

# COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES

## RESEARCHING A MEMBER OF NEW ZEALAND FORCES 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 New Zealand forces, 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 could choose a name from a local war memorial, or you might select a name from a Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) memorial or headstone, in a CWGC cemetery or maybe in a churchyard near you.

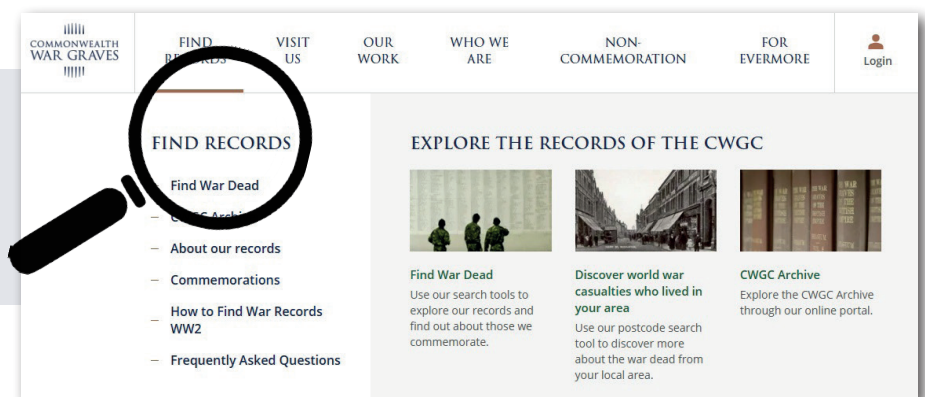
The first stage of your research starts with the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission Casualty Database**. At CWGC, we keep a record of the place of burial or commemoration of all the servicemen and women of the Britain and Commonwealth who died in the First and Second World Wars.

### STEP 1: Visit our website at [www.cwgc.org](http://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

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 10 OF 11926 WAR DEAD

Download all results

Sort by Relevance

Refine Results

Results per page 10

Name, Rank & Service No.	Unit, Regiment, Country of Service	Date of Death	Commemorated at	
<b>THOMAS VICTOR MARCHANT</b> Sergeant Service Number: 421076	Royal New Zealand Air Force New Zealand	Died 01 May 1943 23 years old	<b>WANGANUI (ARAMOHO) CEMETERY</b> D. 1. 52. New Zealand	<a href="#">More details</a> <a href="#">Save to My list</a>
<b>RAY ALEXANDRA GILCHRIST</b> Flight Sergeant Service Number: 411209	Royal New Zealand Air Force New Zealand	Died 06 June 1943 31 years old	<b>MAYNAMATI WAR CEMETERY</b> 3. F. 1. Bangladesh	<a href="#">More details</a> <a href="#">Save to My list</a>
<b>JOHN LYTTELTON HETHERINGTON</b> Private Service Number: 2843	18th Bn. New Zealand Infantry New Zealand	Died 28 June 1942 29 years old	<b>EL ALAMEIN WAR CEMETERY</b> IV. A. 5. Egypt	<a href="#">More details</a> <a href="#">Save to My list</a>
<b>EDWARD HUGO CAPEWELL</b> Flight Sergeant Service Number: 413250	104 (R.A.F.) Sqdn Royal New Zealand Air Force New Zealand	Died 27 June 1943 25 years old	<b>SALERNO WAR CEMETERY</b> Coll. grave V. F. 19-20. Italy	<a href="#">More details</a> <a href="#">Save to My list</a>
<b>THOMAS WILSON DALE</b> Pilot Officer Service Number: 428085	199 Sqdn. Royal New Zealand Air Force New Zealand	Died 17 June 1944 25 years old	<b>RUNNYMEDE MEMORIAL</b> Panel 263. United Kingdom	<a href="#">More details</a> <a href="#">Save to My list</a>

### 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

The New Zealand government decided against personal inscriptions.

**PRIVATE CHARLIE HAPETA**  
 Service Number: 801953  
**Regiment & Unit/Ship**  
 New Zealand Infantry  
 28th (Maori) Bn.  
**Date of Death**  
 Died 18 February 1944  
 Age 24 years old  
**Buried or commemorated at**  
 CASSINO WAR CEMETERY  
 VI. H. 7.  
 Italy  
**Country of Service**  
 New Zealand  
**Additional Info**  
 Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Hapeta, of Okaihau, Auckland, New Zealand; husband of Alice Ngareta Hapeta, of Horeke, Auckland.

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES

We are in the process of adding an image of this casualty's point of commemoration

### 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](#)

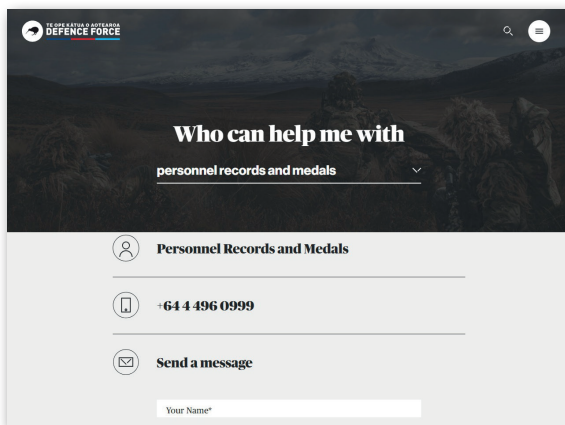
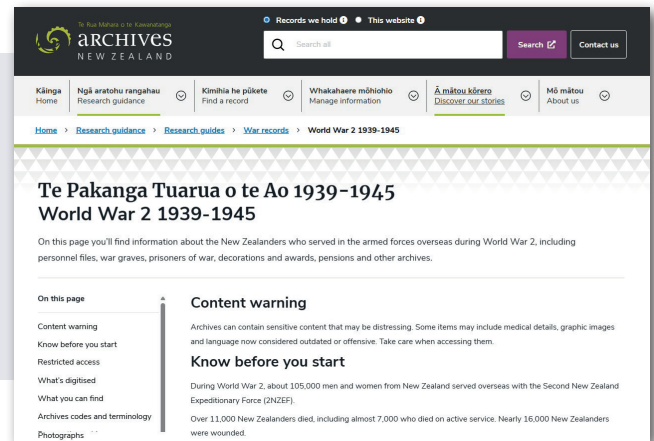




## Step 2: Searching for additional information online

**Archives New Zealand** hold some records for those who served in the NZEF in the Second World War. They are the most useful source for researching Second World War soldiers and should be your next port of call.

<https://www.archives.govt.nz/research-guidance/research-guides/war-records/world-war-two>



The service records of those who served with the New Zealand forces in the Second World War are held by the **New Zealand Defence Force**. Information on how to apply for military service records and medal information can be found here.

<https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/media-centre/contact-us/recipient//personnel-records-and-medals/>

## 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

