

## New Zealanders Serving with Other Forces, WWI

New Zealand has always known that its contribution to the First World War, in terms of human resources, was significant. An expeditionary force was raised which processed over 120,000 people, just under 100,000 of whom embarked and served overseas. But being a mobile society with ready connections to other parts of the globe, New Zealanders also made contributions through other places, other forces and in other ways. Though many served with other armed forces or in active civilian capacities at the various fronts (such as with the Red Cross), these have never been quantified or listed. The NZ Military Historical Society fills this void with a database of over 12,500 people (11,580 men and 920 women) whose contribution to the First World War has not until now been known or appreciated as a group.

### Who is Included?

The roll includes people serving in the non-NZ armed forces of the mother country – the 'United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland' - or her many dutiful daughter dominions (Australia, Canada, India and South Africa). But a number also joined up in the United States of America or found themselves called up in nations to which they owed historic obligations to serve (French, Austrian or German reservists). Some just chose an adventurous path or sought excitement in foreign freebooting.

What constitutes a New Zealander is a problematic topic. Anyone born here clearly qualifies but migrants to these isles have also given long and sound service. So if they were known to be residents pre-war with enough connections (education, family links, marriage, periods of employment, public attention or just that their 'fires burnt long' here, having *te ahi kaa*), they counted. Some also became NZ residents post-war and are also counted (there are only 140 in that category).

As well as the ground forces of other countries and dominions, New Zealanders also served in naval and air forces. The naval element could be argued to be a NZ service as NZ was part of the British empire with the Royal Navy as much a part of NZ's tradition as Britain's. But the attempt to create a formal NZ naval force just before the war was scuppered by the war, vessels on the 'NZ Station' being retrieved by the Admiralty (with a couple of exceptions). So Royal Naval service is taken as that of another country (a NZ Division of the Royal Navy was eventually formed, in 1921).

Naval service is divided into several sub-categories, distinguishing those who had professional RN careers, from those with reserve obligations (RNR) or voluntary enthusiasm (RNVR). Two dominion counterparts had formed, so some sought service in the Royal Australian Navy or Royal Canadian Navy. Akin to naval service, the merchant marine demanded time at sea which was very martial in practice, and dangerous, and is included.

With air forces, the selection is made easier by the comparative youth of the forces involved. The Royal Flying Corps and Royal Naval Air Service were both operating in the early years and were combined into the Royal Air Force which succeeded them in April 1918. The nascent Australian Flying Corps drew a few enlistees, but most budding airmen chose to fly with the British. An entry 'RFC-RAF' indicates the service could have been under either force, or both.

Many served with more than one force, the air forces for instance regularly combing the army for bright young prospects. Where they served with a NZ force (such as NZEF) and a foreign force, the fact is noted but details of their NZ service are not given. These can be

found at the ADFA or AWMM databases (See Glossary of Abbreviations) or through the personal files at Archives NZ.

Civilian service has been based on membership of and time spent overseas with organisations such as the Red Cross, Order of St John or other non-governmental medical bodies (such as the Scottish Women's Hospital). Many women served as members of the Voluntary Aid Detachments, giving assistance in hospitals and recuperation facilities overseas, but the creation of a NZ Voluntary Aid Detachment in 1918 complicates this somewhat (its members are included if they are thought to have worked in non-NZ facilities).

Finally, some sources merely state that a person enjoyed imperial service or served in imperial forces. Where the person's identity can be confirmed, this vague detail is retained in the hope that future research will provide more specifics.

In every case an attempt has been made to establish the identity of an individual. Sometimes only their initials are known, or their connection to NZ is unstated, but they have been left on the roll in the hope of future clarification. Where a name just could not be parlayed into a demonstrable person, they have been removed from the list (several hundred are in this category). Of course it may prove in the future that some or many of them did serve, or had enough connection to NZ to qualify.

### What is included?

Each entry carries the SURNAME and full FORENAMES (or INITIALS) of the person (with any alternative or ALIAS where known). This is followed by their known RANKS (lowest to highest). Next comes their SERIAL or SERVICE NUMBER, which was issued to them by the authority or FORCE in which they served, which comes next. Any UNITS they served in are detailed (when known), then their PLACE OF ALLEGIANCE. That can be anywhere from place of birth or marriage to where they joined up but often has a connection to their NEXT OF KIN who are usually parents, though siblings, spouses, friends or the non-existent could also be named. After that come AWARDS or DECORATIONS the person earned in their service and whether they died from that service, with the DATE of death, HOW they died and in which CEMETERY they are buried. Finally is a REMARKS column for any pertinent additional information. SOURCES then show where these facts came from.

