

# RESEARCHING YOUR RELATIVES MILITARY SERVICE



## SEMINAR NOTES

Organisers

**3rd Auckland (Countess of Ranfurly's Own) & Northland Battalion Group**

**3rd Auckland & Northland Regimental Association**

**Auckland War Memorial Museum**

**Passchendaele Society**

**Returned & Services Association - Auckland Branch**



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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The organizers of these seminars say thanks, on behalf of all who use this Data, to our Financial Donors and the Printer who made this booklet possible.

**Boer War Contingents 1899 — 1902**

Contingent	Strength	Units	Departed	Date	Ship
1st	215	1st Mounted Rifles	Wellington	21/10/99	<i>SS Waiwera</i>
2nd	266	1 and 2 Company Hotchkiss Machine Gun	Wellington	20/01/00	<i>SS Waiwera</i>
3rd	262	Canterbury Company Hawkes Bay Wanganui Taranaki & Manawatu Company	Lyttleton	17/02/00	<i>SS Knight Templar</i>
4th	462	9 and 10 Company 7 and 8 Company	Port Chalmers Lyttleton	25/03/00 31/03/00	<i>SS Gymeric</i> <i>SS Monowai</i>
5th	591	15 (Otago) Company 11 and 14 Company 12 and 13 Company	Port Chalmers Wellington Wellington	25/03/00 31/03/00 31/03/00	<i>SS Gymeric</i> <i>SS Monowai</i> <i>SS Maori</i>
6th	602	NZ Volunteer Force	Auckland	30/01/01	<i>SS Cornwall</i>
7th	667	23 Canterbury Com- pany	Wellington	06/04/01	<i>SS Gulf of Taranto</i>
8th	1120	North Island Regiment South Island Regiment	Auckland Lyttleton	01.02/02 08/02/02	<i>SS Surrey</i> <i>SS Cornwall</i>
9th	1071	North Island Regiment South Island Regiment	Auckland Port Chalmers	20/03/02 12/03/02	<i>SS Devon</i> <i>SS Kent</i>
10th	1251	North Island Regiment South Island Regiment	Wellington Lyttleton	14/04/02 19/04/02	<i>SS Drayton Grange</i> <i>SS Norfolk</i>

**Notes**

Each Group served in South Africa for approximately 12 months. Contingents 1-5 were replaced by Contingents 6 & 7. Contingents 8—10 included extra troops (8th Contingent) with 9th and 10th being replacements of the previous Contingents. A total of 35 Nursing Sisters served in South Africa (from 1900—1902) and the “Learnered 11th”, 20 female Primary Teachers, so named by Sir Joseph Ward in reference to the ten military contingents that had gone before them. The teachers departed for South Africa on 4 May 1902 aboard the *SS Westralia*. Only 6 of the 20 returned to New Zealand.

6507 served in South Africa. There were 230 fatalities, 71 were killed in action or died of wounds, 26 accidental deaths and 133 died of disease.

New Zealanders are entitled to the following 15 “Bars” of the 26 issued for service in South Africa

<i>Belfast</i>	<i>Diamond Hill</i>	<i>Orange Free State</i>	<i>Rhodesia</i>	<i>Wittebergen</i>
<i>Cape Colony</i>	<i>Johannesburg</i>	<i>Paardeburg</i>	<i>Relief of Kimberley</i>	<i>Transvaal</i>
<i>Driefontein</i>	<i>Modder River</i>	<i>Wepener</i>	<i>South Africa 1901</i>	<i>South Africa 1902</i>

### **Boer War Embarkation Data Base**

<http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/war/new-zealand-in-the-south-african-boer-war/database>

This database (sample below) has every New Zealand soldier who joined the New Zealand contingents that sailed to the South African War. Note that some New Zealand soldiers enlisted with British, Australian or South African forces and will therefore not appear on this database.

<b><u>Regt No</u></b>	<b><u>Surname</u></b>	<b><u>Given Names</u></b>	<b><u>Contingent</u></b>	<b><u>County/City</u></b>	
0	abbott	f w	fifth	auckland	<a href="#">More details</a>
5297	abbott	harold	eighth	manukau	<a href="#">More details</a>
2342	abbott	h	fifth	manukau	<a href="#">More details</a>
818	absolom	j l	third	hawkes bay	<a href="#">More details</a>

