

One Day... One Story...



Arthur Geoffrey Oxlade

On 6 June 1944, Squadron Leader **Arthur Geoffrey Oxlade** from Victoria, Australia, died when the Mosquito plane he was flying was lost in action over France.

Arthur took off from an airfield at Gravesend in Kent on a mission to bomb railway yards.

On the way, Arthur's plane caught fire after being shot at by the German defences and crashed.

Arthur Geoffrey Oxlade was 24 years old.

He is buried at **Gueres Communal Cemetery** in France.

His parents asked for his headstone to be engraved with: **EVER IN OUR HEARTS**

A total of 18 Australian servicemen died on 6 June 1944

Name	Rank	Unit	Age	Date of death	Where are they buried or commemorated?	Information about where they came from
Bruce Ashton	Sub-Lieutenant	Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve	23	6 June 1944	Bayeux War Cemetery, France	He came from Kingsford, New South Wales, Australia.
Noel Jackson	Private	Australian Infantry	20	6 June 1944	Ambon War Cemetery, Indonesia	He came from Camberwell, Victoria, Australia
Alex Cogill	Private	Australian Army Ordnance Corps	29	6 June 1944	Port Moresby War Cemetery, Papua New Guinea	He came from Redcliffe, Queensland, Australia
Leslie Gilbert	Flight Sergeant	Royal Australian Air Force	30	6 June 1944.	Runnymede Memorial to the Missing, UK	He came from Lismore in New South Wales, Australia



Key facts – Australia in the Second World War

- Almost 1 million people joined the Australian armed forces
- More than 39,000 people from Australia died in the Second World War
- Australian troops served in the Pacific, the Middle East and in Europe

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Oliver John Sinnatt

On 6 June 1944, Lieutenant **Oliver John Sinnatt** from Lincolnshire was killed in action during the D Day landings in France.

Oliver joined the army in January 1943. He served in the **Royal Armoured Corps**.

He landed on Juno Beach on D Day in an armoured car.

He was shot trying to cut some barbed wire in the German defences in the French village of Reviers. He was 22 years old.

He is buried alongside his friend, Trooper William George Hall at **Ryes War Cemetery** in France.

His personal inscription on his headstone reads: **HE WAS DEARLY LOVED**

A total of 1530 British servicemen died on 6 June 1944

Name	Rank	Unit	Age	Date of death	Where are they buried or commemorated?	Information about where they came from
David Picton	Gunner	Royal Artillery	24	6 June 1944	Imphal War Cemetery, India	He came from Mardy in Glamorgan, Wales
Alan Randle	Trooper	Royal Armoured Corps	27	6 June 1944	Rome War Cemetery, Italy	He came from Altofts, Yorkshire, UK
Alec Sephton	Sergeant	Glider Pilot Regiment	18	6 June 1944	Hermanville War Cemetery, France	He came from Sutton Coalfield, Warwickshire, UK
Staney Gibson	Signalman	Royal Signals	27	6 June 1944	Taukkyan War Cemetery, Mynamar	He came from Liverpool, UK



Key facts – The British Army in the Second World War

- Almost 3.5 million people joined the British Army in the Second War.
- More than 245,000 British soldiers died in the Second World War.
- British soldiers fought all over the world, in Europe, in Africa and in Asia.

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Clifford Melbourne Oxtoby

Clifford was born and raised in Toronto, Canada, before joining the army in November 1942.

Clifford served with the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion.

On D Day, Clifford and his fellow paratroopers were dropped into France with the task of destroying bridges.

He was reported as missing, and then confirmed as killed in action. He was 20.

His mother received a last letter from him, dated 3 June 1944, which said of the upcoming invasion,

'Dear Mom, We're going over and we're going to win.'

