

## Reference Guide

# South African War Sources at the Hocken Collections



*"New Zealanders saving the Maxim," Bothasberg. Reader Access File, Pictorial Collections  
(New Zealand Army, South African War, 1899-1902). S07-092f.*

## Nau Mai Haere Mai ki Te Uare Taoka o Hākena:

### Welcome to the Hocken Collections

He mihi nui tēnei ki a koutou

kā uri o kā hau e whā arā, kā mātāwaka o te motu, o te ao whānui hoki.

Nau mai, haere mai ki te taumata.

### As you arrive

We seek to preserve all the taoka we hold for future generations. So that all taoka are properly protected, we ask that you:

- place your bags (including computer bags and sleeves) in the lockers provided
- leave all food and drink including water bottles in the lockers (we have a researcher lounge off the foyer which everyone is welcome to use)
- bring any materials you need for research and some ID in with you
- sign the Readers' Register each day
- enquire at the reference desk first if you wish to take digital photographs

### Beginning your research

This guide gives examples of material relating to the South African War of 1899 to 1902 (sometimes known as the Boer War or Anglo-Boer War) held in the Hocken. All items must be used within the library. As the collection is large and constantly growing not every item is listed here, but you can search for other material on our Online Public Access Catalogues:

- for books, theses, journals, magazines, newspapers, maps, and audiovisual material, use Library Search|Ketu. The advanced search - <https://tinyurl.com/mtske2x9> gives you several search options, and you can refine your results to the Hocken Library on the left side of the screen.

The Library Search Guide <https://otago.libguides.com/ketuhelp> contains helpful tips and assistance for using Library Search|Ketu;

- for pictures, photographs and archives and manuscripts, use Hākena - <https://hakena.otago.ac.nz>. Listing of the ephemera collection has just begun on Hākena; please talk to desk staff if you have any questions about this collection.

The Hākena Search Help Guide <https://otago.libguides.com/hakena> contains helpful tips and assistance for using Hākena;

- some of the photographs from the Pictorial Collections are available for viewing online via Hocken Snapshot at <https://hocken.recollect.co.nz/>. Some other photographs and artworks can be viewed at <https://otago.ourheritage.ac.nz/>.

If you have any enquiries about ordering or other research questions, please ask the reference desk staff – they will be happy to assist you.

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# Publications

Examples of useful books and articles relating to the South African War are listed below. Other publications relating specifically to this war can be found with a subject search on Library Search|Ketu for *South African War*. Several sub-headings relate specifically to New Zealand, for example:

- South African War, 1899-1902 – Regimental histories – New Zealand
- South African War, 1899-1902 – Participation – New Zealand

An official New Zealand history of the war was not published until 1949 (see *The New Zealanders in South Africa 1899-1902* by D.O.W. Hall listed below). For details of earlier efforts to produce an official history see the article 'Official war histories' in Ian McGibbon (Ed.) (2000). *The Oxford Companion to New Zealand Military History*. Auckland: Oxford University Press. A copy of this very useful *Companion* is on the Ready Reference shelves.

## General studies

Peter Cooke and John Crawford (2011). *The Territorials: the history of the territorial and volunteer forces of New Zealand*. Auckland, N.Z.: Random House. It includes information on the origins of the volunteer force in New Zealand and its involvement in the South African War.

John Crawford with Ellen Ellis (1999). *To Fight for the Empire: An Illustrated History of New Zealand and the South African War, 1899-1902*. Auckland: Reed. A generously illustrated history by the New Zealand Defence Force's official historian.

John Crawford and Ian McGibbon (Eds.) *One Flag, One Queen, One Tongue: New Zealand, the British Empire and the South African War*. Auckland: Auckland University Press. A collection of 13 essays on various aspects of the war.

D.O.W. Hall (1949). *The New Zealanders in South Africa 1899-1902*. Wellington: War History Branch. The official government history.