Clicking on 'More Details' for 5297 harold abbot 'gives the following

<i>Regt No:</i>	5297	<i>Ship:</i>	Surrey 1 Feb 1902
<i>Surname:</i>	Abbott	<i>Occupation:</i>	Blacksmith
<i>Given Names:</i>	Harold	<i>County/City:</i>	Manukau
<i>Unit:</i>	North Island Regiment - C Squadron	<i>Address:</i>	Otahuhu Auckland
<i>Rank:</i>	Farrier-Sergeant	<i>Next of Kin:</i>	Abbott Mr William
<i>Contingent:</i>	Eighth	<i>Next of Kin Address:</i>	Same
		<i>Relationship to Soldier:</i>	Father

### **Boer War Roll of Honour**

<http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/war/nz-units-south-africa/roll-honour>

Note this roll does not include those New Zealanders who served with other forces, or some of those who died from disease. For a more complete roll see: John Crawford & Ellen Ellis *To Fight for the Empire: An Illustrated History of New Zealand and the South African War, 1899-1902*.

F.Q.M.S. A'Court S.	Lt. Forsythe W. G	Pte. Partridge W. C. E
Pte. Allan J.	Pte. Frankham H	Pte. Paterson J. Mcl
L/Cpl. Anderson D.	Pte. Franks G. W	Pte. Paterson N. L
Pte. Anderson J.G	L/Cpl. George G.W	Pte. Pearson A. E
Pte. Anderson T.G	Pte. Gillie H. C	Sgt. Pepper W.H

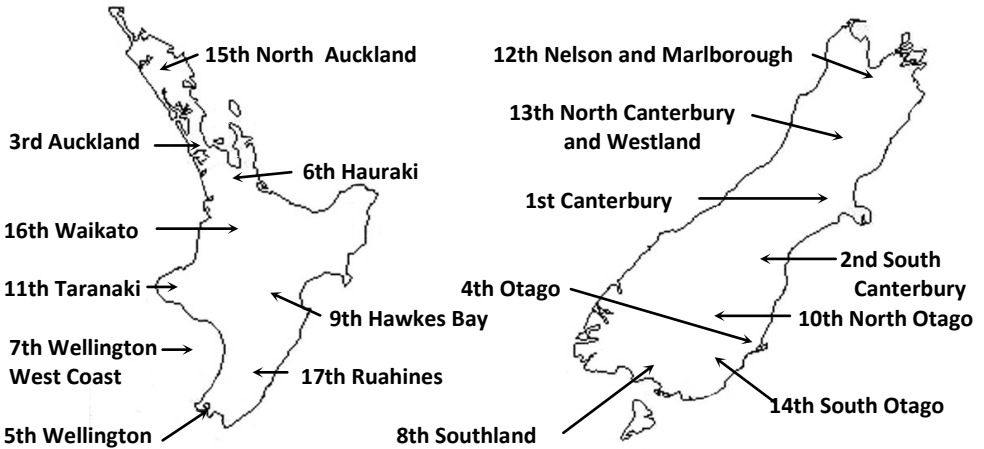
You can find out more about all the men listed in the Roll of Honour (sample above) from the embarkation database

<http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/war/new-zealand-in-the-south-african-boer-war/database>

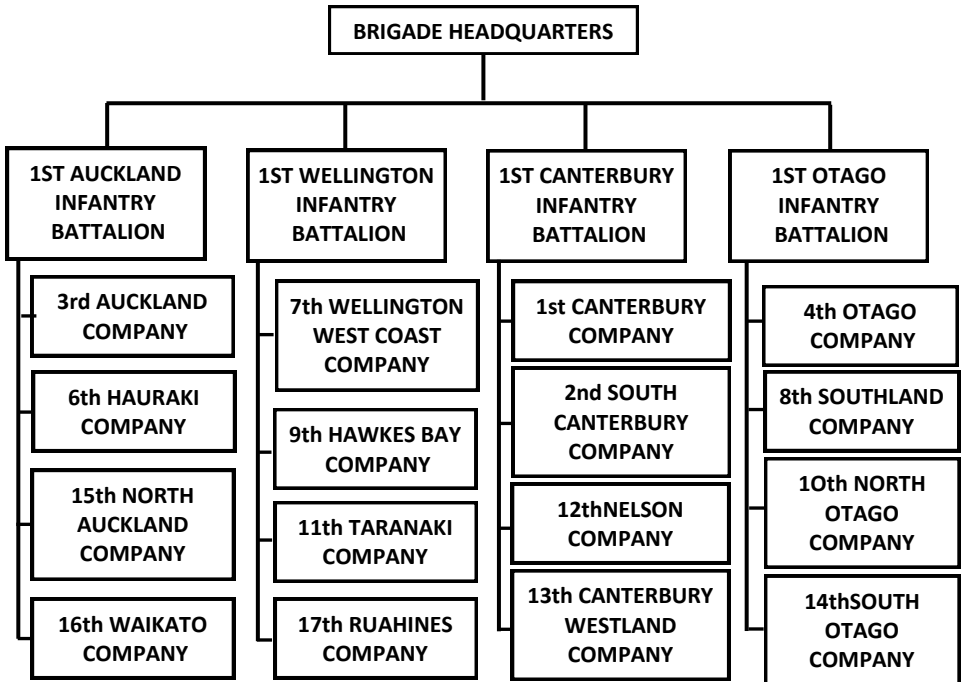
and Auckland War Memorial Museum Cenotaph website

