

THE NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL
SERVICE COMMEMORATING
THE BATTLE OF PASSCHENDAELE

Order of Service

12 OCTOBER 2017
TYNE COT CEMETERY
ZONNEBEKE, BELGIUM





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THE NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL SERVICE COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF PASSCHENDAELE 12 OCTOBER 2017

*Cover: New Zealand Engineers
resting in a large shell hole
at Spree Farm, Ypres Salient.
12 October 1917. Alexander
Turnbull Library
12-012935-G*

*A New Zealand signaller on
a bunker at Gallipoli Farm
in Belgium, 12 October 1917.
Alexander Turnbull Library
12-012945-G*



*Rifleman Melville Edwards
sitting with his daughter, Raey,
shortly before leaving for the
Front. Melville was killed at
Polygon Wood on 20 November
1917, only three weeks after
joining his battalion. Collection
of the Hawke's Bay Museum
Trust, Ruawhoro Ta-u-rangi
19344*

Foreword

Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou – warm greetings to you all. I welcome this opportunity to provide a message for the commemorative service to mark the 100th anniversary of New Zealand's participation in the Battle of Passchendaele.

A century ago, the impact of the battle was felt across New Zealand, touching every community. When news of the terrible loss of life reached our homeland, hundreds of families were plunged into mourning. In some cases, more than one family member lost their lives in the battle; and many families suffered anxiety about the fate of their loved ones who had been reported wounded or missing in action.

1917 was a hard and disappointing year for the Allied war effort. In New Zealand, as elsewhere, citizens began to question the scale of the sacrifice. More than ever, there was a determination to secure sustainable peace and security for New Zealand and other nations.

One hundred years on, Passchendaele still evokes images of slaughter and sacrifice in the national memory. Today, we pause and reflect on how those sacrifices were made in the hope of achieving a better and more peaceful world.

Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou – we will remember them.



The Rt Hon Dame Patsy Reddy, GNZM, QSO
Governor-General of New Zealand

About Tyne Cot



*Tyne Cot Cemetery, circa 1929
Archives New Zealand, ACGO
8398, 1A76/20, R22252516*

The Tyne Cot Memorial commemorates 35,000 Allied servicemen who died in and around Ypres after August 1917 and whose graves are 'known unto God'. Tyne Cot Cemetery is the largest Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in the world with over 11,000 burials.



*An advanced dressing station
at Somme Farm in the Ypres
Salient. 19 October 1917.
Alexander Turnbull Library
1/2-012928-G*

There are 198 named and 322 unknown New Zealanders buried here. 1,166 New Zealanders are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing.

On 4 October 1917 the 3rd Australian Division captured this ground. One of the many pill-boxes was used as an Advanced Dressing Station to treat the wounded (where the Cross of Sacrifice now stands).

Over the next six months, dead were buried either side of this Dressing Station. After the Armistice, Tyne Cot Cemetery was enlarged and remains were brought in from smaller cemeteries nearby.

The New Zealand Division at Passchendaele

Passchendaele has become a byword for the horror of the Great War. Fought between 31 July and 2 December 1917 in appalling conditions, the aim of the battle was the capture of the Passchendaele Ridge, followed by a strategic breakthrough.

No breakthrough was achieved, and frequent heavy rain, beginning on 1 August, turned the battlefield into a morass into which men, equipment and animals often sank without trace.

When the New Zealand Division entered the battle in early October 1917 there were still high hopes for success. General Herbert Plumer's Second Army launched successful attacks on 20 and 26 September, relying on massive artillery concentrations behind which the infantry advanced a short distance before halting and consolidating.

The New Zealand Division took part in the third of these assaults, on 4 October, with the Gravenstafel Spur as its objective. The attack, launched by nine divisions at 6 a.m. under a devastating barrage, was a stunning success. The New Zealanders advanced over 1,000 metres and captured 1,100 prisoners. The cost, however, was 1,600 casualties of which some 500 had been either killed or mortally wounded.

