

Dear colleague,

We are writing to you as officers of the [War Heritage APPG](#) and as members of the Government's [World War One Centenary Advisory Board](#) about an important parliamentary initiative that is being undertaken by the [Commonwealth War Graves Commission](#) which will be launched tomorrow (5 November) as part of the programme of activity to commemorate the 100th anniversary of 1914.

The CWGC honours the 1,700,000 men and women of the forces of the Commonwealth who died in the two world wars, and cares for cemeteries and memorials at 23,000 locations in 153 countries. However, less well known is the fact that of the 23,000 cemeteries and burial plots, over half are to be found in the United Kingdom, commemorating approximately 300,000 war dead.

Following a request from us, the CWGC, in association with the [In From the Cold Project](#), has initiated a project to identify those cemeteries within parliamentary constituencies that contain war graves. Of the 650 constituencies in the UK, 644 contain CWGC sites, usually located within cemeteries and churchyards. The remaining six constituencies, though not containing CWGC graves *per se*, contain a number of memorials that mark the sacrifice of constituents during the war.

Many of these war graves are of men and women who died at home following wounding or sickness overseas; larger inner city sites, for example, may record deaths from the many military hospitals that sprang up across the country. In other cases, graves will mark the death of men and women on active service, while serving on land, at sea or in the air.

A data sheet has been prepared that lists the name and location (address and GPS co-ordinates) of all the sites containing CWGC graves within each constituency, and the number of war graves present. The GPS co-ordinates are accurate to within a metre. The addresses of cemeteries given are those indicated on Ordnance Survey maps, though accessing the CWGC plot or burial may require entrance along an unmarked path or access road off the street given.

To access the information, please enter the following URL in your internet browser:

<https://cwgc1.sharefile.com/>

A screen from the CWGC will appear asking for an email address and password. These are:

email: [war@graves.com](mailto:war@graves.com) Password: **Information1** (please note capital "I").

Click the icon entitled "War Graves" under "Folders", then choose "War Graves by Administrative Areas" or "War Graves by Constituencies", and finally scroll down to look at the administrative area or constituency in which you are interested.

We hope that you will welcome this initiative and find the information it contains helpful. It is hoped that you will be able to make use of this information in promoting awareness of the War Graves in your constituency and perhaps arranging to visit some during the centenary period.

If you would like any further information, please don't hesitate to contact one of us, or Liz Woodfield at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission ([liz.woodfield@cwgc.org](mailto:liz.woodfield@cwgc.org)). We'd also be delighted to welcome you to future meetings of the [War Heritage APPG](#) where we will be taking forward other activities connected with the Centenary - please let us know if you wish to join.

With warm regards,

**Lord Faulkner of Worcester** – Chairman, [War Heritage APPG](#)

**Rt Hon Jeffrey Donaldson MP** – Treasurer, [War Heritage APPG](#)

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