<http://muse.aucklandmuseum.com/databases/cenotaph/locations.aspx>

**New Zealand Infantry Regiments 1909 — 1914**

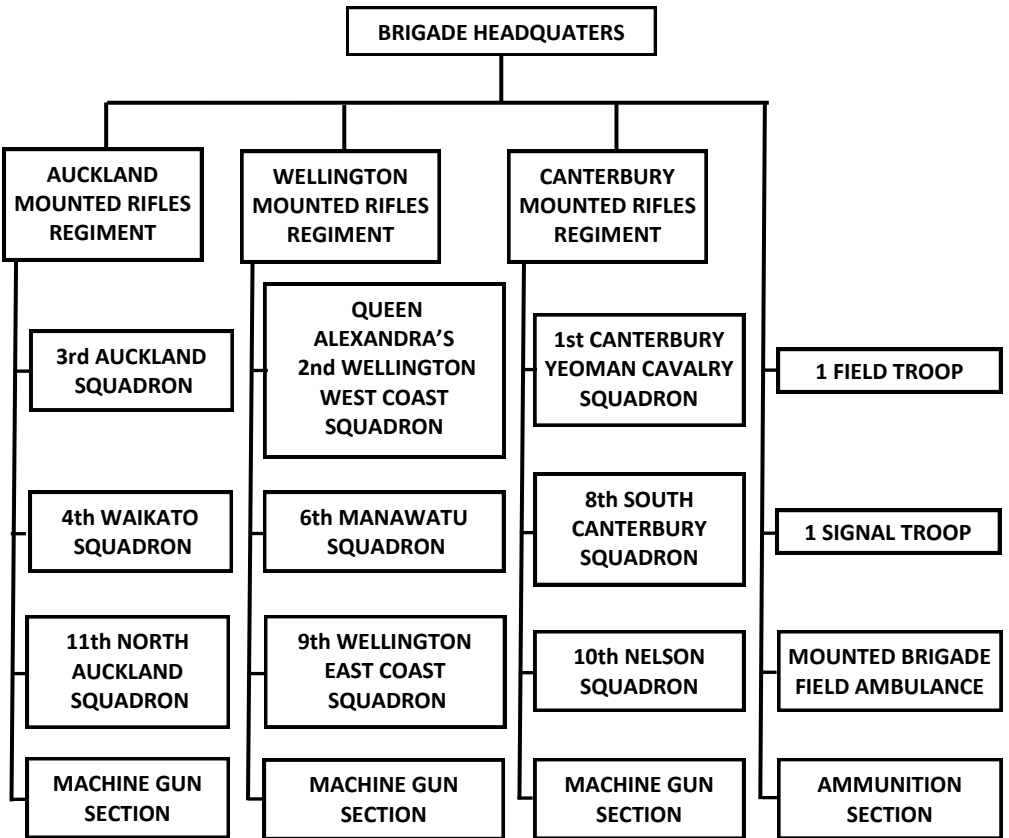
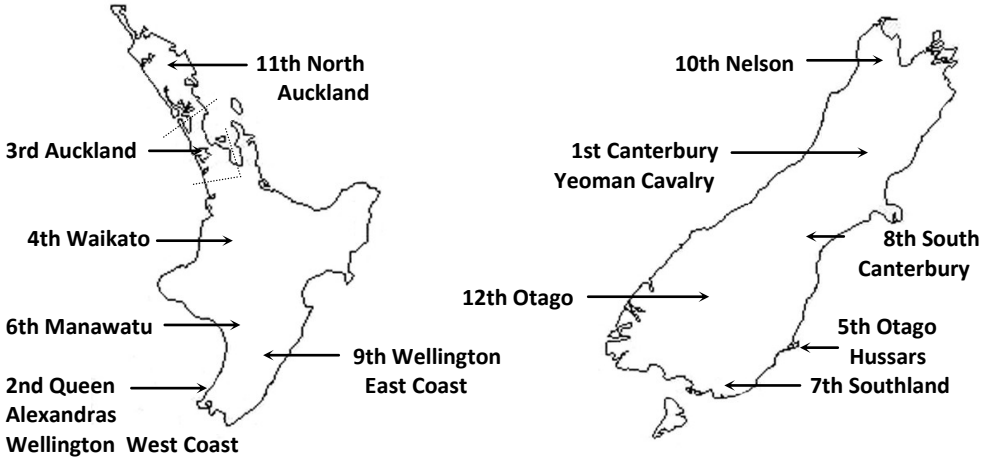


