Reference Guide

World War II Sources at the Hocken Collections

World War II. Photographs Collection. Reader access file / S08-294.

Hocken Collections/Te Uare Taoka o Hākena, University of Otago Library
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 the types of material relating to World War II and New Zealand held in the collections. 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://goo.gl/HVNTqH 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
  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 Snapshop at https://hocken.recollect.co.nz/. Some other photographs and artworks can be viewed at http://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

Official histories and examples of other useful publications are listed below. This list is far from exhaustive and new works relating specifically to this war appear regularly. Other items can be found with a subject search on Library Search/Ketu using the subject heading World War 1939-1945. Numerous subheadings relate specifically to New Zealand, for example:

- World War, 1939-1945 -- Biography
- World War, 1939-1945 – Economic aspects – New Zealand
- World War, 1939-1945 – New Zealand – Songs and music
- World War, 1939-1945 – Participation – New Zealand

Books relating to specific battles and campaigns are catalogued under:

- World War, 1939-1945 – Aerial operations
- World War, 1939-1945 – Campaigns
- World War, 1939-1945 – Naval operations

A 1996 list of books relating to the New Zealand navy and its activities in World War II is included in the Friends of the Hocken Bulletin Number 17 – ‘75 Years of the New Zealand Navy’. The Friends of the Hocken Bulletin Number 47 – ‘Kiwis Among the Olympians’ – has information about Hocken resources relating to World War II campaigns in Greece. These are available in the ready reference area or electronically at: https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/hocken/otago038951.html

Official war histories

New Zealand’s official history of World War II appeared in many volumes, the last of which was not published until 1986. They fall into four general series –

- Campaign and Service Volumes
- The New Zealand People at War
- Unit Histories
- Episodes and Studies

Books in the four series are listed below – all of these books are also available online via the electronic text centre at [http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/](http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/).

**Campaign and service histories**


D. M. Davin (1953). *Crete*. Wellington: War History Branch, Department of Internal Affairs.


W. G. Stevens (1962). *Bardia to Enfidaville*. Wellington: War History Branch, Department of Internal Affairs.


T. Duncan M. Stout (1956). *New Zealand Medical Services in Middle East and Italy*. Wellington: War History Branch, Department of Internal Affairs.


**The New Zealand People at War**


**Unit histories**


J. F. Cody (1961). *New Zealand Engineers, Middle East*. Wellington: War History Branch, Department of Internal Affairs.


J. B. McKinney (1952). Medical Units of 2NZEF in Middle East and Italy. Wellington: War History Branch, Department of Internal Affairs.


**Episodes and studies**

Each of the two volumes includes individual essays on varied topics; each essay includes photographic illustrations. They were originally published as a series. The studies in volume one are –

- “Guns Against Tanks” by E. H. Smith
- “Women at War” by D. O. W. Hall
- “Achilles at the River Plate” by S. D. Waters
- “Troopships” by S. P. Llewellyn
- “The Assault on Rabaul” by J. M. S. Ross
- “German Raiders in the Pacific” by S. D. Waters
- “Prisoners of Germany” by D. O. W. Hall
- “Prisoners of Italy” by D. O. W. Hall
- “Prisoners of Japan” by D. O. W. Hall
- “Long Range Desert Group in Libya” by R. L. Kay
- “Long Range Desert Group in the Mediterranean” by R. L. Kay
- “Wounded in Battle” by J. B. McKinney

The studies in volume two are –

- “Aircraft against U-boat” by H. L. Thompson
- “Early Operations with Bomber Command” by B. G. Clare
- “New Zealanders in the Battle of Britain” by N. W. Faircloth
- “Leander” by S. D. Waters
- “Malta Airmen” by J. A. Whelan
- “Takarouna” by I. McL. Wards
- “Coastwatchers” by D. O. W. Hall
- “The RNZAF in South-East Asia, 1941-42” by H. R. Dean
- “The Other Side of the Hill” by I. McL. Wards, W. E. Murphy, R. Walker, R. L. Kay and A. G. Protheroe
- “Special Service in Greece” by M. B. McGlynn
- “Point 175” by W. E. Murphy
- “Escapes” by D. O. W. Hall
General works

There are many more recent books relating to New Zealand and World War II – try searching Library Search | Ketu. Some of the most useful general works are:


Reed has published a series of short histories by Matthew Wright relating to various World War II campaigns involving New Zealanders:


A useful calendar of New Zealand’s involvement in the war is:


Rolls

Nominal rolls of the New Zealand Expeditionary Forces 1939-1948 are available on microfiche - check the “N.Z. Military” folder on the microfiche shelves. Some nominal rolls are also available in hard copy:

*Nominal Roll Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force: Embarkations to 31st March 1940*.


