

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 six 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 Faenza had connections to or came from.

Faenza War Cemetery

1152 war graves

From: *Australia, Canada, India, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe*



Forlì Indian Army War Cemetery

496 war graves

From: *India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka*



Faenza Communal Cemetery

54 war graves

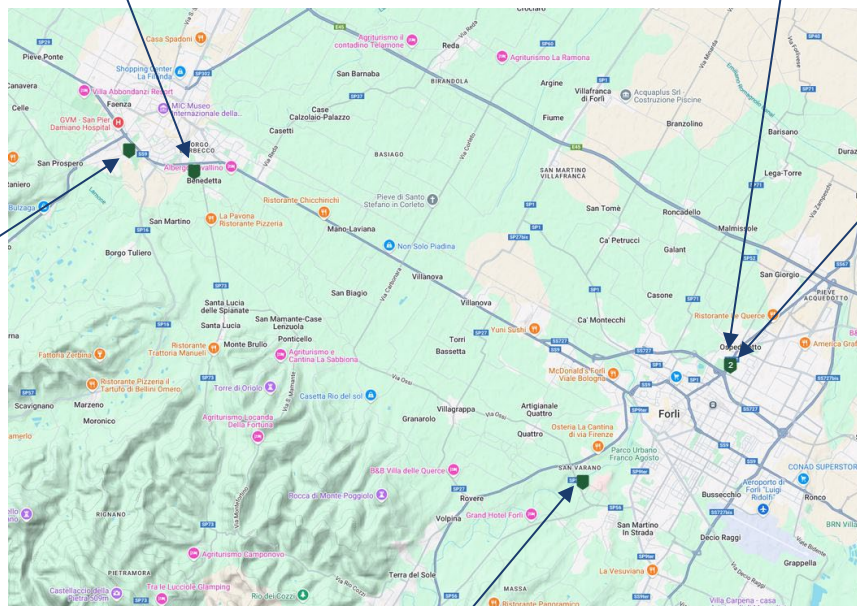
From: *Barbados, Ireland, India, Jamaica, United Kingdom*



Forlì Cremation Memorial

771 names

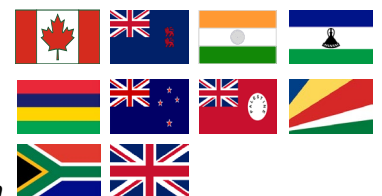
From: *India, Pakistan*



Forlì War Cemetery

738 war graves

From: *Canada, Cyprus, India, Lesotho, Mauritius, New Zealand, Palestine, Seychelles, South Africa, United Kingdom*



4. Discover more about the service of those buried at Faenza War Cemetery

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 There is just one headstone which has this medal engraved on. It is the **Victoria Cross**, awarded for supreme bravery. Who was awarded it?

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**?



There is just one headstone with this badge on. It is in **Plot 7**. What was the role of the soldier?



More than a million Australian troops fought across the globe in the world wars. More than 103,000 died. Can you find the RAAF aircrew in **Plot 7**?



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 8**?



More than 1.6 million Canadian 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.