

## 1. Why are there war graves in Bloemfontein?

During the First and Second World Wars, a military hospital was established in the Tempe Military Camp, which also housed an army headquarters. During the Second World War, two Air Schools were operated from the Bloemspruit Aerodrome very close to the city, where training was carried out under the Empire Air Training Scheme.

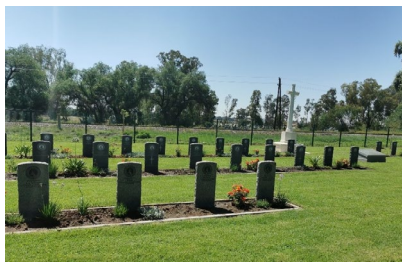
Bloemfontein (Hamilton) War Cemetery contains 62 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War. 29 of the burials are of South African Army personnel who were originally buried in the vast areas of the old non-European cemetery which became unmaintainable. Their remains were brought into the cemetery in the early 1970s. In addition, in 2005, the graves of 11 First World War casualties were removed to this cemetery from what was known at the time as Roidam Native Cemetery and a further 10, whose graves could not be found, are now commemorated on special memorials in this cemetery.

## 2. Where are the war graves in Bloemfontein?

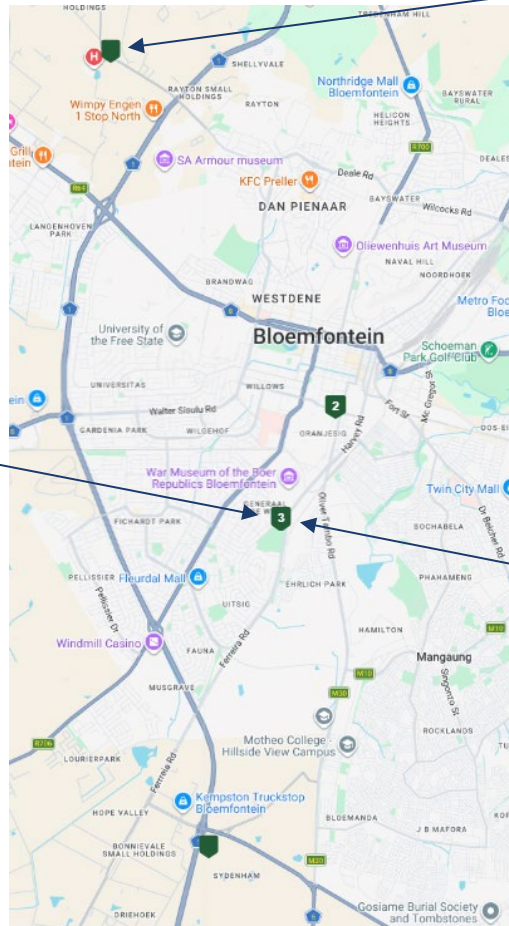
There are CWGC war graves three locations across Bloemfontein and the surrounding area. Study the map below to see where they are. The CWGC also maintains three cemeteries and memorials in this area from the Anglo-Boer War.

## 3. Discover where these people came from

Use the flags to discover where some of those who are buried and remembered in Bloemfontein came from.



**Hamilton War Cemetery**  
83 war graves  
From: Lesotho, Sri Lanka, South Africa, United Kingdom



**Roidam Military Cemetery**  
77 war graves  
From: Australia, Canada, Ireland, South Africa, Uganda, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe



**In Memorium Cemetery**  
62 war graves  
From: Ireland, South Africa, United Kingdom



# 4. Discover more about the service of those buried at Hamilton 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** individual you can find?
2. Who is the **oldest** individual you can find?



**4.2** There is just one headstone which has this badge engraved on. Who were they and which regiment did they serve with?

**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.

More than 580,000 from South Africa served in many campaigns in East and South West Africa and in North Africa and Europe during the world wars. Choose three headstones with the South African badge on and record the details of who is buried there.



Name	Unit	Date of death

More than 33,000 RAF aircrew trained as part of Empire Air Training Scheme in South Africa in the Second World War. Choose three and record their details below.



Name	Rank	Date of death

Discover more at [cwgc.org/stories](http://cwgc.org/stories)