The Trustees of the

Souvenir Francais au Royaume-Uni | The French War Graves Commission in the UK

Trustees Annual Report

We are pleased to provide our fourth Trustee report since the CIO (the "Charity") was established on 29 August 2019.The. Trustee Annual Report covers the period ranging from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025.

Our focus on commemorative plaques has also continued and as in previous years, those efforts continue to be deemed successful and in line with our objectives.

2025 was marked by many "80th commemorations" as well as by a French Head of State Visit, President Emmanuel Macron and his wife, to the United Kingdom on the invitation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla. On that occasion, the Charity supported selected commemorative events which took place during the visit in July 2025.

Thomas Liaudet

Chairman of the Trustees

Report of the trustees for the period ending 31 December 2025

The Trustees of *Le Souvenir Français au Royaume-Uni* (aka the French War Graves Commission, "SFRU" or the "Charity") present their annual report on the Charity and its examined account for the year ended 31 December 2025 and confirm compliance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, the Trust Deed and the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Key charity details

Registered Charity N 1185088

Website: www.le-souvenir-francais.uk

Contact address: 12 Connaught Square, W2 2HG, London

Mission statement

The French War Graves Commission operates under a Declaration of Trust dated 24 February 2019 which was registered by Charity Commissioners for England and Wales as a Charitable Incorporate Organisation (CIO) on 29 August 2019 which included the regulations for appointment of the trustees.

The *French War Graves Commission | Le Souvenir Francais au Royaume-Uni in the UK* honours men and women who died serving France and the United Kingdom, and their allies in the First and Second World Wars and subsequent conflicts and ensures they will never be forgotten. It provides advocacy, advice, information to its members and to the broader public.

Review of activities

Our activities have been largely focused on commemoration events and the continued effort focused on the set-up of commemorative plaque marking key regiments and or individuals whose role has been key during various conflicts.

Remembrance events

The Charity co-organises and participates to a number of commemorations which can be found on its web site (www.le-souvenir-francais.uk) including the November Remembrance and Armistice celebration.

Y2025 State visit

On the invitation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla, President Macron and Mrs Brigitte Macron paid a State Visit to the United Kingdom from 8 to 10 July 2025. The visit, which followed Their Majesties' State Visit to France from 20 to 22 September 2023, testified to the deep ties uniting our two countries and peoples. On that occasion, Mr Macron delivered a speech to Parliement and said:

" And I would like to thank Prime Minister Starmer, dear Keir, for attending the ceremonies of 11 November last year, honouring our fallen soldiers, the British Red Poppy alongside the Bleuets de France, becoming the first British head of government to spend Armistice Day in Paris in 80 years. Thank you. The French people shall never forget the sacrifices British people made to protect Europe and the world during the two world wars and to uphold with fierce determination the promise of our Entente Cordiale. We shall never forget the support of the asylum your forefathers gave to the Free French Forces in the fight against the barbarism of the Nazis. Sir Winston Churchill was one of the visionaries who had the foresight to help forge a strong transatlantic alliance and to come up with a peaceful European order in which he deeply believed. He passed the same vision on to us of a world order based on law, justice and respect for territorial integrity. An order that is today being attacked on a daily basis as we witness direct attacks on our democracies, the return of war to our continent, the resurgence of imperial impulses and the flouting of international rules by destabilizing powers while attempting to divide up the world to their advantage."

On July 8 2025, the President of the Republic and Brigitte Macron joined Prime Minister Keir Starmer and his wife laid a wreath in front of the statue of Sir Winston Churchill in Parliament Square. They then proceeded together to Carlton Gardens to lay a wreath in front of the statue of General De Gaulle and meet with veterans. The Charity was present and had brought one of his flag bearers on the occasion. President Macron thanked the Chairman of the Trustees of the Charity for our effort and enabling the French flag to be present during the ceremony.

Other notable events

Alongside the Fondation de la France Libre ("FFL") in the UK, the Charity supported the planting of a memorial tree on 8 May 2025 at the Lycee Charles de Gaulle.

In November 2025, the Charity participated to a veteran AGM association at Regent's Park Barracks in London and to the inauguration of a new "vitrine" focused on prominent French resistant Jean Moulin, which was organised by the representatives of the Fondation de la France Libre, Mrs Brigitte Williams. On the eve of Remembrance, it also participated to an additional "vitrine" focused on the voluntary enrolment of women alongside ("Engagement des femmes volontaires") the General de Gaulle from 1940 onward. The French Ambassador also attended the event.

In June 2026, the French ex PM Mr Attal visited London and attended the 18 June 2026 celebration, laying a wreath at Carlton House Terasse, the Charity attended the ceremony, including with its flag bearer.

