

1. Why are there war graves and memorials in the Netherlands?

There are more than 19,000 Commonwealth servicemen and women commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in the Netherlands. They died during the First and Second World Wars.

During the First World War, some Commonwealth servicemen were interned in the Netherlands, which was a neutral country. Those who died while interned were buried here. During the Second World War, fighting took place in the Netherlands in 1940 and again in 1944-45. Across the country you will find many graves of airmen who died on flying operations over occupied Europe throughout the war. Most of the Commonwealth servicemen buried in the Netherlands today died during the fighting to liberate the country in 1944-45.

2. Where are the war graves and memorials in the Netherlands?

There are war graves and memorials more than 470 locations across the Netherlands. Study the map below to see where the named 'Canadian' War Cemeteries are.

3. Discover where these people came from

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

Bergen-op-Zoom Canadian War Cemetery

1,119 war graves

From: Australia, Bermuda, Canada, Netherlands, Newfoundland, New Zealand, United Kingdom, USA



Bergen-op-Zoom War Cemetery

1,317 war graves

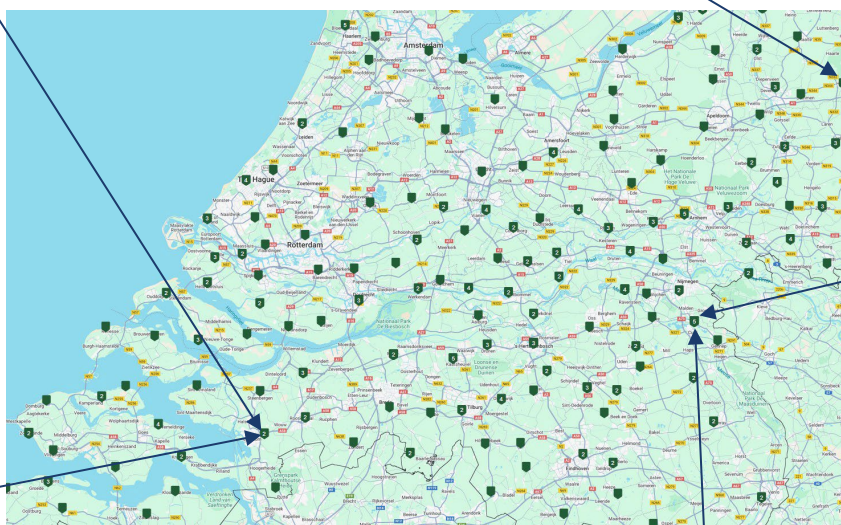
From: Argentina, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Ireland, Newfoundland, New Zealand, Poland, United Kingdom, USA, Zimbabwe



Holten Canadian War Cemetery

1,394 war graves

From: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Newfoundland, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USA



Groesbeek Memorial

1,646 names

From: Canada, Ireland, South Africa, United Kingdom



Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery

2,619 graves

From: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Ireland, Jamaica, Netherlands, Newfoundland, New Zealand, Poland, Soviet Union, St Vincent, United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA

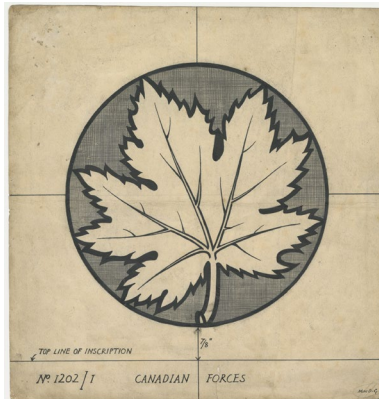


4. Discover more about the service of those buried at Holten Canadian War Cemetery

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 discover the following;

1. Who is the **youngest** person you can find?
2. Who is the **oldest** person you can find?
3. How many **different countries** did they come from, based on the information you can discover on the headstones?



4.2 More than 1.6 million Canadian troops fought across the globe in the world wars. More than 110,000 died in service. Can you find one who died on VE Day in **Plot 12**?

4.3 As you explore the cemetery, look at the information on the headstones. Each will tell you a story about who this person was. As you find the grave of those shown below, write down the **rank** of the person, their **unit** and **when they died** in the box next to picture. You can also note any other interesting information.



Ernest Alexander Aikins is buried in **Plot 7, Row D, Grave 7**



Edward and Winifred Brewster were husband and wife. They are buried next to each other in **Plot 10, Row H**



Robert Ernest Halbgewachs is buried in **Plot 9, Row G, Grave 6**



Donald Charles Mackenzie is buried in **Plot 1, Row C, Grave 11**



Joseph William Brydon is buried in **Plot 4, Row D, Grave 16**



John Elvin 'Jack' Potts is buried in **Plot 7, Row F, Grave 7**.

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