

February 2008

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Air Force and Navy

Note: Records are held in Wellington unless specified as Auckland (AK), Christchurch (CH) or Dunedin (DN)

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Introduction

Archives New Zealand holds many records of the armed forces, from the 1840s to the 1970s. Most are held in the Wellington office, in either War or Army Department records.

This guide is organised by period and war, focusing mostly on the Army. Records for the Royal New Zealand Air Force and the Royal New Zealand Navy are outlined at the end of the guide.

Unit Diaries make up a large proportion of war records – the monthly diaries kept by military units in both World Wars, and Korea, Malaya and Vietnam. Not all sequences of diaries are complete. The Diaries do not usually refer to individuals and officers are much more likely to be mentioned than ordinary servicemen.

Personnel Files

Archives New Zealand holds individual personnel files from the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902 [AABK 18805 W5515].

References to individual records may be found by name in ARCHWAY:
<http://archway.archives.govt.nz>

Archives New Zealand also holds individual personnel files from the period 1914-1920, including the First World War. All files are searchable by name on ARCHWAY, which gives individual file references.

Personnel Files for the Second World War and later are mostly held by the New Zealand Defence Force. Their contact address is:

New Zealand Defence Force
Personnel Archives
Private Bag 905, Upper Hutt
Phone: 04 527 5280
Fax: 04 527 5288 / 527 5275
Email: personnel.archives@nzdf.mil.nz

Archives New Zealand does hold personnel files for:

- Victoria Cross winners
- Maori (28th) Battalion
(Access restrictions apply)

NINETEENTH CENTURY

British Forces 1845-1870

At various times fourteen British infantry regiments and Royal Artillery, Staff & Service Corps served in the wars in New Zealand, 1845-1847 and 1861-1866. Some soldiers took their discharge in New Zealand and became settlers. Those who served were eligible for the New Zealand War Medal (see below).

Archives New Zealand holds microfilm copies of Muster Books and Pay Lists for each of the regiments stationed in New Zealand. The name of a person's regiment and dates of service are needed to give access to information on a particular person. [WO 12]

There is also a card index recording British soldiers who died in New Zealand in the wars of the 1860s:

- Historical War Graves Index Cards [IA 76/16-18]

Royal New Zealand Fencibles

The Fencibles were retired British soldiers who were settled near Auckland. See separate reference guide: *Migration*.

New Zealand War Medals

The New Zealand War Medal was awarded to all British troops who served in New Zealand in the 1840s and 1860s. However, it was awarded only to New Zealand colonial troops who, on application, could prove they had come under enemy fire during their service. Lists of successful applicants appear in *AJHR*, eg: 1871-1872 (G-1) and 1873-1875 (H-16A, -17, -25 respectively)

Archives New Zealand Wellington holds an alphabetical War Medal Card Index in the Reading Room which gives references to one or more of the following, depending on what force the individual served with:

- Imperial War Medal Rolls/Register (British troops) [WO 100/18; REPRO 18]
- Register of application for the New Zealand War Medal 1869 (Colonial troops) [AD 36/2]
Index to War Medal Register 1869 (Colonial) [AD 36/4; REPRO 1644]

- New Zealand War Medal Register (Colonial) [AD 36/3; REPRO 1660]
- War Medal Application Files (Colonial) [AD 32]

All these may give brief details of each soldier's service. The colonial records include some Maori who fought for the Crown.

AJHR (Appendices to the Journal of the House of Representatives), include lists of many colonial medal winners, particularly in:

AJHR 1871 G-1 (pp4-8 & 21-22); G-1A (pp1-3 & 5-6)

New Zealand Cross

- Conditions of award and names of holders of the New Zealand Cross November 1868 to September 1956 [AD 32/5000 (Box 70)]
- New Zealand Cross holders 1863-1870 [AD 36/1] (Limited information.)

The names of New Zealand Cross winners are also included in the Index to War Medals Register. [AD 36/4; REPRO 1644]

New Zealand Forces

Many different New Zealand colonial forces were raised in the nineteenth century, often temporarily, for military, policing and settlement reasons.

Militia 1845-1864

Under the Militia Ordinance 1845, militia units could be raised in New Zealand, for temporary service in times of emergency only, in the locality where the force was raised. The Militia Act 1858 continued these forces, but it also provided for volunteer units, and from the 1860s the Militia were replaced by Volunteer Corps.

The Militia Rolls which still exist in Archives New Zealand Wellington are very incomplete. Within the period 1845-1850 there are some Rolls for:

- Auckland [IA 1; AREPRO 4711/6 (AK)]
- New Plymouth [IA 1 – see Indexes IA 3/2/3 p514 & IA 3/2/4 p203]
- Wellington [NM 8 – see above indexes & registers NM 9/1-3]

There is a card index for the Auckland Militia Rolls 1845-1848 in the Wellington Reading Room. One other roll survives:

- Nelson and Marlborough Roll 1864 [AD 50/23]

Volunteer Corps 1860s-c1912

Volunteer Corps were recognised by an Act of 1865 but they had been active before that date. These were locally organised forces for local needs, and some of the members and forces were Maori.

The strength of each corps varied between 40 and 100 men. In the later 1860s the total of Volunteers stabilised at about 6000. These forces were active in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty in 1863-1864 and against Titokowaru and Te Kooti 1868-1872

An annual capitation grant was paid to each officer and 'efficient' volunteer, but no training was prescribed and after the wars the corps were only sporadically active,

often in drill halls. Uniform varied from group to group, and for many corps their only public appearances were in ceremonial parades.

Though quite inefficient, the Volunteers remained a significant part of New Zealand defence forces until a system of compulsory military training was instituted by the Defence Act 1909 and the Territorial Army was formed in 1910-1911.

Records of the Volunteer forces exist, mostly Rolls of various sorts, such as: Capitation Rolls, Nominal and Casualty Rolls, Acquittance Rolls.

