

# OUR WAR GRAVES YOUR HISTORY

## CAMBRIDGE CITY CEMETERY



Cambridge City Cemetery is the final resting place of over 1,000 servicemen and women who died during the two world wars. This cemetery is one of just six sites in the UK with such a large number of war graves.

### First World War

Over 180 of the burials here date from the First World War, when No.1 Eastern General Hospital was located in Cambridge. The hospital occupied several different sites across the city, including parts of King's College, Clare College, Trinity College, and the Leys School.

### Second World War

The cemetery contains more than 830 service burials dating from the Second World War. Royal Air Force stations were established throughout the eastern counties over the course of the war and the vast majority of the servicemen buried here were RAF personnel.

## Key CWGC features to look out for:

The Stone of Remembrance, reserved for cemeteries with over 1,000 Commonwealth war burials, was unveiled in the Air Force plot in July 1951 by Lord Tedder, Marshal of the Royal Air Force.



## Points of interest...

Commemorations: **1,019**  
First World War: **181**  
Second World War: **829**

Casualties of **26** national forces including

UK  
Australia  
Belgium  
Canada  
Czechoslovakia  
India  
Poland  
Malta  
Nigeria  
Netherlands  
Newfoundland  
New Zealand  
West Indies  
South Africa  
Southern Rhodesia

## Things to look out for...

**Harry Clack** - Youngest Battle of Britain and RAF casualty of the Second World War

**Major General Philip De Fonblanque** - the most senior officer buried here

**58** individuals awarded medals for courage and gallantry

**Walter Scammell** - who died on 11 November 1918

# Discovering CWGC graves at Cambridge City Cemetery



You can visit four war graves plots in Cambridge City Cemetery. There are also many scattered burials outside of the formal CWGC plots. From the car park, head first to the First World War plot. This is in the northern part of the cemetery.

## 1 First World War plot

At the center of the First World War plot is a private memorial cross. There are two 'boy' soldiers buried in this plot; **Rifleman H.E. Hammonds** and **Private Ernest Thorne**, both 17 years old. The oldest burial in this plot is **William Constable** who was 54 when he died. You will notice that some headstones have more than one name on, reflecting that graves were sometimes used for more than one burial. Also buried here are a number of Belgian soldiers who died while receiving treatment in the military hospital. Before you move on, look out for **Private Francis Camilleri**, a volunteer who came from Malta.

## 2 The 'Air Force Plot'

This is the largest CWGC plot in the cemetery and it contains nearly 750 burials. Here you will also find the Stone of Remembrance and a shelter building, along with a copy of the Cemetery Register. This register provides the details held by the CWGC on each casualty buried in the cemetery. This plot was established in 1942 to provide a burial ground for the air forces operating in East Anglia, who were drawn from across the globe. Amongst those buried here is the crew of a Lancaster bomber.

At 11:24am on Saturday 10 February 1945, a Lancaster bomber from 460 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force, piloted by **Pilot Officer Dick Miller** took off from RAF Cranwell in Lincolnshire on a training flight with six crew on board. Operations had been cancelled because of the strong winds, but training continued. The bomb aimer, Arnold Kloeden was not on board as he had been in hospital. All the crew were Australians except for the flight engineer, Freddie Nesbit-Bell who was from Bristol. At 3:35pm, the Lancaster crashed just west of the railway station at Caythorpe in Lincolnshire, killed all on board. The crew are buried together in the Air Force Plot, in grave 15755.



### 3 The General Service Plot

This plot contains 48 graves, mainly Second World War graves from the early period of the war. Amongst those buried here is **Harry Clack**, the youngest RAF casualty of the Second World War.

During the Battle of Britain, Harry was tasked with the recovery of crashed aircraft, both Allied and German. On 24 October 1940, his second day on the job, Harry and several others were despatched to a site at Eaton Socon in Bedfordshire, to recover a German reconnaissance aircraft, which had been shot down. During the removal of the wreckage, the crane jib contacted an overhead power line, which electrocuted Harry and another airman. He was 16 and died in hospital the following day.



*Harry Clark*

### 4 The Dominion Plot

Lastly, visit the Dominion Plot which contains the graves of First World War casualties from Australia, Britain, Canada and South Africa, as well as a Cross of Sacrifice. Among those buried in this plot is **Frank Bidulph** of the Australian Mining and Boring Company who died of pneumonia and meningitis on 17 July 1916. Also, **Harold McKenna** of the 43rd Battalion, Canadian Infantry who had been wounded on the Western Front in France during the 1917 Battle of Cambrai. Finally, look out for **Private H.L. Paul** who served with the Canadian Infantry but was a volunteer from Springfield, Ohio, USA.

Also buried in the cemetery is **Cadet Walter Scammell** of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, who died on 11 November 1918 – Armistice Day, buried in grave 3631, close to the dominion Plot.