Our holdings also include:


Personal accounts

There are numerous published personal accounts of the war – check Library Search\Ketu under the subject heading World War, 1939-1945 – Personal narratives, New Zealand. A useful edited collection is:


Staff of the Ministry for Culture and Heritage have edited a series of books based on oral histories. Each also includes an essay giving an overview that sets the context for the stories of servicemen and women. Included in the series are:


Māori and the war


Major books on Māori and the war are:


Nurses and doctors

For publications relating to medical and nursing services, including personal accounts, check Library Search | Ketu under the subject headings New Zealand Army Medical Corps and World War 1939-1945 – medical care. There are several official histories of the New Zealand medical and dental services – these are listed above with the other official war histories. Two general histories of New Zealand military nurses include those serving in World War II:


Women and the home front

There is an essay on ‘Women and the First World War’ in Ian McGibbon, ed., The Oxford Companion to New Zealand Military History (Auckland, Oxford University Press, 2000). There is a copy of this book on the ready reference shelves. Other useful publications are:


Judith Fyfe (Ed.) (1995). *War Stories our Mothers Never Told Us*. Auckland: Penguin. Recounts the experiences of a number of New Zealand women during World War II. This book is based on the 1995 documentary film of the same name directed by Gaylene Preston – Hocken has this film available to view on DVD.


Check Library Search|Ketu for further titles under *World War 1939-1945 – Women – New Zealand; World War, 1939-1945 -- Participation, Female*.

**Pacifism and conscription**

Publications relating to conscription and compulsory military training can be found on Library Search|Ketu under the subject heading *Draft – New Zealand*. For works relating to pacifism and conscientious objection try the subject headings *Pacifists – New Zealand; Peace movements – New Zealand; and Conscientious objectors – New Zealand*. Some useful books are:


**War memorials and graves**

Check Library Search | Ketu under subject headings *World War, 1939-1945 -- Monuments -- New Zealand; War memorials -- New Zealand*. Holdings include:


**War veterans**

For publications relating to war veterans check Library Search | Ketu under subject headings commencing *World War 1939-1945 -- veterans and Veterans -- New Zealand*. The New Zealand Returned Soldiers’ Association (RSA) was formed in 1916. For details, see:


There are several histories of the RSA (some in thesis form) – see Library Search | Ketu under *New Zealand Returned Services Association*.

**Newspapers**

The Hocken has a large collection of local and New Zealand newspapers, which include extensive coverage of the war. Many of these are available on microfilm. Check our holdings on Library Search | Ketu. There are a few newspapers with coverage up to 1950 now available on PapersPast at [https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/](https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/).

**Military newspapers**

The *N.Z.E.F. Times* was an official free weekly newspaper for members of 2NZEF, published between June 1941 and December 1945. It was initially published in Egypt and later in Italy.
It incorporated both war news and news from New Zealand. The Hocken has fairly good holdings, covering the whole period of publication with occasional gaps.

The Southern Cross was published in London by the NZEF Education and Rehabilitation Services “for the New Zealand forces”. It incorporated war news along with news from home and was published weekly from January 1945 to January 1946. The Hocken has most issues until mid-September 1945, with one issue from January 1946.

We also have some copies of Union Jack, the British forces daily newspaper, ranging between January 1944 and February 1945 (with many gaps). Some are labelled ‘Eastern Italy Edition’.

**Troopship magazines**

People aboard troopships en route to war (and a few returning) sometimes published magazines. We have the following publications:

*Aquitatler 1941*, published aboard the Aquitania in October 1941 for the 7th Reinforcements.

*Aquitatler 1942: Eighth Reinforcements*, published aboard the Aquitania in 1942.

*The Blitztourist*, published in Capetown 1941 for the 2nd Echelon aboard the Duchess of Bedford.

*Convoice*, published aboard HMT 24 (Nieuw Amsterdam) by the 4th Reinforcements in 1941.

*Serial Waves: Souvenir Number*, Transport no. 12, 3rd Echelon, published 1940 in Bombay for the 3rd Echelon aboard the Aquitania.

*Tonga Tatler*, published aboard HMTE 14, en route home to New Zealand, in 1945.

