

The First World War and New Zealand's Involvement

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The National War Memorial Park is being built for the 100th anniversary of the First World War that was fought from 1914 to 1918. All over the world, countries are making plans to remember what happened to their people during that war.

The National War Memorial Park is being built for the 100th anniversary of the First World War. The war was fought from 1914 to 1918.

The park will open in time for Anzac Day on the 25th of April in 2015. On that day it will be 100 years since our young country's first major battle.

The ANZACs

Anzac Day is named after the ANZACs - the men of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps who fought in the battle at Gallipoli in Turkey.

First World War

Just over 100,000 New Zealanders served overseas in the First World War, many of them young men who had never left home before. Some anticipated a great adventure but found the reality very different. More than 18,000 died as a result of the war and over 40,000 more were wounded.

When war broke out in Europe in August 1914, Britain asked New Zealand to seize German Samoa. This was New Zealand's first involvement in the First World War. New Zealand forces also fought at Gallipoli, on the Western Front and in the Middle East.

The Gallipoli campaign

On 25 April 1915 thousands of young men, far from their homes, stormed the beaches on the Gallipoli Peninsula in what is now modern Turkey. For nine long months New Zealanders, Australians and [allies](#) [3] from France and the British Isles battled harsh conditions and Turkish opponents who were desperately fighting to protect their homeland.

Over 120,000 men died in the Gallipoli campaign. More than 80,000 Turkish soldiers and 44,000 allied soldiers, including over 8,500 Australians died. Among the dead were 2,721 young New Zealanders, about a fifth of those who had landed on the peninsula.

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The Western Front

Twelve thousand five hundred New Zealanders died and thousands more were wounded fighting on the [Western Front](#) [4] in Europe. New Zealand was involved in many campaigns including;

- The Battle of the Somme in 1916
- Fighting for Belgium at Passchendaele in 1917
- Capturing the German-invaded French town of Le Quesnoy

The Middle East

The Sinai and Palestine campaigns of 1916-18 led to the Allied victory over the Ottoman Turks in the Middle East. The Sinai campaign set out to secure the [Suez Canal](#) [5] – a vital transport route through to Europe. The Palestine campaign captured Palestine, Jordan and southern Syria.

Quick facts and figures

- The total population of New Zealand in 1914 was just over one million
- In all, 120,000 New Zealanders enlisted, of whom 103,000 served overseas
- A total of 2,227 Māori and around 460 Pacific Islanders served overseas with the New Zealand forces
- In all, 550 nurses served with the [New Zealand Expeditionary Force](#) [6], and many others enlisted in the [United Kingdom](#) [7]
- A total of 18,500 New Zealanders died in or because of the war, and around 41,000 were wounded. More than 2,700 died at Gallipoli and 12,500 on the [Western Front](#) [4].
- The names of those who died are recorded on approximately 500 civic war memorials throughout New Zealand

Memorial Park will open in time for Anzac Day 2015. On that day it will be 100 years since our young country's first major battle in the First World War.

The ANZACs

Anzac Day is named after the ANZACs. They were the men of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps who fought in the battle at Gallipoli in Turkey.

First World War

- Just over 100,000 New Zealanders served overseas in the First World War (1914-1918)

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- Many were young men who had never left home before
- Some thought it might be a great adventure but found it was very different
- More than 18,000 died
- Over 40,000 more were wounded.

War broke out in Europe in August 1914. Britain asked New Zealand to seize German Samoa. This was New Zealand's first involvement in the First World War. New Zealand forces also fought at:

- Gallipoli (Turkey)
- On the Western Front (France and Belgium)
- In the Middle East.

The Gallipoli campaign

- On 25 April 1915 thousands of young men, stormed the beaches on the Gallipoli Peninsula
- For nine months New Zealanders, Australians, French and British soldiers (the [allies](#) [3]) battled harsh conditions
- The Turkish opponents were desperately fighting to protect their homeland.

Over 120,000 men died in the Gallipoli campaign;

- More than 80,000 Turkish soldiers
- 44,000 allied soldiers including 2,721 young New Zealanders (about a fifth of those who had landed on the peninsula).

The Western Front

Twelve thousand five hundred New Zealanders died and thousands more were wounded fighting on the [Western Front](#) [4] in Europe. New Zealand was involved in many campaigns including;

- The Battle of the Somme in 1916
- Fighting for Belgium at Passchendaele in 1917
- Capturing the German-invaded French town of Le Quesnoy.

The Middle East

There were battles in Sinai and Palestine in 1916-18. They led to the Allied victory over the Ottoman Turks.

- The Sinai campaign set out to protect the [Suez Canal](#) [5]. The Suez Canal is a vital transport route that allows ships to go between Europe and Asia

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without going around Africa

- The Palestine campaign captured Palestine, Jordan and southern Syria.