**WW I New Zealand Infantry Battalions 1914 — 1918**



The 2nd and 4th New Zealand Brigades were the same structure with 2nd & 3rd Auckland Infantry Battalion(s), 2nd & 3rd Wellington Infantry Battalion(s) respectively etc. 3rd Rifles Brigade was a 5 Battalion Brigade consisting of 4 Rifle Battalions and the Otago Mounted Rifles Regiment.

**New Zealand Mounted Rifles 1909 — 1914 & NZMR Brigade 1914 — 1919**



## Other World War I Units

NZ Camel Corps, NZ Cook Island Company, NZ Cyclist Corps, NZ Dental Corps, NZ Engineers, NZ Field Artillery, NZ Machine Gun Corps, NZ Medical Corps, NZ Army Medical Corps, NZ Native Volunteers, NZ Pioneer Corps, NZ Post and Telegraph Corps, NZ Signals, NZ Tunneling Company, NZ Veterinary Corps.

## New Zealand Forces Actions in World War 1

### Samoa

29 Aug 14 Invasion/Occupation

### 1st NZ Expeditionary Force

#### Gallipoli

25 Apr 15 ANZAC and Helles landings  
 28 Apr 15 1st Battle of Krithia (British)  
 6—8 May 15 2nd Battle of Krithia  
 4 Jun 15 3rd Battle of Krithia  
 28 Jun—5 Jul 15 Battle of Gully Ravine (Helles)  
 6 Aug 15 Battle of Sari Bair  
 6—13 Aug 15 Battle of Krithia Vineyard  
 6—12 Aug 15 Battle of Lone Pine (ANZAC)  
 8—10 Aug 15 Battle of Chunuk Bair (ANZAC)  
 (includes Hill 971 and Hill Q)  
 7 Aug 15 Battle of the Nek (ANZAC)  
 10—21 Aug 15 Battle of Scimitar Hill (Suvla)  
 21—29 Aug 15 Battle of Hill 60 (ANZAC)  
 18—20 Dec 15 Evacuation ANZAC and Suvla

#### Battles of the Western Front

15—22 Sep 16 Battle of Flers - Courcellette  
 25—28 Sep 16 Battle of Morval  
 1—18 Oct 16 Battle of Le Transloy  
 7—14 Jun 17 Battle of Messines  
 26 Sep—3 Oct 17 Battle of Polygon Wood  
 4 Oct 17 Battle of Broodseinde  
 12 Oct 17 Battle of Passchendaele  
 28 Mar 18 Battle of Arras  
 5 Apr 18 Battle of the Ancre  
 21—23 Aug 18 Battle of Albert  
 31 Aug—3 Sep 18 Battle of Bapaume  
 12 Sep 18 Battle of Havrincourt  
 27 Sep 1 Oct 18 Battle of Canal du Nord  
 8—9 Oct 18 Battle of Cambrai  
 9—12 Oct 18 Pursuit to the Selle  
 17—25 Oct 18 Battle of the Selle  
 4 Nov 18 Battle of the Sambre  
 7 Nov 18 Capture of Le Quesnoy