He is remembered at **Ranville War Cemetery, France.**



A total of 392 Canadian servicemen died on 6 June 1944

Name	Rank	Unit	Age	Date of death	Where are they buried or commemorated?	Information about where they came from
John Algar	Sergeant	Royal Canadian Artillery	52	6 June 1944	Kingston Cemetery, Canada	He came from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
Emerson James	Private	North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment	18	6 June 1944	Beny-sue-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, France	He came from Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
Joseph Lavoie	Warrant Officer	Royal Canadian Air Force	22	6 June 1944	Malta Memorial	He came from Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Henri Herbert	Private	Canadian Special Service Battalion	26	6 June 1944	Beach Head War Cemetery, Italy	He came from Westmoreland, New Brunswick, Canada

Key facts – Canada in the Second World War

- Over 1.1 million Canadians volunteered to serve in the armed forces during the war.
- More than 45,000 Canadian servicemen and women were killed during the Second World War.
- Canadian soldiers, sailors and airmen served in almost every theatre of the war; from the seas of the Atlantic and Pacific to the skies over Germany and Burma, and from the beaches of Normandy to the towns and villages of the Netherlands.



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Muniswami

On 6 June 1944, Ambulance Sepoy **Muniswami** of the **Indian Army Medical Corps** died. He was 20 years old.

He was serving with a medical unit in Italy.

Ambulance sepoy's undertook a variety of roles which could include including carrying the wounded on stretchers.

In line with his religious faith, Muniswami was cremated.

He is remembered on the **Forli Cremation Memorial** in Italy, alongside nearly 800 other Hindu & Sikh men of the Indian Army.

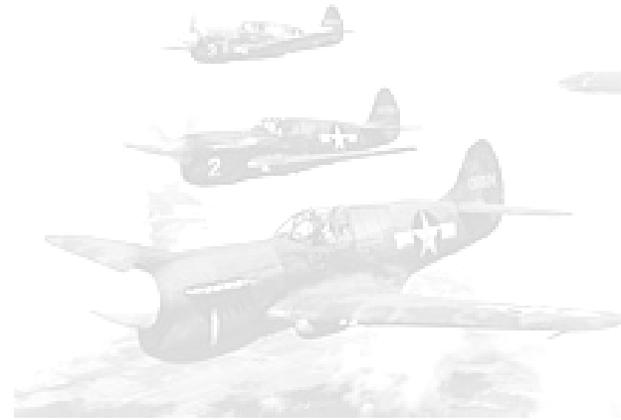
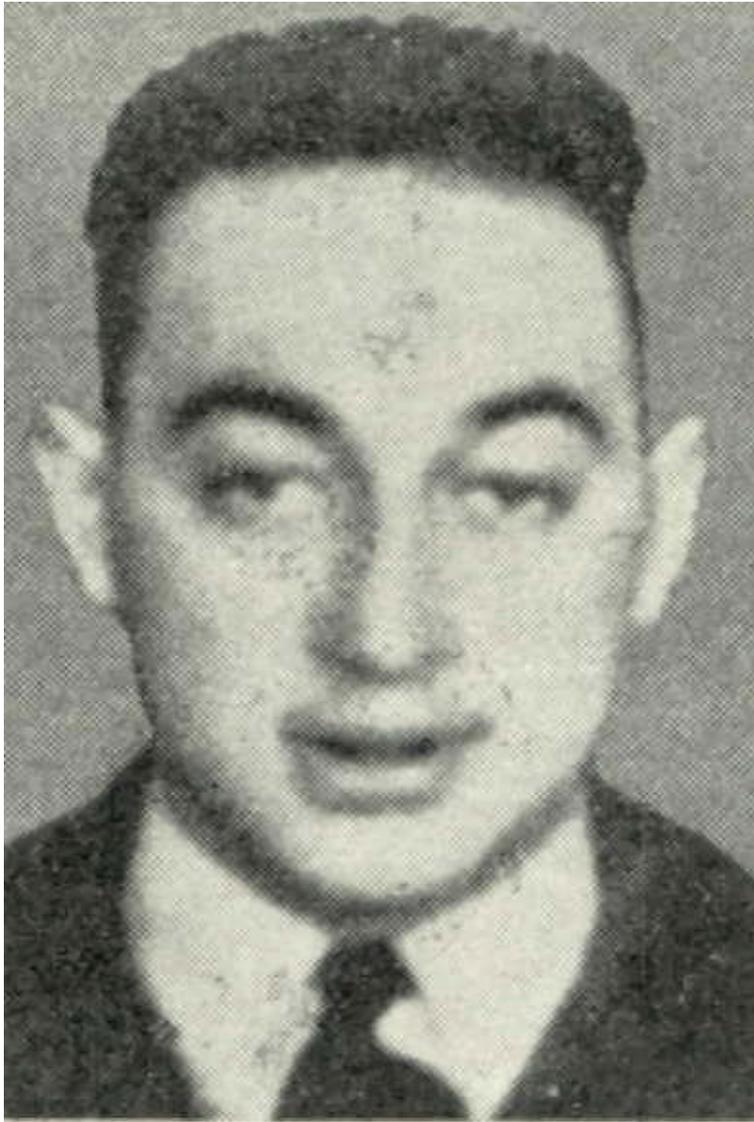
A total of 91 servicemen from Undivided India died on 6 June 1944

