

# COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES

## RESEARCHING SOMEONE WHO DIED IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR SERVING WITH THE BRITISH ARMY



This bitesize guide is designed to help you research a person who died in the Second World War while serving with the British Army. 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.

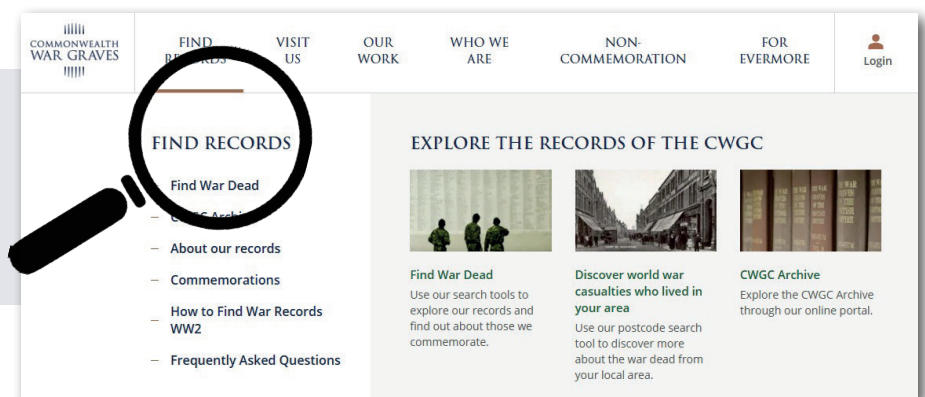
The first stage of your research starts with the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission** Casualty Database. At CWGC, we keep a record of the place of burial or commemoration of all the servicemen and women of the Britain and Commonwealth who died in the First and Second World Wars.

### STEP 1: Visit our website at [www.cwgc.org](http://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](#)

Search

Clear

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 100 OF 116 WAR DEAD

Results per page 100

[Download all results](#)

Sort by Date of Death

[Refine Results](#)

Name, Rank & Service No.	Unit, Regiment, Country of Service	Date of Death	Commemorated at	
<b>SIDNEY JOHN CROSS</b> Sapper Service Number: 14534163	3 Parachute Sqn. Royal Engineers United Kingdom	Died 10 August 1944 21 years old	RANVILLE WAR CEMETERY VA. K. 9. France	<a href="#">More details</a> <a href="#">Save to My list</a>
<b>JOHN CROSS</b> Private Service Number: 5776171	6th Bn. Royal Norfolk Regiment United Kingdom	Died 21 September 1944 25 years old	SINGAPORE MEMORIAL Column 50. Singapore	<a href="#">More details</a> <a href="#">Save to My list</a>
<b>JAMES WILLIAM CROSS</b> Gunner Service Number: 1624294	422 Searchlight Bty. Royal Artillery United Kingdom	Died 06 October 1944 31 years old	CORIANO RIDGE WAR CEMETERY XI, E. 7. Italy	<a href="#">More details</a> <a href="#">Save to My list</a>
<b>FRANK CROSS</b> Gunner Service Number: 1832731	286 Bty., 77 Lt. A.A. Regt. Royal Artillery United Kingdom	Died 25 October 1944 41 years old	CHITTAGONG WAR CEMETERY, CHATTOGRAM S. B. 10. Bangladesh	<a href="#">More details</a> <a href="#">Save to My list</a>
<b>TIMOTHY OLIVER KYNASTON CROSS</b> Lieutenant Service Number: 296762	Rifle Brigade United Kingdom	Died 15 November 1944 20 years old	MIERLO WAR CEMETERY II. C. 7. Netherlands	<a href="#">More details</a> <a href="#">Save to My list</a>

#### 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

#### LANCE CORPORAL HOWARD GORDON CROSS

Service Number: 2579364

##### Regiment & Unit/Ship

Royal Corps of Signals  
III. Corps Sigs.

##### Date of Death

Died 31 May 1940  
Age 21 years old

##### Buried or commemorated at

[DUNKIRK TOWN CEMETERY](#)  
Plot 2 Row 15 grave 27.  
France

##### Country of Service

United Kingdom

##### Additional Info

Son of 2/Lt. Howard Cross, The London Rifle Brigade, killed in action in France, 27th September, 1918, and of Jessie Howie A. Cross, of Streatham Hill, London.

##### Personal Inscription

A FINE SON, WHOSE FATHER WAS KILLED AT ARRAS 1918 "UNTIL WE MEET, GOD KEEP YOU" MUMSIE

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](#)

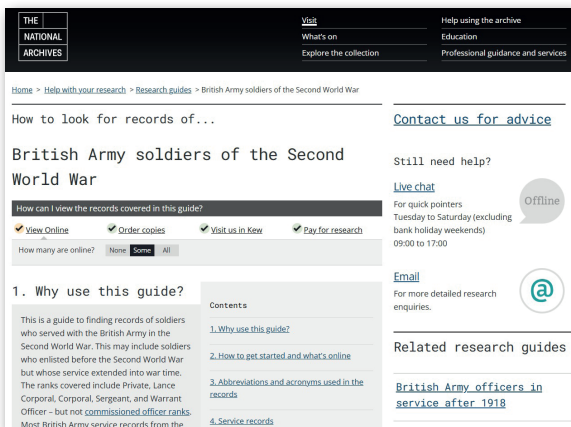
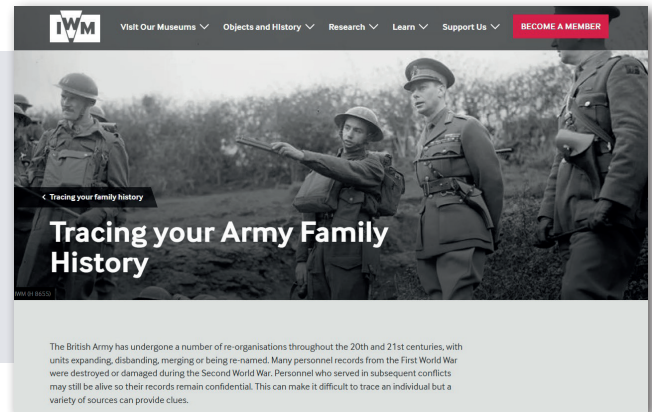




## Step 2: Searching for additional information online

The **Imperial War Museum** has created 'Tracing Your Ancestry: British Army', a very useful guide to help you develop your research further. It outlines other resources that are available, and how best to use them.

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/research/tracing-your-family-history/tracing-your-army-history>



The **National Archives** has a research guide to finding records of soldiers who served with the British army in the Second World War. Service records are in the process of being transferred to TNA from the Ministry of Defence. Some are now available via Ancestry. See TNA's research guide for more details.

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/british-army-soldiers-in-service-after-1918/>

## 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

