

# New Zealanders in the South African War:

a guide to information about the men and women who served in the New Zealand armed forces during the South African War, 1899-1902

## Introduction

This resource list is designed to guide readers to sources of information on the men and women who served in New Zealand forces during the South African War, sometimes called the Boer War. Included are resources on service records, rolls of honour, family information, medals and awards. There are also sources on the history of the war and on the ten New Zealand contingents who fought in South Africa. The sources listed include books, pamphlets, microfiche publications, and relevant web sites. Links to the library's catalogue and to the Internet are included. All the sources listed are located in the Aotearoa New Zealand Centre at the Central Library, although there may be borrowing copies of some items in other sections of the library.

## Information about military personnel

### *Service details*

#### Try first:

[New Zealand contingents to the South Africa War, 1900-1902: nominal rolls and 1903 casualty list](#) [microfiche]

Nominal rolls originally published in the *Appendices to the journals of the House of Representatives*, with an alphabetical index. Records name and rank, address, and occupation, with name and address of next-of-kin.

#### Other sources:

Stowers, R. [Rough Riders at war: history of New Zealand's involvement in the Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902 and information on all members of the ten New Zealand contingents](#) 2002

Includes alphabetical list of New Zealanders who served in the war, pp. 48-202, with name, address, contingent number, occupation, next-of-kin, and fields of service.

#### Web sites:

[New Zealand in the South African \('Boer'\) War, 1899-1902](#)

This comprehensive web site includes the embarkation database.

#### Official data:

The official records of war service personnel which until recently were held by the personnel records section of [New Zealand Defence Force](#) have now all been transferred to [Archives New Zealand](#). This website notes that the records for 92 Boer War servicemen who were still serving in New Zealand's military services after 31 December 1920 have been retained at the Defence Force archives in Trentham and will not be transferred until further notice.

## **Casualties**

### **Try first:**

#### [The Cenotaph Database](#)

A database compiled by the Auckland Museum which aims to list all those who served in war, from the New Zealand Wars until the present. The data which is currently available comprises those service personnel who were killed during war.

#### [New Zealand in the South African \('Boer'\) War, 1899-1902](#)

This comprehensive web site includes the casualty list.

### **Other sources:**

#### [New Zealand contingents to the South Africa War, 1900-1902: nominal rolls and 1903 casualty list](#) [microfiche]

Casualty list includes name and rank, address, next-of-kin, particulars of death and location of grave.

Crawford, J. [To fight for the Empire](#) 1999

Roll of honour: pp. 99-108.

Stowers, R. [Rough Riders at war: history of New Zealand's involvement in the Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902 and information on all members of the ten New Zealand contingents](#) 2002

Casualties, pp. 38-43.

## ***Nurses and medical personnel***

A number of New Zealand nurses served in South Africa during the war, although they were not part of an official New Zealand nursing contingent. Some nurses served with British organisations but many paid their own way or were sponsored by local patriotic groups.

### **Try first:**

Rogers, A. [While you're away: New Zealand nurses at war, 1899-1948](#) 2003

Ch. 1: Against the odds: New Zealand nurses in South Africa, pp. 12-31. The book is indexed and includes a detailed bibliography.

### **Other sources:**

Crawford, J. [To fight for the Empire](#) 1999

Medical services, pp. 41-5.

Gray, S. [The South African War, 1899-1902: service records of British and colonial women](#) 1993

New Zealand nurses, pp. 74-66.

Hawdon, S.E. [New Zealanders and the Boer War, or, Soldiers from land of the moa](#) 1993

Ch. 11: Hospitals, including discussion of New Zealand nurses and doctors.

Kendall, S. [New Zealand military nursing: a history of the Royal Nursing Corps, Boer War to present day](#) 1990

Ch. 2: Boer War.

Stowers, R. [Rough Riders at war: history of New Zealand's involvement in the Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902 and information on all members of the ten New Zealand contingents](#) 2002

Nurses, pp. 29-30.

Treanor, K.R. [The staff, serpent and the sword: 100 years of the Royal New Zealand Army Medical Corps](#) 2008

Chapter 3: South Africa.

[The volunteers : Boer War commemorative issue of the New Zealand Military Historical Society](#) 1999

Includes articles on Boer War nurses, pp. 59-65; Janet Wyse Mackie Williamson, RRC (1862-1936), p. 67.

