1. Why are there war graves in Brest?

During the First World War, Brest was the main port of debarkation for many transport ships crossing the Atlantic. During the Second World War it was the disembarkation port for the stores and vehicles of the British Army, and temporary maintenance depots were formed there until an base was established near Le Havre. In 1940, the first contingent of the Canadian forces, which had only just reached France, were re-embarked from Brest, as were the last of the United Kingdom forces remaining in France. There are now over 30, 1914-18 and nearly 100, 1939-45 war casualties commemorated at this site, buried next to French military casualties.

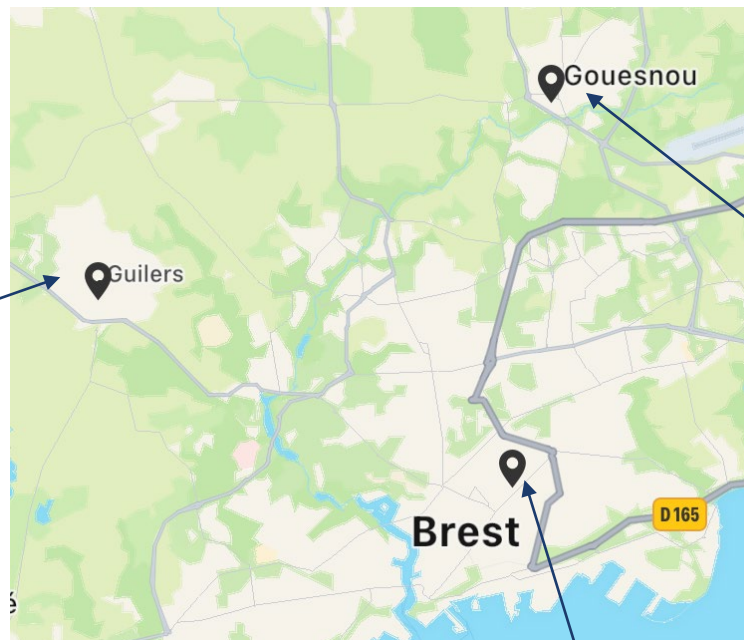## 2. Where are the war graves in Brest?

There are CWGC war graves and memorials at three locations in Brest and the surrounding area. Study the map below to see where they are.

3. Discover where these people came from

Use the modern flags to discover where some of those who are buried and remembered here came from.

Guiles churchyard
6 casualties
From: Great Britain, New Zealand

Gouesnou churchyard
5 graves
From: Great Britain, Shanghai

Brest (Kerfautras) Cemetery
114 CWGC graves
From: Australia, Canada, France, Great Britain, Jamaica, New Zealand Poland

4.1 Each headstone in the cemetery tells a different story.

As you explore the cemetery see what you can learn from the headstones. See if you can find the following;

1. Who is the youngest person you can find?
2. Who is the oldest person you can find?
3. How many different countries did they come from?

4.2 There is just one headstone which has this badge engraved on it. Who were they?

4.3 As you explore the cemetery, look at the different badges on the headstones. These will give you a clue as to the role the person had, and maybe where they came from. As you find each badge, write down the name of the person who served with that unit, or service in the box next to the badge.

The British West Indies Regiment was an infantry unit which recruited across the Caribbean.

The Royal Canadian Air Force provided aircrew for many of the planes which fought in the skies over Europe.
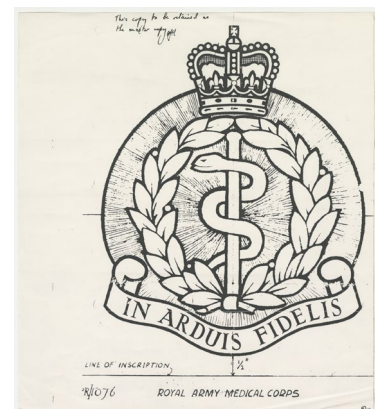
Many RAF aircrews were made up of people from across the British Empire. Many New Zealanders served in the RAF.

The Royal Army Veterinary Corps looked after all the animals used by the armed forces.

Many Polish airmen served with the Royal Air Force during the Second World War.

The Royal Army Medical Corps was responsible for looking after wounded and ill soldiers.