

## Project: "Our Shared History: Commonwealth War Victims (Un)Forgotten."

The "Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery" was established by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission between the years 1955-1957. Specially built by leading war cemetery architect in Northwestern Europe Phillip Dalton Hepworth, the cemetery is home to fallen soldiers from the Royal British Air Force, members of the former British occupation zone in addition to the allied control commission and graves from across the Commonwealth, including a Muslim cemetery which was built to face Mecca. With graves from 2,319 Britons, 518 Canadians, 46 soldiers from British India and 31 South Africans, the Berlin Commonwealth War Cemetery is one of the most diverse cemeteries of its kind in the whole of Europe. When there are so many nationalities, cultures and memories in one place, it is all too easy to portray the war victims here in the former British occupation zone as mere statistics. However, they are all in fact people. People with their own stories, people with their own families. It thus begs the question: how can we tell the stories of war victims from the Commonwealth with empathy, respect and common humanity?



My name is Holly Perril, student of the University of Leeds in Great Britain and it is my goal to bring the histories of our nations together. Decades after the Second World War, we have the opportunity to give the former soldiers and war victims belonging to the Commonwealth a name. After years of conflict and division, we can remember our shared history together. It is my purpose and passion to tell the stories of war victims belonging to the Commonwealth.

In the following weeks, I will be collecting photos, biographical information and archive materials to piece together our shared histories, so that the war victims belonging to the Commonwealth are remembered. If you are interested in the project or have documents on the subject yourself, please use the following Email address:



### **Holly Perril**

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