

1. Why are there war graves and memorials at El Alamein?

The campaign in the Western Desert was fought between the Commonwealth forces all based in Egypt, and the Axis forces (German and Italian) based in Libya. The battlefield, across which the fighting surged back and forth between 1940 and 1942, was the 1,000 kilometres of desert between Alexandria in Egypt and Benghazi in Libya.

2. Where are the war graves and memorials in this area?

There is one CWGC cemetery and two memorials close to El Alamein. Study the map below to see where they are.

EL ALAMEIN WAR CEMETERY contains the graves of men who died during the Western Desert campaigns, brought in from a wide area, but especially those who died in the Battle of El Alamein at the end of October 1942 and in the period immediately before that.

The entrance to the cemetery is formed by the **ALAMEIN MEMORIAL**. The Land Forces panels commemorate more than 8,500 soldiers of the Commonwealth who died in the campaigns in Egypt and Libya, and in the operations of the Eighth Army in Tunisia up to 19 February 1943, who have no known grave. It also commemorates those who served and died in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Persia. The Air Forces panels commemorate more than 3,000 airmen of the Commonwealth who died in the campaigns in Egypt, Libya, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Greece, Crete and the Aegean, Ethiopia, Eritrea and the Somalilands, the Sudan, East Africa, Aden and Madagascar, who have no known grave.

The **ALAMEIN CREMATION MEMORIAL**, which stands in the south-eastern part of El Alamein War Cemetery, commemorates more than 600 men whose remains were cremated in Egypt and Libya during the war, in accordance with their faith.

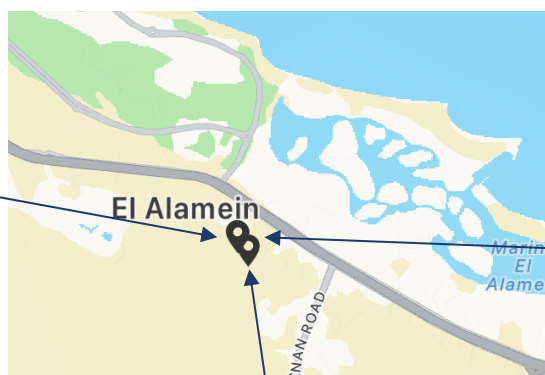
3. Discover where these people came from

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

El Alamein War Cemetery

7,368 war graves

From: *Australia, Canada, Cyprus, India, Ireland, Kenya, Nepal, New Zealand, Poland, Pakistan, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe*



Alamein Cremation Memorial

603 names

From: *India, Mauritius, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom*



Alamein Memorial

11,862 names

From: *Australia, Canada, India, Ireland, Mauritius, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, South Africa, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe*



4. Discover more about the service of those buried at El Alamein 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 discover the following;

1. Who is the **youngest** person you can find?
2. Who is the **oldest** person you can find?
3. How many **different countries** did they come from, based on the information you can discover on the headstones?

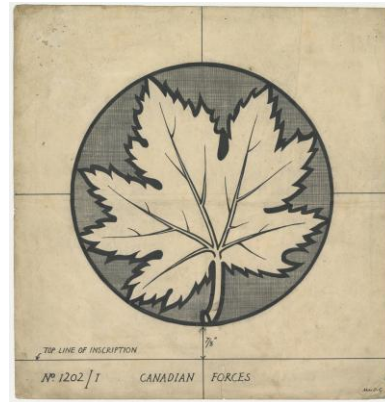
4.3 As you explore the cemetery, look at the different badges on the headstones. These will give you a clue as to the role the person had and maybe where they came from. As you find each badge, write down the name of the person who served with that unit in the box next to the badge.



4.2 There are 4 headstone engraved with the Victoria Cross – the highest award for bravery. Can you find the one in Plot 16?



More than 105,000 troops, including native Māori's left New Zealand for service overseas in the Pacific, the Middle East, Greece and Italy



More than 1.6 million Canadians troops fought across the globe in the world wars. More than 110,000 died in service.



More than a million Australian troops fought across the globe in the world wars. More than 103,000 died.



The 7th Punjab Regiment was a regiment in the British Indian Army. It mainly recruited from modern day Pakistan.



South African units served in North Africa and the Middle East during the Second World War. How many other badges have animals on them?



Soldiers from Poland fought in Egypt and Palestine in the Second World War. Many others went on to fight in Italy.

Discover more at cwgc.org/stories