



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



CWGC
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) is responsible for the commemoration of one casualty of the First World War and 161 casualties of the Second World War in Botswana. All 162 casualties are commemorated on the Botswana Memorial in Gaborone, the capital city of Botswana.



The Botswana Memorial

The 1939-45 War Memorial, erected by the Government of Botswana in front of the Legislative Council building in Gaborone, is made of grey granite and consists of a three-sided obelisk five metres high and stands on a paved platform approached by steps. Affixed to the front face is a cast bronze rifle.

The base of the obelisk bears bronze name panels on which are recorded the names of 105 soldiers of Botswana (including four who were serving in the South African forces) who died in that country during the 1939-1945 War and whose graves could not be maintained, 6 men of Botswana who were lost at sea when the S.S. ERINPURA was sunk in 1943 and 49 of those who died in Egypt and who have no known grave. Other Botswana servicemen who died during the war are commemorated by the Commission elsewhere.

In addition, a soldier of the South African forces and a soldier of the 1914-1918 War, whose graves could not be maintained, are also commemorated on this Memorial.

Botswana casualties commemorated elsewhere

In addition to the 162 individuals mentioned above, a further 12 individuals from, or with family connections to Botswana, but whose place of commemoration is not in Botswana itself, are also recorded in our records. These 12 individuals are commemorated at two sites in South Africa; Cullinan Military Cemetery in Gauteng, and Ladybank Cemetery in Kwazulu-Natal.

CULLINAN MILITARY CEMETERY, Gauteng, South Africa

Commonwealth War Dead (1939-1945)

ITISENG, Private, M, EC/7783. African Pioneer Corps (H.C.T.). 3 December 1945. Age 43. Husband of Keuaope Itiseng, of Serowe, Botswana. Grave Reference: Grave 38.

LEHOTI, Private, M, EC/8850. African Pioneer Corps (H.C.T.). 25 February 1946. Age 44. Husband of Seboda, of Serowe, Botswana. Grave Reference: Grave 55.

OTSETSWE, Private, E, EC/8835. African Pioneer Corps (H.C.T.). 12 January 1946. Age 26. Son of Eletsang, of Serowe, Botswana. Grave Reference: Grave 45.

RAPUTSHE, Private, M, EC/1543. African Pioneer Corps (H.C.T.). 17 December 1945. Age 36. Husband of Ntesang, of Molepolole, Botswana. Grave Reference: Grave 41.

TSHANAKO, Private, T, EC/1590. African Pioneer Corps (H.C.T.). 9 January 1946. Age 35. Son of Kalebelwa, of Molepolole, Botswana. Grave Reference: Grave 43.

LADYSMITH CEMETERY, Kwazulu Natal, South Africa

Commonwealth War Dead (1939-1945)

KAETUNGA, Private, K, EC/12139. African Pioneer Corps (H.C.T.). 30 October 1945. Age 30. Nephew of Gearehatena, of Botswana. Grave Reference: Military Plot 16. Row M. Grave 8.

LESELAMOTLHAKA, Private, K, EC/10228. African Pioneer Corps (H.C.T.). 6 January 1945. Age 44. Husband of Mmatshadinyana, of Kanye, Botswana. Grave Reference: Military Plot 16. Row I. Grave 9.

MAEMO, Private, T, EC/6462. African Pioneer Corps (H.C.T.). 25 July 1945. Age 43. Husband of Dobiwa, of Serowe, Botswana. Grave Reference: Military Plot 16. Row K. Grave 5.

MOLATHIWA, Private, M, EC/6020. African Pioneer Corps (H.C.T.). 2 December 1944. Age 43. Husband of Kelebonye, of Botswana. Grave Reference: Military Plot 16. Row H. Grave 3.

MOSEKAPHOHU, Private, S, EC/1651. African Pioneer Corps (H.C.T.). 28 July 1945. Age 39. Husband of Mmabogome, of Botswana. Grave Reference: Military Plot 16. Row K. Grave 3.

NTHOIWA, Private, M, EC/13551. African Pioneer Corps (H.C.T.). 7 November 1945. Age 33. Husband of Chedule, of Serowe, Botswana. Grave Reference: Military Plot 16. Row M. Grave 7.

TAUNYANE, Private, M, EC/7714. African Pioneer Corps (H.C.T.). 18 May 1945. Age 37. Husband of Mmakobo Taunyane, of Mahalapye, Botswana. Grave Reference: Military Plot 16. Row J. Grave 4.