The Commonwealth War Graves Foundation highlights the stories of the people the CWGC commemorates. Support us and help keep their memory alive. Here are some of the brave men and women commemorated by the CWGC.

New Zealand
Flying Officer
Tohunga Richard Riwai

In 1942 father-of-three Richard enlisted in the Royal New Zealand Air Force and was posted to RAF Bradwell Bay, Essex. His squadron specialised in night fighting and he flew De Havilland Mosquitoes, known as ‘wooden wonders’. He was tragically killed during a night-time interception patrol in 1944.

Canada
Nursing Sister
Sarah Ellen Garbutt

A nurse at the Royal Memorial Hospital in Ontario, Sarah volunteered for the Canadian Army Nursing Service in 1917. She was posted to the UK, but only a month later was sadly diagnosed with abdominal cancer and died in Vincent Square Hospital, London.
United Kingdom

**Ensign Violette Szabo**

War widow Violette was recruited to the Special Operations Executive and twice undertook dangerous missions in France. She was captured and tortured before being sent to Ravensbrück concentration camp, where she was eventually executed. Violette’s bravery posthumously earned her the George Cross.

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South Africa

**Pilot Officer George Drake**

Rejected by the South African Air Force, George travelled to England and joined the RAF in 1939. During the Battle of Britain he was shot down by a German Messerschmitt and it was not until 1972 that his remains were discovered in Kent. His funeral at Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey was attended by his surviving brothers.

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India

**Leading Aircraftman Yousif Ali**

Born in Sylhet (now part of Bangladesh), Yousif moved to England in the 1920s. At the outbreak of the Second World War he enlisted in the RAF Volunteer Reserve. While serving in Europe after the war he fell ill and was brought back to England, where he died at the RAF Halton Military Hospital, Buckinghamshire.

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Australia

**Major Oliver Hogue**

Sydney-born Oliver fought on Gallipoli, before serving in Egypt and Palestine with the Imperial Camel Corps. By 1918 he commanded a squadron of the 14th Light Horse Regiment in Damascus. Having survived these deadly campaigns, he succumbed to influenza whilst on leave in the UK after hostilities had ended.
The Commonwealth War Graves Foundation (CWGF) highlights the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) by telling the stories of the 1.7 million people the CWGC commemorates.

The Foundation’s mission is to engage young people and the wider community in the story of our common sacrifice and shared history. The Foundation funds educational initiatives, an intern programme and community activities helping to develop young people’s skills – creating our ambassadors of the future.

Join us and together we will keep their stories alive.

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