

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES

RESEARCHING A MEMBER OF CANADIAN FORCES WHO DIED IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR



This bitesize guide is designed to help you research a person who died in the Second World War while serving with Canadian forces, whether on land, at sea, or in the air. Firstly, you will need to decide who you will research... this might be a relative, or you could choose a name from a local war memorial, or you might select a name from a Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) memorial or headstone, in a CWGC cemetery or maybe in a churchyard near you.

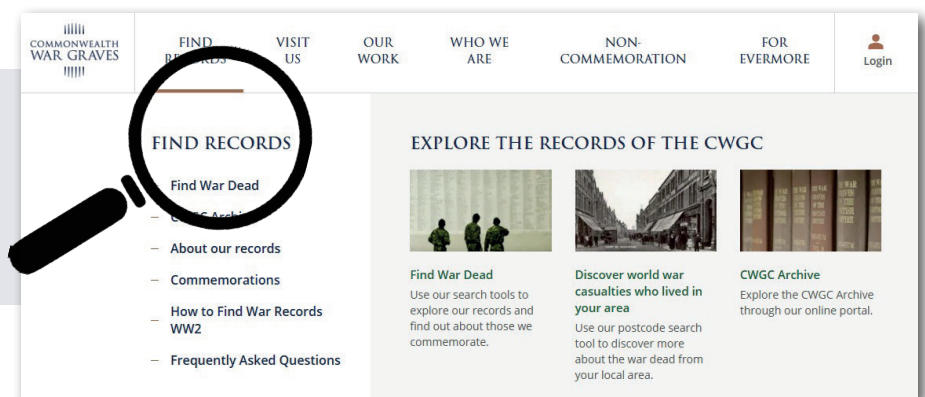
The first stage of your research starts with the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission** Casualty Database. At CWGC, we keep a record of the place of burial or commemoration of all the servicemen and women of the Britain and Commonwealth who died in the First and Second World Wars.

STEP 1: Visit our website at www.cwgc.org



Need help..?
Watch the 'How to search' video tutorials

Using the dropdown
FIND RECORDS
menu, select
'Find War Dead'



FIND WAR DEAD WITH OUR WAR GRAVES SEARCH TOOL

Find war dead records of the 1.7 million Commonwealth men and women that we commemorate

Search form fields:

- Last name: Enter the last name of the casualty
- First name: Enter a first name
- Initials: Enter initials
- Service Number: Service numbers can contain numbers, letters and symbols
- Regiment: Find records that relate to a particular regiment
- Served with (country): Served With
- Served in (army etc.): Served In
- War: Select War (First World War, Second World War)

Fill in the name of
the individual you are
researching

Select
Second World War
box



Research tip
Records use different combinations of full names, name and initial, and initials only – you may have to try several of these to find the person you are looking for

If you have some more details about the person, such as their date of death, service number, or any medals they received, you can search using these in the **ADDITIONAL FIELDS** section

ADDITIONAL FIELDS

Select additional options to add them to your search criteria

Country (commemorated in)
Cemetery or Memorial
Unit
Rank
Secondary Regiment
Age at death
Date of Death

Honours & awards
Additional information

A ship name, squadron number or battalion number can be put into the 'unit' field

You will then get a list of the results...

SHOW 10 OF 45389 WAR DEAD

Download all results

Sort by Relevance

Refine Results

Results per page 10

Name, Rank & Service No.	Unit, Regiment, Country of Service	Date of Death	Commemorated at	
BRIDE FITZPATRICK Stewardess	S.S. Caribou (St. John's, Newfoundland) Canadian Merchant Navy Canadian	Died 14 October 1942	BAY ROBERTS VERY OLD ROMAN CATHOLIC CEMETERY Canada	More details Save to My list
JAMES ROBERT HUGHES Lieutenant	20 Coy. Canadian Forestry Corps Canadian	Died 03 December 1944	KILMORACK NEW CEMETERY Sec. 8, Grave U.3. United Kingdom	More details Save to My list
JOHN LEWIS GIBSON Flying Officer Service Number: J/20381	146 (R.A.F.) Sqdn Royal Canadian Air Force Canadian	Died 27 October 1943 22 years old	MAYNAMATI WAR CEMETERY 1. E. 2. Bangladesh	More details Save to My list
DOUGLAS FRANK JAKES BAXTER Pilot Officer Service Number: J/86085	576 (R.A.F.) Sqdn Royal Canadian Air Force Canadian	Died 05 July 1944 25 years old	ST. CYR-EN-VAL COMMUNAL CEMETERY Coll. grave 1-3. France	More details Save to My list
WILFRED HENRY DUPHETTE Private Service Number: A/4482	1 Repatriation Depot. Royal Canadian Army Service Corps Canadian	Died 07 May 1945	SALERNO WAR CEMETERY V. F. 38. Italy	More details Save to My list

Be aware,

CWGC records don't always include details about where an individual was from, or exactly where they died. Our records are centred around where a person is buried or commemorated



If you have not found who you are looking for, you can refine the results

If you think you have found your person, select 'More details' to see their commemoration record

Did you know...?