The great success of Plumer's three attacks led the British commander-in-chief, Sir Douglas Haig, to conclude that a knockout blow was within grasp if the enemy were given no time to re-organise.

The timing for the next attack was therefore brought forward, despite rapidly deteriorating conditions. The attack, which was conducted by British and Australian troops on 9 October on a rain soaked bog, collapsed with heavy casualties, with many of the wounded left on the battlefield.

Nevertheless, Haig ordered a renewed assault on 12 October. The objective for the New Zealanders was the rising ground at Bellevue Spur. Thick mud made it almost impossible to bring heavy guns forward, or to stabilise those that were in position, with the result that the preliminary bombardment was ineffective.

When the New Zealanders attacked at 5.25 a.m., they were pinned down in shell holes and unable to advance beyond the untouched German wire and intact concrete pillboxes. The toll was horrendous. 960 New Zealanders had been killed or would die of their wounds, and another 2,000 were wounded or taken prisoner.

During the month that the New Zealand Division was engaged at Passchendaele at least 1,900 New Zealand soldiers lost their lives and another 4,100 were wounded or evacuated sick. The impact on the Division and on families at home in New Zealand was devastating. It took many months to rebuild the confidence of the soldiers, while in New Zealand people began to question the scale of their sacrifice. Few believed that New Zealand could ever withstand another Passchendaele.



Stretcher-bearers carrying a wounded soldier in Belgium, 1917. Puke Ariki Heritage Collections, PHO2006-035



Above: Funeral of Lieutenant Colonel George King who was killed in action on 12 October 1917. 17 October 1917. Alexander Turnbull Library 1/2-012984-G

Right: New Zealand Rifle Brigade soldiers playing cards in camp near Ypres, circa 19 September 1917. Alexander Turnbull Library 1/1-002033-G



The New Zealand Defence Force Contingent

The New Zealand Defence Force Contingent has come from all over New Zealand for this commemoration. The Contingent includes a band, the Māori Cultural Group, ceremonial personnel (regimental colour parties, catafalque guard and flag orderlies), a group of 14 New Zealand Youth Ambassadors, Willie Apiata VC, Official Historian Dr Ian McGibbon ONZM, and BJ Clark QSM, The Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association National President.

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) band consists of musicians selected from the New Zealand Army Band, the Royal New Zealand Navy Band and the Royal New Zealand Air Force Band. Military musicians embody the ethos and values of the NZDF and the individuals selected feel a great sense of honour and responsibility in commemorating those who fought and died at Passchendaele 100 years ago.

The New Zealand Defence Force Māori Cultural Group provides a uniquely New Zealand perspective to the New Zealand services of remembrance, joining the protocols and traditions from Māori customs to those of the military.

The joining of the physical world to the spiritual realm heightens the respect and homage we pay to our fallen comrades.

Regimental colours are flags that bear selected battle honours and emblems of a unit's service and symbolise the spirit of a regiment. The colour parties' role is to accompany the regimental colours. The 2/4 Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (RNZIR) colour party is carrying the 4th Otago and Southland Battalion regimental colour which has 21 battle honours, including "Ypres 1917", "Passchendaele 1917" and "Messines 1917". The 3/6 Battalion RNZIR colour party is carrying the 6th Hauraki Battalion regimental colour on which are displayed 21 battle honours, including "Broodseinde" and "Messines 1917".

*Brass band playing at the
New Zealand Rifle Brigade
camp close to the line near
Ypres. 19 September 1917.
Alexander Turnbull Library
1/4-009492-G*





Order of Service

Announcements

Nicole Jamieson, Narrator

Please stand

Catafalque Guard Mounts

Belgian Flag Bearers March In

Please be seated

Please stand for the arrival of the Official Party

*Remain standing for the Parading of the
Regimental Colours*

**The Regimental Colour of the 4th Otago
Southland Battalion carried by 2/4 Battalion
Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment**

and

**The Regimental Colour of the 6th Hauraki
Battalion carried by 3/6 Battalion Royal
New Zealand Infantry Regiment**

*Please remain standing for the National Anthems
of the Kingdom of Belgium and of New Zealand*