Auckland Office:

- Coromandel Rifle Brigade 1879-1889 [ZAAP 15154/1a] (AK)
- Waikato Militia & Forest Rangers c1866-1870 [AAAE 15167/1a] (AK)
- Pay and Acquittance Lists for Headquarters, staff, 2nd, 3rd & 4th Waikato Regiments and for No.1 & No.2 Companies Forest Rangers 1867. [ZAAN 14147/1a] (AK)

Wellington Office:

In the Reading Room there is an alphabetical card index to the various volunteer corps. Knowledge of the corps a person served in can lead to Rolls which list corps members' attendance at training and the pay disbursed to units or individuals. The lists of corps are to be found in two series of records, both of which may need to be searched. [ARM 41 & AD 23/1-14]

Dunedin Office:

- Volunteer Artillery B Battery: Nominal Rolls 1878-1884, with Gun Drill Attendance 1891-1892 [DAFF D188] (DN)
Nominal Rolls 1883-1903 [DAFF D188] (DN)

Colonial Defence Force 1863-1867

The Colonial Defence Act 1862 authorised the formation of the first Regular Force in New Zealand, and a number of Special Forces, such as the Forest Rangers (see Volunteer Corps), were also raised. Archives New Zealand Wellington holds a copy of:

- 'Return of Names of members of the Colonial Defence Force 1865' [Le 1 1865/110; REPRO 76]
- Card index to the above, Wellington Reading Room

The Colonial Defence Force was disbanded on 22 October 1867 and many members transferred to the Armed Constabulary that year (see next page).

Historical War Graves – 19th century soldiers
Alphabetical card index [IA 76 (Boxes 16-18, 30)]
Register Room, Wellington

Nominal Returns of Killed or Wounded

New Zealand Gazettes 1863-1865 include lists of troops (imperial and colonial) killed or wounded at various engagements in those years.

Other lists of 'Killed in Action' and 'Died of Wounds' are to be found in:

AJHR 1871 G-1A (p7 – pre 11 July 1868 deaths)

AJHR 1871 G-1 (pp8-10 – post 11 July 1868 deaths)

Armed Constabulary 1867-1886

The Armed Constabulary was a force raised under the Armed Constabulary Act 1867 and its members were in active service mainly 1868-71.

In the 1870s the Armed Constabulary were at the forefront of settlement in 'frontier' areas of the North Island, building roads and serving both a military and a police purpose.

The attack on Parihaka in 1881 was the last active service for the Armed Constabulary which was divided into Police and a military Field Force in 1886.

Archives New Zealand in Wellington holds a variety of Armed Constabulary records, though some originals are not available to the public for preservation reasons.

General Records

- Armed Constabulary Description Book [P 8/1; MICRO 6429]
Information given in the Description Book may include: number, swearing-in date, appointment, place of birth, occupation, physical characteristics.
- Reproductions of contemporary indexes to the two sequences of the Armed Constabulary Description Book [P 8/2 & 8/4; REPRO 64 & MICRO 6429]
- Register of Appointments 1869-1879 (chronological arrangement) [P 8/3]
- Defaulters Sheets [AD 37/15]
A Card Index to Defaulters Sheets is held in the Wellington Reading Room.
- Record of Conduct Book & Index [P 8/93; Index REPRO 64]
- Nominal Return of officers in the Defence Department and Armed Constabulary *AJHR* 1873 H-24A.
- A list of those transferring from the Armed Constabulary to the Police *AJHR* 1897 H-38A & H-38B.

Rolls - Armed Constabulary

There are many Nominal and Muster Rolls, often called Descriptive Returns, usually restricted to a particular time and place. The overall date range of the rolls is 1863-1885, but most belong to 1868-1869 [P 8/5-96]. These records include two general returns:

- Return of Armed Constabulary Officers (no date) [P 8/73]
- Descriptive Roll received from the Defence Office on the reorganisation of the (AC) Force 1867-1869 [P 8/74]

This roll includes people who served in other police and military forces before 1867. It contains some information not found in the Description Book, including ship and date of arrival in the colony.

Permanent Militia / Permanent Force 1886-1913

A Permanent Militia, operating as a standing army, was established in 1886 to take over the military functions of the Armed Constabulary. In 1909 it was renamed the Permanent Force.

- Registers & Descriptive Rolls of Permanent Force Personnel 1886-1925 (not all indexed) [AD 21/1-6]
- Personnel Files (a few files, for surnames beginning with K & L) [AD 37/20]
- Defaulters Sheets for some members of the permanent force [AD 37/15] can be found through the Card Index of Defaulters, as for Armed Constabulary.

Registers of Army Commissions 1862-1914

Archives New Zealand Wellington holds, in the Reading Room, a Card Index of those who held Army Commissions up to 1911, and these cards give references to entries in the register book:

- Register of Commissions, Permanent Force (up to 1911) [AD 20/13]

Records of Army Commissions (c1900-1920) may be found in other registers [AD 20] but the main source is:

- Registers of Commissions [AD 20/14-19]

Military Settlers 1863-1872

Waikato Military Settlers

See also 'Waikato Immigration Scheme' in *Migration Reference Guide*, page 3.

Four regiments of Waikato Militia military settlers were raised to help keep order in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty after the 1860s wars. Many men were recruited in Australia. Their service entitled them to land grants but much of the land surveyed was unsuitable for farming and was deserted or bought up by speculators.

