

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES

RESEARCHING SOMEONE FROM AFRICA WHO DIED IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR - GUIDANCE SHEET



This bitesize guide is designed to help you research someone from Africa who died in the First World War. 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 (CWGC) headstone in one of our cemeteries, or on one of our memorials.

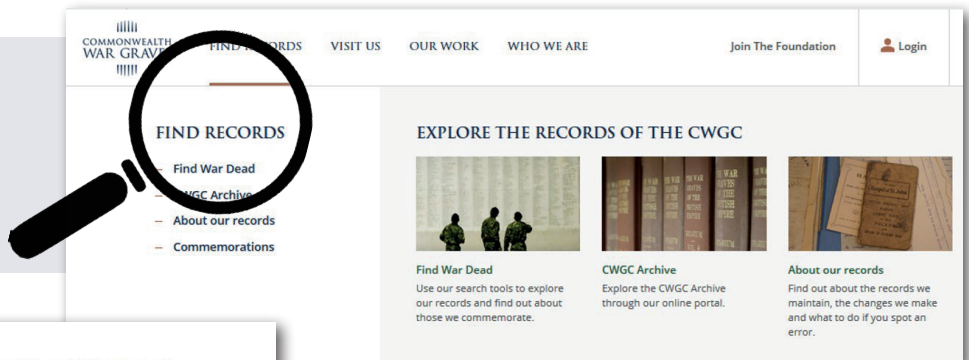
The first stage of your research starts with the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission Casualty Database**. At CWGC, we keep a record of the place of burial or commemoration of all the men and women of Britain and the Commonwealth who died in the First and Second World Wars.

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
EXPLORE THE RECORDS OF THE 1.7 MILLION COMMONWEALTH MEN AND WOMEN THAT WE COMMEMORATE

Last name
Enter the last name of the casualty

☐ Match this search term exactly

First name
Enter a first name

☐ Match this search term exactly

or

Initials
Enter initials

☐ Match this search term exactly

Service Number
Service numbers can contain numbers, letters and symbols

☐ Match this search term exactly

Served with (country)
Served With

War
Select War
☐ First World War ☐ Second World War

Regiment
Find records that relate to a particular regiment

☐ Match this search term exactly

Served in (army etc.)
Served In

☐ Match this search term exactly

Fill in the name of
the individual you are
researching

Select
First World War box



Research tip
The names of Africans who served are usually only recorded in the last name section. Try both names, and reverse the order as this can happen in the records.

If you already have some more details about the person you are looking for such as their age, service number, date of death, or any medals they received, you can add these into 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

If you know where the person you are looking for died, for example, you can put this into the Additional Information box.

You will then get a list of the results...

SALIM Porter Service Number: MSA/120853	East African Carriers East African Military Labour Bureau United Kingdom	Died 21 November 1916	EAST AFRICA BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE Online Commemoration	More details Save to My list
OBOTH OLU Carrier Service Number: KSU/300202	East African Carriers East African Military Labour Bureau United Kingdom	Died 22 June 1916	EAST AFRICA BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE Online Commemoration	More details Save to My list
YOWAR NIKA Driver Service Number: 2458	East African Mechanical Transport Corps United Kingdom	Died 15 March 1918	DAR ES SALAAM WAR CEMETERY Screen Wall Mem. Garden "C", Tanzania	More details Save to My list
OLUCH Porter Service Number: KSU/512116	East African Carriers East African Military Labour Bureau United Kingdom	Died 03 March 1917	EAST AFRICA BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE Online Commemoration	More details Save to My list
KAGWA ERIA Private Service Number: 419	East African Native Medical Corps. East African Army Medical Corps United Kingdom	Died 23 November 1917	DAR ES SALAAM WAR CEMETERY Screen Wall Mem. Garden "C", Tanzania	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 the person you are looking for, select 'More details' and you will get an at-a-glance record

If you cannot find the person you are searching for, you can contact us here <https://www.cwgc.org/contact-us/>



Did you know...?

The records of the CWGC are not complete. Research is still being done and names are added to our records regularly.