### Mounted Rifles Brigade

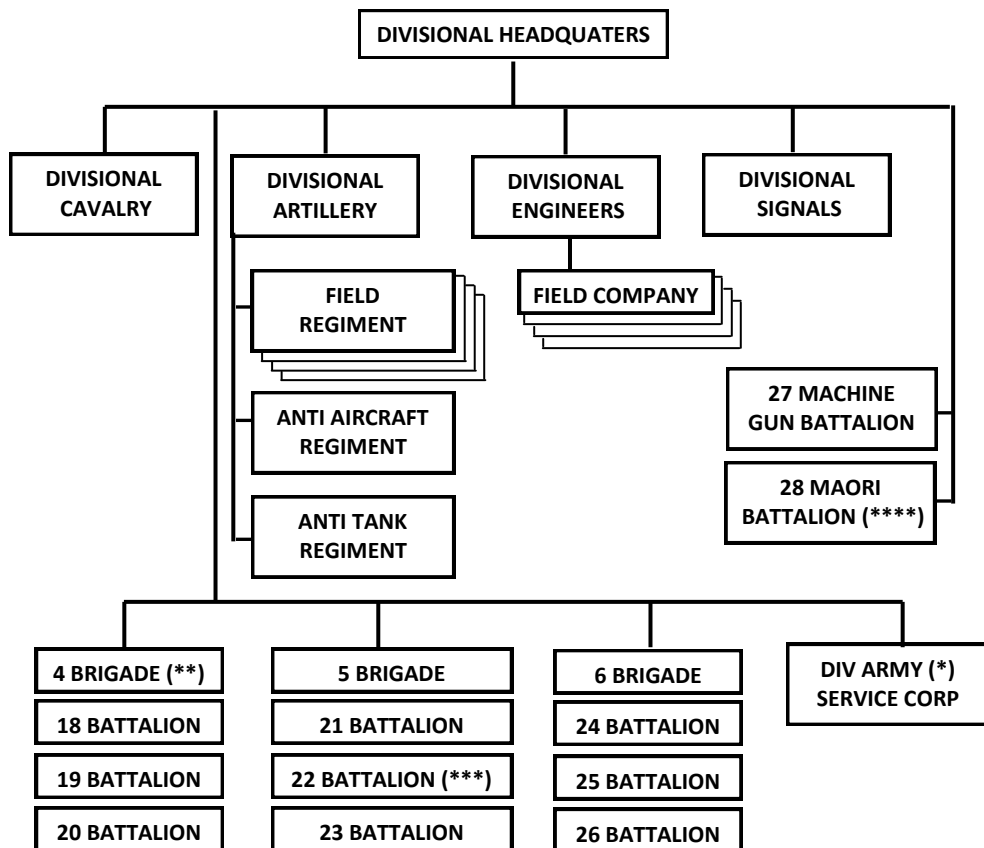
#### Gallipoli

12 May 15 Arrival of Brigade at Gallipoli  
 19 May 15 Defence of Anzac  
 28-30 May Attack at No. 3 Outpost  
 6/7 Aug 15 Capture of Sari Bair foothills  
 8/9 Aug 15 Defence of Chunuk Bair  
 21 Aug 15 First attack at Hill 60  
 27-28 Aug 15 Second attack at Hill 60  
 20 Dec 15 Evacuation from Gallipoli

#### Sinai & Palestine

15 Mar 16 Formation of ANZAC Mounted Division  
 4-5 Aug 16 Battle of Romani  
 23 Dec 16 Capture of Magdhabat  
 9 Jan 17 Capture of Rafah  
 26 Mar 17 First attempt to capture Gaza  
 17-19 Apr 17 Second attempt to capture Gaza  
 30-31 Oct 17 Gaza-Beersheba Line broken in Third Battle of Gaza  
 14 Nov 17 Defeat of-attack at Ayun Kara  
 24 Nov 17 Loss of bridgehead River Auja  
 21 Feb 18 Capture of Jericho  
 27-30 Mar 18 First Battle of Amman  
 1-6 May 18 First Battle of Es Salt  
 25 Sep 18 Capture of Amman  
 31 Oct 18 Ottoman Empire signs Armistice  
 Mar -Jun 19 Suppression of Egyptian revolt  
 30 Jun 19 Brigade Disbanded

WW II 2 New Zealand Division 1940 — 1945 (Greece, Crete, North Africa, Italy)



### Notes

(\*) HQ Divisional Army Service Corps

Divisional Ammunition Company, Divisional Petrol Company, Divisional Supply Column, Reserve MT Company, 4, 5, 6 Field Ambulances, 4 Field Hygiene Section, Divisional Provost Company, Divisional Intelligence Section, Divisional Postal Unit, Divisional Employment Platoon, Other service support units — LAD, Bath, Salvage

(\*\*) 4 Brigade to 4 Armoured Brigade, 05 October 1942 (18, 19, 20 Armoured Regiments)

