



Cambridge City Council

South Area Committee decision note

Project Name: Lieutenant Jack Creek

Area committee: SOUTH 23rd June 2014

Report by: Simon Payne, Director of Environment

Wards affected: Trumpington

Recommendation/s

Financial recommendations –

- The South Area Committee Chair is asked to recommend this scheme (which is not included in the Council's Capital & Revenue Project Plan) for approval by Council, subject to resources being available to fund the capital and revenue costs.
 - The total cost of the project is £1,500, funded from External grant.
 - There are no ongoing revenue implications arising from the project.

Procurement recommendations:

- The Area Committee Chair is asked to approve the carrying out and completion of the procurement of a suitably qualified engraver to fulfil the terms of the grant.
- Subject to:
 - The permission of the Director of Resources being sought prior to proceeding if the quotation or tender sum exceeds the estimated contract.
 - The permission from the South Area Committee Chair being sought before proceeding if the value exceeds the estimated contract by more than 15%.

1.0 Project Outline and Background

In the autumn of 2013, Cambridge City Council was contacted by the family of Lieutenant Jack Neville Creek of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, regarding the possible addition of his name to the Trumpington War Memorial. Lt Jack Creek was killed in action during World War II.

Officers have liaised with a variety of technical conservation specialists, local residents and Trumpington Ward councillor Andy Blackhurst, to agree an appropriate route by which to reach a decision.

Officers have liaised with the family to obtain information as to the circumstances of Lt Jack Creek that might lead to the addition of the name to the memorial. These details are all contained within this report.

Ownership - The Memorial itself is owned by Cambridge City Council, confirming the decision to add names within the purview of this committee.

Finance - Both City Council Officers and the family of Lt Jack Creek have contacted the War Memorial's Trust to request grant funding for the addition of this name. This project does not constitute a request for funding from the Council.

Quality - Officers have identified a suitably skilled organisation to undertake the engraving works. The Cardozy Kindersley Workshop are a local, specialist organisation, highly skilled in their trade. They also have a tradition to the memorial, with David Kindersley having previously made additions following World War II.

Consultation - Following the approval from Area committee to proceed, officers intend to advertise the addition of the name locally, through local community facilities and organisations, in collaboration with local members and community groups. The sensitive nature of the scheme directed officers to make a decision to the name in principle, prior to consulting more widely than high level stakeholders.

Permissions – Officers can confirm that the asset is owned by the City Council and that it is within their gift to make the decision to add a name to the memorial. Listed Building consent would be required for the engraving, which would be made by Officers.

Upon a decision to add the name, Officers would then proceed to obtain the necessary permission and implement the scheme on behalf of the family.

Officers request that the decision as to whether to add the name to the War memorial be taken by South Area Committee, being the most appropriate community body for any proposed addition or alteration to the memorial. Officers will then assist the family in obtaining the grant funding, and making a listed building consent for the works.

A separate project appraisal to improve the hard standing and surroundings of the memorial, unconnected to this project, is also to be brought forward for consideration by South Area Committee. These projects are not interdependent or related.

2.0 Evidential notes

2.1 E-mail transcript

To following is an edited transcript of correspondence between City Council officers and the family of Lt Jack Creek, in order that a more fully informed decision can be made.

Transcript begins:

“A very many thanks for your email and letter. We have been trying to have Jack Creek's name added to the memorial for some time, and what you have done subsequent to my recent communications is significant, for which we thank you, although I do appreciate it comes with no guarantees.

To clarify the 'relationship', Lieutenant Creek is the father of my mother-in-law's partner, Mr James Creek (I have copied him on this email). Although James Creek has been constantly involved in seeking to add the name, I have made local contacts where possible as I live in Sawston in Cambridgshire, so could meet individuals as necessary.

In answer to your questions, I've tried to be as clear and concise as possible below:

1) Application for the cost of the engraving work.

We would be extremely grateful if you could deal with the War Memorials Trust on our behalf. I should point out that at the suggestion of Lord Cope, who has been very helpful in pursuing our cause, we have made a pre-application for a grant from the War Memorials Trust. Details of the application and the reference number is below. If there are any fees associated with this application process, please contact me as soon as payment is required:

Our ref WM3956

2) Location of proposed engraving of name.

The location described sounds absolutely fine. The possibility having of Lieutenant Creek's name on the Trumpington memorial is itself the key aim for us.



3) Your questions/answers to the area committee

Q1) Could you confirm whether Lieutenant Jack Creek was killed in action, and if not do you know the circumstances of his death? Was he still in active service when he died?

Yes Lt. Jack Neville Creek was killed in action. He died and was buried in Egypt. Attached communications from the War Office confirm.

Q2) Could you forward on confirmation that he served with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and any details of his service during World War II?

