

UPPER HUTT

World War One Service Personnel and Rolls of Honour



“Now Granddad” statue - Upper Hutt City Memorial
Sculpted by Chris Elliott and Ross Wilson

For many years I was privileged to work with the World War One Service Personnel records when employed by the New Zealand Defence Force as a Personnel Archives Officer.

Some people thought that the records were just paper but to me they are the treasured stories left behind by the individual Service Personnel.

When the records were transferred to Archives New Zealand they also saw the value of the records and digitised them and in doing so made them available for everyone to research on their website.

I have endeavoured to record all personnel no matter what their service was and how weak or strong their connection was with the Upper Hutt district. Some served overseas, while others only in New Zealand. Many never saw service but registered with the 1st and 2nd Reserves. The War brought them all together under a common cause and their lives changed.

I apologise for any errors or if a Service Personnel is not recorded but every effort has been made to ensure that the details are complete.

My goal was to honour everyone and this includes the women and children left behind as during the war period everyone was affected by the War. By researching their stories we acknowledge the sacrifices they made for us all.



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Research behind World War One Rolls

The research began with transcribing the names of sixteen (16) World War One Service Personnel recorded on the former Upper Hutt District Military Roll of Honour plaque situated on the Memorial wall outside the Upper Hutt City Council Chambers on Fergusson Drive.

The local "*Hutt Valley Independent*" newspaper was operating during the World War One period. One of newspaper columns titled, "*Kia Kaha - Our Boys*" listed the names of locals who not only enlisted with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force but also the British and Australian Imperial Force. It recorded local farewells, letters home and information about the Service Personnel and their families. This newspaper was the most valuable resource and the foundation stone for further research.

By checking the list of names against the New Zealand Expeditionary Force Nominal rolls the rank, service number and next of kin details could now be recorded for each Service Personnel.

By researching the local Electoral Rolls and checking the list against the Nominal rolls additional personnel became known. The newspaper articles recorded the names of those who registered with the First & Second Reserve but were not called up to serve. I decided to include these names as many were descendants of early Upper Hutt settlers.

I had access to Ancestry website where the New Zealand Expeditionary Forces Nominal Rolls were available to search by district. Into the search field I typed Upper Hutt, Akatarawa, Heretaunga, Kaitoke, Mangaroa, Pakuratahi, Silverstream, Trentham, Wallaceville and Whiteman's Valley resulting in additional names to be added to the Upper Hutt roll.

By checking the compiled list of names against the Commonwealth War Graves website I began a new list for those who died. The Auckland War Memorial Museum (Cenotaph database) website was also helpful as well as the Defence Department publication "*The Great War 1914-1918 New Zealand Expeditionary Force Roll of Honour*".

The individual World War One Service Personnel Records had been digitised and were available to search on the Archives New Zealand (Archway) website. This was followed with additional research at the New Zealand Defence Force Archives in Trentham.

The end result of the research was a list of the Service Personnel who were all associated with the Upper Hutt district in one way or another. Some resided in the district, others were born here or were former school pupils, while others were employed and/or had relatives living in the district. A few were hard to locate their connection with Upper Hutt.

In August 1914 when World War One began and in the following 4 years the population of Upper Hutt increased when people arrived at Trentham to assist with the War movement.

Occupation's such as doctor, dentist, hairdresser, tailor and clerks assisted with the enlistment process. Jockey, farrier, blacksmith and horse trainer came to assist with the horses of the Mounted Rifles Companies at the Renault Depot in Gibbons Street. Employees of the Post and Telegraph took care of communications. New Zealand Railways Staff assist with transporting service personnel and equipment. Boarding houses were filled to capacity with wives and relatives accompanying personnel to Trentham. Many photographers set up businesses in the Upper Hutt district taking those most precious images of the Service Personnel.

Many Upper Hutt parents lost their children, wives lost their husband and some children never saw their fathers again. Those who returned to New Zealand were never quite the same as they left, but life had to go on so they had to pick themselves up and Upper Hutt moved on.

The research results on the Upper Hutt Roll of Honour were placed on my website 1 day before Anzac day 2014 and the Service Personnel Roll 2 weeks later in the same website.

Upper Hutt contributed so much during World War One so it is important that we acknowledge all of the World War One service personnel and the families they left behind.

Website documents

I have created various documents and placed them on my website covering the different subjects listed below. The documents list all the Service Personnel who were associated with the Upper Hutt district in one way or another.

Upper Hutt Roll of Honours

I have researched and listed the names recorded on the various Rolls of Honour in and around the Upper Hutt district. The Rolls include World War One and Two.

Overseas and Upper Hutt t district cemeteries and memorials

I have listed the names of World War One Service Personnel associated with the Upper Hutt district that are buried or have their names recorded on the headstone in the different cemeteries in the Upper Hutt district. I have also included the Commonwealth War Grave cemeteries and memorials connected with Upper Hutt service personnel.

I have also listed the names of the service personnel in date order of death and theatre of war. This list shows when the families and the Upper Hutt community had their darkest day.

What was happening in Upper Hutt during World War One

One question that I wanted to know was the population of Upper Hutt during World War One and what was the effect of the local residents during the War period. By transcribing the School records from 1914-1918 I was able to establish how many children were in Upper Hutt and their parents. By transcribing the Wisers Directories, Otaki and Hutt Electoral Rolls I then had a list of residents over the age of 21. Then the valuation rolls listed the owners and occupiers of those residing in the Upper Hutt region.

Sources and references

Local Upper Hutt memorials and plaques
Hutt Valley Independent newspaper
The Great War 1914-1915 New Zealand Expeditionary Force Roll of Honour publication by New Zealand Defence Department
Papers past website
Archives New Zealand website Archway (NZDF service records, School Schedules, Intention to marry applications, various departmental records,
National Library of NZ
Alexander Turnbull Library (Wises Directories)
Commonwealth War Graves website
Auckland War Memorial Museum website
BDM Historical website DIA birth death and marriages
Ancestry website (Nominal Rolls, NZ Electoral Roll, NZ Cemeteries, NZ BDM)

Abbreviations

NZEF	New Zealand Expeditionary Force
nok	next of kin
DOW	died of wound
DOD	died of disease
KIA	killed in action
PTE	Private
RFM	Rifleman
CPL	Corporal
LT	Lieutenant
CPT	Captain
UHS	Upper Hutt School
MDR	Mangaroa and District Roll
UHC1	Upper Hutt City former Roll of Honour plaque
UHC2	Upper Hutt City new Roll of Honour plaque
RSA	Returned Services Association
