

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES

RESEARCHING SOMEONE WHO DIED IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR SERVING WITH THE ROYAL NAVY



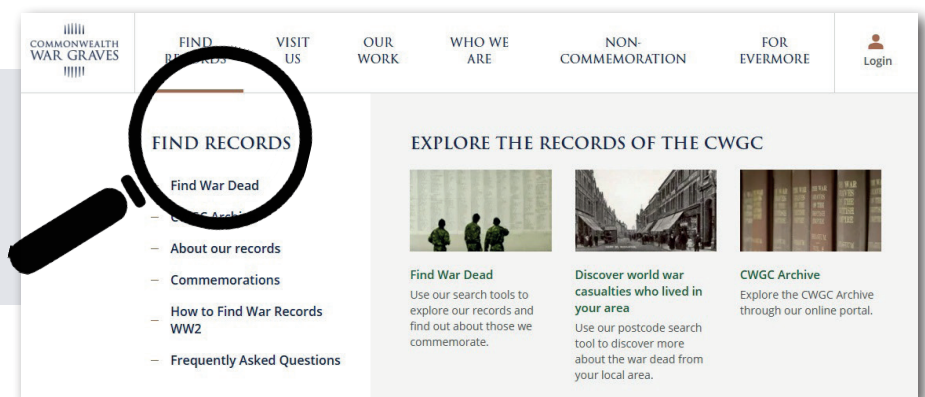
This bitesize guide is designed to help you research a person who died in the Second World War while serving with the Royal Navy (including Royal Marines, the Fleet Air Arm, etc.) Firstly, you will need to decide who you will research... this might be a relative, or you could choose a name from a local 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 11 OF 11 WAR DEAD

Download all results Sort by Relevance Refine Results

Results per page 20

Name, Rank & Service No.	Unit, Regiment, Country of Service	Date of Death	Commemorated at	
WILFRED HENRY KIRKPATRICK Lieutenant (A)	H.M.S. Goshawk Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve United Kingdom	Died 07 September 1943 33 years old	PORT OF SPAIN (ST. JAMES) MILITARY CEMETERY Western Portion, Grave 75, Trinidad and Tobago	More details Save to My list
ROSS MCFEUL KIRKPATRICK Surgeon Lieutenant	H.M.S. Hurworth Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve United Kingdom	Died 22 October 1943 27 years old	PLYMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL Panel 84, Column 2, United Kingdom	More details Save to My list
ALEXANDER WILSON CRAIG KIRKPATRICK Petty Officer Service Number: C/JX 217959	H.M.L.C.G.(M) 102 Royal Navy United Kingdom	Died 01 November 1944 30 years old	CHATHAM NAVAL MEMORIAL 74, 3, United Kingdom	More details Save to My list
DAVID KIRKPATRICK Leading Seaman Service Number: D/JX 218782	H.M.S. Prince of Wales Royal Navy United Kingdom	Died 16 December 1941 26 years old	KRANJI WAR CEMETERY 35, D, 3, Singapore	More details Save to My list
WILLIAM THOMAS KIRKPATRICK Leading Seaman Service Number: D/JX 127711	H.M.S. Jackal Royal Navy United Kingdom	Died 01 January 1942	ALEXANDRIA (HADRA) WAR MEMORIAL CEMETERY 1, A, 10, Egypt	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

SUB-LIEUTENANT (E) JAMES (JIM) KIRKPATRICK	
Regiment & Unit/Ship Ceylon Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve	
Date of Death Died 02 November 1943 Age 27 years old	
Buried or commemorated at COLOMBO (LIVERAMUNTU) CEMETERY 2, Q, 14, Sri Lanka	
Country of Service	United Kingdom
Additional Info	Son of Charles Magill Kirkpatrick and Lucy Kathleen Kirkpatrick of Belfast, Northern Ireland.
Personal Inscription	DEAR JIM, WE WILL MEET AGAIN. MEANWHILE YOU LIVE IN OUR HEARTS. DAD, MOTHER, NORA & EILEEN

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 **Imperial War Museum** has created 'Tracing Your Ancestry: Royal Navy', a very useful guide to help you develop your research further. It outlines other resources that are available, and how best to use them.

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/research/tracing-your-family-history/tracing-your-royal-naval-history>



Naval-History.Net has a large amount of detailed information about the Navies, the ships, and those who served. This includes lists of navy dead compiled from Admiralty documents by researcher Don Kindell.

<http://www.naval-history.net/index0-1939.htm>

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