Woodward, J. [A nurse at war: Emily Peter, 1858-1927](#) 2008

Emily Peter served in the South African War. Includes extracts from her diaries which record her experiences.

### ***Māori and the war***

Crawford, J. [To fight for the Empire](#) 1999

Maori and war, pp. 32-3.

Crawford, J. & McGibbon, I. (eds) [One flag, one queen, one tongue: New Zealand, the British Empire and the South African War, 1899-1902](#) 2003

Ch. 8: Maori and war.

Hawdon, S.E. [New Zealanders and the Boer War, or, Soldiers from land of the moa](#) 1993

Ch. 12: Maori and the war.

### ***Family information about service personnel***

The following sources, which are located in the Family History area of the Aotearoa New Zealand Centre, may provide genealogical information about soldiers, nurses and their families.

#### *Church Register Index*

An index to baptisms, burials and marriages recorded in the registers of churches in Christchurch and north Canterbury. Details of each baptism, marriage and burial are recorded on cards which are filed in red catalogue drawers. Although not comprehensive, the index does include references to many Canterbury families. It

may include the baptism or marriage of the serviceman himself, as well as information on his parents, grandparents, siblings and other family members.

[Obituaries index](#) [microfiche] 1994

An index to obituaries published in *The Press* newspaper from 1876-1994, located in the Family History area, Aotearoa New Zealand Centre. There is an alphabetical listing of obituaries for each year. The index might include obituaries for some well-known service personnel, or for other members of their families, most likely fathers, grandfathers or brothers.

[G. R. Macdonald dictionary of biographies index](#) 1964

Biographies compiled by G. R. Macdonald of 19<sup>th</sup> century Canterbury pioneers are held on microfiche at the Canterbury Museum library. An index to these biographies is held in the Family History area of the Aotearoa New Zealand Centre. There may be references to the parents and grandparents of service personnel.

*Cemetery transcriptions*

The library holds transcriptions of the gravestones in Christchurch and Canterbury cemeteries. There is a master index to all the cemeteries and the volume for each cemetery is also indexed. Most cemeteries include a section for the burial of returned servicemen. The library also holds [New Zealand cemetery records](#) on microfiche (located in the Family History area of Aotearoa New Zealand Centre), which contain transcriptions of gravestones in cemeteries around New Zealand.

[Alexander Turnbull Library Biographical Index](#) [microfiche] 1996

For many years (ca. 1920-1990) the Turnbull Library kept scrapbooks of newspaper cuttings about people, especially obituaries. These scrapbooks have been microfiched and are available in the Family History area. The index includes references to the scrapbook obituaries, as well as to other sources of information about a wide range of people from all around New Zealand.

[Cyclopedia of New Zealand](#) 1897-1907

Volumes of the Cyclopedia were published for each province, including a substantial volume on Canterbury. They include biographical articles and photographs of many early New Zealand settlers, as well as articles about local businesses, churches, schools and other institutions. Each volume is indexed.

***The experiences of service personnel: letters, reminiscences, etc.***

Clarke, J. N. [Still jogging along: being the diary and some letters of Private J.N. Clarke, 9<sup>th</sup> Contingent, N.Z.M.R.](#) 1989

Covers the period March-August 1902.

Gilbert, H.G. [Soldier boy: a young New Zealander writes home from the Boer War](#)  
Harry Gilbert served in the 7<sup>th</sup> Canterbury Mounted Rifles.

Hawdon, S.E. [New Zealanders and the Boer War, or, Soldiers from land of the moa](#)  
1993

Appendix 1: H. Valintine, Ten weeks a prisoner of war; Appendix 2: Letter from Major-General Hutton to Prime Minister Seddon; Appendix 3: Trooper Peterson on his capture at Reitvler.

[The Penguin book of New Zealanders at war](#) 2009

Letters, diaries, journalists' reports, and memoirs. Part 2: Wars of Empire, including South African War, pp. 75-87.

Perham, F. [The Kimberley Flying Column: being reminiscences of service in the South African War, 1899-1903](#) 1958

Author was a trooper in C Squad, 5<sup>th</sup> Contingent. Ch. 17 describes the experiences of the author's brother, Luke, killed in 1900.

Twisleton, F. M. [With the New Zealanders at the front: a story of twelve months' campaigning in South Africa](#) 1902

Corporal in the 2nd New Zealand Mounted Rifles.

