

Kohima war cemetery

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In news– The Kohima War Cemetery in Nagaland has figured in the U.K based Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) five sites with unusual features.

About Kohima War Cemetery-

- It is a **memorial dedicated to soldiers of the 2nd British Division of the Allied Forces who died in the Second World War at Kohima**, the capital of Nagaland, India, in April 1944.
- As per CWGC, Kohima War Cemetery has a feature that is possibly not shared by any other cemetery in the world, that is **a tennis court**.
- It is one of 23,000 World War graves across the continents maintained by the CWGC.
- **Present-day Nagaland and adjoining Manipur** comprised the **only theatre of World War II in the Indian subcontinent**.
- On April 3, 1944, a Japanese force of 15,000 had attacked Kohima and its 2,500 strong garrison.
- Those who had fallen in the defence of Kohima were buried on the battlefield, which later became a permanent CWGC cemetery.
- **Designer Colin St. Clair Oakes incorporated the tennis court into the design of the cemetery**.
- The **other four unusual sites listed by CWGC** are the World War I “crater cemeteries” – Zivy Crater and Litchfield Crater – in the Pas de Calais region in France ((These craters were caused by mine explosions).
- **Another site listed is the Nicosia (Waynes Keep) Cemetery or the “cemetery in no man’s land”** in Cyprus, requiring the presence of armed guards, because the cemetery is on the border of a patch of land disputed between the southern and northern parts of the island since the 1970s.

About Commonwealth War Graves Commission's (CWGC)-

- It is an intergovernmental organisation of six member-states.
- It was founded by Sir Fabian Ware and constituted through Royal Charter in 1917 as the **Imperial War Graves Commission, later in 1960s changed its name as CWGC.**
- Its principal function is to mark, record and maintain the graves and places of commemoration of Commonwealth of Nations military service members who died in the two World Wars.
- It is also responsible for commemorating Commonwealth civilians who died as a result of enemy action during the Second World War.