Alice St Clair Inglis (1902) *Souvenir of the First New Zealand Contingent South African War*. Auckland: Printed by Arthur Cleave & Co. A booklet detailing the war experience of individual members of this contingent. Includes individual photographs of members.

A Ron Jones, 'Fishing for the NZ Mounted Rifles', *New Zealand Genealogist* 28: 245 (May/June 1997), pp. 195-204 and 28: 246 (July/August 1997), pp. 270-5. Useful articles regarding researching individual soldiers.

Jock Phillips (1987). *A Man's Country: The Image of the Pakeha Male – A History*. Auckland: Penguin. Includes extensive discussion of New Zealand servicemen's experience of war, including the South African War, and its contribution to identity.

Barry O'Sullivan (2019). *New Zealand dress regulations 1852-1909: Militia, Volunteer, Constabulary, and Permanent Forces*. Wellington, New Zealand: Defence of NZ Study Group.

Richard Stowers (2002). *Rough Riders at War*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Hamilton: R. Stowers. Includes a summary of the events of the war, and a detailed list of New Zealanders who served in the war, including nurses. There is a copy of this book on the Ready Reference shelves.

## Rolls

For nominal rolls of the ten New Zealand Contingents which served in the war, see the lists in the *Appendices to the Journals of the House of Representatives* (AJHR), available on the ready reference shelves, or online via <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary>:

1900 H-6 – nominal rolls of 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> contingents

1901 H-6 and H-6A – nominal rolls of 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> contingents

1902 H-6, H-6A and H-6B – nominal rolls of 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> contingents

All rolls include rank, occupation, address and next of kin. The rolls of the New Zealand Contingents are also available on microfiche – check the “N.Z. Military” folder on the microfiche shelves.

For soldiers who died or were wounded, see the following lists in the AJHR:

1903 H-6 – South African Contingents: Particulars of claims from members for pensions

1903 H-6a – South African Contingents: Deaths of members of in South Africa and since leaving South Africa, and particulars as to locality, etc., of graves.

## Māori and the war

Ashley Gould, “‘Different Race, Same Queen’: Maori and the War’ in John Crawford and Ian McGibbon (Eds.) (2003). *One Flag, One Queen, One Tongue: New Zealand, the British Empire and the South African War*. Auckland: Auckland University Press.

## Nurses and doctors

Ellen Ellis, ‘New Zealand Women and the War’, in John Crawford and Ian McGibbon (Eds.) (2003). *One Flag, One Queen, One Tongue: New Zealand, the British Empire and the South African War*. Auckland: Auckland University Press. Includes some references to nurses.

James Elliott (1936). *Scalpel and Sword*. Sydney: Angus & Robertson. Biography of a New Zealand surgeon who served in the South African War and World War I.

A New Zealander [S. Hawdon] (c.1902). *New Zealanders and the Boer War, or, Soldiers from the Land of the Moa*. Christchurch: Gordon & Gotch. Includes a chapter on hospitals.

Sherayl Kendall and David Corbett (c.1990). *New Zealand Military Nursing: A History of the Royal New Zealand Nursing Corps, Boer War to Present Day*. Auckland: S. Kendall and D. Corbett.

Anna Rogers (2003). *While You're Away: New Zealand Nurses at War 1899-1948*. Auckland: Auckland University Press.

Richard Stowers (2002). *Rough Riders at War*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Hamilton: R. Stowers.

## **Women and the war**

Ellen Ellis (2010). *Teachers for South Africa: New Zealand women at the South African War concentration camps*. [Porirua, N.Z.]: Hanorah Books.

Sheila Gray (c.1993). *The South African War, 1899-1902: Service Records of British and Colonial Women: A Record of the Service in South Africa of Military and Civilian Nurses, Laywomen and Civilians*. Auckland: S. Gray.

Megan Hutching, 'New Zealand Women's Opposition to the South African War'; and Ellen Ellis, 'New Zealand Women and the War', both in John Crawford and Ian McGibbon (Eds.) (2003). *One Flag, One Queen, One Tongue: New Zealand, the British Empire and the South African War*. Auckland: Auckland University Press.