Name	Rank	Unit	Age	Date of death	Where are they buried or commemorated?	Information about where they came from
Chandra Bir Pan	Rifleman	Gurkha Rifles	18	6 June 1944	Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar	He came from Kabre, Nepal
Karim Fazl	Cook	Indian Signal Corps	26	6 June 1944	Kranji War Cemetery, Singapore	He came from Kattai, Muzaffarabad, India
Sayid Muhammad	Sepoy	Baluch Regiment	21	6 June 1944	Maynamati War Cemetery, Bangladesh	He came from Palandri in Kashmir.
Ahmad Shamim	Lance Naik	Royal Indian Army Service Corps	20	6 June 1944	Ramleh War Cemetery, Israel	He came from Dibai in India.

Key facts – India in the Second World War

- The Indian Army was the largest volunteer force in history, with over **2.5 million men** in service
- Indian service personnel fought on land, at sea, and in the air throughout the war in Africa, the Middle East, and the Far East.
- Indian troops fought to defend India from Japanese invasion in 1944 during the Battles of Imphal and Kohima.
- Over **87,000** Indian service personnel were killed during the Second World War

One Day... One Story...



John Aperehama Tirikatene

On 6 June 1944, Sergeant **John Aperehama Tirikatene** died, aged 21.

Born in New Zealand, the son of a long-serving Māori politician.

John worked as an electrical wireman before the war.

John joined the **Royal New Zealand Air Force** in May 1941.

At the end of April 1944, he began training as a fighter pilot, and it was during this training that he was killed in a mid-air collision over Papakura Military Camp, Ardmore.

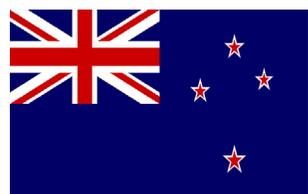
His plane struck the wing of another aircraft and John's plane crashed.

John Aperehama Tirikatene is buried at **Kaiapoi (Old North Road) Māori Cemetery**, New Zealand.

A total of 4 servicemen from New Zealand died on 6 June 1944

Name	Rank	Unit	Age	Date of death	Where are they buried or commemorated?	Information about where they came from
Edward Atkinson	Flight Sergeant	Royal New Zealand Air Force	22	6 June 1944	Ranville War Cemetery, France	He came from Kaponga, New Zealand
James Chalmers	Pilot Officer	Royal New Zealand Air Force	21	6 June 1944	Runnymede Memorial to the Missing, UK	He came from Invercargill, New Zealand
Charles Fechny	Gunner	New Zealand Artillery	34	6 June 1944	Cassino War Cemetery, Italy	He came from Ashburton, New Zealand

Key facts – New Zealand in the Second World War



- Over 140,000 people enlisted and served overseas.
- More than 12,000 died
- New Zealand servicemen and women saw action around the world, fighting in Egypt, Italy and Greece, flying aircraft over Germany, fighting the Japanese in the Pacific, and manning ships that sailed the world's oceans.

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Frederick John Crinall

On 6 June 1944, Private **Frederick John Crinall**, of the Rand Light Infantry, South African Forces, died in Italy.

Frederick was born in Johannesburg, South Africa and had been working as a labourer.

He had been captured by the German Army and kept as a prisoner of war.

He died when he was shot trying to escape.

Frederick is buried in **Bolsena War Cemetery**, Italy.

