

1. Why are there war graves and memorials in the region of Wevelgem?

At the beginning of the **Second World War**, the British army was involved in the defence of Belgium following the German invasion in May 1940. The Germans couldn't be stopped, and the British suffered many casualties in covering the withdrawal to Dunkirk. Commonwealth forces did not return until September 1944, but in the intervening years, many airmen were shot down or crashed in raids on strategic German objectives in Belgium, or while returning from missions over Germany. **Wevelgem Communal Cemetery** (*Gemeentelijke begraafplaats Wevelgem*) contains the graves of 63 Commonwealth airmen of the Second World War. Elsewhere in the cemetery there are First World War burials. You can find more **First World War** graves in other cemeteries around Wevelgem.

2. Where are the war graves and memorials in & around Wevelgem

There are CWGC war graves and memorials at four locations close to the centre of Wevelgem. 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 in the region of Wevelgem came from.

Kezelberg Military Cemetery

161 war graves

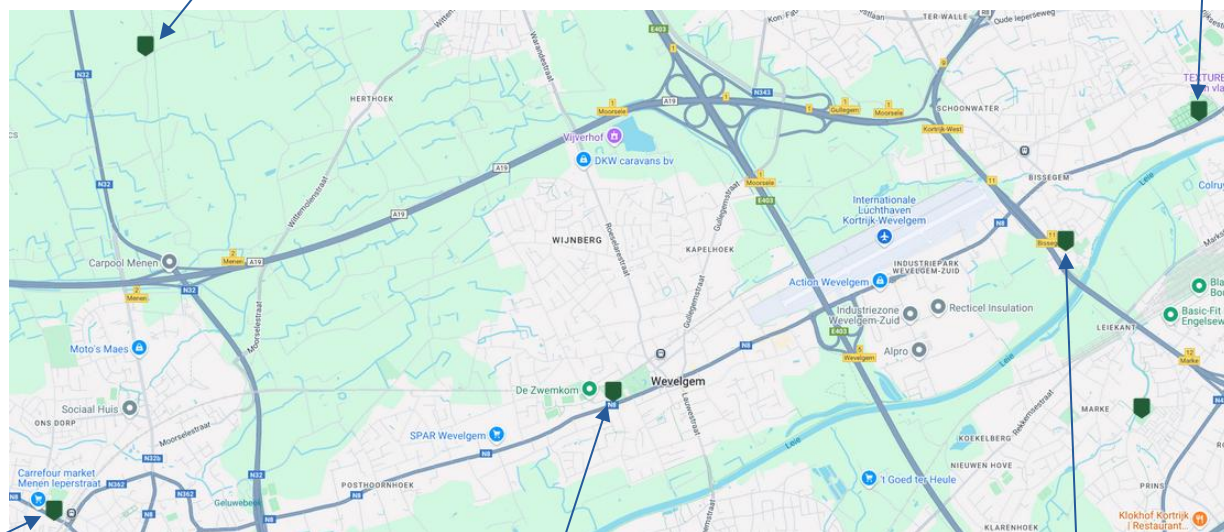
From: *Canada, China, Germany, Ireland, United Kingdom*



Kortrijk (St. Jan) Communal Cemetery

243 war graves

From: *Australia, Canada, China, Ireland, Newfoundland, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom*



Menen Communal Cemetery

13 war graves

From: *Canada, United Kingdom*



Wevelgem Communal Cemetery

64 war graves

From: *Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom*



Bissegem Communal Cemetery

33 war graves

From: *United Kingdom*



4. Discover more about the service of those buried at Wevelgem Communal 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 you can discover on the headstones?

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 soldier had in the army and maybe where they came from. As you find each badge, **write down the name** of the soldier who served with that unit in the box next to the badge.



4.2 There is just one headstone which has the badge of **the Labour Corps** on it. Write down **the date of death** below. What is special about this date when you think about **WWI**?



There is just one casualty from the **Durham Light Infantry** who died at the very end of the **First World War**. What is his name?



Nearly 1 million people served with the **Royal Air Forces** in the **Second World War**. They fought all over the globe and more than 124,000 died in service.



There is one casualty from the **Lancashire Fusiliers** who died during the First World War. What is his name and when did he die?



More than a million Australian troops fought across the globe in the world wars. More than 103,000 died. Can you find an **Australian Air Force** airman here?



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.



Airmen from the **Royal Canadian Air Force** served alongside those from across the Empire. More than 1.6 million Canadians troops fought across the globe in the world wars.

Discover more at cwgc.org/stories