1. Why are there war graves and memorials in Kohima and Imphal?

This region became the focus for the defence of India against the Japanese in the Second World War from 1942 to 1944. New airfields were constructed there, and army and air force reinforcements arrived. Eventually there was a considerable concentration of Commonwealth fighting forces in the Imphal area. Twice in 1944, the Japanese launched major attacks towards India. There was severe fighting in the surrounding hills. Kohima was the scene of perhaps the most bitter fighting of the whole campaign in 1944 when a small Commonwealth force held out against repeated attacks. he fiercest hand to hand fighting took place in the garden of the Deputy Commissioner's bungalow, around the tennis court, but the heaviest casualties on both sides occurred after relieving forces reached the Garrison and the Japanese were driven off the ridge, so re-opening the road to Imphal.

2. Where are the war graves and memorials in this part of India?

There are cemeteries and memorials at three locations in this area. These are the cemetery and cremation memorial at Kohima, and the two cemeteries and a cremation memorial in Imphal.

3. Discover where these people came from

Use the flags to discover where some of those who are buried and remembered in Kohima and Imphal came from.

Kohima War Cemetery
1,420 war graves
From: *Australia, Canada, Chile, India, Ireland, Kenya, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa, United Kingdom*

Kohima Cremation Memorial
917 names
From: *India, Pakistan, Nepal*

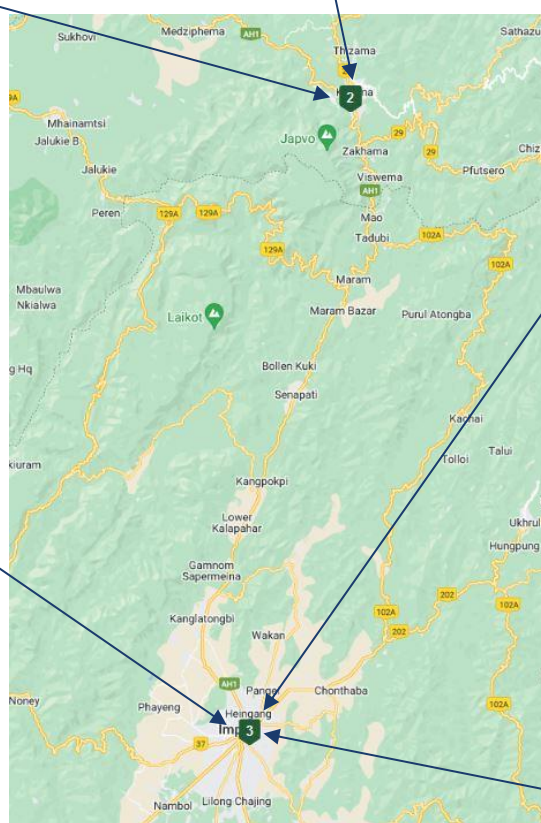**Imphal War Cemetery**
1,603 war graves
From: *Argentina, Australia, Canada, Ghana, Kenya, India, Ireland, Italy, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States, Zambia, Zimbabwe*

Imphal Indian Army War Cemetery
828 war graves
From: *India, Kenya, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sierra Leone*

Imphal Cremation Memorial
868 names
From: *India, Pakistan, Nepal*

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, based on the information you can discover on the headstones?

4.2 There are two graves with this medal on. It is the Victoria Cross for supreme bravery. Can you find one in **Plot 8**?

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 in the box** next to the badge.

There are three Australian airmen buried here. Two are buried in **Plot 1A**. Both died together in 1944.

There are two men buried here who served with the East Africa Engineers. Can you find one in **Plot 17**?

In **Plot 6** there is just one headstone with this badge on it. Who were they and what was their role?

More than 2.5 million people served in the British Indian Army in the Second World War. More than 87,000 died fighting across the globe.

In **Plot 14** there is just one headstone with this badge on it. The soldier came from the Chin Hills in modern day Myanmar.

There are nearly 90 soldiers buried here with this badge. They fought and died on this hill in 1944. Many came from England.

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