Jack Creek was a professional soldier and a Cambridge man born and bred. He joined the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders in the 1920s. He served in Jamaica, China, India and of course the UK. He was promoted through the ranks achieving the rank of Lieutenant. He was posted to Palestine before the outbreak of war and was there when war broke out.

Q3) I would also be grateful if you could confirm in what way he was connected to Trumpington, and why you feel this is an appropriate location for his memorial?

The attached documents show that Jack Creek's wife and children lived at "Allendale", Bishops Road, Trumpington. His parents lived at 7 & 8, George IV Street, Cambridge, a location which is in the Trumpington Ward. The 1911 Census will confirm.

Q4) Finally, is there any reason you are aware of that your relative is not currently included on the memorial?

I cannot state why Jack's name was omitted from the war memorial. It may be because he was killed early in the war or because his widow and family left Trumpington at the end of the war.

4) Contact from the local press

We would be more than happy to be contacted by the press should they wish more information, especially if it helps the application and benefits Trumpington itself in some way.

5) Other Information

If there is anything we can do to help push this to a decision point as soon as possible, then please let me know. Our aim would be to have this all in place before Remembrance Sunday this year, as that would be a poignant date to celebrate his name being added, so we are keen to address any issues to meet that date.”

Tel. No.—Liverpool Wavertree 4000.

Any further communication on this
subject should be addressed to :—
The Under-Secretary of State,
The War Office
Casualty Branch,
Blue Coat School,
Church Road,
Wavertree,
Liverpool 15,
and the following number quoted.



THE WAR OFFICE
CASUALTY BRANCH,
BLUE COAT SCHOOL,
CHURCH ROAD,
WAVERTREE,
LIVERPOOL 15.

O.S./1491.C. (Casualties)

14th January, 1941.

Madam,

In confirmation of War Office telegram dated
the 9th January, 1941, I am directed to inform you,
with an expression of the deep regret of the Army
Council, that a report has been received from the
Middle East, that your husband, Lieutenant J.N. Creek,
The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, was killed in
action on the 26th December, 1940.

I am,

Madam,

Your obedient Servant,

F. A. Hawkins

Mrs. J.N. Creek,
Allendale,
Bishop Road,
Trumpington,
Cambridge.

Image 1.

2.2 Correspondence from the War Office, confirming the address of the family residence in Trumpington, and that Lt Jack Creek was killed in action.

Tel: Bourne End 594.

Form PE.2.

Any further correspondence
on this subject should be
addressed to:-

THE WAR OFFICE.

The Director-General,
Graves Registration and Enquiries,
The War Office(A.G.13.),
Woodburn House,
Woodburn Green,
High Wycombe, Bucks.
and the following number quoted:

Egypt 13-1/A.G.13.
.....

5th December,
..... 1942.

Dear Madam,

I have to inform you that your husband, Lieutenant Jack Neville
Creek, 1st Battalion, Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, (169684),
is buried in Sidi Barrani Italian Military Cemetery, Egypt, Plot 1, Row D,
Grave No.6.

The enclosed photographs of the grave have just been received and are
forwarded for your retention.

It is noted that the particulars on the cross differ in some respects
from those recorded in this Department.

Under present conditions it may not be possible to have the inscription
on the cross altered. A careful note however has been made of the correct
particulars so that when the time comes to replace the cross with a permanent
headstone they shall be correct in every respect.

Yours faithfully,

for Lieutenant-in-Chief
Director-General,
Graves Registration and Enquiries.

Mrs. M. Creek,
"Allendale",
Bishops Road,
Trumpington,
Cambridge.

Image 2.

2.3 Correspondence from the war office, confirming the burial
site of Lt Jack Creek, and again the family address in Trumpington.



Image 3

2.4 Image of the initial grave site of Lt Jack Creek at Sidi Barrani Italian military cemetery.

Image 4, overleaf

2.5 Image shows the 1911 census, indicating Jack Neville Creek, aged 11, resided at 7 and 8 George IV Street, Cambridge, which officers can confirm is also within the Trumpington ward.

Number of Schedule	(To be filled up by the Enumerator after collection.)

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that —

(1) All the ages of the Schedule are correctly filled in the proper sex column, and that the number of males and females is correctly given, and that the total number of persons, and have accompanied their men with the total number of persons.

(2) After making the necessary inquiries, I have completed all entries in the Schedule, and that the entries are correct, and that the entries are correct, such as appeared to be erroneous.

Initials of Enumerator W.B.B.

Total.		
Males.	Females.	Persons.
4	2	6

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature Charles David James Creek

Postal Address 7 and 8, George 14th Street, Lambeth.

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Charles David James Beards

Postal Address 7 and 8 George Vth Strat, Cambridge.

6

In Memory of

Lieutenant

Jack Neville Creek

169684, 1st Bn., Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders who died on 26 December 1940 Age 38

Son of Charles David and Ellen Elizabeth Creek; husband of Fannie Monica Creek, of Trumpington, Cambridge.

Remembered with Honour

Halfaya Sollum War Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Image 5

2.6 Confirmation that Lt Jack Creek is now buried in Halfaya Sollum War Cemetery, Egypt.

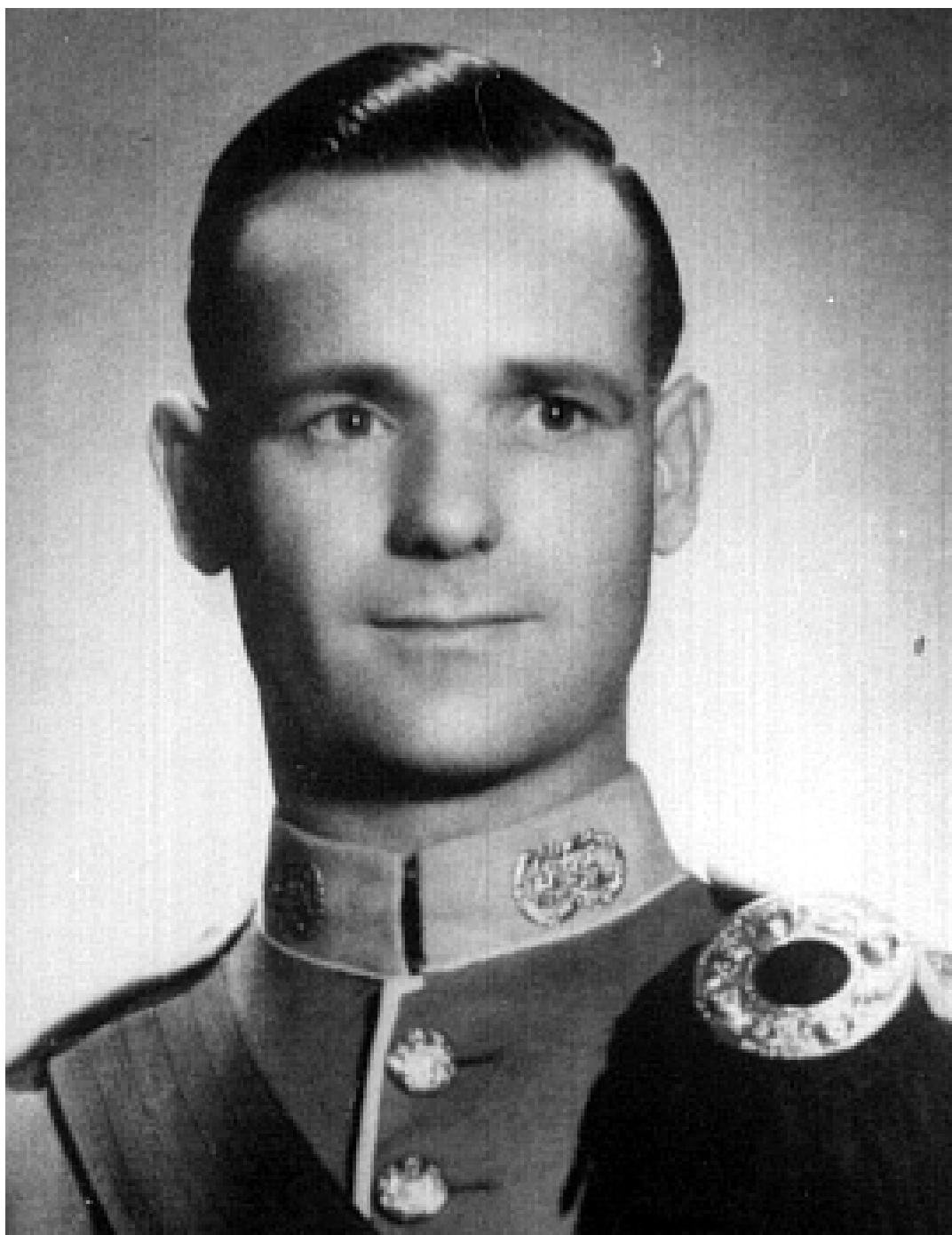


Image 6

2.7 An image of Lt Jack Creek, as supplied by his family.



Image 7.

2.8 An image of the grave of Lt Jack Creek in Halfaya, Egypt.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

The Queen and I offer you
our heartfelt sympathy in your
great sorrow.

We pray that your country's
gratitude for a life so nobly
given in its service may bring
you some measure of consolation.

George R.I.

Image 8

2.9 Royal condolence letter, following the death of Lt Jack Creek.