(\*\*\*) 22 Motorised Battalion to 4 Brigade, 05 October 1942

(\*\*\*\*) 28 Maori Battalion to 5 Brigade, 05 October 1942



**2 NZEF 1941 –1945****Greece 1941**

6-7 March 2 NZ Division enter Greece

31 March New Zealand Division in position on Aliakmon line north of Mt Olympus

6 April NZ Division withdraws along eastern seaboard

12 April Allied forces begin to abandon Mt Olympus-Aliakmon line

22-29 April Evacuation of troops from Greece, some to Crete, others to Egypt

**Crete 1941**

20 May Invasion of Crete begins

28-31 May New Zealand troops evacuated from Crete

**North Africa**

26 November 1941 2 Division at Tobruk and capture of Belhamed and Sidi Rezegh

2 December 1941 2 Division withdraws from Libya

11 December 1941 2 Division advance westward

26 February 1942 2 NZ Division deploys to Lebanon-Syria

14 June 1942 2 NZ Division recalled from Lebanon-Syria

1 July 1942 First Battle of El Alamein

23 October 1942 Second battle of El Alamein

8 November 1942 US invasion of North Africa (Algeria, Morocco)

13 November 1942 Tobruk captured

20 November 1942 Benghazi recaptured

23 January 1943 Tripoli captured

27 February 1943 In position on the Mareth Line, Tunisia

27 March 1943 2 NZ Division executes 'left hook' at Tebaga Gap

7 May 1943 Tunis captured

13 May 1943 German and Italian troops surrender in North Africa

**Italy**

October/November 1943 New Zealand troops assembled in Bari

November 1943 Crossed the Sangro River

2 December 1943 Captured the village of Castelfrentano in the Gustav Line

3 December 1943 Attacked Orsogna

January 1944 Withdrew from stalled front line

17 February 1944 Attacked Cassino. Withdrew in early April

16 July 1944 Captured Arezzo

4 August 1944 Reached Florence

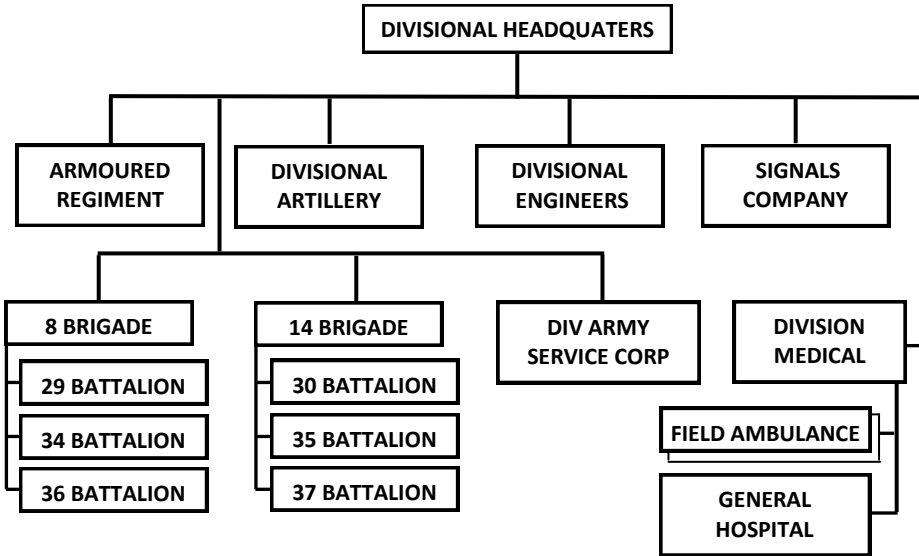
October 1944 Reached the Savio River

14 December 1944 Captured Faenza

8 April 1945 Crossed the Senio River, then the Santerno River and Gaiana River

25 April 1945 Crossed the Po River (the final river)

28 April 1945 2NZEF captured Padua

**WW II 3 New Zealand Division 1942 — 1944 (Pacific)****2 NZEF (IP) (3 NZ Division) Solomon Islands Campaign 1943-1944**

October 1940 Garrison Duties in Fiji, New Caledonia, and Norfolk Island, commenced  
 August 1943 3 (NZ) Div arrived in the Solomon Islands (Guadacanal) from New Caledonia  
 Sep – Oct 1943 Battle of Vella LaVella

27 Oct – 12 Nov 1943 Battle of the Treasury Islands (Mono and Stirling Islands)

29 Jan – 27 Feb 1944 Battle of the Green Islands (Nissan Island)

Jun 1944 Withdrawn to New Caledonia

Aug 1944 Returned to NZ

20 Oct 1944 Division was officially disbanded

**World War II Royal New Zealand Navy**

New Zealand Division of the Royal Navy, Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) from 1 October 1941.

Light Cruisers (6) (*Archillies, Leander*)

Converted Merchant vessels(15)

Corvettes (2)

Minesweepers (20)

Motor Launches (Fairmiles) (15)

**World War II Royal New Zealand Air Force**

Attached to the RAF

75 (NZ) Squadron RAF

RAF NZ Squadrons 485 — 490

24 Squadrons (15,000 Air and Ground crew) served in the Pacific Theatre

## **Jargon and Abbreviations**

A complete dictionary of abbreviations is available on the NZ Defence Force website and these are downloadable. Note however, that the abbreviations altered with time and there were variations between the services.

