

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES

RESEARCHING A MEMBER OF THE FORCES OF UNDIVIDED INDIA WHO DIED IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR



This bitesize guide is designed to help you research a person who died in the Second World War while serving with the forces of Undivided India, whether on land, at sea, or in the air. Firstly, you will need to decide who you will research... this might be a relative, or you might select a name from a Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) memorial, cremation memorial, or headstone, in a CWGC cemetery or maybe in a civilian cemetery near you.

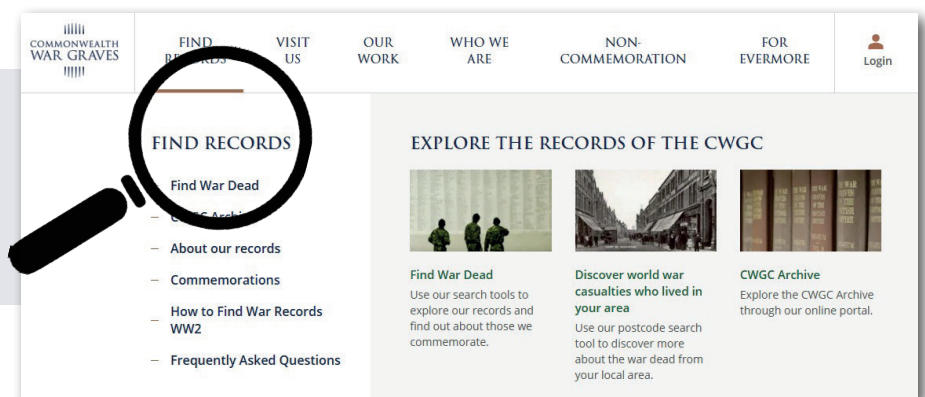
The first stage of your research starts with the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission Casualty Database**. At CWGC, we keep a record of the place of burial or commemoration of all the servicemen and women of the Britain and Commonwealth who died in the First and Second World Wars.

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 100 OF 2235 WAR DEAD

Download all results Sort by Date of Death

Results per page 100

Name, Rank & Service No.	Unit, Regiment, Country of Service	Date of Death	Commemorated at	
DHURA Pioneer Service Number: 308330	1380 Coy. Indian Pioneer Corps Indian	Died 01 March 1945 24 years old	ALAMEIN CREMATION MEMORIAL Column 35. Egypt	More details Save to My list
NUR MUHAMMAD Sapper Service Number: 54571	15th Bn. Indian Engineers Indian	Died 01 March 1945 30 years old	RANGOON MEMORIAL Face 26. Myanmar	More details Save to My list
LACHHMAN RAM Rifleman Service Number: 34092	M.G. Bn. 6th Rajputana Rifles Indian	Died 01 March 1945 25 years old	PHALERON CREMATION MEMORIAL Greece	More details Save to My list
SHABEDAN SHAH Lance Naik Service Number: 15633	1st Bn. 12th Frontier Force Regiment Indian	Died 01 March 1945 18 years old	FORLI INDIAN ARMY WAR CEMETERY I. C. 12. Italy	More details Save to My list
SHANKAR RAM Sepoy Service Number: 19763	1st Bn. 14th Punjab Regiment Indian	Died 01 March 1945 22 years old	SINGAPORE CREMATION MEMORIAL Column 15. Singapore	More details Save to My list
GOLA RAM RAI Havildar Service Number: 1544	1st Bn. 10th Gurkha Rifles Indian	Died 01 March 1945 29 years old	TAUKKYAN WAR CEMETERY Coll. grave 8. C. 3-5. Myanmar	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

Very few Indian service personnel have personal inscriptions.

NAIK HARNAM SINGH Service Number: 9732 Regiment & Unit/Ship 15th Punjab Regiment 2nd Bn. Date of Death Died 01 March 1945 Age 31 years old Buried or commemorated at <u>RABAU (BITA PAKA) WAR CEMETERY</u> T. C. 5. Papua New Guinea		COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES We are in the process of adding an image of this casualty's point of commemoration	
Country of Service	Indian	Awards	Indian Distinguished Service Medal
Additional Info	Son of Karam Singh and Hukam Kaur, of Deo, Amritsar, India; husband of Mahindar Kaur, of Deo.		

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

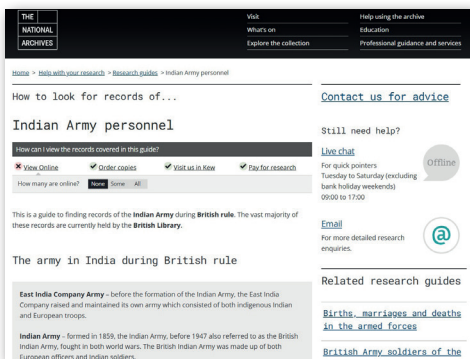
[View cemetery details](#)



Step 2: Searching for additional information online

Researching men and women of Indian forces before 1947 is a challenge. Author Ghee Bowman's website has a very helpful article of advice, information about where records might be, and suggested books and people to consult.

<https://www.forcek6.org.uk/2024/12/18/researching-your-indian-army-relatives>



The National Archives has a research guide to finding records of Indian Army personnel. Second World War unit diaries for Indian Army units may be available at TNA also. Most of the relevant records held in the UK are with the **British Library**, however, which holds the India Office Records

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/indian-army-personnel>

Most records of men who served in the British Indian Army were retained at each regiment's centre in what is now Pakistan, India and Bangladesh. Records in these places are not catalogued online; individual Regimental Centres need to be contacted directly.

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