- Nominal & Descriptive Rolls
 - 1st Regiment 1863-1867 [AD 76/1; Repr 16-17]
 - 2nd Regiment 1863-1866 [AD 76/2]
 - 3rd Regiment 1863-1866 [AD 76/3; Repr 14-15]
 - 4th Regiment 1864-1867 [AD 76/4-5]
- Index to the rolls [REPRO 62]
- Land Registers: Regiments 1, 3, 4 [AD 77/1-3]

Auckland Office:

- Nominal & Descriptive Rolls
 - 1st Waikato [AD 76/1; AREPRO 4711/360] (AK)
 - 3rd Waikato [AD 76/3; AREPRO 4711/361] (AK)

Taranaki Military Settlers

- Nominal & Descriptive Rolls (indexed) [AD 31/8-9]

Hawkes Bay Military Settlers

- Nominal & Descriptive Rolls (indexed) [AD 31/4]

Military Land Claims

Records of Military Land Claims from this period can be found in the archives of the Lands Department, later the Lands & Survey Department [LS]. Commissions investigated military land claims between 1882 and 1910. A good starting point is a volume of printed reports held in the Register Room, Wellington:

- Naval, Military and Volunteer Land Claims [LS 69/50]; Index [LS 69/51]

Another possible approach is through the Indexes and Registers of the Lands (and Survey) Department, held in the Register Room, Wellington.

Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902

The South African or Anglo-Boer War was the first overseas war in which New Zealand was involved. As an imperial war it was supported by considerable patriotic enthusiasm and local Volunteer Corps numbers reached a peak of 17,000.

New Zealand sent 6337 'mounted rifles' in ten contingents to South Africa, with about 8000 horses. Proportionately New Zealand sent more troops than any other colony, but the units did not operate as a national force.

Erratic and incomplete records of this force are held at Archives New Zealand in Wellington. The best lists were published in the *AJHR*:

- Nominal Rolls *AJHR* 1900-1902 H-6
Organised by contingent and rank, alphabetically within each rank. A card index to the rolls is held in the Reading Room.

- Casualty Rolls, published in *AJHR* 1900-1902 H-6

Other records are held in Army and War Department archives:

Subject files (all files unindexed, but individuals named or listed):

- Nominal Roll, South African soldiers 1923-1947 (some part lists only) [AD 34 8000 (Box 1)]
- Medals and clasps (3 files) [AD 34 8001 (Box 1)]
- War Veterans' Graves 1901-1914 [AD 34 8002 (Box 1)]
- NZ contingent Casualties 1900-1955 [AD 34 8003 (Box 2)]
- Appointment of nurses 1900-1957 [AD 34 8008 (Box 2)]
- 6th contingent, crime & offence reports 1901-1902 [AD 34 8032 (Box 7)]
- NZ Contingents, discharges 1902-1903 [AD 34 8033 (Box 7)]
- Casualty Records 1900-1902 [AD 34/11-17]
- Repatriation Records 1900-1902 [AD 34/18-23]
- Medal Rolls
Queen's South African Medal [AD 36/6-10]
King's South African Medal [AD 36/11/20]
- Index to South African War Medals, contingents 1-5 [AD 36/21]

Unit records do not usually mention individuals and the sequences are not complete: [WA-SA 1 & AD 34]

FIRST WORLD WAR 1914-1918

Archives New Zealand holds a great variety of records of the service of New Zealand forces in the First World War. Most of these are Army records. For Personnel Files see page 1.

Background to the First World War

In 1910-1911 New Zealand organised a Territorial Force of some 30,000 men, with permanent staff and an expanded General Headquarters. New weapons and improved training meant that when war broke out on 4 August 1914, New Zealand was able to offer Britain an expeditionary force immediately.

There were enough volunteers to fill the numbers required for the force and its reinforcements until 1916. News of Gallipoli and of the trenches in Belgium and France showed that the war was no longer a 'glorious adventure'. Conscription was introduced in 1916 to maintain force numbers.

In the First World War, just over 100,000 troops left New Zealand for service overseas in Samoa, Gallipoli, Sinai-Palestine, Belgium and France. Of those serving overseas, more than 16,000 lost their lives and over 41,000 were wounded, a very high casualty rate.

Holdings (listed alphabetically by subject)

Aliens (Enemy) during the First World War

See separate reference guide: *Citizenship*.

Casualty Rolls

Archives New Zealand holds various records of casualties in the First World War. Microfilm copies should be used where available.

- 1st NZ Expeditionary Force Roll of Honour 1914-1918 – official published roll of casualties [AD 25/14; MICRO 3503]
- Active-Service Casualty rolls compiled during the war [AD 25/10, 11a, 12, 13; MICRO 3503, 3535, 3537, 3539]
Index to casualties 1914-1918 [AD 25/11; MICRO 3539]
- Other rolls which include casualty information [MICRO 3505, 3507]
- Registers of Casualties 1915-1920 [WA 234/6-19]
- Active Service Fatal Casualty Forms c1915-1919 (include every soldier killed overseas) [AABK 519]
- Register of soldiers treated at Wellington Hospital 1916-1919 [ABRR 6910]

Access to individual entries is open 20 years after death. Otherwise permission to access entries must be requested from Capital & Coast Health, Wellington.

Decorations and Awards

Most records relate to the more notable decorations and awards of the First World War, such as the Victoria Cross, George Cross, Military Medal, Distinguished Service Order, and decorations awarded by the French government to members of the NZ Expeditionary Force. See also 'Photographs' page 6.

- Victoria Cross (VC) and George Cross (GC) holders, personnel files, First and Second World Wars. Access restricted for 50 years after death. [AD 36/26-29]
- Index to awards of the Military Medal (MM) (2 copies) [AD 36/22 & 23]
- Index to awards of the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) [AD 36/24]
- Honours and Awards, files organised largely by date. Individual pages may include action/citation for specific men and awards. [WA 22 5/1-19]
- Merchant Navy War Medal Card Index A-K & L-Z [ABPL 7461/4-5]
- Decorations awarded by the French Government to members of the NZ Expeditionary and Imperial Forces [AD 36/25]
- Maori Pioneer Battalion – casualties, decorations and awards [AD 78 27/161]

New Zealand Gazettes and *New Zealand Year Books* 1915-1919 may also include details of awards, though most appeared in the *London Gazette*.