### **World War 1**

<http://www.nzdf.mil.nz/personnel-records/nzdf-archives/resources/ww1-army-service-records.htm>

### **World War II Navy**

<http://www.nzdf.mil.nz/personnel-records/nzdf-archives/resources/2ww-navy-service-records.htm>

### **World War II Airforce**

<http://www.nzdf.mil.nz/personnel-records/nzdf-archives/resources/2ww-air-force-service-records.htm>

### **World War II Army and K Force**

<http://www.nzdf.mil.nz/personnel-records/nzdf-archives/resources/2ww-k-force-army-service-records.htm>

### **X List**

Second World War army service records contain numerous references to the 'X Lists'. The X Lists recorded personnel who were absent from their regular units for one reason or another. The "X" list was maintained in 5 sections

- X(i) Posted to Authorised Vacancies
- X(ii) Evacuation on Medical Grounds
- X(iii) Prisoners of War, Missing, Imprisonment or Deserters
- X(iv) Un Posted Reinforcements or Incoming Reinforcements Drafts
- X(v) Instructors or Students on Courses of Instruction

Full descriptions are available at

<http://www.nzdf.mil.nz/personnel-records/nzdf-archives/resources/x-lists-postings-ww2-army-service-records.htm>

### **X List Abbreviations**

An explanation of the X List Abbreviations is available here

<http://www.nzdf.mil.nz/personnel-records/nzdf-archives/resources/x-lists-postings-ww2-army-service-records.htm>

**1NZEF REGIMENTAL NUMBERS - WORLD WAR ONE**

Note this system of numbering was only used until the formation of the 10th Reinforcements (Mar 16) as it was found the system too confusing when personnel were moving between units.

1 Samoan Advance	14 Army Service Corps Divisional Train
2 Artillery	15 Headquarters
3 NZ Medical Corps	16 Maori Infantry
4 Engineers	17 Veterinary Corps
5 Army Service Corps	18 Chaplains Department
6 Canterbury Infantry	19 Samoan Relief Infantry
7 Canterbury Mounted Rifles	20 Samoan Relief Mounted
8 Otago Infantry	21 Pay Department
9 Otago Mounted Rifles	22 Nursing Department
10 Wellington Infantry	23 1st Battalion NZ Rifle Brigade
11 Wellington Mounted Rifles	24 2nd Battalion NZ Rifle Brigade
12 Auckland Infantry	25 3rd Battalion NZ Rifle Brigade
13 Auckland Mounted Rifles	26 4th Battalion NZ Rifle Brigade

**War Graves****Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

<http://www.cwgc.org/>

**Auckland War Memorial Database**

<http://muse.aucklandmuseum.com/databases/cenotaph/locations.aspx>

**NZ War Graves Commission**

<http://nzwargraves.org.nz/>

**Service Records New Zealand****NZ History.net (Boer War)**

<http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/war/south-african-boer-war>

**Archives NZ (WWI Records)**

( [http://archives.govt.nz/sites/default/files/War\\_-\\_A49571.pdf](http://archives.govt.nz/sites/default/files/War_-_A49571.pdf) )

**NZ Defence Force (WW II Records)**

<http://www.nzdf.mil.nz/personnel-records/nzdf-archives/accessing-military-service-records.htm>

**Service History Australia****Boer War**

[http://members.pcug.org.au/~croe/ozb/oz\\_boer.cgi](http://members.pcug.org.au/~croe/ozb/oz_boer.cgi)

**WW I**

<http://www.aif.adfa.edu.au:8080/index.html>

**WW II**

<http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/>

**Other Sources****New Zealand Military History**

<http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/war-and-society>

**Book List**

<http://www.nzdf.mil.nz/personnel-records/nzdf-archives/bibliography/default.htm>

**Official History(s)****WW I ((29 Volumes), (WWII) (50), 3 Division un official History series ( 13 )**

New Zealand Electronic Text Centre (Victoria University)

<http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-corpus-WH2.html>

**Military Museums**

**Royal New Zealand Navy Museum** [www.navymuseum.mil.nz](http://www.navymuseum.mil.nz)

**Queen Elizabeth II Army Memorial Museum** [www.armymuseum.co.nz](http://www.armymuseum.co.nz)

**Royal New Zealand Air Force Museum** [www.airforcemuseum.co.nz](http://www.airforcemuseum.co.nz)

**Auckland War Memorial Museum** [www.aucklandmuseum.com](http://www.aucklandmuseum.com)

**The National Library of New Zealand and Alexander Turnbull Library**

[www.natlib.govt.nz](http://www.natlib.govt.nz)

**REMEMBER** The internet is your friend. Search for “NZ WW1 Databases” and there are in excess of 200,000 sites available for example; The St John's Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists has produced a searchable CD containing:

NZ Expeditionary Force Nominal Rolls 1914-1919	Index of New Zealanders who served with the Allied Forces
1st and 2nd Division Rolls of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force Reserve	Roll of Honour - Section Three
New Zealanders who served with the Australian Imperial Force	British Section - NZ Expeditionary Force
Military Defaulters Lists - 1919-1921	Fijian Contingent - NZ Expeditionary Force
Native Reserve Lists	Terry Stock's Index.
New Zealanders who served with the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve	Contact
	The New Zealand Society of Genealogists for further information.

