THE SOMME
CEMETERIES & MEMORIALS

DISCOVER · LEARN · REMEMBER
PERSONAL STORIES

William Noel Hodgson

Known as “Smiler” to his friends, William volunteered in 1914 and served in the 9th Battalion of the Devonshire Regiment. William was killed on the first day of the Somme Offensive. He was a published poet, writing under the name Edward Melbourne. He is best remembered for his poem ‘Before Action,’ which was published two days before he died.

Buried at Devonshire Cemetery

Gordon Bede Brennan

Gordon was born in Parkes, New South Wales, Australia. He enlisted in November 1915 aged just 18. Gordon was killed during an attack at the Butte de Warlencourt.

Buried at Warlencourt British Cemetery
Donald Melville Wood Brown

Donald joined up in 1915, declaring his age to be 20, when he was in fact only 15 years old. Donald was killed when his unit attacked the German lines west of the village of Flers, less than a month after his 16th birthday.

Buried at Caterpillar Valley British Cemetery

The Unknown Warrior

In 2004, an unidentified New Zealand soldier was exhumed from Caterpillar Valley, British Cemetery, in a special ceremony, and was laid to rest at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior at the National Memorial in Wellington. His former grave is marked by a special headstone.
On 1 July 1916, the British and French armies attacked German forces around the River Somme. The fighting raged for 141 days, and by November there were over one million casualties on both sides. The Battle of the Somme and its notorious first day – the worst in British military history – were among the defining events of the First World War. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries and memorials tell the story.
Thiepval is the largest CWGC memorial to the missing in the world, with over 72,000 names of soldiers with no known grave commemorated here. The Thiepval Anglo-French Cemetery contains 600 Commonwealth and French graves. Some CWGC graves bear the inscription “A Soldier of the Great War Known Unto God.”

Serre Road Cemetery No.2 is the largest CWGC cemetery on the Somme and the final resting place of over 7,000 servicemen. Built on the site of the last brutal fighting of the Somme Offensive, bodies were recovered and brought to this cemetery in 1919.

Devonshire Cemetery D938, 80300 Mametz, France
There are just two rows of headstones in this intimate cemetery. All but two of the graves belong to soldiers of the Devonshire Regiment who were buried here, in the trench from which they attacked the village of Mametz, on 1 July 1916. At the entrance you will see a stone marker proudly proclaims that “the Devonshires held this trench, the Devonshires hold it still.”

Warlencourt British Cemetery Route Nationale, 62450 Warlencourt-Eaucourt, France
Built on the site of the last brutal fighting of the Somme Offensive, bodies were recovered and brought to this cemetery in 1919.

Caterpillar Valley British Cemetery D20, 80360, Longueval, France
What began as a small cemetery of just 25 graves (now Plot 1) was expanded when over 5,500 men were brought here from across the Somme battlefields. Over 200 of the headstones belong to New Zealand soldiers.

Serre Road Cemetery No.2 D919, 62116 Hébuterne, France
Serre Road Cemetery No.2 is the largest CWGC cemetery on the Somme and the final resting place of over 7,000 servicemen.
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) commemorates the 1.7 million Commonwealth servicemen and women who died in the two World Wars. It operates at 23,000 sites worldwide and in more than 150 countries and territories.

**commonwealth war graves foundation**

keep their stories alive

The Commonwealth War Graves Foundation (CWGF) is our charitable foundation highlighting the work the CWGC does by telling the stories of those we commemorate.

Find out more at [www.cwgc.org/support-us](http://www.cwgc.org/support-us)

**THE CWGC EXPERIENCE**

Take a tour behind the scenes at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The CWGC Experience is a unique new visitor attraction at the centre of the First World War battlefields. Take a look behind the scenes at the work of the CWGC, who care for the fallen of the two World Wars around the globe.

CWGC Experience, 5-7 rue Angèle Richard, 62217 Beaurains, France.
Tel: +33 (0)321 21 52 75
Email: cwgcexperience@cwgc.org

[www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

*Front cover: Caterpillar Valley British Cemetery, Warlencourt British Cemetery, Serre Road Cemetery No.2.*