'Women and the Boer War', in Ian McGibbon (Ed.) (2000). *The Oxford Companion to New Zealand Military History*. Auckland: Oxford University Press. There is a copy of this book on the ready reference shelves.

## **Pacifism and opposition to the war**

Megan Hutching, 'New Zealand Women's Opposition to the South African War' in John Crawford and Ian McGibbon (Eds.) (2003). *One Flag, One Queen, One Tongue: New Zealand, the British Empire and the South African War*. Auckland: Auckland University Press.

Elsie Locke (1992). *Peace People: A History of Peace Activities in New Zealand*. Christchurch: Hazard Press. Includes a brief chapter on the South African War.

## **War memorials**

'South African War Memorials', *New Zealand Historic Places*, 74 (September 1999), pp. 12-13.

Chris Maclean and Jock Phillips (1990). *The Sorrow and the Pride: New Zealand War Memorials*. Wellington: Historical Branch/GP Print. Includes a chapter on memorials of the South African War.

Jock Phillips (2016). *To the memory: New Zealand's war memorials*. Nelson, New Zealand: Pottan & Burton. Includes a chapter on memorials of the South African War.

## War veterans

The South African War Veterans' Association of New Zealand (established in 1920) published an annual magazine, *The Veteran*, which includes general articles, branch news and obituaries. The Hocken's holdings are incomplete, ranging from 1935 to 1966 with some gaps.

## Personal accounts of New Zealanders at the war

Try a subject search on Library Search|Ketu with the terms:

- South African War, 1899-1902 -- Personal narratives

Holdings include:

Brian Connor (Ed.) (1989). *Still Jogging Along: Being the Diary and Some Letters of Pte JN Clarke, 9<sup>th</sup> Contingent NZMR*. Dunedin: Otago Military Museum. A photocopy of Clarke's original diary and letters is held in the archives at Misc-MS-1902.

James G. Harle Moore (1906). *With the Fourth New Zealand Rough Riders*. Dunedin: ODT & Witness.

Frank Perham (c.1959). *The Kimberley Flying Column: Being Reminiscences of Service in the South African War of 1899-1903*. Timaru: Printers & Publishers.

## Newspapers

Local newspapers of the day included considerable information about the South African War and are worth browsing. Many of these are available online via PapersPast <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>. The *Otago Witness* is a particularly valuable source, as it included numerous illustrations and photographs of the war, and of individual soldiers. For our holdings of newspapers, many of which are on microfilm, check Library Search|Ketu.



# Archives and manuscripts

Try a search for *South African War* on Hākena, the pictures, photographs, ephemera, archives and manuscripts catalogue. The main items we currently hold are listed here.

## Records of organisations

Hocken has the records of two organisations relating specifically to the South African War – the **Otago Patriotic Fund Committee** (ARC-0514/002) and the **Otago Fallen Soldiers' Memorial Committee** (ARC-0514/004). Please note that access to these collections requires the permission of the Hocken Librarian.

The Otago Patriotic Fund was first established in 1899 to provide relief for refugees from the Transvaal, but this was soon extended to provide relief for the New Zealand Contingents to the war and their dependents. It wound up in 1905. The committee minute books include details of applications for grants from returned soldiers from throughout New Zealand.

The Otago Fallen Soldiers' Memorial Committee was formed in 1902 to arrange for a suitable memorial for Otago soldiers – the Governor's scheme for a national memorial, the Ranfurly Veterans' Home in Auckland, was not thought sufficient. The Committee wound up in 1907, their monument at the Oval having been dedicated in 1906.

## Papers relating to individuals

**Eion R Garden papers** (Misc-MS-1093). These relate to Elsie Brown Grieve and Alfred Rose Garden, a New Zealand brother and sister who were living in South Africa during the war and experienced the Boer siege of Kimberley.