The above troopship magazines can all be ordered via Library Search|Ketu. We also have some troopship magazines in the archives collection – Aaron Fox’s military history collection (MS-1474/095) includes a folder of these (order via Hākena, the pictures, photographs, archives and manuscripts catalogue). Those included in the Fox collection are:

*Ake Ake Kia Kaha*, printed in Ceylon for the 5th Reinforcements aboard H.M. Transport No 25 (Mauretania), 1941.

*Borax 3*, published aboard HMT X3 (Empress of Britain) for the 2nd Echelon, May 1940.
**Cruisaiers H.M.T. 26,** published aboard HMT 26 *(Nieuw Amsterdam).*

**Outward Bound!** published in Cairo for the 26th Rifle Battalion, Divisional Signals, 6th Field Ambulance and NZASC travelling on the *Orcades.*

**The Queue Ship,** published August 1943 by the 10th Reinforcements aboard the *Nieuw Amsterdam.*

**Sixes and Sevens,** published in Dunedin as souvenir of voyage home to NZ aboard the *Strathaird* by those who had mostly gone overseas with the Sixth and Seventh Reinforcements.

**Tekapo, Victory Voyager,** published for those returning home to NZ aboard the *Strathmore,* September 1945.

**Troopship Tattoo,** published aboard the *Aquitania* by the 7th Reinforcements – we have both issues, published in September and October 1941.

**Te Waka O-Tu (The War Craft),** published aboard the *Aquitania* for part of the 2nd Echelon. We have the second issue, published May 1940.

*Aquitatler 1941; Aquitatler 1942; Convoice and The Blitztourist* are duplicates of those in published collections, listed above.


**NZ General Hospital magazines**

The NZ General Hospitals of the 2nd NZEF produced souvenir magazines. Aaron Fox’s military history collection includes several of these, which are collected together with the troopship magazines listed above (order item number MS-1474/095 on Häkena). They are:

- **Whareora: 1st N.Z. General Hospital 2nd NZEF,** published 1941 in Cairo.
- **Hospitiki (The 3 N.Z. General Hospital Magazine),** published 1941 in Cairo.
- **3 N.Z. General Hospital in Italy: Kia Kaha,** published 1945 in Italy.

We also have a second issue of **4th Generalities** which can be ordered via Library Search | Ketu:
Prisoner of War camp magazines

_Tiki Times_ was a newspaper produced by prisoners at E535, a working camp attached to Stalag VIIIIB, Teschen, Germany. Hocken has a copy of “a souvenir booklet of the camp newspaper,” published in 1950 and incorporating material from the original newspapers, published between July 1944 and January 1945.

The papers of T.B. Aitken include _Pow Wow_, newsletter of camp Stalag XVIIIA. Order via Hākena (MS-1186).

Music

A search on Library Search\Ketu under the subject heading _Patriotic music – New Zealand_ will turn up sheet music for various songs and marches, many of them published during wartime. Likewise, a search on the subject heading _World War 1939-1945 – songs and music_ will find many items of interest.

Video

Search Library Search\Ketu under the subject heading _World War 1939-1945_ and refine results to type ‘Audio Visual’ and library to ‘Hocken Library’. We have a DVD of the documentary _Colour of War the Anzacs_, published in 2004 using original colour footage from World War II.

Maps

We have several maps relating to World War II – check Library Search\Ketu under the subject heading _World War 1939-1945 Maps_.

Archives and Manuscripts

The Hocken has large holdings of archives relating to World War II, which cannot all be listed here. Try a subject search for World War 1939-1945 on Hākena – you can then refine your results to the archives collection.

Personal papers of servicemen and women

There are numerous war diaries, letters and reminiscences. The following are just a few examples.

*John Borrie papers* (AG-691). John Borrie was serving as a doctor with the New Zealand army in Greece when he was captured by the Germans. The collection includes Borrie’s diaries and other material relating to his time as a prisoner of war in Greece and Germany.

*Davidson family papers* (MS-1338). Jim and Jack Davidson were brothers from Clyde who both served during World War II– Jim as a gunner in B Troop, 46th Battery, 4th NZ Field Regiment in the Middle East and Jack as a pilot officer with 194 Squadron of the Royal Air Force in Singapore, Malaya, Burma and India. The collection includes a large number of letters written home to their parents.