Defaulters, Deserters and Conscientious Objectors

Access to these records is restricted for 100 years from birth of the individual involved. Holdings include:

- Territorial Forces - a few files on defaulters and shirkers [AD 1/10]
- Returns of Religious Objectors 1913-1921 [AD 1 10/22/13-21]
- Courts Martial & Courts of Enquiry [AD 1/22]
- Personnel, including deserters, suspects, aliens, spies, etc [AD 1/24]
- Deserters & defaulters [AD 2 14/184]
- Individual personnel files concerning disciplinary action [AD 10 5/1-20]
- Prosecutions & exemptions [AD 19 108/3-216]
- Employment – religious objectors on experimental farms 1918-1920 [AD 78 70/1/2]
- Recruiting Board & religious objectors 1917-1918 [AD 82 1/23,33,33/1&2]
- Lists of deserters (August 1918 to March 1919) [AD 82 14/2/1-5]
- Discharges from camp – religious objectors 1917-1919 [AD 83 R 9/1]

Diaries & Statements (personal)

Archives New Zealand holds some Diaries, Statements and Reports covering operations by New Zealand Expeditionary Force units, in both Europe and the Middle East. The variety of material includes some personal diaries and statements. [WA 10/3]

Maori (Pioneer) Battalion

Records held for the Pioneer or Maori Battalion in the First World War include:

- NZ Maori Contingent Numerical Roll [WA 97 3/1]
- Registration Roll for Maori Contingent [WA 97 3/16]
- Nominal Roll [WA 97 3/17]
- Embarkation Rolls of Maori Contingent [MA 1 19/1/473]
- Unit Diaries [WA 97/1]
- Routine Orders [WA 97/2]
- Unit Records [WA 97/3]
- Maori Contingents and Reinforcements 1914-1918 [MA 52/10h]

Further records of the Maori (Pioneer) Battalion may be found under Maori Affairs and Army Departments.

Maps

Maps can be useful in tracing the movements of an individual or unit, perhaps used in combination with other material, such as Unit Diaries. Archives New Zealand holds a variety of maps of areas of conflict.

- Main battle areas: Gallipoli area, Middle East, France & Belgium [WA 220]
- Army Department WWI Maps & Plans (49 in total) [AAAL W3716]
- General Maps & Lantern Slides, including Gallipoli [AD 1/136]
- Major Richardson Papers include Maps of First World War [WA 250/41]
- Messines Maps 1917 [WA 10/2]

The New Zealand War Histories, published after the First World War, also include many maps.

Nominal Embarkation Rolls 1st NZ Expeditionary Force 1914-1919

Army Department Embarkation Rolls for the First New Zealand Expeditionary Force (1 NZEF) are arranged by Unit, listing personnel by rank and only then alphabetically. They are held on Microfilm and in Army and War Department records.

- 1 NZEF October 1914 - June 1916 [AD 24/1; MICRO 3541]
- 1 NZEF July 1916 - May 1919 [AD 24/2; MICRO 3543]
- 1 NZEF Main Body & reinforcements, 1-8, January-December 1915 [AD 24/3; MICRO 3541]
- 1 NZEF Rifle Brigade & reinforcements, 9-16, February-October 1916 [AD 24/4; MICRO 3545]
- 1 NZEF 20th reinforcement, February 1917 [AD 24/5; MICRO 3545]
- 1 NZEF alphabetical roll of embarkations, August 1914-December 1915 [AD 24/7; MICRO 3545]
- 1 NZEF embarkations, June 1918-March 1919 [AD 24/8; MICRO 3545]
- Nominal & Alphabetical rolls, 1914-17 [WA 234/1-5]

- Nominal Rolls for some specific sections [AD 1/10]
 - Nominal Roll of New Zealanders serving with the Australian Expeditionary Forces [AD 1 10/234; REPRO 65]
 - List of New Zealand officers in British Imperial Army [AD 1 10/234; REPRO 66]
 - Nurses serving with the 1 NZEF [AD 1/10/231]
 - Nominal and Embarkation Rolls of the Maori or Pioneer Battalion [AD 1/10/230]

New Zealand Army Nursing Service

Archives New Zealand holds a considerable number of papers relating to the New Zealand Army Nursing Service for the period 1910-1924, including the First World War. [AD 64/1-32]

Many of the files are administrative, but some include information on individual nurses. For example, the file 'Hospital Ships 1915-1919' [AD 64/4] contains the names of the nurses who travelled and worked on such ships.

- Nominal Roll of Nurses serving with 1 NZEF [AD 1/10/231]

Pensions

Archives New Zealand holds few files relating to individual war pensions, but there are two useful series of index cards to war pension applications:

- War Pensions Card Index [ABNU 6825]
- War Pensions Card Index (Maori) [ABNU 6826]

There are also General Correspondence files which include some names:

- War Pensions for First World War servicemen [SS W1844 W20-313 (with gaps) (Boxes 11-14)]
Access restrictions apply.

Photographs

Archives New Zealand holds several First World War photograph collections:

- Gallipoli Campaign, by Sergeant Jack Hilliard. (Permission needed for copies) [WA 254]
- Various photographs of: NZEF Embarkation, wounded (graphic images) and women's war effort in Britain. [WA 10 6/23]
- Medal Winners, from Dominion Museum exhibition after the war [AALZ 902]
Index to names and list of photographs held in Wellington Reading Room.
- 1st NZ Expeditionary Force in France 1917-1918 by official photographer (H11-H634 with gaps) [AALZ 901]
Most photographs are general or group shots. A numerical list by print number includes brief descriptions of subject matter. (Many of these photographs are also in the F D Thomson papers.)
- Soldiers overseas (H279-H876 with gaps – two bundles, some duplicates of above) [IA 76 12 & 13]

Rehabilitation of Soldiers after the First World War

The government made efforts to rehabilitate soldiers into civilian life after the war. A key initiative was the land settlement scheme which aimed to provide cheap farms for those who wanted them, and loans to help finance the purchases. About 9500 soldiers were settled but much of the land was marginal. Considerable hardship and failure resulted.

