



**Commonwealth War
Graves Commission**
Country Report:
Bangladesh



CWGC
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) is responsible for maintaining commemorations of Commonwealth war dead of the First and Second World Wars at three locations in Bangladesh: Chittagong War Cemetery (including the Chittagong/Bombay 1939-1945 War Memorial), Maynamati War Cemetery, and Kulpotak Baptist Mission Burial Ground, where one individual from the Second World War is buried.

Chittagong War Cemetery



Chittagong War Cemetery is in Dampara locality, No 19 Badsha Mia Chowdhury Road, 22 kilometres north of the airport and 8 kilometres from the port on a site which was formerly paddy fields, but which has now been developed.

Within the cemetery will also be found the Chittagong Memorial which, together with the Bombay 1939-1945 War Memorial, to be found in the Indian Seamen's Hostel Bombay, commemorates over 400 sailors of the former Indian Navy and nearly 6,000 sailors of the former Indian Merchant Navy who were lost at sea during the war years. Each memorial takes the form of a finely bound volume containing the names of the dead.

The cemetery was created by the army, and there were originally about 400 burials. Graves have since been transferred to this cemetery from the Lushai Hills (Assam) and other isolated sites, and from Chittagong Civil Cemetery. There are now 731 Commonwealth burials of the 1939-45 war here, 17 of which are unidentified.

There are a further 20 Foreign National burials, 1 being a seaman of the Dutch Navy and 19 Japanese soldiers, 1 of which is unidentified. There are also 4 non war U.K. military burials.

Maynamati War Cemetery



Maynamati is some 7 kilometres from the centre of Comilla, which is on the railway line linking Dhaka to Chittagong. It can be reached by train to Comilla railway station, 9 kilometres from the cemetery, or by the Dhaka - Chittagong highway.

The cemetery was started by the Army and laid out by the garrison engineer. It is dominated by a small flat-topped hill crowned with indigenous flowering and evergreen trees. Between the entrance and this hill lie the Christian graves, and on the far side of it are the Muslim graves. On a terrace about half-way up the hill, facing the entrance, stands the Cross of Sacrifice, and on the other side a shelter looks over the Muslim graves to a tree-framed view of the countryside beyond.

There are now 710 Second World War casualties commemorated in this cemetery.

Dhaka (Dacca) and Chittagong casualties

Within our records, there are 280 individuals from, or with family connections to, Dacca, Pakistan (as it was until Bangladesh declared independence in 1971). There are also 551 individuals with connections to Chittagong. Altogether, there are over 800 individuals with links to Bangladesh in our records, commemorated in 22 different countries worldwide, including Australia, Bangladesh, Egypt, Eritrea, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, St. Lucia, Tanzania and the United Kingdom.

The sites commemorating the largest numbers of individuals from Dacca are:

DELHI/KARACHI 1939-1945 WAR MEMORIALS, India – 268 casualties of the Second World War

BASRA MEMORIAL, Iraq – 182 casualties of the First World War