A 'slash' or '/' in any of the entries indicates successive facts, so 'Private/ Corporal' for instance means that someone at one stage was a private and at another a corporal (and in this example it not does preclude that the person might also have been a lance corporal, sandwiched between the two ranks – or gained higher rank - only no evidence of other ranks was encountered). A question mark '?' denotes doubt.

### Statistics

The following statistics break down the 12,521 figure in terms of the force served with, and as a percentage of the total. These figures include a portion who served with more than one force, so a person who served in the British Army and then the Royal Air Force is included in both. About 590 are in this category.

Type of force served in	Number	Percentage
Australian Imperial Force (AIF)	5814	46.42
British Army	2534	20.23

Royal Navy & reserves	1147	9.16
Merchant Marine	744	5.94
Royal Flying Corps or Royal Air Force (RFC-RAF)	777	6.20
Voluntary Aid Detachment	691	5.52
Red Cross (any branch)	419	3.35
Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF)	403	3.22
United States Army (which may or may not include service in the American Expeditionary Force in Europe)	322	2.57
Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve	74	0.59
Indian Army	68	0.54
Australian Flying Corps (AFC)	61	0.49
Royal Australian Navy (RAN)	61	0.49
South African Forces	47	0.38
Imperial forces or service (ie actual force not known)	54	0.43
Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS)	40	0.32
Volunteer service (misc)	24	0.19
French (any force)	17	0.14
Admiralty service	6	0.05
Royal Marines	6	0.05
Munitions work	4	0.03
German Army*	2	0.02
Royal Canadian Navy (RCN)	2	0.02
Royal Indian Marine	2	0.02
YMCA	3	0.02
Russian force	1	0.01

\* This excludes 5 Samoan students who were reportedly studying in Germany in 1914 and were conscripted. They all survived the war, but their names are not known. NZ assumed responsibility for western Samoa in August 1914 when it was seized from Germany.

Of the total, 1658 are believed to have died during the war (nine of them women). This is 13.2% of the total who served in other forces. These break down by year to:

Year of death	Number	Percentage
1914	38	2.28
1915	307	18.43
1916	319	19.15
1917	544	32.65
1918	378	22.69
1919	40	2.40
1920	20	1.20
1921-23	12	0.72
<b>Total</b>	<b>1658</b>	<b>100%</b>

## SOURCES

Multiple sources were accessed to generate this roll. Compiling it was initiated by Herb Farrant who has a collection of lists, derived from the late David Corbett collection. It includes:

### **CORBETT COLLECTION**

1. List of New Zealanders serving in the British Forces other than the NZEF. HC Fortnightly Report No.2 of 12/9/16. D10/234. 'MC', 34pp [Archives NZ AAYS 8638 AD1 box728. Most names have a 4-digit 'Case' number, presumably for an internal system, not included here]. CODE '1916 HC'.
2. Supplementary list of NZ officers and men serving in imperial Units, Oct 1917. 'PE' [compiler's initials], 2pp, and 'NCOs and Men', 1pp, 'PE'. [HC office?] Code '1917 PE List'
3. List of New Zealanders Serving in Imperial units. 'Compiled by DBR', 6pp [HC office?] [augmented by hand-written notes of 'New Zealanders Qualified Kohimarama [Walsh Brothers Flying School] 1917 & recent commissions', 19 names. D Corbett? Not included] CODE: 'DBR List'
4. Supplementary list of NZ officers serving in Royal Navy, and Supplementary list of NZ other ratings serving in Royal Navy, 'PE', 2pp. [HC office?, Code 'RN Officers/Men PE List']
5. List of NZ Officers in British Army, 12pp [reproduced on 6pp]. Code: 'Officers 12pp List'
6. List of New Zealanders Serving in Imperial Units. 88pp (reproduced on 44pp). Typescript, n.d [Corbett?]. Code '88p List'
7. *Nominal Roll of New Zealanders Serving with the Australian Expeditionary Forces.* [Published] By Authority: John Mackay, Govt Printer, Wellington [September] 1915. 10pp. [Archives NZ record ACID17590 WA1/29[46], R25103288; This however is not the only such roll of New Zealanders serving with the AIF, see below, and is therefore included in the spreadsheet below.)

