



THE WAR GRAVES PHOTOGRAPHIC PROJECT



In Association
with the CWGC



News from the Front line

Summer 2010

Just as well I do not 'do' football having just watched our exit from the World Cup so I have decided to make a start on this Summers newsletter to cheer me up! As we all know the weather has been great over the past couple of weeks so many of you have been out and about in UK conducting revisits to some of the cemeteries we need photographed again to update the archive. This will be an ongoing evolution utilising mainly new volunteers who want to help, where we have otherwise completed sites, but also 'old hands' wanting to try out new cameras. If you are interested in this aspect please get in touch.

A downside to of visiting some of our country churches during the Summer is the fact that many have now become wildlife havens and to encourage flora and fauna many of the grave stones can no longer be seen because of the height of the grass.

On the subject of wildlife, I was most surprised to find a Chameleon taking a stroll around Malta (Cappucini) Cemetery back in April during a so called quick visit. Having served in the RN for some 32 years I never managed to set foot on the island so always had it as one of those places to go. Most of the cemeteries had been completed beforehand so Sandra and I went to round up the strays and see



some history. With the help of Mark Fitzgerald the CWGC manager on the island and Denis Darmanin, a local historian, we were privileged to see the parts others don't! All was going well on the 3 day break until a certain ash cloud put the return plans in jeopardy. Emails from Marian and Nic photographing war graves in Italy hinted that there might be problems as they could not get home. We found out the next day that we were in the same position but, not having the leave to take, decided to seek other options that were quite limited. A credit card, flight to Rome, hire car to Caen, ferry to Portsmouth and 5 days later we were home again. Unfortunately without knowing it Marian and Nic were in the same Italian town as we were overnight waiting for other means of transport. Needless to say we did not stop over to find missing graves on the journey through Italy and France.

On site we have now added the new tab for Cemetery locations. This option has been made available by the hard work of Dave Ruddlesden, that we mentioned in the last Newsletter, who has painstakingly plotted CWGC sites onto Google earth. This process is very much ongoing and will be updated as the files become available and can be downloaded to view. Dave has also provided location details for these countries that can be programmed into SATNAV/GPS systems. If required please contact me (Steve).

Enjoy the summer (those this side of the equator) and we hope the winter is not too harsh for those down under.

Steve