A total of 8 servicemen from South Africa died on 6 June 1944

Name	Rank	Unit	Age	Date of death	Where are they buried or commemorated?	Information about where they came from
John Barkley	Able Seaman	South African Naval Forces	30	6 June 1944	Bayeux War Cemetery, France	He came from Southfield, Cape Province, South Africa
R Carter	Sapper	South African Engineer Corps	23	6 June 1944	Bolsena War Cemetery, Italy	He came from Springs, Transvaal, South Africa
J Fillies	Private	Cape Corps	20	6 June 1944	Heliopolis War Cemetery, Egypt	He came from Heidelberg, South Africa
W H Scholz	Trooper	South African Air Force Regiment	20	6 June 1944	Bolsena War Cemetery, Italy	He came from East London, South Africa

Key facts – South Africa in the Second World War



- Some 135,000 white South Africans fought in the East and North African and Italian campaigns, and 70,000 Black and Coloured South Africans served as labourers and transport drivers.
- South Africans served all over the world and in many roles.
- More than 12,000 South African servicemen and women died.

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John Yaw

On 6 June 1944, Gunner **John Yaw** died.

He was serving in the West African Artillery as part of the Royal West African Frontier Force. This photo is not John but shows another soldier of the RWAFF in their uniform.

Many of the soldiers in the West Indian regiments came from Ghana and were involved in fighting in Africa and in Myanmar.

We don't know how John died, in fighting, of disease or in an accident,.

He is commemorated on the **Christiansburg Memorial** in Accra, Ghana.

A total of 5 servicemen from East and West Africa died on 6 June 1944

Name	Rank	Unit	Age	Date of death	Where are they buried or commemorated?	Information about where they came from
JOHN DAWSON AMOAHA	Sapper	West African Engineers		6 June 1944	Christianborg Memorial, Ghana	Believed to be recruited on the Gold Coast (now called Ghana)
MADIMABE OAHILE	Private	African Pioneer Corps		6 June 1944	Botswana Memorial, Botswana	Believed to be recruited in Bechuana (now called Botswana)
RASHIDI MTAMBALIKA	Sapper	East African Engineers		6 June 1944	Nyeri War Cemetery, Kenya	Believed to be recruited in Kenya
SAMBO KARAFO	Private	Gambia Regiment		6 June 1944	Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar	Believed to be recruited in Gambia

Key fact – The war in Africa

- More than **20,000** Black Africans died fighting for the British Empire in the Second World War

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John Bruce Tait

On 6 June 1944, Sub Lieutenant **John Bruce Tait**, of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, died, aged 29.

John and the crew, were involved in the Normandy landings, steering a Landing Craft Tank to the beach in order to unload tanks and troops.

The Landing Craft Tank was designed especially for this purpose and there were hundreds of them in use on D-Day.

John was helping the tanks leave the landing craft when there was an explosion and he was killed.

John was buried at sea by his crew and has no known grave.

He is commemorated on the **Portsmouth Naval Memorial**.

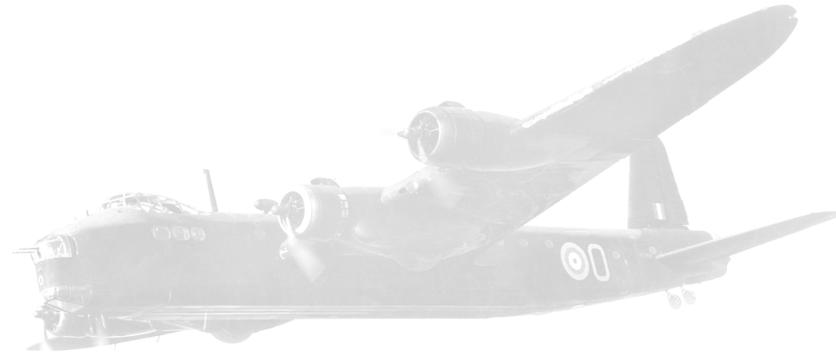
A total of 255 sailors and marines died on 6 June 1944

