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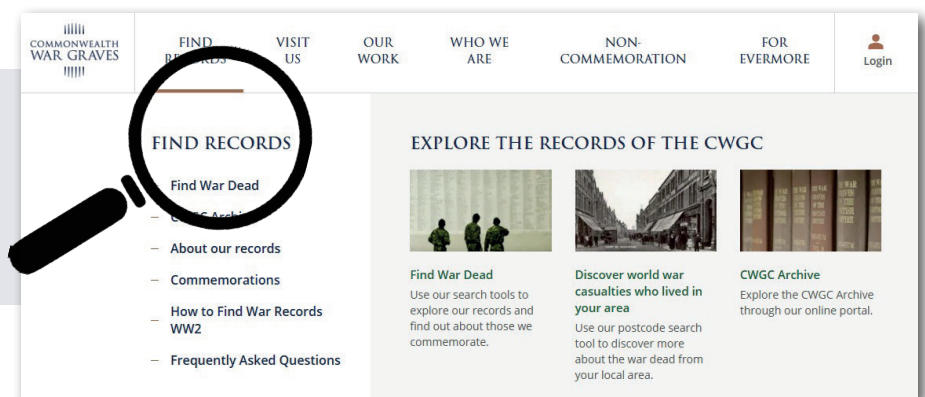
The first stage of your research starts with the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission** Casualty Database. At CWGC, we keep a record of the place of burial or commemoration of all the servicemen and women of the Britain and Commonwealth who died in the First and Second World Wars.

STEP 1: Visit our website at www.cwgc.org

Need help..?
Watch the 'How to search' video tutorials

Using the dropdown **FIND RECORDS** menu, select 'Find War Dead'

FIND RECORDS
VISIT US
OUR WORK
WHO WE ARE
NON-COMMEMORATION
FOR EVERMORE
Login

FIND RECORDS
Find War Dead
CWGC Archive
– About our records
– Commemorations
– How to Find War Records WW2
– Frequently Asked Questions

EXPLORE THE RECORDS OF THE CWGC

Find War Dead
Use our search tools to explore our records and find out about those we commemorate.

Discover world war casualties who lived in your area
Use our postcode search tool to discover more about the war dead from your local area.

CWGC Archive
Explore the CWGC Archive through our online portal.

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

Last name Help ❓	First name Help ❓	Initials Help ❓
Enter the last name of the casualty	Enter a first name	Enter initials
☐ Match this search term exactly	or	
	☐ Match this search term exactly	☐ Match this search term exactly

Service Number Help ❓
Service numbers can contain numbers, letters and symbols

Regiment Help ❓
Find records that relate to a particular regiment

☐ Match this search term exactly   ☐ Match this search term exactly

Served with (country) Help ❓   **Served in (army etc.)** Help ❓
Served With   Served In

War Help ❓
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 10 OF 195 WAR DEAD　　⬇ Download all results　Sort by [Age of Death]　**Refine Results**

Results per page　10 ✓

Name, Rank & Service No.	Unit, Regiment, Country of Service	Date of Death	Commemorated at	
MOHAMMED RASID Fireman and Trimmer	S.S. Stangarth (London) Merchant Navy United Kingdom	**Died 16 March 1942**	TOWER HILL MEMORIAL Panel 101. United Kingdom	More details ⬇ Save to My list
ABDUL MOHAMED Greaser	S.S. Helmspey (Cardiff) Merchant Navy United Kingdom	**Died 11 February 1943**	PORT ELIZABETH (SOUTH END) CEMETERY Muslim Sec. South Africa	More details ⬇ Save to My list
SALEM MOHAMED Fireman and Trimmer	S.S. Gracefield (Newcastle-on-Tyne) Merchant Navy United Kingdom	**Died 22 March 1945**	CARDIFF WESTERN CEMETERY Sec. E. Grave 100. United Kingdom	More details ⬇ Save to My list
MOHAMMED ALI Greaser	S.S. Shrewsbury (London) Merchant Navy United Kingdom	**Died 12 February 1941**	TOWER HILL MEMORIAL Panel 97. United Kingdom	More details ⬇ Save to My list
YASSIN AWAD MOHAMED Sailor	M.V. Bintang (Hong Kong) Merchant Navy United Kingdom	**Died 22 February 1942**	TOWER HILL MEMORIAL Panel 17. United Kingdom	More details ⬇ Save to My list
IBRAHIM MOHAMED MUSTAFA Assistant Steward	S.S. Shuntien (London) Merchant Navy United Kingdom	**Died 23 December 1941**	TOWER HILL MEMORIAL Panel 97. United Kingdom	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

