COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES

FOR EVERMORE
Stories of the Fallen

COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
Foundation

1. Why are there war graves in this part of Italy?

During the Second World War, on 3 September 1943 the Allies invaded the Italian mainland, the invasion coinciding with an armistice made with the Italians who then re-entered the war on the Allied side.

Following the liberation of Rome by the Allies in June 1944, the German retreat became ordered and successive stands were made on a series of defensive lines. In the northern Apennine mountains, the last of these, the Gothic Line, was breached by the Allies during the Autumn campaign and the front inched forward as far as Ravenna in the Adriatic sector, but with divisions transferred to support the new offensive in France, and the Germans dug into a number of key defensive positions, the advance stalled as winter set in.

The war cemeteries were formed during these months for the burial of those who were killed in the static fighting before the Allied advance was renewed in April 1945.

2. Where are the war graves in this part of Italy?

There are CWGC war graves and memorials at four locations in this part of Italy. Study the map below to see where they are.

3. Discover where these people came from

Use the flags to discover where some of those who are buried and remembered near Cesena had connections to or came from.

Forlì Indian Army War Cemetery
496 war graves
From: *India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka*

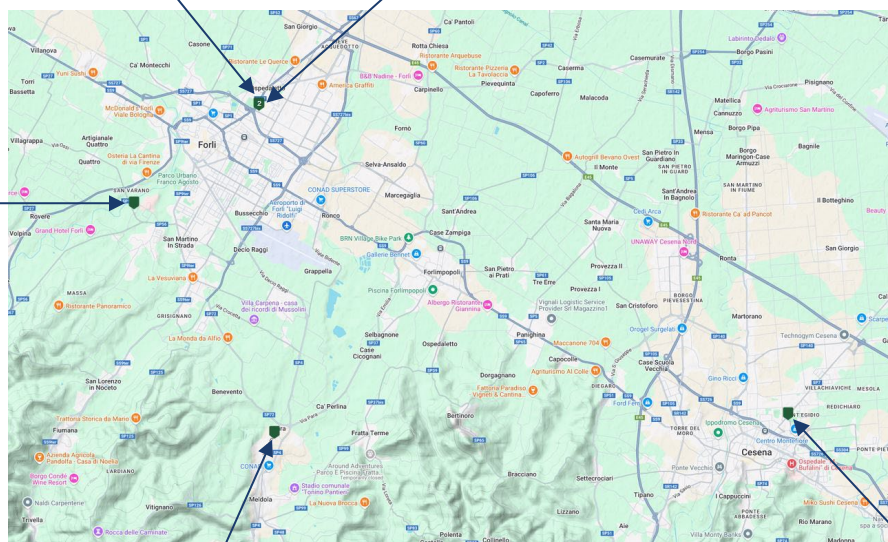**Forlì Cremation Memorial**
771 names
From: *India, Pakistan*

Forlì War Cemetery
738 war graves
From: *Canada, Cyprus, India, Lesotho, Mauritius, New Zealand, Palestine, Seychelles, South Africa, United Kingdom*

Meldola War Cemetery
145 war graves
From: *South Africa, United Kingdom*

Cesena War Cemetery
775 war graves
From: *Canada, Cyprus, Newfoundland, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom, USA*

4.1 Each headstone in the cemetery tells a different story.

As you explore the cemetery see what you can learn from the headstones. See if you can find the following;

1. Who is the **youngest** soldier you can find?
2. Who is the **oldest** soldier you can find?
3. How many **different countries** did they come from?

4.2 The African Pioneer Corps did all sorts of tasks from building roads to clearing mine fields. Can you find the soldier from Africa in **Plot 2**?

4.3 As you explore the cemetery, look at the different badges on the headstones. These will give you a clue as to the role the person had, and maybe where they came from. As you find each badge, **write down the name of the person who served with that unit, or service in the box next to the badge.**

South African units served in Africa and Europe during the Second World War. Can you find one in **Plot 2**?
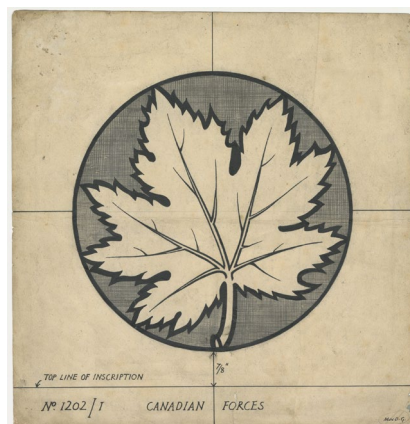

Nearly 1 million people served with the Royal Air Forces in the Second World War. They fought all over the globe and more than 124,000 died in service.

Many infantry regiments in the British Army were named after the areas from which many men came from. Can you this badge in **Plot 7**?

The Cyprus Regiment served in France, Italy and the Middle East in the Second World War. 328 soldiers died serving with the regiment. Can you find this badge in Plot 6?

More than 1.6 million Canadians troops fought across the globe in the world wars. More than 110,000 died in service.

More than 200,000 New Zealand troops, including native Māori's left New Zealand for service overseas in the world wars. More than 30,000 died.

Discover more at cwgc.org/stories