Here you will discover the information held by CWGC. If known, the Additional Info can include next of kin details and address

DRIVER YOWAR NIKA
Service Number: 2458

Regiment & Unit/Ship
East African Mechanical Transport Corps

Date of Death
Died 15 March 1918

Buried or commemorated at
DAR ES SALAAM WAR CEMETERY
Screen Wall Mem. Garden "C", Tanzania

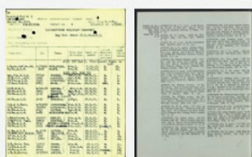
Country of Service: United Kingdom

[Download certificate](#)

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES

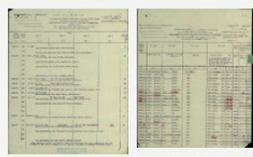
FROM THE CWGC ARCHIVES

GRAVE REGISTRATION (2)



[Click to zoom in](#) [Click to zoom in](#)

HEADSTONE (2)



[Click to zoom in](#) [Click to zoom in](#)

On the next page you will find a link to our **CWGC Archives** and any additional information which is held about this soldier. You can find several different types of official CWGC reports 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.

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**?

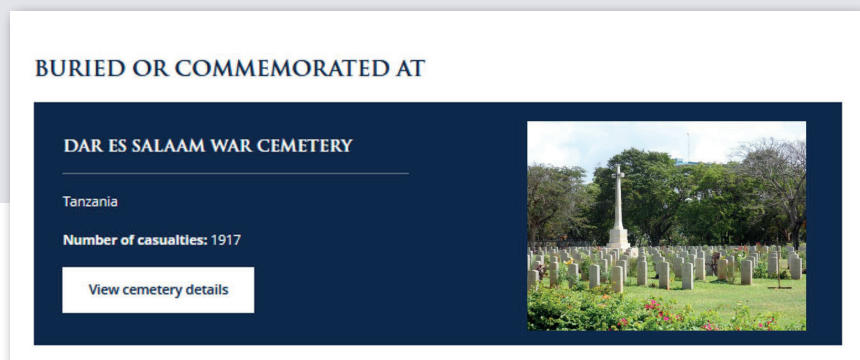
These record details of individuals who were originally buried in smaller or isolated cemeteries, but who, at a later date, were exhumed and reburied in 'concentrated' war cemeteries. This enabled CWGC to fully commemorate and look after otherwise unmaintainable graves.

Further down on your search 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



Step 2: Exploring additional resources to find out more about the individual



You need to check if there are any the Enquiry Files held by the **CWGC Archives** <http://archive.cwgc.org>. These contain correspondence between the family of those killed and the Commission. Only a small number of these files still survive.

Enquiry Files cover a range of subjects, including:

- Attempts to locate a missing individual
- Requests for the remains of a casualty to be returned to the country they came from, known as the 'repatriation of remains'
- The addition of a personal inscription to a CWGC headstone
- Requests for a photograph of a grave
- Issues about the maintenance or upkeep of a grave
- The exhumation and reburial of a casualty
- The return of wooden crosses to families



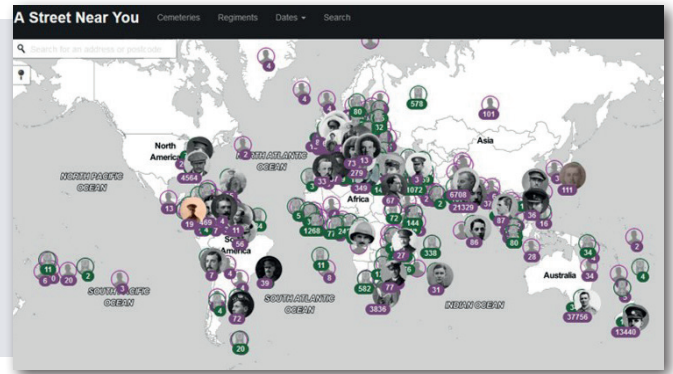
Did you know...?

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

Step 3: Searching for additional information online

A Street Near You uses maps to locate where those who died in the First World War originally came from and where they are now commemorated. You can search by lots of different terms so see what you can discover. It also provides links to other archives.

<https://astreetnearyou.org>



The King's African Rifles and East African Forces Association website includes some useful information about those who served in East Africa in the First World War.

<http://www.kingsafricanriflesassociation.co.uk/the-history-of-the-ka-r/>

A detailed summary of the fighting in Africa during the First World War can be found on the *Away from the Western Front* website.

