

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

The notorious Burma-Siam railway, built by Commonwealth, Dutch and American prisoners of war, was a Japanese project to support the large Japanese army during the Second World War. Approximately 13,000 prisoners of war died while building it and were buried along the railway. Work began in June 1942 and the completed line, 424 kilometres long, was operational by December 1943.

The graves of those who died were transferred from camp burial grounds and isolated sites along the railway into three cemeteries at Chungkai and Kanchanaburi in Thailand and Thanbyuzayat in Myanmar.

Chungkai was one of the base camps on the railway and contained a hospital and church built by the Allied prisoners of war. The war cemetery is the original burial ground started by the prisoners themselves, and the burials are mostly of men who died at the hospital.

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

There are CWGC war graves and memorials at three locations close to Chungkai. Study the map below to see where they are.

3. Discover where these people came from

Use the flags to discover where some of those who are buried and remembered in Thailand came from.



Chungkai War Cemetery

1,739 war graves

From: Australia, Canada, Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, United Kingdom



Kanchanaburi Memorial

11 names

From: India, Nepal, Pakistan



Kanchanaburi War Cemetery

6,982 war graves

From: Australia, Canada, Denmark, India, Ireland, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, United Kingdom

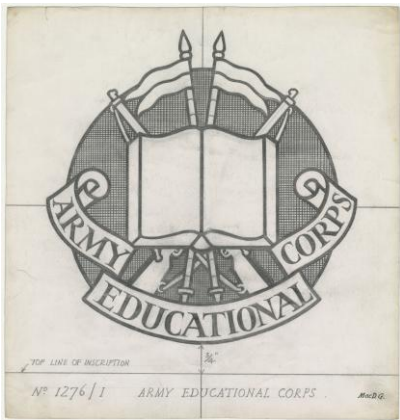


4. Discover more about the service of those buried at Chungkai War Cemetery

4.1 Each grave marker in the cemetery tells a different story.

As you explore the cemetery see what you can learn from the grave markers. 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 grave marker which has this badge on. Who were they and what was their role?

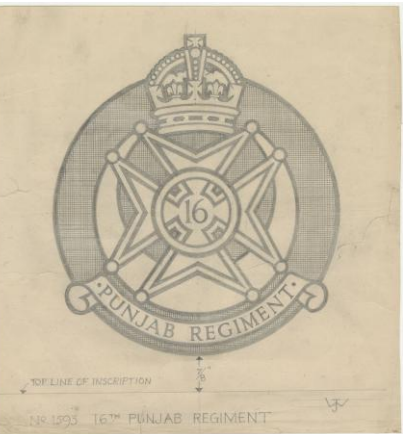
4.3 As you explore the cemetery, look at the different badges on the grave markers. These will give you a clue as to the role the person had and maybe where they came from. As you find each badge, write down the name of the person who served with that unit in the box next to the badge.



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.



Formed to defend the Malay States, more than 18,000 volunteers were captured at the fall of Singapore in 1942.



The 16th Punjab Regiment was a regiment in the British Indian Army. It mainly recruited from modern day Pakistan.



The Royal Army Medical Corps provided medical support to the troops fighting, running medical units and hospitals.



Soldiers from the Royal Army Ordnance Corps served all over the world, supplying weapons, ammunition and equipment.



Nearly 3,000 Dutch Prisoners of War died in the building of the railway.

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