A variety of records in the archives of the Army Department and the Lands and Survey Department can provide information on the government's efforts to rehabilitate soldiers after the First World War.

- Army Department correspondence [AD 1]
- Register of Returned Soldiers Holdings 1916-1930 [LS 34/1]
- Land for Settlement [LS 1/21]
- Soldiers Advances, etc [LS 1/26]

Auckland Office:

- Registers of Applications for Financial Assistance – Discharged Soldiers 1919-1923 [BAAZ 4698] (AK)
- Register of Discharged Soldiers' Leases (A-M) 1921-1922 [BAAZ 1133/1] (AK)
- Land tenure Files: Discharged Soldiers' Leases [BAIE 1177] (AK)

Reservist Rolls

Lists of Reservists were drawn up by ballot under the Military Service Act of 1916.

- The numerical lists [AD 25/1-8], organised by ballot, are held on microfilm. [MICRO 3547, 3549, 3551, 3553, 3557, 3559, 3561]
- Index (alphabetical) to the Lists of Reservists [AD 25/9; MICRO 3533]

Lists contain no information about place of residence at the time of the ballot. The names of those called up were notified in the *New Zealand Gazette* November 1916-September 1918, arranged by recruiting district, and with addresses included.

Unit Diaries

The unit diaries of the 1st NZ Expeditionary Force were systematically collected to provide material for later published histories of New Zealand's efforts in the First World War. Unit Diaries from the war are held in Wellington under Unit name. [WA 1-252]

Each unit has its own series number. A series list for each unit shows what items are held and their time periods. Usually a diary part/file covers a calendar month. Each one needs to be ordered individually.

The unit diaries often include Routine Orders and information on the activities and movements of the unit. Few individuals are mentioned by name, and officers are much more likely to be named than ordinary soldiers.

War Graves

Two card indexes relating to the graves of First World War servicemen are held in Wellington:

- Non-War Graves Card Index of ex-servicemen of the First World War who died after the war. [AAAC W3065/1-176]
- War Graves Index for soldiers killed at sea during the First World War. [Register Room]

Information about the war graves of most soldiers who died on active duty during the First World War can be obtained from other institutions:

- Commonwealth Graves Commission website: www.cwgc.org
- Office of Veterans Affairs New Zealand, 11th floor, Sovereign Assurance House, 142 Lambton Quay, Wellington, Freephone 0800 4 VETERAN / 0800 483 8372

Further information about ex-servicemen may be found in the records of Funeral Grants for ex-servicemen.

Social Security Department, Head Office

- Funeral Grants 1926-1964 [SS 13/3]
- Funeral Grants 1962-1971 [SS 13 1/1]
- War Pensions, Burial of Ex-Soldiers
Wellington District 1923-1945
Christchurch District 1923-1942
Timaru District 1925-1940
Dunedin District 1923-1940
[AADK W4075 11/3/81 (Box 18)]

Department of Social Welfare, Head Office

- War Pensions and War Veterans Application, Bursaries and Funeral Grants - Register 1951-1963 [AADK 7916 W4883/2]

SECOND WORLD WAR 1939-45

Archives New Zealand holds a great variety of records of the service of New Zealand forces in the Second World War. Most are Army records, but there are some Air Force and Navy records (see page 12).

- Subject access to Second World War records can be gained through the War History Branch card index in the Reading Room, Wellington.

Background to the Second World War

New Zealand was much less prepared for the Second World War than for the First because defence spending had been much reduced, especially in the Depression of the early 1930s. However, by mid-1940 some 20,000 men had embarked for overseas service with the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force (2 NZEF). They went first to the Middle East and Britain. Later many of them were also to fight in Italy.

New Zealand sent its first troops into the Pacific, to Fiji, in November 1940. After war was declared against Japan in December 1941, many other troops were also sent into the Pacific, though some were later transferred to Italy.

The Home Guard in New Zealand was an important force until the threat from Japan eased in late 1943.

A total of about 105,000 men and women from New Zealand served overseas during the Second World War. Of those nearly 7000 died on active service and more than 16,000 were wounded, a much smaller proportion of casualties than in the First World War.

Holdings (listed alphabetically by subject)

Aliens (Enemy) during the Second World War

See separate reference guide: *Citizenship*.

Decorations and Awards

Archives New Zealand holds various records of awards to New Zealanders in the Second World War:

- Ten volumes of the citations for awards (alphabetical order) [WAI 1 DA 409.2/2]
- Files on specific awards to New Zealanders, including decorations given by other governments. [AD 1/248 & 323]
- Nominal list of 'Unclaimed commemorative scrolls for those who died on Active Service' [AD 36]
- Merchant Navy War Medal Card Index A-H, I-S, T-Z [ABPL 7461/1-3]
- Personnel files for the holders of the Victoria Cross (VC) and the George Cross (GC), for both the First and Second World Wars. [AD 36/26-29]
Access is restricted for 50 years after death.

Defaulters, Deserters and Conscientious Objectors

General and individual records of these groups in the Second World War are found in the files of the National Service Department (Special Tribunal and Appeal Board records) and the Labour Department District Offices (Conscientious Objector files).

National Service Department

Access to records is restricted for 100 years from the birth of the individual involved. Contact Chief Archivist.

- Personal Files (Auckland) [NS-A 2 (Boxes 1-19)]
- Special Tribunal Register 1941-1946 (Auckland) [NS-A 3]
- Special Tribunal Register 1946 (Auckland) [NS-A 4]
- Personal Files (Christchurch) [NS-CH 2 (box 1-4)]
- Registers – Appeals (Dunedin) [NS-D 3/1; NS-DN W000/-]
- Personal Files (Hamilton) [NS-HM 2 (Boxes 1-6)]
- Personal Files (Lower Hutt) [NS-LH 2 (Boxes 1-2)]
- Personal Files (Wellington) [NS-W 2 (Boxes 1-9)]

Labour Department – Conscientious Objector files
Access to records is restricted for 100 years from the date of closure of the file. Contact: Chief Executive, Department of Labour, PO Box 3705, Wellington.