We also celebrated the 81st Anniversary of the American OSS (Office of Strategic Services) who shared their award-winning short documentary, Operation Overlord: OSS and the Battle for France. Their film tells the story of Allied special forces whose daring exploits changed the course of World War II. It was shown by SOCEUR (Special Operations Command Europe) in Normandy, and by the Central Intelligence Agency to its personnel worldwide, to commemorate last year's 80th anniversary of D-Day. We noted it was reported that after watching their film, Steven Spielberg thanked The OSS Society for "preserving this history and keeping it our conversations 80 years later."

On Sunday 14 September, the Allied Air Forces Memorial Day, took place. The ceremony reflected the 80th Anniversary of the end of WWII, with the Allied Victories in Europe and Japan, but also of course the anniversary of the return of the French manned Heavy Bomber Squadron's of RAF Bomber Command, who of course served here from Elvington. 346 "Guyenne" and 347 "Tunisie" Squadron's departed in October 1945 to return to Bordeaux, Mérignac, to form the core of the post war French Armée de l'Air. There was also an exchange of French / RAF Air Cadets at the ceremonies in York (and Bordeaux). As the Association has retained a second flag bearer, he was able to participate to the event in York.

Finally, we also want to thank the Secret WW2 Learning Network for their great efforts on 11 November 2025 at Brookwood and for the organisation of the wreath placing at the Memorial of the Missing. The Charity is particularly thankful to their Chair, Mrs Louisa Russell and to Paul McCue, Executive Trustee.

Research and public listing of commemoration sites

The Charity continues to populate the list of key remembrance sites in the UK, which can also be found on the Charity's web site. New sties have been identified during the year and are expected to be added next year, following verifications of the exact location and/or site accessibility. As in the previous year, we have also seen an increase in request from overseas regarding individual members of the armed forces, which unfortunately we remain poorly equipped to process adequately. We however aim at guiding such requests towards relevant sources, including the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the MOD site to obtain copies of military records of services, and the Armed Forces Memorial roll of honour and the National Archives.

Update on UK commemorative plaque initiative

As mentioned in our previous report, in 2020, the Charity has co-initiated an effort to create and install a series of commemorative plaques in honour of the Free French fighters during World War 2, including those operating under British command. The effort was meant to be lasting over time, with relatively regular new plaques. While aiming at approximately a plaque a year, year 2025 was focused on the preparation of the plaque in memory of the BCRA (the Bureau central de renseignements et d'action, the WW2 intelligence service of the Free French Forces, which subsequently gave rise to contemporary intelligence services), which is expected to be unveiled at the French Institute in London in late 2026 or early 2027.

Unfortunately, ahead of the 18 June 2025 celebration, it was observed that the French Memorial plaque at 4 Carlton Gardens, SW1Y 5AA — the former headquarters of General Charles de Gaulle during WWII had been vandalised. The Charity took action to allow for a deep clean of the plaque ahead of the celebrations. We are tanksful to the Westminster Council who was very reactive, as well as to the local facilities manager.

Photos of plaques can be found on the Charity web site at: https://le-souvenir-francais.uk/fr/plaques-commemoratives

Recovery of grave/cemetery

The Charity continues to collaborate with other delegations and associations regarding stolen war grave items which may be put for sale on internet websites such as Ebay. Another plaque was “salvaged” from a commercial website. The plaque was in memory of decorated WW1 Soldier Albert Lebon and the UK based merchant was reactive and very cooperative, having itself acquired the item from a French market whilst not being aware of its original provenance. The item has now been returned to France. Its original location was in Parroy (54) and the soldier’s name is also inscribed on the local cenotaph.

Digital media

The Charity continues to make good use of its X account with a relatively steady group of c. 216 followers. It has however been less active than in other years on this media.

The Charity continue to identify and recommend relevant expositions, theatre play and other event / release through its web site, which is in line with its objectives. It also share relevant information by email with its members.

Donation and fundraising campaigns

Donations continue to be encouraged through our DonorBox page available directly from our website. However, the Charity has not pro-actively engaged into any financing fundraising this year.

Support of grants for veterans

The Charity did not participate to the *Conseil consulaire* in charge of allocating French government grant to veterans this year but we trust it was, as always, well organised and proceeded with grant attributions,

Coordination with other associations and Governments

As in previous years, the Charity continues to work hand in hand with a number of other associations, both British and/or French, as well as with Governments from both countries. Commemoration events offer a key opportunity to bring both together. The Charity however operates on a complete autonomous basis, as per its governing documents.

Looking to the forward

A number of key events are planned for year 2026, including a presidential visit involving commemorations in London. This will be reported next year.

Organisational management

Operations

There were no significant changes to the Charity's operations in 2025. A financial system check was also undertaken ahead of the completion of the accounts in October 2025

We continue to be pleased with the DonorBox online platform helping to manage donations which was implemented in late 2022, as well as the Virgin Money banking platform.