Name	Rank	Unit	Age	Date of death	Where are they buried or commemorated?	Information about where they came from
Bruce Ashton	Sub Lieutenant	Royal Australian Navy	23	6 June 1944	Bayeux War Cemetery, France	He came from Kingsford, Australian
Wilfred Grosse	Able Seaman	Landing Craft 914, Royal Navy	19	6 June 1944	Hollybrook Cemetery, Southampton, UK	He came from Balderton, UK
Sayid Mahmud Bin Haji	Able Seaman	Malayan Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve		6 June 1944	Plymouth Naval Memorial, UK	He came from Pringgit, Malacca, Malaya.
Spencer Porter	Telegraphist	Bombardment Unit, Royal Navy		6 June 1944	Ranville War Cemetery, France	From Sidcup, Kent, UK

Key facts – The war at sea

- Protecting Allied shipping and sea lanes was vital work throughout the war years, especially during the **Battle of the Atlantic**.
- More than **50,000 men and women died** while serving with the Royal Navy during the Second World War. Many were lost or buried at sea.

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William Albert Hannaford

On 6 June 1944, Warrant Officer **William Albert Hannaford**, of the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and the rest of the crew of a heavy bomber aircraft Stirling LK385, died over France.

William was the wireless operator on the Operation Titanic mission which had been sent out to drop dummy parachutists away from the area where the Normandy landings were happening.

This operation aimed to confuse the Germans and make them think the airborne landings were more widespread than they really were.

William's plane failed to return from its mission. The seven-man crew are all remembered on the **Runnymede Memorial**, UK, which remembers air force personnel from the Second World War with no known grave.

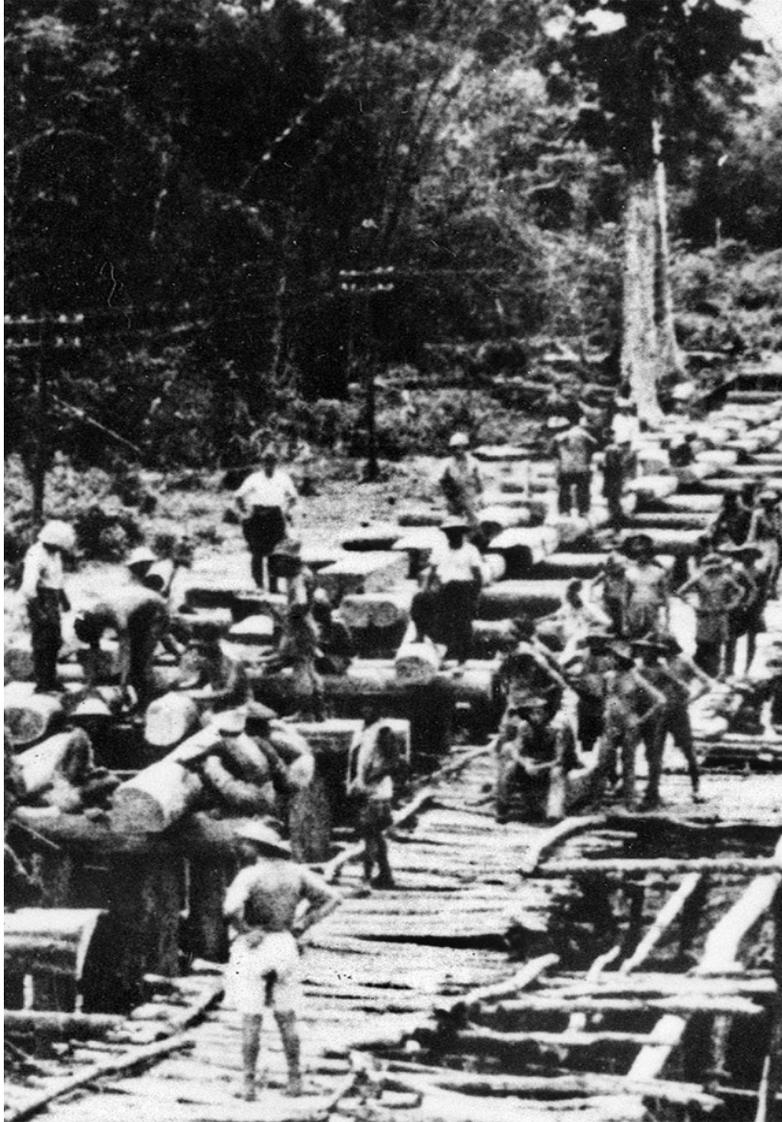
A total of 213 airmen died on 6 June 1944