- Blenheim [L-BM 10]
- Gisborne [L-G 10]
- Hastings [L-Hastings 10]
- Napier [L-Na 10]
- Nelson [L-N 10]
- New Plymouth [L-NP 10]
- Palmerston North [L-PM 10]
- Rotorua [L-Ro 10]
- Tauranga [L-Tauranga 10]
- Wanganui [L-Wanganui 10]
- Wellington [L-W 10]
- Whangarei [L-WR 10]

Auckland Office:

- Auckland [BBAI A182] (AK)
- Hamilton – list of names [BCAS A184] (AK)

Dunedin Office:

- Dunedin [DAAM D355] (DN)
- Invercargill [ADOF D356] (DN)

Army and Labour Departments – other files

Access restrictions apply.

- Discipline, detention, imprisonment, deserters [AD 1 310]
- Individual personnel files concerning disciplinary action 1943-1948 [AD 10 42/9]
- Conscientious Objectors – Military training [L 10]
- Conscientious Objectors – Union membership [L 15]

Film

Archives New Zealand has extensive holdings of film relating to the Second World War, much of it on video in Wellington. A 'Guide to Reference Videocassettes' and a viewing room are available in the Wellington Reading Room.

Home Guard

The New Zealand Home Guard existed from mid-1940. It became Army proper in August 1941, compulsory and formalised in early 1942, and was wound down in later 1943. At its peak it involved some 123,000 men. Some records, but no full rolls, are held.

- Various files, mostly administration [AD 1 281 & 304]
- Appointment to Commissions, Rolls of Officers, etc [WAI 2 13/- (Boxes 34-40)]
These files are organised by region.
- Civilian Narrative – The New Zealand Home Guard [WAI 21/70a (CN125)]

Two books include considerable information on the Home Guard:

Nancy Taylor *The Home Front* 1986, Vol.1 pp450-480
Peter Cooke *Defending New Zealand* 2000, Vol.2 pp571-622

Maori Battalion (28th NZ Battalion)

Archives New Zealand holds many records for the Maori Battalion.

- Personnel Files [ABFK W3629]
Access restrictions apply.
- Unit Diaries [WAI 1 DA68/1/1-73]
- Embarkation Rolls March 1940 to June 1948 [AD 24/9-24; MICRO 5076]
- Moana-nui-a-Kiwa Ngarimu, VC
 - personnel file [AD 36/29]
 - posthumous award of his Victoria Cross [IA 1 171/70/4-6]

Other material on the Maori (28th) Battalion is to be found in the archives of the Maori Affairs, External Affairs and Army Departments.

Maps

Archives New Zealand holds a variety of maps from the Second World War.

- Major series of maps [WAI 5]
- Plans from Dr Douglas Kennedy (similar to some in [WAI 5] but not identical)
 - Italy & North Africa (74 maps) [PACB 7375]
 - El Alamein & Cassino [PACB 7376]
- Allied garrison at Tobruk [AABK W4471]

Maps can also be located, through the heading 'Maps' or a place name, in the Subject Index in the Reading Room Wellington (see page 10). Other maps are to be found in Unit Diaries (see page 10) and in published War Histories.

Medical Records 1940-1945

Most medical records of the 2nd NZ Expeditionary Force (2 NZEF), including official reports, Operational Unit records, Medical Narratives and Medical Unit Diaries, have been collected into one archive series. [WAI 4]

Nominal Embarkation and Disembarkation Rolls 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force (2 NZEF) 1940-1945

Records of the embarkation and disembarkation of New Zealand troops in New Zealand during the Second World War.

Embarkation rolls usually include: name, number, rank, unit, conjugal status, place of enlistment, occupation, last New Zealand address, name & address of next-of-kin. Some records are organised by Brigade or similar level unit. The main holdings of 2 NZEF embarkation rolls are:

- to March 1940 [AD 24/9]
- to June 1940 [AD 24/10; MICRO 5076]
- July 1940 to March 1941 [AD 24/11]
- April to June 1941 [AD 24/12]
- July to September 1941 [AD 24/13]
- October to December 1941 [AD 24/14]
- January to May 1942 [AD 24/15]
- April to June 1942 [AD 24/16]
- July to December 1942 [AD 24/17]
- January to March 1943 [AD 24/18]
- April to June 1943 [AD 24/19]
- July to December 1943 [AD 24/20]
- January to March 1944 [AD 24/21]
- April to December 1944 [AD 24/22]
- January to December 1945 [AD 24/23]
- January 1946 to June 1948 [AD 24/24]

Many embarkation rolls are to be found elsewhere in Army or War Department records. [AD 1/349]
Some duplicates: [WAI DA 510 & DA 511]

- Soldiers Returning from Overseas 1940-1941 – Nominal Rolls [SS 7 11/6/14]
Access to this file is restricted.

A card index in the Reading Room Wellington, which gives a detailed chronology of embarkation and disembarkation, may be helpful.

Nursing - New Zealand Army Nursing Service

Archives New Zealand holds a number of papers relating to the New Zealand Army Nursing Service for the period 1939-1948, including the Second World War and the J-Force in Japan 1946-1948. The files are mainly unit histories and administrative files, but some include details of individual nurses. [AD 64/33-41]

Photographs

Archives New Zealand Wellington holds one major series of Second World War (Pacific) photographs and a number of smaller series.

- Major series - semi-official and private photographs, mostly army (2 NZEF) but also some navy (RNZN) – Pacific only [WAI 7]

Other groups of photographic images from the Second World War include:

- Maori in the armed forces (includes Maori Battalion, Vietnam & Singapore) [AAMK W3495 Box 23 f-Q]
- Women at War [AAUR W3263 Box 1]
- Aerial photographs of New Zealand defence installations [W3810]
- Photographs in Public Works Department Official War History
 - Index (also in Appendix L, AD series list binder) [WAI 21/72a]
 - Photographs [WAI 21/72a, 73a, 75a, 77a]

Photographs can also be found through the Second World War subject card index in Wellington.