Those named on CWGC memorials do not have personal inscriptions.

ABLE SEAMAN
IBRAM MOHAMED BEN

⚑ **Regiment & Unit/Ship**
Merchant Navy
S.S. Manchester Brigade (Manchester)

🗓 **Date of Death**
Died 27 September 1940
Age 46 years old

⚑ **Buried or commemorated at**
TOWER HILL MEMORIAL
Panel 67.
United Kingdom

|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

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

Country of Service	United Kingdom
Additional Info	Son of Mohamed Ben Ibram and Miriam Ibram; husband of Doris Irene Jeannette Ibram, of Mersey Bank, Manchester.

FROM THE CWGC ARCHIVES

GRAVE REGISTRATION (2)　　CONCENTRATION (1)　　HEADSTONE (1)

⠿ Click to view　⠿ Click to view　　⠿ Click to view　　⠿ 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.

DISCOVER · LEARN · REMEMBER

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.

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

DISCOVER · LEARN · REMEMBER
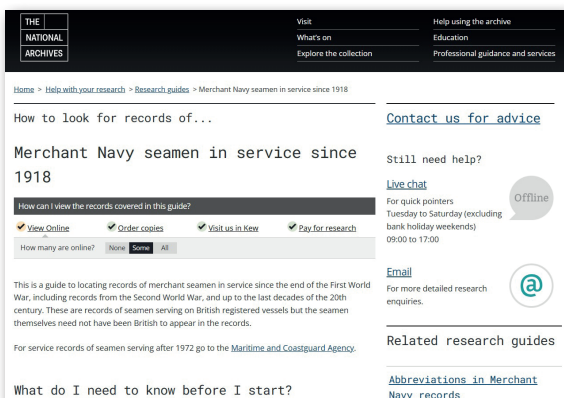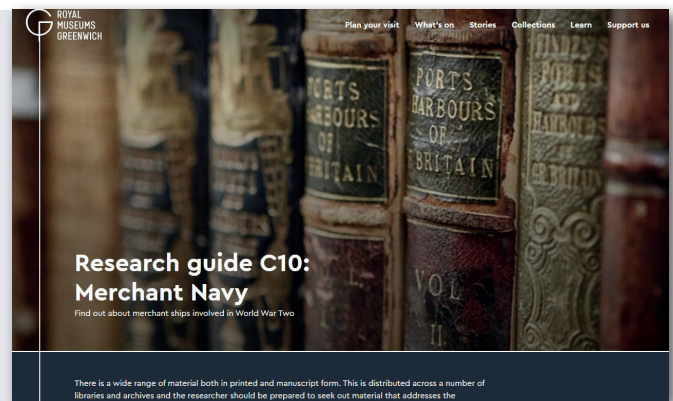
Step 2: Searching for additional information online

The **National Maritime Museum** has created number of very useful research guides to help you develop your research further. They outline other resources that are available, and how best to use them. Start here and then scroll to the bottom to see other NMM guides which might also be useful.

https://www.rmg.co.uk/collections/research-guides/research-guide-c10-merchant-navy-world-war-two

The National Archives holds records of merchant seamen and women in service during the Second World War. These are records of those serving on British vessels, but the people themselves need not have been British to appear in the records.

https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/merchant-seamen-serving-since-1918/

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