*Alexander Smith Falconer papers* (MS-0804). Falconer was Colonel of the Otago and Southland Regiment, Royal NZ Infantry Corps. His papers include diaries from both World Wars, along with correspondence and military magazines and newsletters.

*Gweneth Mitchell diaries* (MS-2937). Gweneth Mitchell (later Gweneth Elliot) was an Oamaru masseuse who served with 3rd NZ General Hospital in Egypt, Syria, Tripoli, Italy and England. She kept detailed diaries from 1941 to 1944 (these concentrate on her social life rather than her professional duties).

*Duncan William Angus Trainor Diary* (MS-3954). Duncan Trainor served in the home service during World War II. This item is a photocopy of an original diary. The diary dates from 1940 to 1945 and details life in the home service during World War II.

Fox papers

Military historian Aaron Fox donated a large and diverse collection of records to the Hocken (MS-1474). These include numerous items relating to World War II, among them papers of individual servicemen. For further details check Hākena.
Ross papers
Angus Ross, professor of history at the University of Otago, served with the 23rd Battalion during World War II, winning a Military Cross. He later wrote the battalion’s official history. Ross’s papers (ARC-0504) include research material for the history, including correspondence, extracts from official and personal accounts and maps. For details see Hākena.

Conscientious objectors
Ron Malcolm was a committed pacifist. During World War II he was imprisoned in a military defaulters’ camp and his papers (AG-775) include a large collection of his letters written to his parents while detained. Try a search on Hākena under the subject headings Pacifists - New Zealand; Conscientious objectors - New Zealand.

Women and the home front
The Hocken has few archives collections relating directly to women’s involvement in World War II. Check Hākena under the subject heading World War 1939-1945 – Women. Two interesting collections are:

Joan Wood – scripts of radio talks (MS-1122). Joan Wood gave radio broadcasts every Monday morning on the ‘Home Front’, covering such topics as financial matters, food and fuel shortages, rationing, cooking hints, and the work of women and patriotic organisations.

Lindis Pass Ladies Patriotic Guild – minute book (Misc-MS-1196). This guild was typical of many local patriotic organisations. Started as a home nursing class, it later focussed on assembling parcels for troops and raising money.

Politicians
Politician J. T. Paul was New Zealand’s Director of Publicity during World War II. His papers (ARC-0191) include subject files of clippings, correspondence, booklets, reports and other material relating to his tenure in this position.

Records of organisations
Otago Provincial Patriotic Council (OPPC) (ARC-0514/002, ARC-0514/005, ARC-0514/006, ARC-0272/002). The OPPC was formed in 1939 to provide support and welfare for those serving in World War II. It also took over the functions of the World War I equivalent, the Otago Patriotic and General Welfare Council, once the latter’s funds had run out in the 1940s. The OPPC has been inactive since 1994. The Hocken holds minutes and other
administrative records of the OPPC. There are also administrative records of the Relief and Welfare Committee and the Patriotic and Canteen Funds Board. The OPPC’s files dealing with claims and assistance for individual World War Two soldiers and dependents were deposited by the Dunedin RSA and can be found with their records. Please note that access to all of these records is restricted – details of restrictions are given on Hākena.

_South Otago Patriotic Welfare Committee_ (97-059). Hocken has minute books covering the period 1940-1987 for this organisation.

_Palmerston Patriotic Committee_ (ARC-0163). The records of the Palmerston Borough Council include a minute book (1939-1945) for this committee. Please note that access requires the permission of the Hocken Librarian.

_Dunedin Returned Services Association_ (ARC-0272). The records of the Dunedin Returned Servicemen’s Association (later named the Returned Services Association) include minutes dating from 1917 onwards and membership registers from 1921 onwards. Returned Soldiers could apply to the Association for financial assistance – there is a series of index cards recording these applications. There are also files relating to claims for war pensions. Check Hākena for further details of this extensive collection. Please note that access to welfare and pension files is restricted for fifty years from the last date on file, with prior access requiring the permission of the Dunedin RSA.

_Green Island Returned Services Association_ (MS-1056). This collection includes minutes dating from 1932 onwards, along with other post-World War II administrative records.

_Kaitangata Returned Services Association_ (86-142). This collection includes minutes from 1926-1969.

_Middlemarch Returned Services Association_. We have minutes dating from 1934 to 1967 for this organisation (ARC-0272/003).

_2nd NZEF Association_ (AG-373). Hocken has records of the Dunedin branch of this now defunct organisation. The collection includes administrative records and newspaper clippings.

