This bitesize guide is designed to help you research someone from Africa who died in the First World War. Firstly, you will need to decide who you will research... this might be a relative, or you could choose a name from a local war memorial, or you might select a name from a Commonwealth War Graves (CWGC) headstone in one of our cemeteries, or on one of our memorials.

The first stage of your research starts with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Casualty Database. At CWGC, we keep a record of the place of burial or commemoration of all the men and women of Britain and the Commonwealth who died in the First and Second World Wars.

**STEP 1:** Visit our website at www.cwgc.org

**Need help..?** Watch the ‘How to search’ video tutorials

**Using the dropdown FIND RECORDS menu, select ‘Find War Dead’**

**Fill in the name of the individual you are researching**

**Select First World War box**

**Research tip**

The names of Africans who served are usually only recorded in the last name section. Try both names, and reverse the order as this can happen in the records.
If you already have some more details about the person you are looking for such as their age, service number, date of death, or any medals they received, you can add these into the **ADDITIONAL FIELDS** section.

If you know where the person you are looking for died, for example, you can put this into the Additional Information box.

You will then get a list of the results...

If you have not found who you are looking for, you can refine the results.
If you think you have found the person you are looking for, select ‘More details’ and you will get an at-a-glance record.

If you cannot find the person you are searching for, you can contact us here [https://www.cwgc.org/contact-us/](https://www.cwgc.org/contact-us/)

**Did you know...?**
The records of the CWGC are not complete. Research is still being done and names are added to our records regularly.

Here you will discover the information held by CWGC. If known, the Additional Info can include next of kin details and address.

On the next page you will find a link to our **CWGC Archives** and any additional information which is held about this soldier. You can find several different types of official CWGC reports here. Find out more about these on page 3.
Further down on your search page you can find more details about the cemetery where the person you are looking for is buried, or the memorial upon which they are commemorated.

**Did you know...?**
The CWGC maintains more than 200 memorials across the globe. These record nearly 700,000 names of those who have no known grave, were buried at sea or cremated.

**Step 2:** Exploring additional resources to find out more about the individual

You need to check if there are any the Enquiry Files held by the CWGC Archives [http://archive.cwgc.org](http://archive.cwgc.org)
These contain correspondence between the family of those killed and the Commission. Only a small number of these files still survive.

Enquiry Files cover a range of subjects, including:

- Attempts to locate a missing individual
- Requests for the remains of a casualty to be returned to the country they came from, known as the ‘repatriation of remains’
- The addition of a personal inscription to a CWGC headstone
- Requests for a photograph of a grave
- Issues about the maintenance or upkeep of a grave
- The exhumation and reburial of a casualty
- The return of wooden crosses to families

**Did you know...?**
The Imperial War Graves Commission was founded in 1917. Before that, an army unit, Directorate of Graves Registration and Enquires (DGRE) began the work of recording details of those who had died.
Step 3: Searching for additional information online

A Street Near You uses maps to locate where those who died in the First World War originally came from and where they are now commemorated. You can search by lots of different terms so see what you can discover. It also provides links to other archives.

https://astreetnearyou.org

The King's African Rifles and East African Forces Association website includes some useful information about those who served in East Africa in the First World War.

http://www.kingafricanriflesassociation.co.uk/the-history-of-the-kar/

A detailed summary of the fighting in Africa during the First World War can be found on the Away from the Western Front website.

https://www.bl.uk/world-war-one/articles/the-first-world-war-in-east-africa

The Great War in Africa Association website includes lots of information and links to discover more about the fighting in Africa during the First World War.

https://gweaa.com/

The Guerrillas of Tsavo website contains detailed information about the First World War in East Africa and those who fought and served in the campaign.

https://www.heroes.guerrillasoftsavo.com/