



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



CWGC
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) is responsible for maintaining commemorations at three locations in Fiji: Suva Memorial; Suva Military Cemetery; and Suva Old Cemetery. There is a total of 109 casualties of the First and Second World Wars commemorated in Fiji. Many are those who served within Fijian regiments such as the Fijian Labour Corps, Fijian Infantry Regiment, and the Fijian Defence Force, N.Z.E.F.

Suva Memorial and Suva Military Cemetery

The Memorial is situated in the entrance building at Suva Military Cemetery. It commemorates 34 soldiers belonging to the Fiji Military Forces who have no known grave or who lie buried elsewhere in Fiji and neighbouring islands where their graves could not be located or maintained.

The names are recorded on two bronze panels affixed to the inner walls of the entrance building. One panel bears 26 names and the following inscription:

1939 - 1945 THE MEN WHOSE MEMORY IS HONOURED HERE GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY AND LIE BURIED ELSEWHERE IN FIJI AND ROTUMA

The other panel bears 8 names and the following inscription:

1939 - 1945 THE MEN WHOSE MEMORY IS HONOURED HERE GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY IN BOUGAINVILLE AND NEW GEORGIA AND HAVE NO KNOWN GRAVE

The Military Cemetery contains 66 Commonwealth War graves, in which are buried 35 Fijian soldiers and 31 New Zealand servicemen. The graves, which are marked with Commission headstones, are situated on an upper and a lower lawn terrace. Their scattered appearance is due to the repatriation of 137 war dead of the United States originally buried there. The Cross of Sacrifice stands on a paved platform approached by two flights of steps from the lower terrace. The entrance building contains the Suva Memorial which takes the form of bronze panels commemorating members of the Fiji Forces who have no known grave or who are buried at other places in Fiji and Rotuma.

Suva Old Cemetery

Viti Levu, on which the cemetery is situated, is the capital of the Fiji islands. Suva Old Cemetery is situated in Queen's Road about 4 kilometres from the town centre.

There are 4 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 5 Commonwealth burials of the 1939-1945 war.

Fijian casualties

There are at least 184 individuals from, or with family connections to, Fiji, or serving in military units associated with Fiji, that the Commission commemorates. These individuals are buried or memorialised in 15 different countries worldwide, including Australia, Belgium, Egypt, Fiji, France, Italy, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, the United Kingdom, and Zimbabwe. They served throughout the Commonwealth during the First and Second World Wars, in Australian, British, New Zealand, and South African regiments.

The sites with the largest numbers of Fijian Commonwealth War dead outside of Fiji itself are:

- RABAU (BITA PAKA) WAR CEMETERY, Papua New Guinea – 33
- YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL, Belgium – 5
- MAZARGUES WAR CEMETERY, MARSEILLES, France – 5
- HONIARA (MATANIKAU) CEMETERY, Solomon Islands – 5