Valintine, H. [Ten weeks a prisoner of war](#) 1901

Author was a member of the first Contingent and captured during the battle for Sanna's Post.

York, H. M. [Harry's letters from the Boer War](#) 2 v. 1993

Author was a trooper in C Squad, 7 Wellington Company, 4<sup>th</sup> Contingent. He died of fever in December 1900. Vol. 1 is letters from the period 30 March-8 November 1900. Vol. 2 gives commentary on the letters. Appendix: Wellington and Masterton men selected for the 4<sup>th</sup> Contingent, pp. 35-9.

*For further information, you can also check the library's catalogue:*

[South African War, 1899-1902 – Personal narratives, New Zealand](#)

## **Medals**

### **Try first:**

The website of the [New Zealand Defence Force](#) comprehensive guide to military medals and a bibliography of further sources.

### **Other sources:**

Bryant, G.A. [Where the prize is highest: New Zealanders who have won the Victoria Cross](#) 1972

Biographical articles about and photographs of New Zealanders who have won the Victoria Cross, including those who served in non-New Zealand forces. William James Hardham, pp. 25-8.

Harper, G. [In the face of the enemy: the complete history of the Victoria Cross and New Zealand](#) 2006

Ch. 3: In Africa: Henry D'Arcy, Henry Donald Coutts, William James Hardham.

Polaschek, A.J. [The complete New Zealand Distinguished conduct medal](#) 1983  
Part 1: South Africa, pp. 1-10. Lists of recipients with biographical notes, citations (including original Gazette references) and lists of other awards received.

[Roll of honour, 1840-1902: defenders of the Empire resident in New Zealand in 1902](#)  
[microfiche] 1988  
Section 3: list of honours awarded to men who served in New Zealand regiments in South Africa.

[The volunteers : Boer War commemorative issue of the New Zealand Military Historical Society](#) 1999  
William James Hardham, V.C., pp. 76-8; South African War medals, pp. 79-89.

Wright, M. [New Zealand's military heroism](#) 2007  
Stories of New Zealand heroes in conflicts over the last 150 years, including during the Boer war.

## The history of the war

### *General histories*

#### **Books**

Crawford, J. [To fight for the Empire](#) 1999  
Useful illustrated introduction. Includes background to war and New Zealand involvement, civilian support for war, and the legacy of the war. Roll of honour, pp. 99-108. Embarkation strengths of each contingent, p. 109.

Crawford, J. & McGibbon, I. (eds) [One flag, one queen, one tongue: New Zealand, the British Empire and the South African War, 1899-1902](#) 2003  
Ch.1: origins of New Zealand's contribution; Ch. 2: Australasian commandants; Ch. 3: opposition to war in New Zealand; Ch. 4: NZ women's opposition; Ch. 5: contribution of colonial forces; Ch. 6: the best mounted troops in South Africa?; Ch. 7: social and geographic composition of NZ contingents; Ch. 8: Maori and war; Ch. 9: NZ women and war; Ch. 13: impact of war on NZ military forces and society.

Hall, D.O.W. [The New Zealanders in South Africa](#) 1950  
Official history of New Zealand involvement in the war, published by the War History Branch.

Hawdon, S.E. [New Zealanders and the Boer War, or, Soldiers from land of the moa](#) 1993

King, M. [New Zealanders at war](#) 2003  
Ch. 4: South African War, pp. 74-99. Includes numerous illustrations.

McGibbon, I.(ed.) [The Oxford companion to New Zealand military history](#) 2000  
Encyclopaedia of short articles on a range of topics. Boer War, pp. 59-63; Mounted Rifles, p. 337.

Phillips, J. [A man's country?](#) 1987 and 1996

Ch. 4: The Kiwi at war. Section 1: Sons of the Empire, pp. 137-152 looks at New Zealand service in South Africa and enthusiasm for the war in New Zealand. Also examines New Zealand reaction to and relations with the British forces they met in South Africa.

Pugsley, C. [The ANZAC experience: New Zealand, Australia and Empire in the First World War](#) 2004

Ch. 2: The Empire at war in South Africa, pp. 38-50. Includes discussion on New Zealand, Australian and Canadian involvement.