Quick facts and figures

- The total population of New Zealand in 1914 was just over one million
- 120,000 New Zealanders joined the armed forces and 103,000 served overseas
- 2,227 Māori and around 460 Pacific Islanders served overseas
- 550 nurses served overseas
- 18,500 New Zealanders died because of the war. Around 41,000 were wounded. More than 2,700 died at Gallipoli and 12,500 on the Western Front.
- New Zealand had the highest percentage (5%) of its military-age men killed
- The names of those who died are recorded on approximately 500 civic war memorials throughout New Zealand.

Māori keywords:

pakanga [8]	war
pae o te pakanga [9]	battlefield, front line, military campaign
ope tauā [10]	war party, army
toa [11]	experienced warrior, war veteran
Te Pakanga Tuatahi o te Ao [12]	First World War
Te Hokowhitu-a-Tū [13]	Māori Battalion

Audio Māori keywords:

- [pakanga - war](#) [14]
- [pae-o-te-pakanga - battlefield, front line, military campaign](#) [15]
- [ope tauā - war party, army](#) [16]
- [toa - experienced warrior, war veteran](#) [17]
- [Te Pakanga Tuatahi o te Ao](#) [18]
- [Te Hokiwhitu-a-Tū - Māori Battalion](#) [19]

Samoaan keywords:

taua	war
malae tau, laina muamua ole au tau, fuafuaga ole tau	battlefield, front line, military campaign
au tau	war party, army
toa	experienced warrior, war veteran
Taua Muamua ole Lalolagi	First World War
Le 'Au Tau o Maui	Māori Battalion

Tongan keywords:

tauhi / malu'i	war
mala'e tau, otu mu'a he mala'e tau, uki e kau tau	battlefield, front line, military campaign
kongakau, kau tau	war party, army

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to'a, angaitau, kau tau toulekeleka	experienced warrior, war veteran
Tau lahi 'a Mamani hono 'Uluaki	First World War
Kongokau 'a e kau Maui	Māori Battalion

Cook Islands Maori keywords:

tau'a	war
ngai tamakianga	battlefield, front line, military campaign
nuku	war party, army
toa	experienced warrior, war veteran
Tamakianga Mua	First World War
	Māori Battalion

Niuean keywords:

tau	war
male tau, mata hala he male tau, fakatokatokaaga tau	battlefield, front line, military campaign
tau toa, kautau	war party, army
toa lekaleka, toa motua	experienced warrior, war veteran
Koe tau fakamua he Lalolagi	First World War
Matakau Tau he tau Maui	Māori Battalion

Find out more about the First World War from the [New Zealand History](#) [20] website.

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[21]

Many New Zealanders thought that going to war would be an adventure but the reality was very different. Image: Public Domain.

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[22]

Life in the trenches was dangerous and difficult and often soldiers became sick because of the poor conditions they were living in. Image Public Domain.



[23]

New Zealand soldiers land at Gallipoli in 1915. Image Public Domain.

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Links

[1] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/the-first-world-war-and-new-zealand-involvement.mp3?uuid=5e87cdacf40b9>

[2] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/the-first-world-war-and-new-zealand-involvement-easy.mp3?uuid=5e87cdacf3ae5>

[3] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/memorialpark134/glossary#allies>

[4] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/memorialpark134/glossary#westernfront>

[5] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/memorialpark134/glossary#suezcanal>

[6]

<http://www.learnz.org.nz/memorialpark134/glossary#newzealandexpeditionaryforce>

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- [7] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/memorialpark134/glossary#unitedkingdom>
- [8] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/Field%20trips/memorialpark134/pakanga.mp3>
- [9] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/Field%20trips/memorialpark134/pae-o-te-pakanga.mp3>
- [10] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/Field%20trips/memorialpark134/ope-taua.mp3>
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- [12] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/Field%20trips/memorialpark134/te-pakanga-tuatahi-o-te-ao.mp3>
- [13] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/Field%20trips/memorialpark134/te-hokowhitu-a-tu.mp3>
- [14] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/pakanga.mp3?uuid=5e87cdacf4202>
- [15] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/pae-o-te-pakanga.mp3?uuid=5e87cdad000e5>
- [16] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/ope-taua.mp3?uuid=5e87cadd001df>
- [17] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/toa.mp3?uuid=5e87cdad002d3>
- [18] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/te-pakanga-tuatahi-o-te-ao.mp3?uuid=5e87cdad003c4>
- [19] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/te-hokowhitu-a-tu.mp3?uuid=5e87cdad004b5>
- [20] <http://www.firstworldwar.govt.nz/>
- [21] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/b-mp134-01-soldiers.jpg>
- [22] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/b-mp134-02-trenches.jpg>
- [23] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/b-mp134-03-gallipoli-landing.jpg>