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The Commission is entrusted with the marking and maintenance in perpetuity of the graves of those of the British Empire and Commonwealth Armed Forces who lost their lives between Aug. 4, 1914 and Aug. 31, 1921, and between Sept. 3, 1939 and Dec. 31, 1947, and with the erection of memorials to commemorate those with no known grave. In many of the cemeteries and plots a central feature is the Cross of Sacrifice or the Great Stone of Remembrance.

The area of responsibility of the Canadian Agency is the Continent of North America but it has also certain duties of inspection in Argentina, the Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Brazil, British Guiana, British Honduras, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Falkland Islands, French West Indies, Guatemala, Hawaiian Islands, Jamaica, Leeward Islands, Netherlands Antilles, Panama Canal Zone, Peru, Puerto Rico, Trinidad, Uruguay and Windward Islands.

In North America the Agency has commemorated 18,944 Commonwealth war dead in almost 3,000 cemeteries. Approximately 4,100 servicemen of both Wars, missing in operations while based in North America, are commemorated on memorials erected at Victoria, B.C., Halifax, N.S., and Ottawa, Ont. In Oakwood Cemetery, Montgomery, Alabama, the Agency has erected the only Cross of Sacrifice in the United States.

The Agency was instrumental in bringing together officials of the Netherlands War Graves Committee, the Royal Canadian Legion and the Department of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of planning a pilgrimage to enable relatives from Canada to visit the graves of Canadian war dead in the Netherlands.