

First world war's forgotten Chinese Labour Corps to get recognition at last.

Campaign launched to create memorial in London to workers literally painted out of a canvas recording nations who joined war effort.

在第一次世界大战中被遗忘了中国劳工团，最近终于得到认可。

在伦敦的“创建纪念馆”发起了活动，有人画了一副油画，记录的是有那个国家的人，努力的加入战争中。



Chinese Labour Corps recruits exercising in Weihaiwei prior to departure to Europe.

Photograph: Private collection

中国劳工团的新兵，在威海卫出发前往欧洲前在锻炼身体：图片来源：私人收藏

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The 95,000 Chinese farm labourers who, almost a century ago, volunteered to leave their remote villages and work for Britain in the first world war, have been called "the forgotten of the forgotten".

几乎一个世纪前，英国雇用了 95000 来自中国不知名的农民，他们主动离开自己的边远村庄来到在英国的第一次世界大战里的工作，他们被称为“被遗忘了的一群不知名的人”。

The contribution made by the Chinese Labour Corps was barely recognized at the end of the war, and has almost been obliterated since. There is no tribute to them among Britain's 40,000 war memorials, there are no descendants in Britain because they were refused any right to settle after the war, they were literally painted out of a canvas

recording all the nations who joined the war effort, and many of the records of their service were destroyed in the blitz of the second world war.

由中国劳工团所作出的贡献，几乎在战争结束后没有得到认可，几乎已经被湮没了。而且在英国的 40,000 多个战争纪念馆当中，也没有赞扬过他们的功劳，他们也没有什么后人在英国，因为他们被拒绝了任何战后的定居权力，有人画了一幅油画，记录的是有那些国家的人努力加入这场战争中，而他们许多的服务记录，已经在第二次世界大战时被突击摧毁了。

However, a campaign has now been launched by the Chinese community in Britain to create a permanent memorial in London to the Chinese Labour Corps and the dirty, dangerous, vital work they did behind the lines on the western front.

然而，在英国伦敦的中国社区，正在推出一项活动，就是在伦敦兴建一个中国劳工团在西前线的肮脏和危险工作的永久纪念碑。

Steve Lau, chair of the [Ensuring We Remember](#) campaign, was invited to the service of commemoration at Glasgow Cathedral 10 days ago. "My invitation was probably the first time the British government properly recognized the Chinese Labour Corps since the end of the war," he reflected.

“确保我们记住运动”的史蒂夫刘主席，在 10 天前被邀请参加格拉斯哥大教堂的纪念活动。他反映说，“英国政府这次邀请我，很可能是在一战结束后第一次，正确地认识到中国劳工团队。

Recruitment of the Chinese began in 1916 as ever escalating casualties meant labourers became disastrously scarce. Many came from such remote farms that when they reached the tall buildings and busy waterfront of Shanghai, they thought they had arrived in Europe. In fact it was only the start of an appalling journey on which many died – by ship across the Pacific, six days crossing Canada in sealed trains to avoid paying landing taxes, on by ship to Liverpool, by train again to Folkestone, and on to France and Belgium, where they lived in labour camps and worked digging trenches, unloading ships and trains, laying tracks and building roads, and repairing tanks.

英国于 1916 年在中国开始招募劳工，这意味着伤亡人数正在上升，缺乏劳动力。很多来自偏远农村的中国人，当他们来到很多高楼大厦，而且非常繁忙的上海海滨时，他们以为自己已经到达了欧洲。而事实上，这只是震惊和许多死亡的旅程的开始 - 他们乘轮船穿过太平洋后到加拿大，乘坐火车穿越加

拿大，而且为了避免缴纳登陆税款，所以所有人在六天里都要在密封的火车箱里，再由船到达利物浦，再次乘火车到“福克斯通”，然后到达法国和比利时，他们入住在劳工营，而他们的工作是挖战壕，和轮船和火车上卸货，铺设轨道和建设道路和修复坦克的工作等等。

Some who died on the voyage are buried in Liverpool, and 2,000 more lie in commonwealth war graves, but some sources believe 20,000 died. They worked 10-hour days, seven days a week, and had three holidays including Chinese New Year. When the war ended and other men went home, they worked on until 1920, clearing live ordnance and exhuming bodies from battlefield burials and moving them to the new war cemeteries.

