

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.

KANCHANABURI WAR CEMETERY is only a short distance from the site of the former 'Kanburi', the prisoner of war base camp. It was created by the Army Graves Service who transferred to it all graves along the southern section of railway, from Bangkok to Niek.

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

There are CWGC war graves and memorials at three locations close to Kanchanaburi. 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 Kanchanaburi

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 engraved 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.



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.



More than 1.6 million Canadians troops fought across the globe in the world wars. More than 110,000 died in service.



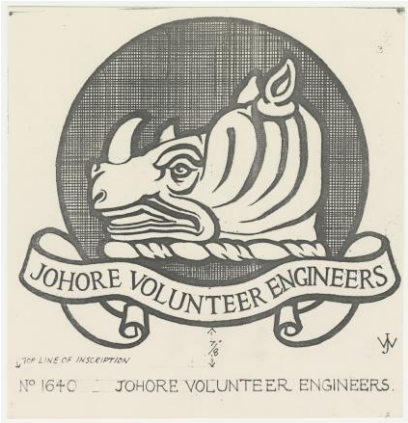
More than a million Australian troops fought across the globe in the world wars. More than 103,000 died.



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



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



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Discover more at cwgc.org/stories