

1. Why are there war graves in Israel, Palestine and Gaza?

At the outbreak of the First World War, Palestine (now Israel) was part of the Turkish Empire. Soldiers from across the British Empire fought across this region in 1916 and 1917. During 1917, there were three major battle fought at Gaza, resulting in the capture of the city in November 1917. Fighting moved north through Palestine, eventually resulting in the defeat of Turkish forces in October 1918. Many of the cemeteries today mark battlefields and bases where hospitals were established. During the Second World War, the area was an important base for British and allied troops fighting and training in the Middle East.

2. Where are the war graves?

Today, there are CWGC war graves and memorials at more than 30 locations in Israel, Palestine and Gaza. Study the map below to see where some of them are.

3. Discover where these people came from

Use the flags to discover where some of the soldiers who are buried and remembered in this region came from.

Deir El Belah War Cemetery

732 war graves

From: Australia, Canada, Germany, Guiana, India, Italy, Jamaica, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom



Ghalayini Muslim Cemetery, Gaza

1 war grave

From: Unknown location

Deir Sneid Egyptian Cemetery

192 war graves

From: Egypt



Gaza War Cemetery

3691 war graves

From: Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guiana, India, Ireland, Jamaica, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom, USA, Zimbabwe



Deir El Belah Egyptian Cemetery

732 war graves

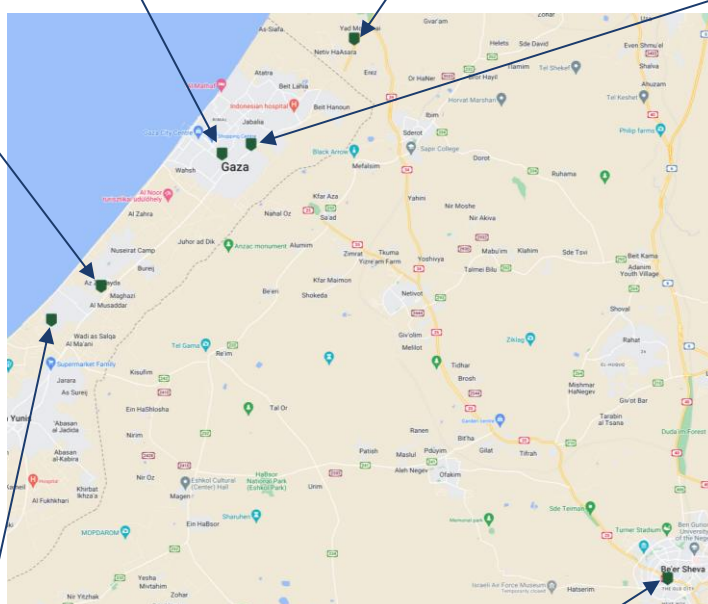
From: Egypt



Beersheba War Cemetery

1239 war graves

From: Australia, Barbados, Guiana, India, Ireland, New Zealand, United Kingdom



4. Discover more about the service of those buried at Gaza 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, based on the information on the headstones.



4.2 There is just one headstone which has this medal engraved on. It is the Victoria Cross, awarded for supreme bravery. Who in **Plot 20** 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 in the box** next to the badge.



More than a million Australian troops fought in across the globe in the world wars. More than 103,000 died.



The British West Indies Regiment recruited across the Caribbean. Its soldiers served in Europe and in the Middle East. More than 15,000 West Indians served in the war.



The Royal Army Medical Corps provided medical support to the troops fighting, running medical units and hospitals



The Royal Engineers were responsible for specialist building, engineering and maintenance tasks.



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.



Soldiers from Poland fought in Palestine in the Second World War. Many others went on to fight in Italy.

Discover more at cwgc.org/stories