We had ramped-up the cyber security safeguards for our website in 2024 and no issues have been detected of reported during the period.

Financials

The Charity continues to operate with limited financial requirements and through charitable donations. Upon achieving its Charity status in August 2019, the French War Graves Commission registered with HRMC on 25 November 2019 and its charitable donors can opt to add *Gift Aid* to their donations. The financial statements show a gross income of £48.05 for the period covering 1 January to 31 December 2025. Expenses amount to £111.5 for the period.

Trustees

During the period the Charity was pleased to welcome a new Trustee, Mr Edouard de Guitaut. It concluded the search for a new Trustee which was undertaken in 2024 after Mr de Wendel had stepped down. Mr De Guitaut has a long track-record of supporting memorial actions in the UK and was well known the Charity having been the initiator of our series of plaques.

The full list is detailed further below in this report and available on the Charity Commission website.

Volunteers

The Charity has not worked with any additional volunteer during the period but intend to focus on expanding its support in 2026 and 2027.

Governance

There is no additional governance information to report.

Reserve policy

The current financial requirements of the Charity are limited. As a result, no set minimum balance has been set by the trustees. The adequacy of the policy will be reviewed in future years.

Going Concern

The trustees have identified no significant short or medium-term financial risks to the charity's continued operations, and therefore the accounts have been prepared on the going concern basis.

Statement of trustee's responsibilities

Law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principals in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Charity trustees (as of 31 December 2025)

Trustee	**Appointed on**	**Role**
Thomas Liaudet	29 August 2019	Chair
Gerald Carton	29 August 2019	Trustee
Louis Trincano	29 August 2019	Trustee
Edouard de Guitaut	14 March 2025	Trustee
Resignation		
Humbert de Wendel	15 October 2019	Resigned from Trustee position on 2 July 2024

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

T Liaudet, Chairman

10 October 2026

ACCOUNTS

Financial reporting	**Y2025**
Income resources	
Donations	£ 48
Other income	£ -
Investment income	£ -
Total	£ 48
Less: cost of generating funds	
Donations	£ -
Other expenses	£ -
Total	£ 0
Net income available for charitable activities	£ 48
Operating expenses	£ -
Exceptional expenses	£ 111
Total funds carried forward	£ 200
Fixed Assets	
Tangible assets	£ -
Programme related investments	£ -
Investments	£ -
	£ -
Current Assets	
Stocks	£ -
Debtors	£ -

Cash at bank in hand	£	200
Total	£	200
Creditors: amount falling due within 1 year	£	-
Net assets	£	200
Unrestricted funds		
General funds	£	200
Fixed assets	£	-
Total	£	200
Restricted funds	£	-
Total Funds	£	200

Notes to the financial statements

A) **Statutory Information**

The French War Graves Commission is a charitable incorporated organisation registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales. The office address is 12 Connaught Square, W2 2HG, London.

B) **Basis of preparation**

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP FRS 102) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (September 2015) and the Charities Act 2011. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a ‘true and fair’ view.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant

C) **Public benefit entity**

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

D) **Going concern**

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the

reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

E) **Income**

Income is recognised and included in the accounts when the Charity has entitlement, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met or are fully within the control of the Charity, there is sufficient certainty that the receipt of the income if probable and the amount can be measured reliably.

F) **Interest receivable**

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

G) **Expenditures and irrecoverable VAT**

All expenditure is included on an accrual basis and is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT where applicable is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Expenditures were focused on the reimbursement of one-off train expense for a flag bearer and a participation to the FFL 8 of May commemoration tree.

H) **Grants payable**

No grants were mase during the period. However, for future reference - Grants payable are to be made to third parties in furtherance of the charity's objects. Single or multi-year grants are accounted for when either the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and the trustees have agreed to pay the grant without condition, or the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and that any condition attaching to the grant is outside of the control of the charity. Provision for grants are made once the Charity has made a commitment at a meeting of the Trustees and this has been communicated to the grantee. The Charity uses annual reviews to determine whether funding is provided in the subsequent years of a recurring obligation and retains the discretion to terminate a grant. For this reason, an immediate liability usually arises only for the first year of the funding commitment.

I) **Tangible assets**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or donated value less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life.

J) **Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

K) **Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

L) **Creditors and provisions**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the

obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

M) **Pensions**

The Charity does not employ any staff, and no pension is currently arranged.

N) **Bank**

Details: Virgin Money

Jubilee House

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE3 4PL

O) **Online fundraising and Gift Aid Management**

Details: DonorBox.org (including GiftAid)

Web: https:// https://le-souvenir-francais.uk/fr/faire-un-don

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Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

T Liaudet 10 October 2026