

A Guide to Researching New Zealand Service Personnel

Includes tips to NCEA Level 2 Assignment, Bring a Soldier Back to Life.



Where to begin

- Start with **Nominal Records of Embarkation Rolls**. These rolls give details such as name, rank, regimental number, next of kin, last known address, previous occupation, date of embarkation, troopship name etc. These will help to build up a picture of this person's life. The National Army Museum Kippenberger Research Library contains reference copies of these nominal rolls or you could try your local library.
- Check out the Auckland War Memorial Museum **Cenotaph database**
<http://muse.aucklandmuseum.com/databases/cenotaph/locations.aspx>.
- Also the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission** site www.cwgc.org. This site gives details for all Commonwealth soldiers with a known grave, and a list of memorial sites if the soldier has no known grave. It details name, rank, regimental number, army unit, next of kin, and details of grave/memorial location.
- Once you have some basic information about the soldier you can request a copy of their **"Personnel Record"**. These are the official Army records for that soldier. They include all their Army life from the time they enlisted, entered training, embarked to the war. It will also tell you if they were wounded, admitted to hospital, promoted (or demoted).
 - **World War One** and **South African War** records are available from Archives New Zealand www.archway.archives.govt.nz.
 - **World War Two** to present day records are available from NZDF Personnel Archives www.nzdf.mil.nz/personnel-records (Note - there maybe a time delay).
- **Official histories** can be found online at: <http://www.nzetc.org/tm/scholarly/tei-corpus.html>. *These are the unit histories for WWI and WWII, where the soldiers went and the battles they fought in.*
- Check date of death if possible e.g. If they died 25th April 1915 - 18th December 1915 it was probably on Gallipoli and there is extensive research available on this campaign.
- Grandparents/ great grandparents are good resources for research especially if it is a family member you are researching.

A Guide to Researching New Zealand Service Personnel

Includes tips to NCEA Level 2 Assignment, Bring a Soldier Back to Life.



Other good resources and recommended reading

New Zealand History On-line

www.nzhistory.net.nz

The Oxford Companion to New Zealand Military History

edited by Ian MacGibbon ISBN No 0-19-558376-0

Bloody Gallipoli - The New Zealander's Story

by Richard Stowers ISBN No 1-86953-596-0

New Zealand at War

by Paul Smith ISBN No 1-86958-186-5

Scars on the Heart

by Chris Pugsley ISBN No 1-86953-301-1

Tribe of the War God - Ngati Tumatuanga

by Richard Taylor ISBN No 908887-19-3

With Honour

by Richard Wolfe ISBN No 9780670045655

Paperspast - www.paperspast.natlib.govt.nz

A collection of digitised New Zealand papers and periodicals from 1839-1920, includes publications from all over New Zealand.

New Zealanders at War

by Michael King ISBN 0-14-301865-5

Warrior Nation

by John Thomson ISBN 1-877161-89-6