有些在航行中死死去的人，就被埋葬在利物浦，不过有一些人士认为有20000多人死亡，分别葬在2000多个英伦邦国坟。他们是一周工作七天，每天10个小时，并且有三个假期，其中之一是中国春节。他们直到1920年，战争结束后有很多人都直接回国去了，有些人却要留下来清除战场上的，炮弹和在墓里再次掘出尸体，并将其移到战争公墓中。

China declared war on Germany in August 1917, when a German torpedo sank the French ship Athos, with the loss of 543 Chinese lives. In 1919 [China](#) refused to sign the treaty of Versailles, in bitter disappointment over the breaking of a promise that in return for their support for the allies, the Shandong peninsula would be returned from Japanese control. Mr Lau said that when Britain distributed 6m commemorative medals to all who took part in the war, those received by the Chinese bore only their numbers, not their names, and were bronze, not silver. Painfully symbolically, the Chinese were also painted out of a giant canvas exhibited in Paris at the end of the war. It was believed to be the largest painting in the world, and showed a victorious France surrounded by her allies. It was begun in 1914, but had to be changed in 1917 to include the arrival of the United States - the space was found by painting over the Chinese workers.

当德国的鱼雷击沉了法国船“阿托斯号”，当时有543中国人丧生，所以中国在1917年8月正式对德国宣战了。在1919年，中国拒绝签署不合理的“凡尔赛条约”破承诺协议，中国在痛苦和失望之中，被其他盟友拒绝和支持，因而山东半岛将再由日本所控制。刘主席说，当时英国政府只颁发了6米大的纪念奖章，给所有参加了这场战争中的人，中国人民只得到了他们的编号，而不是他们的名字，并且是青铜做，而不是白银做的。令人更痛心的象征，就是中国人被画在了一个巨大的画布上，战争结束后在巴黎展出。它被认为

是世界上最大的画，并呈现了法国被她们的盟友胜利的包围。它于1914年开始画，但是在1917年因美国人的加入而更改了-发现美国人被画在原本中国工人的位置上。

When the [Imperial War Museum reopened last month](#) after a £40m rebuild, the campaigners were saddened but not surprised that there was no mention of the Chinese labourers' contribution in the new first world war gallery.

当上个月“帝国战争博物馆”花了£40,000,000英镑重建博物馆后，重新开放时，投诉运动团体感到很难过，因为没有任何一个画廊和展馆，提到中国劳工团在一战的贡献，但是这并不感到惊讶。

The broken promise at Versailles led in part to Mr Lau's own birth in Birmingham, son of a Chinese chef. His father left as a boy when, as predicted, war broke out again with Japan over Shandong, making his way first to Hong Kong and then England.

因为欧洲不合理的“凡尔赛条约”，导致影响到出生在伯明翰的刘先生他的父亲，他本身是一个中国厨师的儿子。他父亲离开自己中国本土的时候，本身还是一个小男孩。因为当时预测到日本将会在山东爆发战争，所以他父亲先到香港，然后再转去到英国。

The campaign to create a permanent memorial in central London, to be unveiled in 2017 sited either in Southwark or Westminster, is backed by the Chinese embassy and the Chinese in Britain Forum.

Lord Wallace of Saltaire, who attended the launch representing the Foreign Office and is a member of the official advisory group on the first world war commemorations, said the campaign was a useful corrective to what he called "the Daily Mail approach" to the war, portraying plucky little England standing alone against the enemy. "It was never a purely English effort: it required the effort of a great many people from a great many countries, willingly or unwillingly."

抗议组织要求在伦敦市中心，建立一个永久的纪念碑，这将会在2017年得知，选址会在“萨瑟克”或是“威斯敏斯特”，这事得到在英国的“中国大使馆”和在英国的“中文论坛”团体所支持下。而“华莱士，索尔泰尔”大人(领主)，他代表外交部官方咨询小组出席参加这次，“第一次世界大战纪念活动”的成员之一，他说，这次运动是有益的，修正“每日邮报”前，所塑造一个独立顽强的英国人去打击敌人，战争的情况，“这是一个从来没有过的

纯粹英国式的功夫说法：而事实上它是需要很多伟大的国家和人，一起去努力的事情，你情愿或不情愿去知道的事。”

### [Chinese workers on the western front](#)

#### 中国劳工团在西部战争前线的工作



Letters: The Chinese Labour Corps were mostly used for trench digging, and so exposed to direct enemy fire. When not working, they were held in barbed-wire compounds.

信息：中国劳工队主要的工作是掘壕沟，因此很容易，直接暴露在敌人的炮火中。不用工作的时候，大家就回到有铁丝网围起来的劳工营内。