

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES

RESEARCHING A MEMBER OF SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES WHO DIED IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR



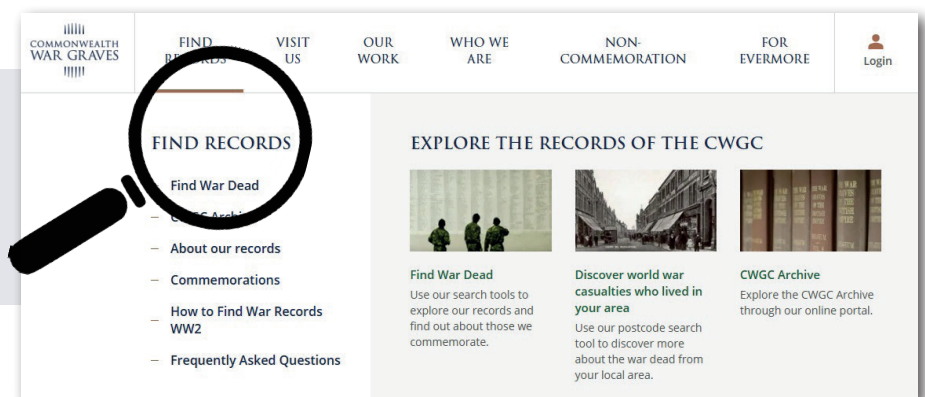
This bitesize guide is designed to help you research a person who died in the Second World War while serving with South African forces, whether on land, at sea, or in the air. Firstly, you will need to decide who you will research... this might be a relative, or you could choose a name from a local war 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


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

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 60 OF 60 WAR DEAD

[Download all results](#)
Sort by: Relevance

Name, Rank & Service No.	Unit, Regiment, Country of Service	Date of Death	Commemorated at	
C WILLIAMS Private Service Number: N/26623	Native Military Corps, S.A. Forces South African	Died 24 June 1942	DIEGO SUAREZ WAR CEMETERY 2. B. 8. Madagascar	<input type="button" value="More details"/> Save to My list
A C WILLIAMS Lance Corporal Service Number: 19621	Cape Town Highlanders, S.A. Forces South African	Died 14 October 1942 21 years old	EL ALAMEIN WAR CEMETERY Coll. grave III. B. 22. Egypt	<input type="button" value="More details"/> Save to My list
DASTREY SEBASTIAN WILLIAMS Leading Seaman Service Number: 67047	H.M.S. Gloucester South African Naval Forces South African	Died 22 May 1941 27 years old	PLYMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL Panel 58. Column 3. United Kingdom	<input type="button" value="More details"/> Save to My list
A C WILLIAMS Corporal Service Number: 117055V	6th S. A. Div. South African Engineer Corps South African	Died 17 July 1945 35 years old	KHARTOUM WAR CEMETERY 10. A. 2. Sudan	<input type="button" value="More details"/> Save to My list
G M WILLIAMS Second Lieutenant Service Number: 280400	South African Air Force South African	Died 24 July 1943 19 years old	TRIPOLI WAR CEMETERY 12. A. 22. Libya	<input type="button" value="More details"/> Save to My list

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

PRIVATE
C R HONEY
Service Number: 17826
Regiment & Unit/Ship
Cape Town Highlanders, S.A. Forces
Date of Death
Died 14 October 1942
Age 29 years old
Buried or commemorated at
EL ALAMEIN WAR CEMETERY
Coll. grave III. B. 22.
Egypt
Country of Service
South African
Additional Info
Son of Richard and Sarah Honey; husband of Gwendoleen D. Honey, of Woodstock, Cape Province, South Africa.
Personal Inscription
DEEP IN OUR HEARTS A MEMORY IS KEPT AND WE WHO LOVED HIM WILL NEVER FORGET

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

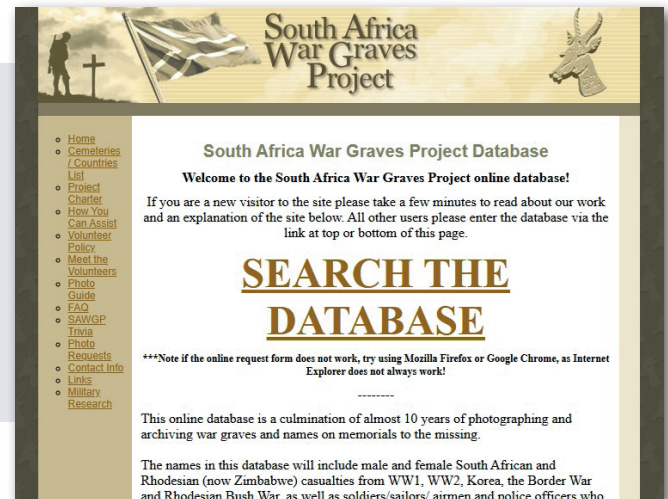
[View cemetery details](#)



Step 2: Searching for additional information online

The **South Africa War Graves Project** have a searchable database of all those who died, with photos of graves and memorials as well as some personal information about those who died in the Second World War.

<https://www.southafricawargraves.org/research.htm>



Airmen make up a large portion of those we commemorate from South African forces. Digitised copies of South African Air Force (SAAF) operational record books are free to download from **The National Archives**. See what your airman's squadron was doing and where.

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/browse/r/h/C2109>

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