_3 N.Z. Division Association_ (MS-2138). Hocken has records of the Otago branch of this association, formed by those returning from service in the Pacific Islands during World War II. The collection includes administrative records, newsletters, publications and a large number of photographs.

_New Zealand Ex-Prisoners of War Association_ (AG-706). We hold records for the Dunedin branch of this organisation, ranging between 1954 and 1999.

_Crete Veterans’ Association_ (MS-3000). We have records of the Otago Branch, formed in 1970. These include minutes, records of anniversaries and a reunion tour to Greece, newsletters and various other administrative records.
Red Cross. New Zealand has been involved in the international Red Cross movement since 1914. Hocken holds the records of several local branches which cover the Second World War period. Check Hākena for details.

Toc H (ARC-0445). Toc H is a Christian service organisation originally established by an army chaplain for soldiers serving in Belgium in 1915. Returned servicemen later recreated the organisation in their home countries. Hocken holds the records of the Dunedin branch, established in 1927. The women’s section was especially active during World War II, knitting for soldiers and babysitting for working wives.

**Paintings**

The pictorial collections (upstairs) have a number of art works relating to World War II. Of particular interest are three sketch books of watercolours and ink drawings by William James Reed, who served with a Field Ambulance Unit of the 3rd Division in the Pacific. Reed’s vivid drawings feature military life in New Caledonia, the Treasury Isles and Guadalcanal. There is also a collection of water colours and drawings by John Ernest Brown, who served with British forces from 1940-1944, later migrating to New Zealand. Try a subject search on Hākena under World War 1939-1945 and then refine results to the pictures collection. Please talk to desk staff if you wish to access the pictorial collections.

**Photographs**

Some of the archives collections relating to World War II include photographs. In particular, see the Aaron Fox collection (MS-1474) – this includes a series of World War II photographs (among them several albums), which are listed on Hākena.

The Hocken photographs collection (upstairs) has a reader access file where you can browse through copies of photographs. Files of interest include:


*Conscientious objection.* Includes a collection of photographs taken at the Detention Camp, Whitanui, 1941-6.

These photographs can be viewed online at Hocken Snapshop:

https://hocken.recollect.co.nz/.
The Hocken also has a number of albums featuring World War II photographs – try a subject search on Hākena under *World War 1939-1945* and then refine results to the photographs collection. Significant albums are:


*Cyril Ryan album* (Album 523 [P2002-041]). This album of photographs belonged to Cyril Ryan, 5th NZ Engineers Co, serving in Japan in 1947.

Please talk to desk staff if you wish to access the photographs collection.

Websites and further information

**New Zealand History online** - [https://nzhistory.govt.nz/](https://nzhistory.govt.nz/) The Ministry of Culture and Heritage’s history website. Includes several essays on World War II. Take the links to ‘New Zealand at War, then ‘Second World War’.


**Auckland Museum** - [http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/](http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/) Domain Drive, Parnell / Private Bag 92018, Auckland. The Auckland Museum’s website includes an online database, Cenotaph, of New Zealand servicemen and women who died at war, including World War II. Follow the links to ‘War Memorial’, then ‘Online Cenotaph’. The Museum itself has a war memorial section devoted to war history.

**Commonwealth War Graves Commission** - [https://www.cwgc.org/](https://www.cwgc.org/) The website includes a nominal database of sites of war graves and memorials for Commonwealth servicemen and women who died in World Wars I and II.

**New Zealand Defence Force Personnel Archives** - [http://www.nzdf.mil.nz/personnel-records/nzdf-archives/default.htm](http://www.nzdf.mil.nz/personnel-records/nzdf-archives/default.htm) Personnel files for those serving in World War II are held by the New Zealand Defence Force Personnel Archives at Trentham Military Camp. Details of access to these is provided on their website, and they can be emailed via the website. The site also includes information relating to war medals.

**Army Museum** - [https://www.armymuseum.co.nz/](https://www.armymuseum.co.nz/) State Highway One / PO Box 45, Waiouru. A specialist military museum.

**Royal New Zealand Returned and Services’ Association (RSA)** - The website includes news and stories: [https://www.rsa.org.nz/](https://www.rsa.org.nz/)


**Second World War posters** - [https://collections.tepapa.govt.nz/topic/2307](https://collections.tepapa.govt.nz/topic/2307) Te Papa has digitised a few examples and made them available via their Collections Online website.

Ali Clarke, Hocken Collections, rev. April 2019