**Medals**

A Website for medals data is

<http://www.birkenheadrsa.com/medals-all.php>

**Boer War Medals****The Queens South Africa Medal**

Awarded for service between 11th October 1898 and 31st May 1902. 15 of the 26 Clasps issued covered the actions in which the New Zealand Troops took part. Queen Victoria died on the 22 January 1901 and King Edward VII ascended the Throne.

**The Kings South African Medal**

Issued with the clasps "SOUTH AFRICA 1901" and "SOUTH AFRICA 1902". Awarded to all who were serving in South Africa on or after 1st January 1902 and who would complete eighteen months service before 1st June 1902. Not generally awarded to New Zealand troops with a total of 170 awarded to members of the New Zealand contingents, and six to New Zealand nurses.

**World War I Medals****The 1914 Star**

Awarded for service in Belgium or France between 5th August and 22nd November 1914. No New Zealand forces were in Theatre over these dates.

**The 1914 – 1915 Star**

Awarded for service in any theatre of war against the Central Powers between 15th August, 1914 and 31st December, 1915, except those eligible for The 1914 Star. For New Zealanders this meant Gallipoli.

**The British War Medal**

Awarded to all who served in the British Forces during the First World War between 1914 and 1918. Awarded to all New Zealand servicemen and servicewomen who served overseas during the First World War.

**The Victory Medal**

Awarded to all those who received The 1914 Star, The 1914-15 Star and the British War Medal. It was never awarded alone.

## **World War II Medals**

### **The 1939—1945 Star**

Awarded for service in the Second World War between 3rd September, 1939 and 2nd September, 1945.

After the 1939—1945 Star comes the one or more Campaign Stars (medals), then

### **The Defence Medal**

Issued for service in the Forces between 3rd September, 1939 and 8th May, 1945, for 1 year in operational/overseas areas, 3 years in non-operational service or Civil Defence or similar in operational areas. Date later extended to 2nd December, 1945.

### **The War Medal 1939—1945**

Awarded to all full-time personnel of the Armed Forces. Operational and non-operational service counted, providing that it was of twenty eight days or more duration.

### **The New Zealand War Service Medal**

Awarded to Armed Forces Personnel who completed an aggregate of at least twenty eight days full-time service or six months part-time service, either at home or abroad, between 3rd September, 1939 and 2nd September, 1945. Similar periods of service in the Home Guard between 16th August, 1940 and 1st January, 1944 and in the Naval Auxiliary Patrol Service between 31st December, 1941 and 31st July, 1944.

## **Campaign Stars**

### **The Atlantic Star**

Granted for six months service (Navy) and two months (aircrew) from 3rd September, 1939 to 8th May, 1945.

### **The Air Crew Europe Star**

Awarded for operational flying from UK over Europe between 3rd September, 1939 and 5th June, 1944. Two clasps issued.

### **Africa Star**

Awarded for one or more days service in North Africa between 10th June, 1940 and 12th May, 1943, both dates inclusive. Four clasps issued.

### **The Pacific Star**

Awarded for service in the Pacific theatre of operations between 8th December, 1941 and 2nd September, 1945, both dates inclusive. One clasp issued.

### **The Burma Star**

Awarded for service in the Burma Campaign between 11th December, 1941 and 2nd September, 1945, both dates inclusive. One clasp issued.

### **The Italy Star**

Awarded for operational service in Sicily or Italy from the date of the capture of the island of Pantellaria on 11th June, 1943 to 8th May, 1945.

### **The France and Germany Star**

This bronze star was awarded for service in France, Belgium, Holland or Germany between "D" Day and the German surrender, 6th June, 1944 to 8th May, 1945. One Clasp Issued.

**Boer War Medals**



(l) The Queen's South Africa Medal



(r) The King's South Africa Medal

**WW I Medals**



The 1914 Star



The 1914—15 Star



The British War Medal



The Victory Medal

**WW II Medals**



The 1939—45 Star



Campaign Star(s) (below)



New Zealand Defence Medal



The War Medal 1939—45



The New Zealand War Service Medal



Atlantic



Aircrew Europe



Africa



Pacific



Burma



Italy



France and Germany