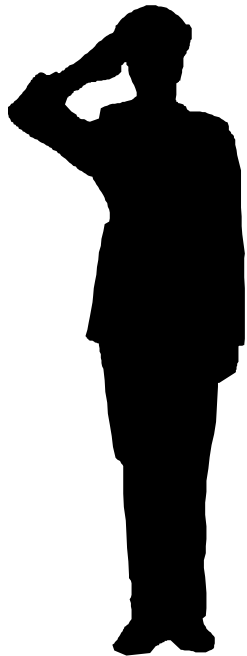


# TRACING ARMY ANCESTORS



# WORLD WAR I SOLDIERS

## GRO INDEXES TO WWI DEATHS

These are an alphabetical list of those who were killed in the war. Details given are the name, rank, number, unit and year of death of the soldier. The indexes are on microfiche and there is a charge of 50p per half hour for using the machines to read them. Advance booking is strongly recommended.

## SOLDIERS DIED IN THE GREAT WAR

This is a series of booklets listing by regiment the full name, place of birth, place of enlistment, army number, rank and date of death of each soldier killed whilst serving in a British unit. Wolverhampton Archives & Local Studies has copies of the lists for the North Staffs and South Staffs regiments. Birmingham Central Library holds a complete set of booklets.

## MEDAL ROLLS

These are held at the Public Record Office and give details of medal entitlement. Everyone who served in a theatre of war was entitled to a medal.

## SERVICE RECORDS OF INDIVIDUAL SOLDIERS

These are being transferred from the Ministry of Defence to the Public Record Office in Kew. However, 60% of the records were destroyed during a bombing raid in the Second World War and most of the surviving records were badly damaged (the 'burnt records'). A long-term microfilming project is in progress and it is likely to be at least 2001 before the whole collection of burnt records will be available for consultation. See Further Reading for more information.

## COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission can usually provide details of the soldier's address, next of kin, and location of the grave from the cemetery register; you can also get this information from their web site. Alternatively Birmingham Central Library has copies of the numerous volumes of cemetery registers.

## BATTALION WAR DIARIES

Each unit on active service had to keep a war diary and these are now held at the Public Record Office. The war diary may give a vivid account of events on the day a soldier was killed but bear in mind that other ranks are seldom mentioned by name although officers are often referred to.

## FURTHER READING

This leaflet is only a very brief guide to the main sources available. A number of more detailed books have been published, notably *Army Service Records of the First World War* published by the PRO.

# USEFUL ADDRESSES

## WOLVERHAMPTON ARCHIVES & LOCAL STUDIES

(1st floor, former Rackhams building, above Netto)  
42-50 Snow Hill, Wolverhampton WV2 4AG  
☎(01902) 552480  
Open: Mon, Tue, Fri, 10am-5pm  
Wed 10am-7pm,  
1st & 3rd Sat in month 10am-5pm  
Thurs CLOSED

## BIRMINGHAM CENTRAL LIBRARY

Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3HQ  
☎0121 303 4217 (Archives)  
☎0121 303 4549/4220 (Local Studies)

## COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

2 Marlow Road, Maidenhead  
Berkshire SL6 7DX  
Web site <http://www.cwgc.org/cwgchome.htm>

## OFFICE FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS

Family Records Centre, 1 Myddleton Street,  
Islington, London EC1R 1UW  
☎(0171) 233 9233 (certificates)  
☎(0181) 392 5300 (enquiries)

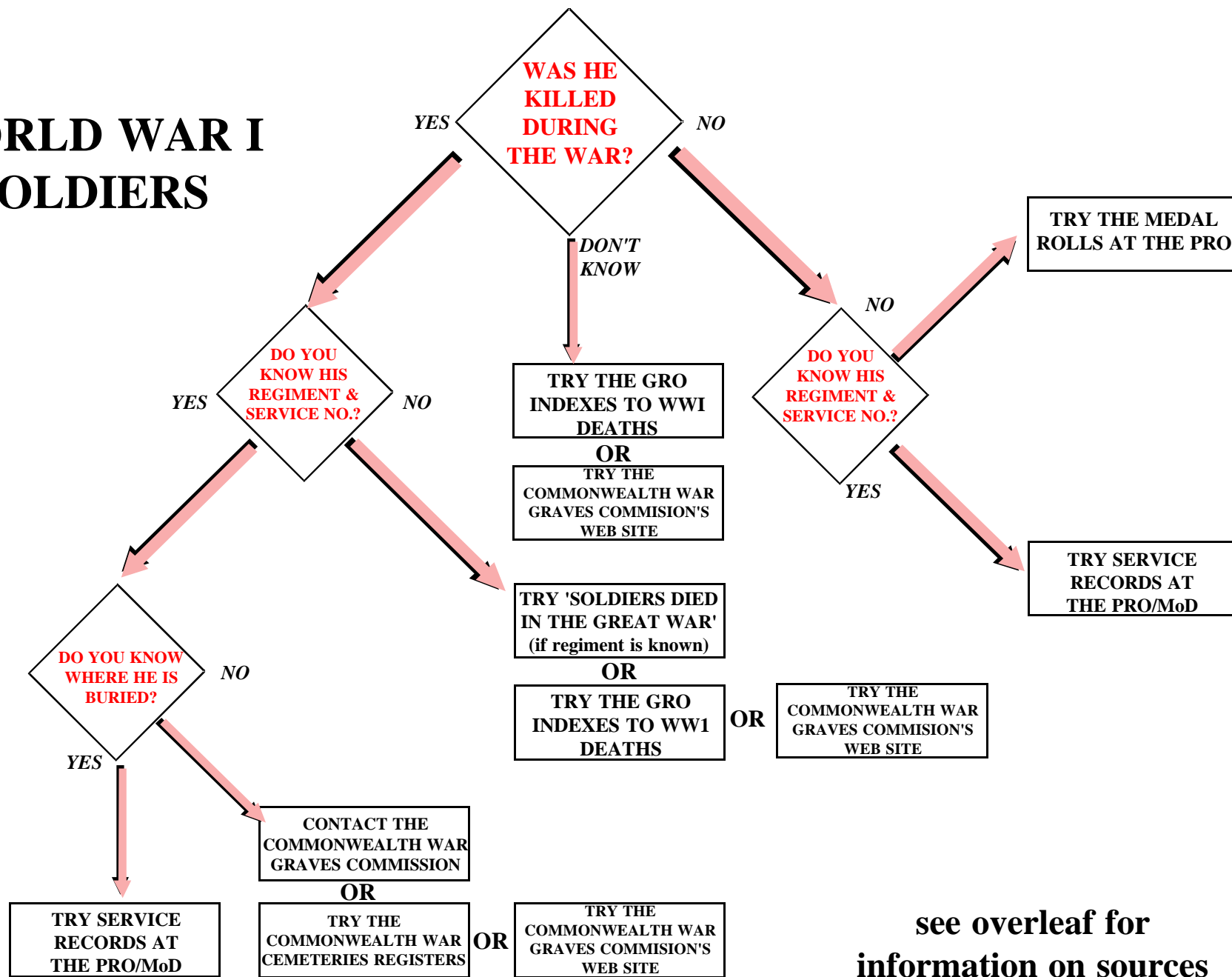
General Register Office,  
Postal Applications Section, PO Box 2,  
Southport, Merseyside PR8 2JD  
for copies of certificates ordered by post

## PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond TW9 4DU  
☎(0181) 876 3444

WOLVERHAMPTON  
ARCHIVES &  
LOCAL STUDIES

# WORLD WAR I SOLDIERS



see overleaf for  
information on sources