

Factsheet 16. Military Graves and Memorials.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission was established in 1917. Its duties are to mark and maintain the graves of the members of the forces of the Commonwealth who died in the two world wars, to maintain memorials to those who have no known graves and to maintain records and registers. The Commission also maintains a Book of Remembrance for the Second World War Civilian War dead.

The information held by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission covers the periods **4 August 1914 to 31 August 1921 and 4 September 1939 to 31 December 1947.** The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website can be found at www.cwgc.org and their telephone number is 01628 634221.

As of 1 January 1948 the task of marking and recording members of the Armed Forces who died in service was passed to the services Casualty Cells. For more information about these cells please contact Veterans Helpline on **0800 169 2277**.

The policy for Service personnel who died prior August 1914 and in the period 1 September 1921 to 2 September 1939 was that the deceased family or Unit were responsible for the gravesite. There is no record of the location of these gravesites apart from information that may be held on the individuals' service records or in Unit diaries that are held by the National Archives (formerly the Public Records Office). The National Archives website can be found at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk and their telephone number is 020 8876 3444.

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency can also offer advice on:

- War widow(er)s pilgrimages
- Friends or War Memorials
- The National Memorial Arboretum (a living tribute to the war time generations of the 20th century).

**For further information please contact Service Personnel and Veterans Agency:
Free Veterans Helpline 0800 169 2277
Textphone 0800 169 3458
Telephone Number (Overseas) +44 1253 866043
Website www.veterans-uk.info**