National Anthems

The National Anthem of the Kingdom of Belgium

Led by Leading Aircraftsman Barbara Graham
Royal New Zealand Air Force Band

*O dierbaar België, O heilig land der Vaad'ren,
Onze ziel en ons hart zijn u gewijd.
Aanvaard ons kracht en bloed van ons ad'ren,
Wees ons doel in arbeid en in strijd.
Bloei, o land, in eendracht niet te breken;
Wees immer uzelf en ongeknecht,
Het woord getrouw, dat g' onbevreesd moogt spreken,
Voor Vorst, voor Vrijheid en voor Recht!
Het woord getrouw, dat g' onbevreesd moogt spreken,
Voor Vorst, voor Vrijheid en voor Recht!
Voor Vorst, voor Vrijheid en voor Recht!
Voor Vorst, voor Vrijheid en voor Recht!*

The National Anthem of New Zealand

Led by Sergeant David Fiu
New Zealand Army Band

E Ihowā Atua	God of nations at thy feet
O ngā iwi mātou rā	In the bonds of love we meet
Āta whakarongona	Hear our voices, we entreat,
Me aroha noa	God defend our free land.
Kia hua ko te pai	Guard Pacific's triple star,
Kia tau tō atawhai	From the shafts of strife and war,
Manaakitia mai	Make her praises heard afar,
Aotearoa	God Defend New Zealand

*Jacking up a field gun at
Passchendaele in an attempt
to move it forward. National
Army Museum Te Mata Toa
1999-929*

Please be seated

Opening Prayer

Chaplain Class 3 Hamish Kirk

Royal New Zealand Chaplains' Department

New Zealand National Commemorative Address

Right Honourable David Carter, MP

The Speaker of the New Zealand House
of Representatives

Waiata (Song)

Performed by the New Zealand Defence
Force Māori Cultural Group, the vocalists
and the band

Address

His Royal Highness The Duke of Cambridge

Representing Her Majesty The Queen of
New Zealand

Waiata (Song)

Performed by the New Zealand Defence
Force Māori Cultural Group, the vocalists
and the band

Address

Representative of the Kingdom of Belgium

The Weight of Command

Lieutenant General Tim Keating, MNZM

Chief of Defence Force New Zealand

Poppy and Pōhutukawa

Performed by Sergeant David Fiu and
Able Musician Rebecca Nelson accompanied
by the band

Youth Readings

Representatives of the youth of the Kingdom
of Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany,
and New Zealand

Prayer for Peace

Chaplain Class 3 Hamish Kirk

Royal New Zealand Chaplains' Department

The Wreath Laying

*Wreaths are laid at the New Zealand Memorial
Wall to the Missing*

The Commemoration

The Ode

Leading Electronics Technician

Codi Wehi-Ngatai

Mr BJ Clark, QSM

National President of The Royal New Zealand
Returned and Services' Association

Please stand

*At the sounding of The Last Post,
personnel in uniform are to salute*

The Last Post

*The flags of the Kingdom of Belgium and
of New Zealand are lowered*

Acknowledgments

Silence is Observed

Rouse

*The flags of the Kingdom of Belgium and
of New Zealand are raised*

The Blessing

Chaplain Class 3 Hamish Kirk
Royal New Zealand Chaplains' Department

Please remain standing

**The Regimental Colour of the 4th Otago
Southland Battalion carried by 2/4 Battalion
Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment**

and

**The Regimental Colour of the 6th Hauraki
Battalion carried by 3/6 Battalion
Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment
are Marched Out**

The Official Party Departs

The Belgian Flag Bearers March Out

The Catafalque Guard Dismounts

Please be seated

*Guests are to remain in position until invited to lay
floral tributes or to depart*

Closing Announcements

*The New Zealand Government would like to thank
the following for their support and assistance with
the New Zealand Service to commemorate the 100th
anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele:*

*The Government of the Kingdom of Belgium
The Minister-President and the Government
of Flanders*

*The Mayor and Community of Zonnebeke
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission*