

Press release: Appointment of new Commissioners to the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission

Following a competitive application process the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is pleased to announce the appointment of four new members of the [Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission \(MACC\)](#) with effect from 1 August 2019.

- Adam Smith is Professor of United States History at UCL, but from 1 August 2019 will be the Edward Orsborn Professor of US Politics and Political History and Director of the Rothermere American Institute (RAI) at the University of Oxford.
- Adrian Greer is currently the Chief Operating Officer for the British Council and will step down from that role on 10th May this year. He has 12 years Board level experience in the British Council, at the University of St Andrews and as a Director of BC Holdings.
- Judith Buchanan is Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the University of York, where she is also Director of the Humanities Research Centre. She has worked at the University in various capacities since 1997. She was a Fulbright scholar from 1992-1993.
- Lesley Vinjamuri is the Dean of the Queen Elizabeth II Academy and also Head of the US and Americas programme at Chatham House, having previously worked as Director of the Centre on Conflict, Rights and Justice at SOAS University.

Commenting on the appointment Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister of State, Rt. Hon Mark Field MP said:

The Marshall Scholarship Scheme is an exceptional programme and demonstrates the ongoing, close relationship between the UK and the US. Our Marshall scholars will have an opportunity not only to study in the UK's world leading higher education system but to develop a lasting understanding of British society, building life-long connections.

I am grateful to the Marshall Commissioners for volunteering their time to ensure the continued success of the programme. I know we will see more alumni use this opportunity the UK has given to them to go on to become prominent leaders, joining prestigious company like the Chairman and co-founder of LinkedIn, a NASA Astronaut

currently at the International Space Station and two current Supreme Court Justices.

MACC Chairman Christopher Fisher added:

I am delighted that we have been able to attract such high calibre individuals to become new Marshall Commissioners, and would like to record the Commission's appreciation of the service of the four Commissioners who are completing their terms with us: Professor Brian Cantor, Janet Legrand, Professor Simon Newman and Barbara Ridpath.

The Marshall Scholarship Programme has a fantastic track record in contributing to the enduring strength of UK-US ties. The Commission is fully committed to sustaining the scale, quality and vitality of this successful programme.

The Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission administers the British Marshall Scholarship scheme, which finances young Americans of high ability to study for a graduate degree in the UK.

Scholars are selected each year to study at graduate level at a UK institution in any field of study. As future leaders, with a lasting understanding of British society, Marshall Scholars strengthen the enduring relationship between the British and American peoples, their governments and their institutions.

Commissioners serve for a term of three years, with the possibility of re-appointment for a second term. The appointment is unpaid.

Further information

[Press release: Even more people set to benefit from online court reform](#)

- Courts and Tribunals (Online Procedure) Bill introduced to House of Lords
- sets up a new committee which will help people navigate online court systems
- cases will be progressed more efficiently and financial savings made

The Courts and Tribunals (Online Procedure) Bill forms part of the government's ambitious £1 billion Reform Programme and will establish a

judicially chaired committee tasked with developing new, simplified rules around online services in civil, family and tribunal proceedings.

More than 35,000 applications for divorce have already been made online since the system was launched in May 2018, reducing errors in applications from 40% to less than 1%.

In addition, almost 60,000 applications were made to HMCTS' online civil money claims service during the past year with claims now taking, on average, 10 minutes to issue – down from 15 days using the former paper-based service.

The measures announced today will allow even more users to benefit from these online services.

Ministry of Justice Spokesperson in the Lords, Lord Keen, said:

From appealing their tax bill online to applying for divorce, every single day people up and down the country are already taking advantage of our ambitious court reforms.

This Bill will improve access to justice for all by providing clear and understandable rules to guide people through the many new digital processes we are introducing.

A dedicated Online Procedure Rule Committee will allow civil and family cases to be progressed more efficiently, as well as allowing financial savings across the justice system.

Easy to follow guidance will ensure online services are as simple as possible to navigate and increase access to justice while supporting the uptake of HMCTS' online services.

Notes to editors

- The Online Procedure Rule Committee will prescribe the process for making online procedure rules, which would then have to be signed by a majority of the committee before being submitted to the Lord Chancellor for approval.
- The committee will be set up as soon as possible after royal assent of the Bill.

[News story: Two unknown soldiers given military burial a century after their](#)

deaths in the Great War

Two unknown soldiers have been laid to rest more than 100 years after they fell serving their country during World War 1. The service took place on Tuesday 30 April at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's (CWGC) Ovillers Military Cemetery, on the Somme in France.

The service, organised by the MOD's Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC), part of Defence Business Services, conducted by the Reverend Stuart Richards, Chaplain to the 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (RRF).

The bearer party carries the coffin of the unknown Northumberland Fusilier, Crown Copyright, All rights reserved

Whilst 1 soldier was identified as a Northumberland Fusilier through artefacts found with his remains, sadly no artefacts were found with the second soldier. It is believed that he also died during the Capture of La Boisselle in July 1916. The second soldier was buried as an unknown soldier of an unknown regiment.

Both men were laid to rest by a burial party composed of members of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

The Regimental burial party, Crown Copyright, All rights reserved

Despite extensive research, it was not possible for the JCCC to identify either of these soldiers due to the high number of casualties.

Louise Dorr, JCCC said:

It's a matter of great personal sadness that we have not been able to identify either of these brave men, return their names to them and bury them in the presence of their families. That said, their military family is here to mourn them both and lay them to rest with the dignity, respect and honour they deserve.

The remains of both soldiers were found in March 2015, within a ploughed field north of the village of La Boisselle in an area that was known as Mash Valley during the Battle of the Somme (July 1916).

The coffins awaiting burial, Crown Copyright, All rights reserved

The Reverend Stuart Richards (Chaplain to 1 RRF) said;

Although its over 100 years since the end of the World War 1, people are still moved to remember and honour the fallen, and as each year yields yet more bodies it is a deep privilege to take

part in the burial of British soldiers and continue the tradition of a century of remembrance.

David Royle, CWGC said:

Although it has not been possible to identify these 2 soldiers, their service and sacrifice has not been forgotten. They have been laid to rest with respect and dignity alongside their comrades in Owillers Military Cemetery. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission will proudly mark and care for their graves, together with all of those who served and fell, in perpetuity.

[Press release: Penny Mordaunt statement on fighting in Libya](#)

Penny Mordaunt statement on fighting in Libya – GOV.UK

International Development Secretary comments on recent violence in Tripoli and announces UK aid to provide vital medical supplies to help injured civilians.



International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt said:

With many hospitals in Libya severely under-resourced and near breaking point, UK aid will provide vital medical supplies to help them cope with the increase in casualties. Today's support will also help families to access critical primary health services and provide emergency surgical care for trauma victims.

I have been horrified at the repeated, indiscriminate attacks on residential neighbourhoods in Tripoli which have left several civilians dead, including children and healthcare workers. The UK remains deeply concerned about the potential impact on civilians if the fighting moves further into densely-populated urban areas.

All parties to the conflict must do all that they can to prevent any further loss of life, including by respecting their obligations under International Humanitarian Law and engaging with the UN and humanitarian community to get aid to those in need and for the wounded and those at risk to be safely evacuated.

Notes to editors

- The UK's Department for International Development will provide £1 million to the UN Flash Appeal for Libya, launched in response to the fighting in Tripoli, which has been ongoing since 4 April. The World Health Organisation (WHO) will deliver lifesaving medical care, including surgery in frontline referral hospitals, and supplies for 150,000 patients.
- We will also provide an expert to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to help negotiate improved access for agencies to deliver aid on-the-ground.
- On 17 April 2019 the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock, released US\$2 million from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to provide life-saving assistance to civilians caught up in the escalating fighting in Libya, including vulnerable refugees and migrants. The UK was the biggest donor to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) in 2018, providing £ 114.3 million.
- The UK is also providing an £5m over three years to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) for humanitarian protection and assistance for migrants and refugees in Libya, as part of our £75m Safety, Support and Solutions – Phase II programme.

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