Pugsley, C. [Kiwis in conflict: two centuries of New Zealand at war](#) 2008

Part 2: South African War, pp. 46-67.

Pugsley, C. [Scars on the heart](#) 1996

Part 2: Fighting the Empire's War: New Zealanders and the Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902, pp. 46-65, by L. Barber.

Stowers, R. [Rough Riders at war: history of New Zealand's involvement in the Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902 and information on all members of the ten New Zealand contingents](#) 2002

Brief history of the war, pp. 3-7; veteran associations, pp. 7-8; histories of NZ's ten contingents, pp. 10-25; NZ and British commanders, pp. 26-7; NZ women, pp. 29-31; uniforms and equipment, pp. 31-4; weapons, pp. 34-5; honours and awards, pp. 36-8; casualties, pp. 38-43; medals, pp. 44-6; 1902 Coronation contingent, pp. 203-4. Remainder of book is biographical details about New Zealanders who served in war.

Thomson, J. [Warrior nation: New Zealanders at the front, 1900-2000](#) 2000

South African War, pp. 15-37.

[The volunteers : Boer War commemorative issue of the New Zealand Military Historical Society](#) 1999

Series of articles, including the first officer to die (Arthur Cormack Neave, 1877-1900, of Christchurch, pp. 49-52; 4<sup>th</sup> Contingent, pp. 53-8; New Zealand actions in war, p. 69-75; Trooper Joseph Mellors, pp. 90-1; Saddler Sergeant William Taylor, pp. 91-101; Australian, NZ and Canada in the war, by C. Pugsley, pp. 102-9; imperialism, the South African War and New Zealand chaplains, by F. Glen.

Wolfe, R. [On active service: New Zealand at war](#) 2004

Ch. 3: The Empire calls, pp. 41-61. Chiefly photographs with detailed captions. Brief introductory discussion.

*For further information, you can also check the library's catalogue:*

[South African War, 1899-1902 – Participation, New Zealand](#)

## **Web sites:**

[Encyclopaedia of New Zealand](#)

1966 Encyclopaedia of New Zealand from [Te Ara](#) which includes a brief article by D. Hall on the South African War.

## [New Zealand in the South African \('Boer'\) War, 1899-1902](#)

This comprehensive web site produced by the Historical Branch includes sections on the history of the war, women, Maori, opposition to the war, the Contingents, songs, letters poems, horses, memorials. It provides links to the Embarkation Database, the roll of honour, and *Dictionary of NZ Biography* articles about people involved in the war. It includes an image and media gallery.

A number of useful web sites, from a New Zealand and a world point of view, are listed under the following links on the library's internet gateway:

[New Zealand-History-Wars and conflicts](#)

## **Contingents**

### [Fourth contingent New Zealand Rough Riders from Otago and Southland 1900](#)

Photographs, including photographs of nurses and officers, named portraits of troopers and portraits of those killed.

Fyfe, F. [The 'Dandy Fourth' Mutiny: a tale of Wairarapa's first Boer War contingent of 1900](#) 1993

Malcolm, K.G. [The seventh N.Z. contingent, its record on the field, second South African Boer war, 1901-2](#) 1903

Stowers, R. [First New Zealanders to the Boer War 1899: history of the First Contingent of the New Zealand Mounted Rifles in the Boer War 1899-1902, followed by a description of each member](#) 1983

Biographies, pp. 12-68; first horses, pp. 68-70; prisoners-of-war, pp. 71-2; casualties, pp. 72-3; medals, pp. 73-5; honours and awards, p. 76.

Stowers, R. [Kiwi versus Boer: the first New Zealand Mounted Rifles in the Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902](#) 1992

Roll of NZ Mounted Rifles, pp. 140-2; biographical notes, pp. 143-223; G.R. Bradford, first casualty, pp. 224-7; honours and awards, pp. 238-244; casualties, pp. 244-259; medals, pp. 259-262; history of each contingent, pp. 263-271; NZ Mounted Rifles Association, pp. 272-4. Also includes notes on horses, uniforms and equipment, food, orders and prisoners-of-war.

Stowers, R. [Waikato troopers: history of the Waikato Mounted Rifles](#) 2008  
Boer War, pp. 37-53.

*For further information, you can also check the library's catalogue:*

[South African War, 1899-1902 – Regimental histories – New Zealand](#)

## **War memorials**

### **Web site**

[South African war memorials](#)