

1. Why are there war graves and memorials in the Belgium from Operation Market Garden?

Operation Market Garden (17-25 September 1944) was the largest airborne assault in history. Its goal was to secure a crossing over the Rhine for the Allied advance into Nazi Germany, bypassing the formidable Siegfried Line border defences. The original plan consisted of two connected operations: **Market** – The landing of 40,000 airborne troops to capture vital bridges and hold them in time for the armour to advance. **Garden** – Advancing a British armoured corps up through the Netherlands from the Belgian border at Leopoldsburg to force a way into Germany.

While much of the operation was a success, it ultimately failed to achieve its main goal which was to secure the bridge at Arnhem. Roughly 1,500 British and Polish airborne troops had been killed. Many more were injured or taken prisoner. Estimates suggest the Allies, including US troops, had 17,000 killed, wounded, or captured during Operation Market Garden.

2. Where are the war graves and memorials connected to Operation Market Garden?

There are war graves and memorials at more than 470 locations in the Netherlands. Study the map below to see where some of the cemeteries and memorials which are connected to Operation Market Garden are.

3. Discover where these people came from

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

Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery

1,772 war graves

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



Jonkerbos War Cemetery

1,646 war graves

From: *Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Ireland, New Zealand, Poland, South Africa, Soviet Union, United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA, Zimbabwe*



Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery

2,619 graves

From: *Australia, Belgium, Canada, Ireland, Jamaica, Netherlands, Newfoundland, New Zealand, Poland, Soviet Union, St Vincent, United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA*



Groesbeek Memorial

1,646 names

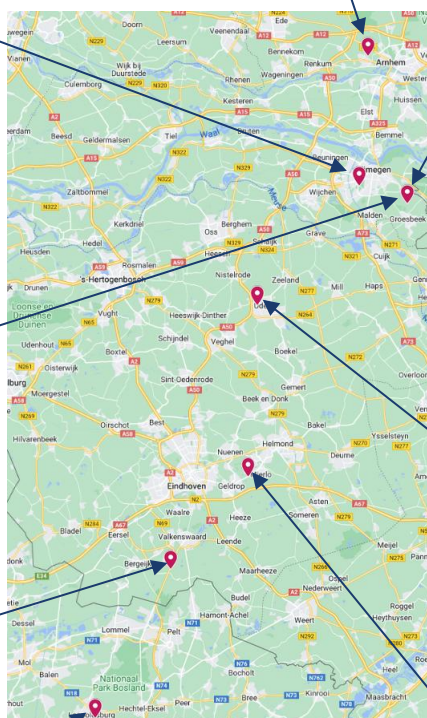
From: *Canada, Ireland, South Africa, United Kingdom*



Mierlo War Cemetery

666 war graves

From: *Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, Trinidad, United Kingdom*



Uden War Cemetery

703 war graves

From: *Australia, Belgium, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, Poland, South Africa, United Kingdom, USA*



Leopoldsburg War Cemetery

800 war graves

From: *Australia, Canada, Ireland, Jamaica, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, South Africa, United Kingdom*



Valkenswaard War Cemetery

222 war graves

From: *Ireland, United Kingdom, USA*



4. Discover more about the service of those buried at Leopoldsburg 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 two headstones with this medal on them. It is the **Victoria Cross** – the highest award for bravery. Can you find one in **Plot 5**?

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.



The Parachute Regiment was formed in the Second World War and served all over the world. Can you find one in **Plot 6**?



The Irish Guards played an important role in Operation Market Garden as they fought their way north. Can you find one in **Plot 1**?



More than 360 aircrew died in Operation Market Garden. Many came from across the globe to serve. Can you find a Canadian buried in **Plot 7**?



There are four Dutch service personnel buried in this cemetery. Can you find one in **Plot 1**?



Many armoured units of the British Army fought in Market Garden. Can you find a soldier who wore this badge in **Plot 5**?



Many Polish soldiers, sailors and airmen served with the Allied Forces during the Second World War. Can you find one in **Plot 8**?

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