mission du Centenaire) agreed to work in partnership in order to benefit from both organisations skills, knowledge and technologies in supporting the commemorations linked to the centenary of the First World War.

Taking into account the fact that the Mission du Centenaire acts as :

- Advisor to the French government in designing the commemorative program of the Centenary ;
- Operating body for the implementation of state level events ;
- Coordinating body for public and private initiatives ;
- Provider of information and elements of communication to the general public,

the CWGC and the Mission du Centenaire identified four areas of cooperation and agreed on the following items.

ARTICLE 1

The four areas of cooperation will be :

- Identification and preparation of large scale events in France ;
- Communication, Internet and culture ;
- Education ;
- Remembrance trails and visitors.

ARTICLE 2

2.1. Identification and preparation of large scale events

Both organizations will identify locations for large scale events within France and overseas, including Gallipoli and FYROM.

As soon as locations are identified, the CWGC and the Mission du Centenaire will establish (after the Mission has conducted consultations with its political authorities¹) the list of large scale commemorative events taking place on the national and international level, if possible specifying who will lead the organization of the event and at what level of participation.

¹ Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs

Taking into account the major event which will take place on the Somme in July 2016, the Mission du Centenaire will facilitate contacts with high level French authorities in the Somme department in order to establish a working group with the CWGC's representatives. This working group will examine the logistics (e.g. security, transport arrangements, liaison with neighbours) of the event.

The CWGC will work in relation with local and regional authorities, for each of the various events (Aisne, Nord, Pas-de-Calais, Somme) through the local committees created by the Mission du Centenaire in each region.

2.2. Communication, Internet, culture

2.2.1. Communication

The Mission du Centenaire will announce all the CWGC's actions to institutional partners, local authorities (municipalities, departments, regions) or any cultural institution.

The Mission du Centenaire will establish a database of contacts including all stakeholders interested in the actions of the CWGC.

Every communication document will be translated into French and English, and will be submitted for the CWGC's approval.

2.2.2. Internet

The CWGC and the Mission du Centenaire will provide each other with documents, archives, videos, photographs to feed their respective websites.

Among the 60,000 digitalized photographs of the CWGC, the Mission du Centenaire will select 4,000 relating to the First World War and will highlight this selection on its website. In order to have an overview of the images, it would be useful to create a web access facility for sharing photographs. A possible next step to finalize the selection could be a visit of the Mission du Centenaire to the premises of the CWGC.

Knowing that the Mission du Centenaire does not own archives or any similar holdings, it will facilitate the contacts between the CWGC and the Service Historique de la Défense in order to conclude agreements with these institutions aiming to obtain archival material to be published on the CWGC's website.

The Mission du Centenaire will dedicate on its website a page to the CWGC, using the CWGC's institutional presentation. This page will also be illustrated with photographs and the CWGC film narrated by Michael Palin. An area will be created dedicated to memory tourism.

The CWGC will publish on its website the list of the French cemeteries.

Each website will include a link from one to the other.

2.2.3. Culture

The CWGC will inform the Mission du Centenaire about its cultural projects and activities (exhibitions, conferences, seminars, books...)

The CWGC will inform the Mission du Centenaire about its current and future partnerships with French or international cultural institutions with whom common cultural events will be organized.

The Mission du Centenaire will promote on its website these cultural events and will give its official Centenary brand to some of these projects.

3. Education

The Mission du Centenaire will provide on its website some educational resources such as a webpage in English named “path of poet soldiers” including biographies of two or three main poets, extracts of poems to be taught in the classrooms, location of their graves in French cemeteries .

The Mission du Centenaire will promote the participation of French pupils at the ceremonies organized at CWGC sites.

Visits of cemeteries in France and United Kingdom will be organized. These visits could be the occasion to focus on the life and experience of a British soldier, mainly in the Somme.

4. Visitors

The CWGC and the Mission du Centenaire will :

- i) identify target audiences within France ;
- ii) encourage visitors to CWGC First World War cemeteries and memorials within the Pas-de-Calais department ;
- iii) share skills and knowledge.

To address the anticipated increase in visitors numbers, the CWGC will develop memorial trails on some French battlefields. In this respect, the Mission du Centenaire will facilitate the contacts between the CWGC and the French local authorities (e.g. the “Comités départementaux du Tourisme” and the “Comité régionaux du Tourisme”) located in the departments of the Western Front.

ARTICLE 3

To ensure the follow up of the identified actions of cooperation, the CWGC and the Mission du Centenaire have established a structure under the leadership of Mr Colin Kerr 14-18 Director, Commonwealth War Graves Commission and Mr Joseph Zimet, Directeur général of the Mission du Centenaire.

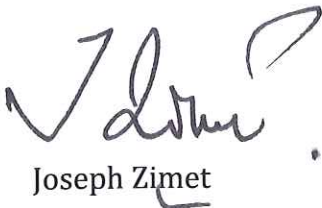
Under their auspices, members of the staff of both organizations will work in tandem and will exchange information on a regular basis.

The group will meet quarterly.



Colin Kerr

14-18 Director, Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Joseph Zimet

Directeur général

Mission du Centenaire de la Première Guerre Mondiale

19 February 2013