Name	Rank	Unit	Age	Date of death	Where are they buried or commemorated?	Information about where they came from
Alan Docker	Sergeant	Royal Air Force	19	6 June 1944	Alamein Memorial, Egypt	He came from Mansfield, UK
Ronald Conley	Flight Lieutenant	Royal Australian Air Force	28	6 June 1944	Runnymede Memorial to the Missing, UK	He came from Annerley, Australia
Melsom Gee	Flying Officer	Royal Canadian Air Force	22	6 June 1944	Banneville-la-Campagne, France	He came from Winnipeg, Canada
Philip Standley-Smith	Sergeant	615 Squadron, Royal Air Force	34	6 June 1944	Jonkerbos War Cemetery, Netherlands	He came from Braunstone, UK

Key facts – The war in the air

- More than 1.2 million men and women from all over the world served in the allied air services in the Second World War.
- About 70,000 Commonwealth air services personnel died

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Leonard Francis Goode

On 6th June 1944, Private **Leonard Francis Goode**, of the 5th Battalion, Bedfordshire & Herts Regiment, died, aged 27.

Leonard had been serving with the Army when he was taken prisoner by the Japanese.

He died while building the Burma to Thailand railway. Conditions and treatment were terrible, and thousands of Commonwealth prisoners died of exhaustion and disease.

Leonard is buried alongside nearly 7,000 other casualties in **Kanchanaburi War Cemetery**, Thailand.

This cemetery is near the base most prisoners would have passed through on their way to prison camps.

Name	Rank	Unit	Age	Date of death	Where are they buried or commemorated?	Information about where they came from
August Basler	Sergeant	German Army	19	6 June 1944	Bayeux War Cemetery, France	He came from Germany
Karim Fazl	Cook	Indian Signal Corps	26	6 June 1944	Kranji War Cemetery, Singapore	He came from Kattai, India
Henrick Lodewijk	Sergeant	Netherlands Army		6 June 1944	Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, Thailand	He came from the Netherlands
E Madiobo	Caporal	Belgian Army of the Congo		6 June 1944	Fayid War Cemetery, Egypt	He came from the Congo

Key facts – Prisoners of War

- Not all those who died were killed in battle. Some died as prisoners of war.
- More than 360,000 British and Commonwealth servicemen and women became prisoners of war during the Second World War.

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Joan Beatrice Ada Taylor

On 6 June 1944, **Joan Taylor** lost her life when two American planes collided in the air over Gillingham, crashing into houses on Corporation Road.

Joan Taylor lived with her aunt and uncle.

She was employed in the shoe department of Gillingham Co-Op and regularly attended local bible classes.

On June 6th, in the early hours of the morning, Joan's house was destroyed when an American bomber crashed into it. Both Joan, who was 19 years old, and her Aunt Fanny - 60 years old, died in this accident.

Joan, and the other three victims of this crash, are buried at **Woodlands Cemetery, Gillingham**.

A total of 7 civilians died on 6 June 1944

Name	Age	What do we know about them?	Date of death	Where are they buried or commemorated?	Information about where they lived
George Malbon	57	Served as an air raid warden and lived at 5 La Rue Flere, Vale	6 June 1944	Guernsey, Channel Islands	He came from Castleford, UK
Thapa Shamu	6		6 June 1944	Leithei Manbi, Imphal, India	He came from Assam Province, India
Fanny Whittingham	60	Lived at 61 Corporation Road. Wife of Bertie Richard Whittingham	6 June 1944	Woodlands Cemetery, Gillingham	She came from Gillingham, UK
Percy Williams	59	Lived at 63 Corporation Road	6 June 1944	Woodlands Cemetery, Gillingham	He came from Gillingham, UK

Key facts – Civilians at war

- The Imperial War Graves Commission was tasked to collect and record the names of more than **66,000 civilians** who died from enemy action during the Second World War.
- Civilians also died in prison camps and on ships at sea sunk by enemy submarines.