Wherever possible, relatives of the dead were offered the opportunity to have a short personal inscription on the CWGC marker

Additional Info can sometimes provide next of kin names and post-war address

If the person has a CWGC headstone, you will find any personal inscription listed here

PRIVATE
BENJAMIN SMELTZER

Service Number: B/133366

Regiment & Unit/Ship
Seaforth Highlanders of Canada

Date of Death
Died 21 July 1943
Age 21 years old

Buried or commemorated at
AGIRA CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY, SICILY
D. H. 491.
Italy

Country of Service
Canadian

Additional Info
Son of Noble Harrison Smeltzer and Helen Austin Galbraith Smeltzer, of Toronto, Ontario.

Personal Inscription
MAY KIND HANDS TEND YOUR GRAVE, DEAR BEN UNTIL GOD WILLS WE MEET AGAIN

COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES

We are in the process of adding an image of this casualty's point of commemoration

FROM THE CWGC ARCHIVES

GRAVE REGISTRATION (2)



Click to view



Click to view

CONCENTRATION (1)



Click to view

HEADSTONE (1)



Click to view

Scroll down the page to a link to our **CWGC Archives** and any additional information which is held about this person. You can find several different types of official documentation here. Find out more about these on page 3.

What are Headstone Reports?

These provide details of what is inscribed on an individual's headstone. The main purpose of these reports was to help manage the enormous programme of headstone production and engraving embarked by CWGC during the world wars.

Did you know...?

The Imperial War Graves Commission was founded in 1917. Before that, an army unit, Directorate of Graves Registration and Enquires (DGRE) began the work of recording details of those who had died

What are Grave Registration Reports (GRRs)?

These forms detail the graves we are responsible for within a particular burial site. Each grave is listed by Plot, Row and Grave number. These reports often provide basic details of the individual such as their name, service number, rank, regiment, unit and date of their death, when known to us.

What are Concentration Reports?

These record details of individuals who were originally buried in smaller or isolated cemeteries, but who, at a later date, were exhumed and reburied in 'concentrated' war cemeteries. This enabled CWGC to fully commemorate and look after otherwise unmaintainable graves.

Further down the person's commemoration page, you can find more details about the cemetery where the person you are looking for is buried, or the memorial upon which they are commemorated.

Did you know...?

The CWGC maintains more than 200 memorials across the globe. These record nearly 700,000 names of those who have no known grave, were buried at sea or cremated

BURIED OR COMMEMORATED AT

BAYEUX WAR CEMETERY

Calvados
France

Number of casualties: 4654

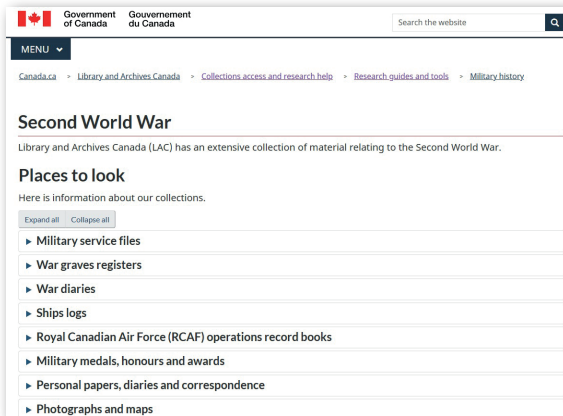
[View cemetery details](#)



Step 2: Searching for additional information online

The **Library and Archives Canada** website holds copies of the **Personal Records** the soldiers, nurses and chaplains of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) who served in the Second World War.

<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/second-world-war/second-world-war-dead-1939-1947/Pages/files-second-war-dead.aspx>



The **Library and Archives Canada** website holds copies of the **War Diaries** of all army, navy and air forces units which formed part of the Canadian Forces in the Second World War. These files record the day to day activities of a unit and sometimes include the names of individual soldiers.

<https://library-archives.canada.ca/eng/collection/research-help/military-heritage/second-world-war/Pages/second-world-war.aspx>

Step 3: Share their story on For Evermore

For Evermore: Stories of the Fallen is our new online resource to collect and share the stories of the men and women CWGC commemorates. If your research reveals more about the person than CWGC already knows, please add your person's story to our growing digital stories archive where it will live for evermore.

Has someone already shared something about the person you're researching?

Maybe another person from their battalion, ship, squadron, cemetery or memorial has a story?

Need inspiration before writing up your own story to share?

Visit <https://www.cwgc.org/stories/>

EVERY STORY FOR EVERMORE