Other institutions, such as the Alexander Turnbull Library and service museums, hold significant collections of Second World War photographs.

Prisoners of War – New Zealanders Overseas

Archives New Zealand holds a number of records relating to New Zealanders who were Prisoners of War (POW) or Civilian Internees overseas.

- Unclassified Material 1939-1946: 2 NZEF – London – Prisoner of War section [WAI 2 (Box 21)]
- Questionnaires filled in during 1947 by ex-prisoners of war and ex-internees (used for Official War History). Access restrictions apply. [WAI 3/50-53]
- Casualties: Prisoners of War in enemy hands [AD 1/339]
- Evacuation (includes Prisoners of War) [AD 1/357]
- Miscellaneous: New Zealand Missing & POW Agency; Civilian Internees (including merchant seamen) Card Index 1939-1945 [AD 37/41]
- Allied Prisoners of War and Civilians in Enemy Territory [EA 1/88/1-9]
- Civilian Internees & evacuees (some files) [IA 1/171]
- Major Kippenberger's Personal Files 1945-1954: ex-prisoners of war April 1949 to November 1950 [IA 77/9]
- 2 NZEF members reported missing and prisoners of war 1941-1957 [SS 11/6/21 W2756]
- Grants to New Zealand ex-prisoners of war [SS 15/1 W2756]

Prisoners of War and Internees – in New Zealand

- Prisoner of War Camp - Featherston (various files) 1942-1946 [WAI 2 Boxes 22-26]
- Internment Camp - Somes Island 1939-1945 [WAI 2 Boxes 27-33]

Enemy Prisoners of War, Aliens & Internees. Some access restrictions apply

- General [EA 1 89/1]
- Aliens [EA 1 89/2]
- Internees [EA 1 89/3]
- Prisoners of War in New Zealand [EA 1 89/4]
- Female Evacuee Aliens [EA 1 89/5]

See separate reference guide: *Citizenship*

Rehabilitation of Soldiers after the Second World War

Archives New Zealand holds little on the rehabilitation of soldiers back into civilian life after the Second World War. Records in the archives of the Rehabilitation Board can provide some information on government efforts to rehabilitate soldiers.

- Minutes of Rehabilitation Board Meetings [RE 1]
- Minutes of Executive Committee of Rehabilitation Board [RE 2]
- Minutes of the Land Settlement Committee 1943-1954 [AATK 6171]
- Minutes of the Napier District Loan Committee 1943-1958 [AATK 6176]

Other government agencies were also involved in soldier rehabilitation.

Subject Index

The War History Branch card catalogue, located in the Wellington Reading Room, provides an excellent means of accessing Second World War and J-Force (Japan) records by subject.

Unit Diaries

The unit diaries of the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force (2 NZEF) were collected systematically to provide material for later histories of New Zealand's efforts in the Second World War.

Unit Diaries from the war are held at Archives New Zealand Wellington under Unit name. A list in the Finding Aids [WAI] gives the unit diaries and dates. Each individual diary part/file usually covers a calendar month. A number of diaries are available on microfilm.

- Middle East Unit Diaries [WAI 1 DA 1-397]
- Pacific Unit Diaries [WAI 1 DAZ 1-543]
- Medical and Hospital Unit Diaries (also other material) [WAI 4]

War Graves

Two card indexes relating to the graves of Second World War servicemen are held in Wellington:

- War Graves Index of Servicemen who died overseas. This is arranged by place of burial but there is also an index to these records. [AAAC 17726 W1834/2-17]
- Non-War Graves Card Index of deceased ex-servicemen, organized alphabetically [AAAC W3065/1-176]

Information about the war graves of most soldiers who died on active duty during the Second World War can be obtained from other institutions:

- Commonwealth Graves Commission website: www.cwgc.org
- Office of Veterans Affairs New Zealand, 11th floor, Sovereign Assurance House, 142 Lambton Quay, Wellington, Freephone 0800 4 VETERAN / 0800 483 8372

Other relevant records are:

- War Graves (files, photographs, films) [IA 76]
- War Graves, monuments, etc [IA 1/7]
- Funeral Grants for ex-servicemen 1926-1964 [SS 13/3] 1962-1971 [SS 13/1/1]
- War Pensions and War Veterans Application, Bursaries and Funeral Grants – Register 1951-1963 (Department of Social Welfare, Head Office) [AADK 7916 W4883/2]

POST SECOND WORLD WAR

Some records are held of New Zealand forces after the Second World War:

- occupation of Japan 1945-1948
- conflict in Korea 1950-1957
- conflict in Malaya 1955-1967
- Vietnam War 1965-1971.

Japan

At the end of the Second World War New Zealand sent a force – the J-Force – to take part in the occupation of Japan 1945-1948. Records of this force can be found in the War and Army Department archives. The records include:

- War diaries (all units), routine orders and office papers [WA-J]
- Alphabetical roll of those who embarked from Italy in the advance party and main body of the J-Force to Japan [WAI DA 510/14]
- Nominal Rolls J-Force (2 volumes) [AD 1 349/1/38]

Some Second World War records also include records of the J-Force.

