

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES

RESEARCHING A SERVICEWOMAN WHO DIED IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR



This bitesize guide is designed to help you research a woman who died in the Second World War while serving with the forces of the British Commonwealth. 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.

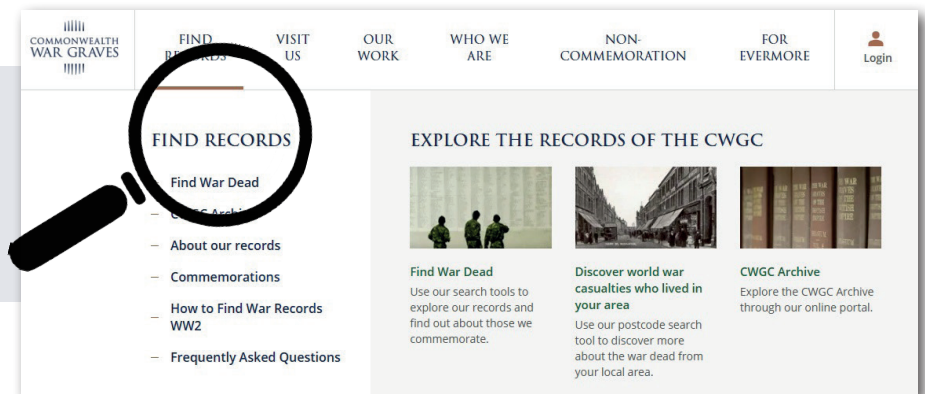
The first stage of your research starts with the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission Casualty Database**. At CWGC, we keep a record of the place of burial or commemoration of all the servicemen and women of the Britain and Commonwealth who died in the First and Second World Wars.

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

Search
Clear

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 10 OF 964 WAR DEAD
Download all results
Sort by Relevance
Refine Results

Name, Rank & Service No.	Unit, Regiment, Country of Service	Date of Death	Commemorated at	
UHMA LEVAVI Private Service Number: W/PAL/245414	Auxiliary Territorial Service United Kingdom	Died 25 November 1944	HELIOPOLIS WAR CEMETERY 6, L. 11, Egypt	More details Save to My list
CATHERINE MURIEL COLE Corporal Service Number: W/27991	Auxiliary Territorial Service United Kingdom	Died 25 June 1945 30 years old	ROME WAR CEMETERY I, C, 32, Italy	More details Save to My list
BRACHA WIRTH Private Service Number: W/PAL/221085	Auxiliary Territorial Service United Kingdom	Died 28 May 1945	RAMLEH 1939-1945 MEMORIAL Israel and Palestine (including Gaza)	More details Save to My list
PAMELA JOAN ROBINS Corporal Service Number: W/232871	Auxiliary Territorial Service United Kingdom	Died 17 June 1945 23 years old	NAPLES WAR CEMETERY IV, J. 11, Italy	More details Save to My list
PRILLETA GASKIN Private Service Number: W/SC 273363	Auxiliary Territorial Service United Kingdom	Died 23 April 1945	PORT OF SPAIN MEMORIAL Trinidad and Tobago	More details Save to My list
EVELYN JANE NOBLE Private Service Number: W/165843	Auxiliary Territorial Service United Kingdom	Died 26 May 1944	BROOKWOOD MILITARY CEMETERY 33A, A, 6, United Kingdom	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

LEADING AIRCRAFTWOMAN JOAN EDNA TURNER

Service Number: 2004630

Regiment & Unit/Ship
Women's Auxiliary Air Force

Date of Death
Died 23 January 1945
Age 21 years old

Buried or commemorated at
NORTH WEALD BASSETT (ST. ANDREW) CHURCHYARD
Row 4, Grave 1,
United Kingdom

Country of Service
United Kingdom

Additional Info
Daughter of Bertram Edward and Ada Frances Turner, of Chingford.

Personal Inscription
IN SACRED MEMORY, SHE HAD A KINDLY WORD FOR EACH AND DIED BELOVED BY ALL

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 CWGC commemorates over 2,700 servicewoman of the Second World War. **Their units belonged within the structure of the Army, the Navy, or the Air Force of the national force in question.** For example, to research a member of an Australian women's unit (like the Australian Army Nursing Service, Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force or Women's Royal Australian Naval Service) the advice given in our research guide for Australian forces applies to finding out about a servicewoman as well as servicemen.

For women serving with British forces, service records are either in the process of being transferred to **The National Archives** from the Ministry of Defence (e.g. ATS, WAAF) or still with the Ministry of Defence (WRNS). See TNA's research guides for more details.

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides-keywords/?show=keywords&keyword-letter=w&keyword=womens-military-service#guidance>

ATTESTATION FORM M. F. Galsys Margaret. The form includes fields for name, rank, unit, and service details. It also contains a section for questions to be put to persons called out or presenting themselves for voluntary enlistment.

How to look for records of... Women's Royal Air Force personnel. The guide provides information on how to find records, including a link to the research guide and a contact us for advice button.

How to look for records of... Women in the British Army. The guide provides information on how to find records, including a link to the research guide and a contact us for advice button.

How to look for records of... Women's Royal Naval Service personnel. The guide provides information on how to find records, including a link to the research guide and a contact us for advice button.

How to look for records of... Military nursing. The guide provides information on how to find records, including a link to the research guide and a contact us for advice button.

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

The For Evermore website features a 'SECOND WORLD WAR' section with a grid of stories. Each story includes a photo and a brief description of the person's service. The stories are categorized by location and time period. The website also has a search bar and a 'SUBMIT A STORY' button.

Location	Time Period	Story Title
United Kingdom	Second World War	CHIEF SKIPPER HANS ALBERT JENSEN DSC, RNR, HM TRAWLER EBOR WYKE
United Kingdom	Second World War	ABLE SEAMAN C/137588 JOHN REGINALD TOMKINSON HMS PRESIDENT III, SERVING ON S.S. HATIMURA
United Kingdom	Second World War	CORPORAL ROBERT EDWIN REEVES, 107958, RAF, MIDNIGHT SEA TRAGEDY...
United Kingdom	Second World War	CHIEF ENGINEER OFFICER GEORGE ANDERSON, SS AVONDALE PARK
United Kingdom	Second World War	FLIGHT LIEUTENANT DENYS OLIVER STREET, 207 SQUADRON, ROYAL AIR FORCE VOLUNTEER RESERVE
United Kingdom	Second World War	PETTY OFFICER, FRIDRICK JOHN COLE, H.M.S. JAGUAR