

## 1. Why are there war graves and memorials in Normandy?

On 6 June 1944, the Allies landed on the beaches of Normandy, and the battle to liberate France from German occupation began. The Battle for Normandy was fought until August 1944 with burials made across the region where the fighting was taking place. British medical facilities were established in Normandy soon after D-Day, and on 24 June hospitals were established in tents on the outskirts of Bayeux. Over the following months thousands of men were treated there. Those who died at the hospital were buried nearby.

80 years later, the cemeteries stand as permanent reminders of Operation *Overlord*. Constructed across the former battlefields, today they are places of peace and reflection, telling the stories of those who fought and died.

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

There are war graves at 117 locations across the Calvados region. Study the map below to see where some of the cemeteries and memorials in the Normandy area 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.

### Bayeux War Cemetery

4,654 war graves  
From: *Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Poland, South Africa, Soviet Union, United Kingdom, USA*



### Bayeux Memorial

1,804 names  
From: *Canada, France, Ireland, South Africa, United Kingdom, USA*



### Jerusalem War Cemetery

48 war graves  
From: *Czechoslovakia, United Kingdom*



### Ryes War Cemetery

988 war graves  
From: *Australia, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Poland, Switzerland, United Kingdom*



### Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery

2,049 war graves  
From: *British Guiana, Canada, Cuba, Newfoundland, United Kingdom, USA*



### Hermanville War Cemetery

1,005 war graves  
From: *Australia, Canada, Ireland, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe*



### Ranville War Cemetery

2,566 war graves  
From: *Australia, Belgium, Canada, Ireland, Germany, New Zealand, Poland, United Kingdom, USA*



### Banneville-la-Champagne War Cemetery

2,175 war graves  
From: *Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Malaya, Netherlands, Newfoundland, New Zealand, Poland, United Kingdom, USA, Zimbabwe*



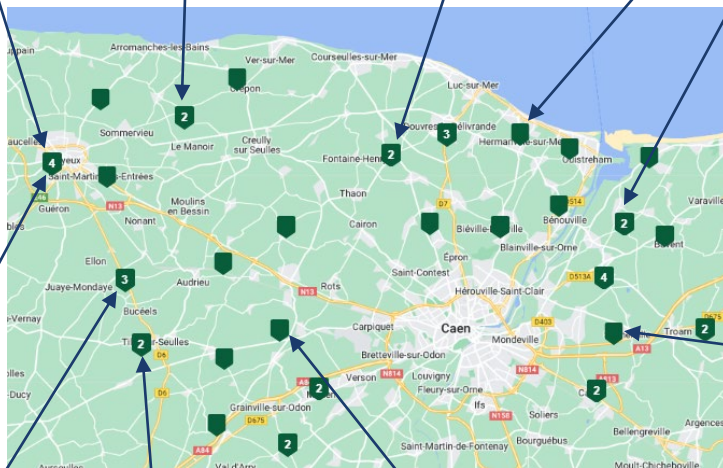
### Tilly-sur-Selles War Cemetery

1,221 war graves  
From: *Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, New Zealand, United Kingdom*



### St Manvieu War Cemetery

2,182 war graves  
From: *Australia, Canada, Germany, Ireland, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe*



## 4. Discover more about the service of those buried at Bayeux War Cemetery

**4.1** Each headstone in the cemetery tells a different story.

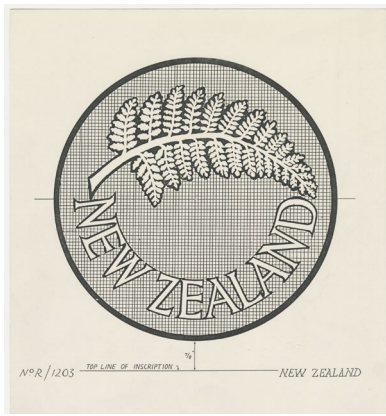
As you explore the cemetery see what you can learn from the headstones. See if you can discover the following;

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?

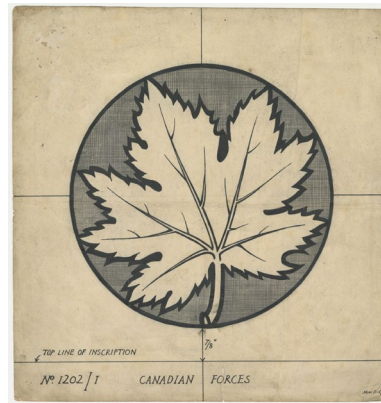


**4.2** There is just one headstone with this medal on it. It is the Victoria Cross – the highest award for bravery. Can you find it in **Plot XX**?

**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. Can you find one in **Plot XI**?



More than 1.6 million Canadian 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. Only one Australian sailor is buried here, in **Plot XI**.



The Merchant Marine was the largest in the world. It recruited people from all over the globe to serve on the ships. Five are buried in **Plot VIII**.



South African units served in North Africa, the Middle East and in Europe during the Second World War. Only one South African is buried here, in **Plot X**



Many Polish soldiers and airmen served with the Allied Forces during the Second World War.