Korea

New Zealand participated in the United Nations force in Korea, from 1950 to the armistice in 1953, and then until Commonwealth forces withdrew in 1958. Records of this force can be found in the War and Army Department archives. The records include:

- War diaries, routine orders & office papers [WA-K]
- Nominal Embarkation Rolls [AD 1 349/4]
- Treatment of Prisoners of War [AD 1 339/6/4]
- K Force Discipline 1950-1960 [AD 310/14]

Malaya

The Malayan 'Emergency' or 'Incident' involved battalions from a New Zealand Army Regiment and a Special Air Service Squadron. Archives New Zealand in Wellington holds:

- Battalion War Diaries 1957-1961 & 1966-1967 [WA-M 1/1-2]
- Air Service Squadron records 1955-1957 [WA-M 1/3]
- Supplementary material, including Photographs [WA-M 2 1/6]
- Death Cards list names and details of the New Zealand servicemen who died overseas 1954-73, including in Vietnam (see below). [ABFK 6739]

Vietnam

Most records of New Zealand's involvement in the war in Vietnam are still held by the New Zealand Defence Force. Archives New Zealand in Wellington holds:

- List of Battle Casualties 1965-1971 [ABFK 6744]
- Death Cards list names and details of the New Zealand servicemen who died overseas 1954-73 [ABFK 6739]
- Personnel: Honours & Awards: Vietnam Campaign Medal [ABFK 7494/27 31/5/13 Parts 1-3]
- NZ Vietnam Force: Operations Activity Reports 1970-1971 [ABFK W3593 42/17/1 Part 2]
- Royal NZ Air Force activities in South East Asia 1964-1969 [ABFK 7281/44 26/1/20 Part 1]

Access to these records is restricted.

WAR GRAVES

Korea, Malaya, South Vietnam

[AAAC 17726 W1834/18]

AIR FORCE AND NAVY

Personnel Records

Held by New Zealand Defence Force (see page 1).

Royal New Zealand Air Force

There was some air involvement of New Zealanders in the First World War. A few records of this are held in Army Department archives. [AD 1/35/132 (2nd sequence); AD 11/1; AD 19/106; AALJ 483]

A permanent air force, later the Royal New Zealand Air Force, was established in 1923, and Archives New Zealand holds many of its records. Access restrictions apply to some records. The main records which might be useful to family historians are:

- Subject files (indexed), about the organisation and workings of the air force. [AIR 1; ABFK 7281]
- Air Accident files c1929-1956 – accident reports (some photographs) [AIR 1 25/2; a few 25/1]
- Register of Air Accidents 1948-1986 (mostly civil) [PABV 7151] (Files: ABVX 7333)
- Biographies of Deceased Personnel 1939-1945 (11 volumes alphabetical) [AIR 118/62/1-11; MICRO 3511-3531 (odd numbers only)]
- Lists of RNZAF Personnel (31 lists, including servicemen, embarkation, casualties, POW) overall range 1936-1948 [AIR 118/76]
- RNZAF Files, mainly organisational, overall range 1927-1980 [AABK W4266]
- RNZAF Unit Diaries Operations Squadrons, 1930s to 1950s, mainly Second World War [AIR 135-173]
- RNZAF Unit Diaries/Histories 1944-1999 [ABFK 7232]
- RNZAF New Zealand Stations, 1930s to 1950s, mostly Second World War [AIR 180-198]
- RNZAF Overseas Stations, Second World War [AIR 200-213]
- Royal NZ Air Force activities in South East Asia 1964-1969 [ABFK 7281/44 26/1/20 Part 1]
- Microfiche of Closed Military Personnel Files: Air Force 1989-1997 [ABKK 6914/1-5] Access permission from New Zealand Defence Force required.

Photographs

- Albums 1-47 [AIR 118/64] Index to Albums 1-47 [AIR 118/75e drawers 1-8]
- Other photographs, in envelopes, boxes, albums [AIR 118/65-75]

Air Force / Navy Record

'Index B' [N 15/13]

A record of New Zealanders who served 1939-1945 in the British Fleet Air Arm, in associated British Air Force Squadrons and bases, and on British naval vessels.

There is considerable detail about a few people, but for most just brief notes about their service.

Royal New Zealand Navy

Access restrictions apply to some Naval records.

Army Department files on troop movements in the First World War include some information about troopships and troop movements [AD 1/25]

Naval archives include:

- Subject files
 - Originally unclassified material 1925-1949 [N 1]
 - Originally secret material 1925-1949 [N 2]
- Ships' Logs (1913-1969 – dates vary for each ship)
 - A Ship's Log was the formal record of a ship's activities. Other items are also held, including Deck Logs, which are less formal records. Each ship had its own logs, often in monthly sections. [N 40-124]
- Additional Ships' Logs, including diaries and photographs (1948-1995) [ABFK 7592 & W3492]

Other records of the Navy Department include:

- Signal Logs 1914-1934 [N 3]
- Official Documents [N 10]
- Intelligence Summaries 1940-1945 [N 11]
- Casualty List Royal New Zealand Navy, 1939-1945. Gives personal details of where and when killed, filed 22 September 1955 [N 12/34]
- Records: War History Branch of the Department of Internal Affairs [N 15]
- Medals and Decorations – correspondence relating to (3 files) 1916-1955 [N 1 13/4/5 Box 323]

There are extensive Naval Staff: Multiple Number Subject Files [ABFK 7395] which include:

- Compassionate Grants Civilian 1944-1986 [ABFK 7395 61/14/5]
- Wills 1958-1988 [ABFK 7395 61/14/6]
- Operations & Movements of HMNZ Ships, overall range 1958-1986 [ABFK 7395 62/1/10-121]

Other Navy Staff files relate more directly to personnel:

- Personnel (overall range 1932-1986, most from 1950s) [ABFK 7395 66/1-22] These include:
 - Advancement of Ratings [ABFK 7395 66/1]
 - Appointment of Officers [ABFK 7395 66/2]
 - Discharges (including Funerals & Graves) [ABFK 7395 66/5]
 - Discipline [ABFK 7395 66/6]
 - Examinations [ABFK 7395 66/7]
 - Manning [ABFK 7395 66/10/...]
 - Medals, Decorations & Badges [ABFK 7395 66/11]
 - Training [ABFK 7395 66/16]
 - Welfare & Recreation [ABFK 7395 66/19]

Access restrictions may apply to some material

- Microfiche of Closed Military Personnel Files – Navy 1989-1997 [ABKK 6492]

Access permission from New Zealand Defence Force

- Merchant Navy War Medal Card Index A-H, I-S, T-Z [ABPL 7461/1-3]