<https://www.bl.uk/world-war-one/articles/the-first-world-war-in-east-africa>



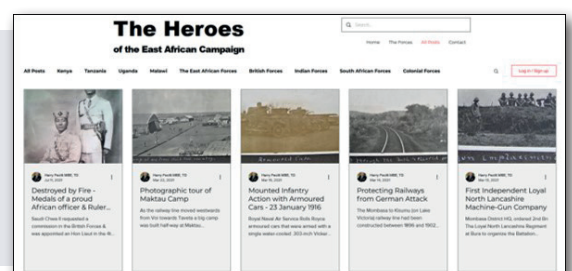
The Great War in Africa Association

The Great War in Africa Association website includes lots of information and links to discover more about the fighting in Africa during the First World War.

<https://gweaa.com/>

The Guerrillas of Tsavo website contains detailed information about the First World War in East Africa and those who fought and served in the campaign.

<https://www.heroes.guerrillasoftsavo.com/>



Step 4: 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.

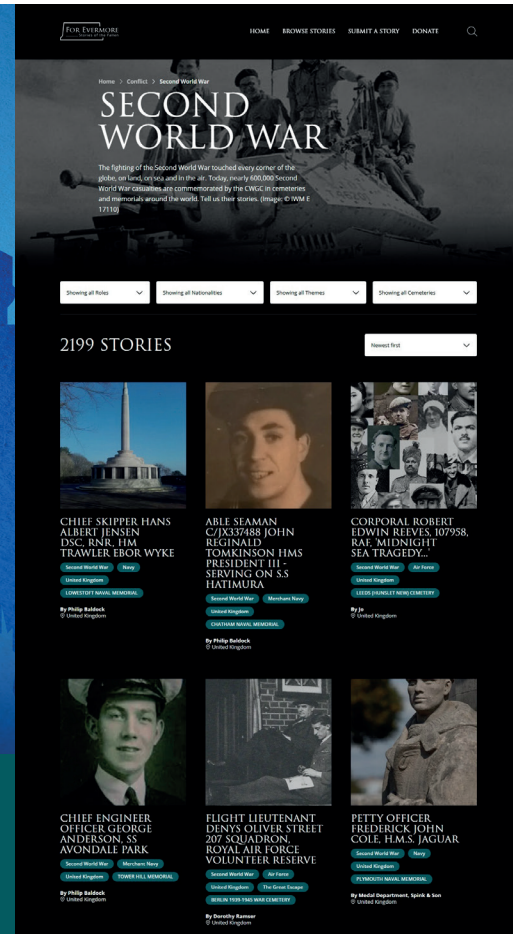
Has someone already shared something about the person you're researching?

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



The screenshot displays the 'For Evermore' website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links: HOME, BROWSE STORIES, SUBMIT A STORY, and DONATE. Below this, a large banner features the title 'SECOND WORLD WAR' in a serif font, with a subtitle: 'The fighting of the Second World War touched every corner of the globe, on land, sea and in the air. Today nearly 60,000 Second World War casualties are commemorated by the CWGC in cemeteries and memorials around the world. Tell us their stories. (Image: © WMA F 13139)'. Below the banner are four filter buttons: 'Showing all Roles', 'Showing all Nationalities', 'Showing all Themes', and 'Showing all Cemeteries'. A section titled '2199 STORIES' is visible, with a 'Newest first' dropdown menu. Below this, there are six story cards, each featuring a photograph and a brief description of a fallen soldier's story. The stories include: 'CHIEF SKIPPER HANS ALBERT JENSEN DSC BAR 11M TRAWLER EBOR WYKE', 'ABLE SEAMAN C/JX337488 JOHN REGINALD TOMKINSON HMS PRESIDENT III - SERVING ON S.S. HATIMURA', 'CORPORAL ROBERT EDWIN REEVES, 107958, RAF, MIDNIGHT SEA TRAGEDY...', 'CHIEF ENGINEER OFFICER GEORGE ANDERSON, SS AVONDALE PARK', 'FLIGHT LIEUTENANT DENYS OLIVER STREET 207 SQUADRON, ROYAL AIR FORCE VOLUNTEER RESERVE', and 'PETTY OFFICER, FREDERICK JOHN COLE, HMS JAGUAR'. Each card also includes a 'Read more' link and a 'Submit a story' button.