**Jessie Whitehead** (Misc-MS-1900). A collection of letters written by Corporal David Whitehead to his family both from Addington Camp and the troopship *Cornwall* before his arrival in South Africa. It also includes papers relating to his death in a railway accident in the Transvaal.

**Alex R Falconer: Letter to Jack Shaw** (Misc-MS-0364). Written by Alex Falconer while serving with the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Zealand Brigade in South Africa.

**Mrs BM Christie scrapbook** (Misc-MS-0749). A scrapbook of ephemera and other items relating to the life of William Alfred Saunders, including his South African War service.

**James N Clarke: South African War diary and letters** (Misc-MS-0814). Includes copies of Clarke's diary as a Trooper with the IX New Zealand Contingent, covering his voyage to and from South Africa and service there from March to August 1902; 2 letters to his

sisters, and tickets to the Borough of Mornington Social to our Returned Troopers, with a list of their names.

**Stuart C Scott papers** (Misc-MS-0987). Includes a June 1901 letter from Trooper Robert Lawrence, serving in South Africa.

## Photographs

The Hocken photographs collection (upstairs) has a reader access file where you can browse through copies of photographs that are organised by place and subject. It can be viewed online at Hocken Snapshop, <https://hocken.recollect.co.nz/>. See the file titled:

- New Zealand Army (South African War 1899-1902)

There are also bound copies of the illustrations section of the *Otago Witness*, which published numerous photographs and drawings relating to the war, including portraits of New Zealanders who died in action. The *Otago Witness* for 1851-1926 can be viewed via PapersPast <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>.

The Hocken also has several albums featuring South African War photographs. Among the significant albums are:

**Falconer album** (P1969-006, Album 91). An album of South African War photographs, including rare photographs of guns.

**Dick family album** (P1997-129/2, Album 403). Features photographs taken during the South African War.

**Otago Volunteers album** (P1992-001/06, Album 427). An album featuring photographs of Otago Volunteers serving in the fourth contingent. All are identified.

See Hākena for details and to look for further material. Please talk to desk staff if you wish to consult the photographs collection.

## Websites

**New Zealand History online** <https://nzhistory.govt.nz> This is the Ministry of Culture and Heritage's history website. It contains considerable information on the South African War, including a database of soldiers compiled from the nominal rolls in the *Appendices to the Journals of the House of Representatives*, and an index to people with connections to the war who appear in the *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography*. Take the links to 'New Zealand at War', then 'South African War'.

**Te Ara The Encyclopedia of New Zealand** includes a story on the South African War <https://teara.govt.nz/en/south-african-war>. Te Ara also includes many biographies of military people <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies> – you can find these by doing an advanced biographies search under 'armed forces' in the 'occupation/activity' field.

**Auckland Museum** <https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/> includes an online database, Cenotaph, of New Zealand servicemen and women who died at war, including the South African War. Follow the links to 'War Memorial', then 'Online Cenotaph'.

**Archives New Zealand** <https://archives.govt.nz/> Personnel files for those serving in the South African War are held by Archives New Zealand Head Office in Wellington. References to individual records can be found on their online catalogue, Collections search [https://collections.archives.govt.nz/web/arena#/,](https://collections.archives.govt.nz/web/arena#/) and some of these have been digitized and can be viewed via the website. Their war reference guide gives further information about their holdings <https://www.archives.govt.nz/research-guidance/research-guides/war-records>.

**The Army Museum** <https://www.armymuseum.co.nz/> at Waiouru is a specialist military museum.



his photo.

OTAGO NURSES ON THEIR WAY TO THE TRANSVAAL.  
Back Row: Nurses Harris, Piper, Hay. Front Row: Nurses Monson, Williamson, Ross, Campbell.

*Otago nurses on their way to the Transvaal, Otago Witness, 29 March 1900. Reader Access File, Pictorial Collections (New Zealand Army, South African War, 1899-1902). S10-143a.*

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<https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/hocken/>

For hours, please check our website:  
<https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/hocken/>