

1. Why are there war graves and memorials in Poland?

During both World Wars there was destructive fighting across Poland. Although British and Commonwealth forces never fought on Polish soil, you'll still find more than 1,250 war graves in five cemeteries across the country.

Many of these First and Second World War servicemen died in prisoner of war (POW) camps in Poland and eastern Germany. They include the 48 POWs who took part in the 'Great Escape', made famous by a Hollywood movie. After successfully breaking out, most were recaptured, and dozens were killed by their captors. Amongst our graves you'll see distinctive Polish headstones. These honour Polish servicemen who fought with the Allies and died as POWs. In total the CWGC cares for over 4,400 Polish graves worldwide.

2. Where are the war graves and memorials in Poland?

There are war graves and memorials at 5 locations in Poland. Study the map below to see where some of the cemeteries and memorials are.

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.



Malbork Commonwealth War Cemetery

246 war graves

From: *Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom*



Lidzbark Warminski War Cemetery

39 war graves

From: *United Kingdom*



Poznan Old Garrison Cemetery

473 war graves

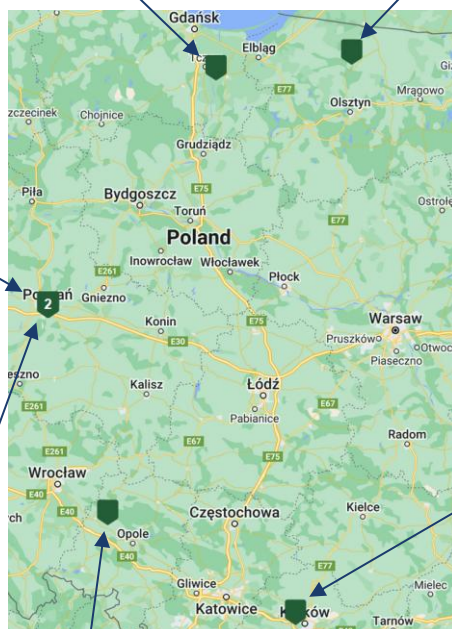
From: *Australia, Belgium Canada, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Ireland, Jamaica, Lithuania, Newfoundland, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, South Africa, United Kingdom, USA*



Poznan Memorial

5 names

From: *United Kingdom*



Popielow Cemetery

2 war graves

From: *United Kingdom*



Krakow Rakowicki War Cemetery

529 war graves

From: *Australia, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, India, Israel, Nepal, New Zealand, Poland, South Africa, United Kingdom*

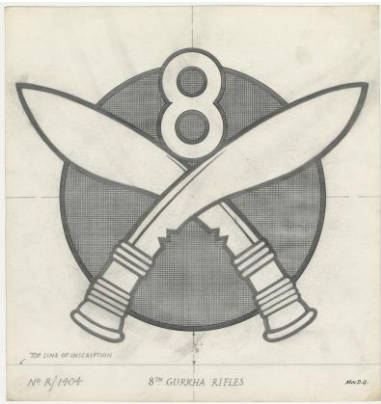


4. Discover more about the service of those buried at Krakow Rakowicki War Cemetery

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?



4.2 There is just one headstone with this badge on it. It is for a soldier from Nepal. Can you find it in **Plot 3**?

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.**



More than 200,000 New Zealand troops, including native Māori's left New Zealand for service overseas in the world wars. More than 30,000 died.



Nearly 1 million people served with the Royal Air Forces in the Second World War. They fought all over the globe and more than 124,000 died in service.



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



Many Polish airmen served with the Royal Air Force during the Second World War.



South African units served in North Africa, the Middle East and in Europe during the Second World War.



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

Discover more at cwgc.org/stories