The above resources listed **2007 names** after removal of duplicates. Further research into some of those names would also identify duplications and inaccuracies.

### **OTHER SOURCES**

To the above list have been added additional names found in other sources, as listed below. This makes the Corbett Collection very incomplete when reporting the numbers of New Zealanders who served in other forces during WWI.

1. Archives NZ Archway database lists the files held of many New Zealanders serving with other forces. This includes army units, Royal Flying Corps and Air Force, and naval roles, and in other forces such as Canada's and South Africa's. [NZ's Archway listings are CODE 'Archives NZ Archway'.]
2. *Nominal Roll of New Zealanders serving with the Australian Imperial Force, Second Series, 1916.* [Published] By Authority: Marcus F Marks, Govt Printer, Wellington [July] 1916. 7pp. Alexander Turnbull Library, Pq940.467. No similar lists for 1917 or 1918 have been located. [CODE 'Nominal Roll AIF 1916']
3. Lists of New Zealanders with King Edward's Horse, Herb Farrant Coll
4. New Zealanders who died in imperial service in WWI, as published in *For King and Other Countries, New Zealanders who fought in other countries*, Glyn Harper, Christine Clement and Rebecca Johns, MUP, 2019. [CODE Harper, Clement, Johns 2019]

5. List of New Zealanders serving with other military engineering forces in WWI, published in Peter Cooke, *Won by the Spade - How the Royal NZ Engineers Built a Nation*, Exisle, 2019. [CODE 'Cooke 2019']
6. Christine Clement Collection. Various additional lists of New Zealanders serving with units such as Scottish Regiments. [CODE 'Archives NZ/ Clements']
7. South Canterbury District Museum, Timaru, roll of south Cantabrians who served with other forces, via Tony Rippon. ['SCDM Roll']
8. *Nelson College Old Boys Register*, published 1926, listing WWI service of all old boys. ['Nelson College OBR']
9. Miscellaneous additional published sources such as Clement Wareham, 2018, on the British Section NZEF. [CODE 'Wareham 2018']
10. Elizabeth Fisher collection relating to airmen. [CODE E Fisher.]
11. Auckland Grammar School Archive.

The above resources listed **12,526 names**. Further research into some of those names would also identify duplications and inaccuracies.

These names were then checked against various databases, as below.

### **AWMM Database**

From its Cenotaph resources, the Auckland War Memorial Museum supplied a list of New Zealanders who served with other forces, as generated for the official history *For King and Other Countries* (Harper, Clement & Johns, 2018). This spreadsheet has about **11,600 names**. This has been created by systematically scouring other sources such as the National Archives of Australia and National Archives UK for additional names.

### **ADFA Database/ NAA**

A newly-accessible database at the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA Database) of AIF personnel returns 2203 records for members born in NZ and 378 for members with a NZ address [[www.aif.adfa.edu.au](http://www.aif.adfa.edu.au)]. All prospective AIF members (over 5000) were checked against this database and, where not found, against their digitized file in the National Archives of Australia online resource.

The NZ Military Historical Society welcomes new entries and corrections to those in this database.

### **Glossary of Abbreviations**

ADFA – Australian Defence Force Academy  
 ANZ – Archives NZ  
 AWMM – Auckland War Memorial Museum  
 AFC – Australian Flying Corps  
 AIF – Australian Imperial Force  
 Br – British or Britain  
 CEF – Canadian Expeditionary Force  
 CFC – Canadian Flying Corps  
 NAA – National Archives of Australia  
 NAUK – National Archive UK  
 NZEF - New Zealand Expeditionary Force  
 RAF – Royal Air Force

RAN – Royal Australian Navy  
RCN – Royal Canadian Navy  
RFC – Royal Flying Corps  
RM – Royal Marines  
RN – Royal Navy  
RNAS – Royal Naval Air Service  
RNR – Royal Naval Reserve  
RNVR – Royal Naval Voluntary Reserve  
SA - South African  
US – United States of America  
VAD – Voluntary Aid Detachment

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