

Bring Him Back To Life

AS90465 Plan and carry out an historical inquiry Level 2.1

- ◆ *A Guide to NCEA Level 2 Assignment – “Bring a Soldier Back To Life”*

Background:

Visit your local war memorial and choose a name from the “Roll of Honour”. Use your local records (e.g. Church, Council, library) etc to help retrace that soldier's early life. Note occasionally you may find the soldier you have chosen still has relatives alive in your town and these people maybe able to become another secondary source of research material.

Hints

- ◆ A senior ranking soldier – Colonel or above- is more likely to have something written about them in official histories
- ◆ 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 secondary resources for research especially if it is a family member you are researching

Once you have selected your soldier

There are several good places to start.

Firstly approach your local library to see if they have 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 can all help you build up a picture of this person's life.

(if your local library does not have copies of the rolls the genealogical society has a great website)

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~sooty/rohtitlepage.html>

Secondly try and get the soldier's “*Personnel Records*”. 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, and all the action they saw. It will also tell you if they were admitted to hospital, promoted (or demoted) and where and when they were killed.

World War One and Boer War records are available from
Archives New Zealand Research Officer
10 Mulgrave St

PO Box 12 050
Wellington
PH 04 499 5595 Fax 04 495 6210
Email enquiries@archives.govt.nz
Website <http://www.archives.govt.nz>

World War Two to Present Day
NZDF Personnel Archives
c/o Trentham Military Camp,
Private Bag 905
Upper Hutt
Fax 04 5275275
Email personnel.archives@nzdf.mil.nz

**** n.b. There is a cost involved in getting Personnel Records and a time delay. Check with archives to get these details. ****

An excellent website to visit to gain information is 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 the graves location.

Recommended Reading for Research

- ◆ “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

GOOD LUCK!!