This bitesize guide is designed to help you research someone from Undivided India, or someone who served with the 'Indian Army' 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 within a parish churchyard local to you.

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 the Britain and Commonwealth who died in the First and Second World Wars.

**STEP 1:** Visit our website at [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

Using the dropdown menu, select 'Find War Dead'.

Fill in the name of the individual you are researching.

Select First World War box.

Research tip: Records use different combinations of full names, name and initial, and initials only – you may have to try several of these to find the person you are looking for.

Need help? Watch the 'How to search' video tutorials.
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...

**Be aware,** CWGC records don’t always include details about where an individual was from, or exactly where they died. Our records are centred around where a person is buried or commemorated.

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.

**Did you know...?** Wherever possible, the relatives of a casualty were offered the opportunity to have a small, personal inscription listed on their headstone.

If known, the Additional Info can include next of kin details and address.

Lower down the 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.

**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

Researching WW1 has several useful guides helping you discover more about those who served in the Indian Army in the First World War.

https://www.researchingww1.co.uk/indianarmyww1

Exploring Surrey’s Past website includes a guide to researching the Indian Army in the First World War and the Muslim WW1 Burial Ground in Woking.

https://www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/themes/subjects/military/india-woking/sources/

The IWMs Lives of the First World War website is a memorial to those who served in the First World War. Enter the name and service number of the person you are searching for to get the best results. Many stories were added during the First World War Centenary. You might even find a photo!

https://livesofthefirstworldwar.iwm.org.uk/