We honour and care for the 1.7 million men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died in the First and Second World Wars, ensuring they will never be forgotten. Funded by six Member Governments, our work began with building, and now maintaining, cemeteries at 23,000 locations all over the world.

Today, over a century after we first began, our work continues through our staff, supporters and volunteers who preserve our unique cultural, horticultural and architectural heritage and ensure that the stories of those who died are told.

commonwealth war graves foundation
Keep their stories alive

Find out more about our charitable foundation at www.cwgc.org/support-us

THE CWGC EXPERIENCE
A unique visitor attraction. Take a look behind the scenes at the CWGC. Located in Beaurepaire, near Arras, France.

Ieper Information Centre
Visit our Information Centre, located near the Menin Gate in Ieper, Belgium.

To find out more visit www.cwgc.org

PERSONAL STORIES

Lance Corporal Edward Hunt Paten
A Brisbane born jackaroo, Edward Paten enlisted in the AIF in December 1915. He was wounded in France in 1916 but returned to service in 1917. In July 1917 his gun team were hit by a shell whilst holding the front line at Ploegsteert Wood and Paten was killed. His remains were buried nearby but sadly over time, his grave was lost. He is today commemorated by name on the Menin Gate Memorial.

Commemorated on panel 29

Lance Corporal Fred Fisher
Fred Fisher was studying at McGill University in Canada when the war broke out. He enlisted and within few weeks left for training in England. In April 1915 his unit was sent to the Ypres front. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions during the Second Battle of Ypres, becoming the first Canadian to be awarded the VC during the First World War. He was later killed in action and his final resting place is unknown. He is commemorated by name on the Menin Gate Memorial.

Commemorated on Panel 24.
At the end of the First World War, Ypres (now Ieper) was in ruins. Very soon after the Armistice people began visiting the Ypres Salient and the city became a place of pilgrimage. At the same time, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), formerly Imperial War Graves Commission, was taking its first steps in burying the dead of the British Empire Forces and building cemeteries and memorials in their honour.

Join us for a walking tour of Ieper and discover the role of the CWGC in creating the landscapes of remembrance we know today.