

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. The 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 Cremation Memorial

917 names

From: India, Pakistan, Nepal



Imphal War Cemetery

1,603 war graves

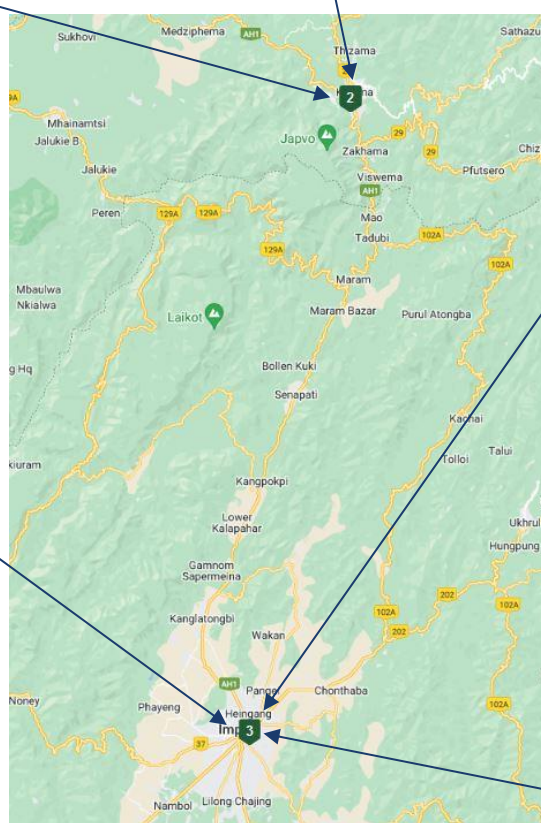
From: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Ghana, Kenya, India, Ireland, Italy, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States, Zambia, Zimbabwe



Kohima War Cemetery

1,420 war graves

From: Australia, Canada, Chile, India, Ireland, Kenya, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa, United Kingdom



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



4.2 There is just one graves with this medal on. It is the Victoria Cross for supreme bravery. Can you find it in **Plot 6**?

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 five Australian airmen buried here. Three are buried in **Plot 6**. Can you find the one who was 20 years old?



The King's African Rifles was an infantry unit. It recruited in Kenya, Malawi, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda.



In **Plot 4** 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.



The Northern Rhodesia Regiment was recruited in Zimbabwe. They fought in Somalia, the Middle East and Burma. Can you find this badge in **Plot 3**?



Many infantry regiments in the British Army were named after the areas from which many men came from.

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