

War Memorials

Read the Background Pages before attempting the activity	Curriculum Area: Social Studies	Strand Place and Environment, Culture and Organisation, Continuity and Change
Achievement Objectives	Understand how people view and use places differently. Understand how people participate individually and collectively in response to community challenges. Understand that events have causes and effects.	

- 1. There are war memorials and monuments all over the country, find out where your local memorial is and visit it. Take a photo of the monument or find one online.**

This is the cenotaph in New Plymouth.

Intersection of Queen and St Aubyn Streets, New Plymouth



Made of local andesite from a Mangorei quarry the New Plymouth Cenotaph (empty tomb) was designed by New Plymouth architect Frank Messenger. It was closely based on Sir Edward Lutyens Cenotaph in Whitehall, London. It was opened by the Governor-General, Lord Jellicoe, on 16th Sept 1924.

The building was completed by Messrs J.G. M.Russell, J. M. McCracken and A. Handley and the marble wreaths were made by monumental mason, W F Short, NP. The symbolically empty casket is on the top of the structure.

Inscriptions to conflicts in Korea and S.E. Asia were added by sculptor Filipe Tohe in the 1980s.

Inscription:

On both sides (*Incised in stone blocks*)

1914 -1918

1939-1945

Korea

S E Asia

(On inset granite blocks below)

Their Names
Liveth
For Evermore

(On eastern side below the above 3 small bronze plaques commemorating)

Left
V E Day 9th May 1995

Centre
The Great War
1995
75th Anniversary
of the end

Right
VJ Day 15th August
50th Anniversary
of WW II

Additional Information:

Ian Pritchard, *Frank Messenger: Architect*, 1994, ISBN 0-473-02500-0

2. Choose a soldier's name from the monument (or if you know of a relative who fought in the war use their name) and search for information online in the [Cenotaph database](#)

This is my Great Uncle Don Stephens who fought in World War 2. Sadly he died from wounds in the Western Desert and is buried in Halfaya Sollum War Cemetery in Egypt. He was only 23 years old.



FULL NAME	Don Henry Stephens
RANK LAST HELD	Private
FORENAME(S)	Don Henry
SURNAME	Stephens
WAR	World War II, 1939-1945
SERIAL NO.	62460
GENDER	Male
FIRST KNOWN RANK	Private
OCCUPATION BEFORE ENLISTMENT	Bushman
NEXT OF KIN	Mrs E.M. Stephens, R.D. Kaimai, Tauranga (Mother)
MARITAL STATUS	Single
ENLISTMENT ADDRESS	R.D. Kaimai, Tauranga
BODY ON EMBARKATION	Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force (2NZEF)
EMBARKATION UNIT	Infantry Reinforcements, 2NZEF
NOMINAL ROLL NUMBER	WW2 4
PAGE ON NOMINAL ROLL	WW2 334
LAST UNIT SERVED	21Infantry Battalion
PLACE OF DEATH	Western Desert
DATE OF DEATH	22 November 1941
AGE AT DEATH	23
YEAR OF DEATH	1941
CAUSE OF DEATH	Died of wounds
CEMETERY NAME	Halfaya Sollum War Cemetery, Egypt
GRAVE REFERENCE	22. G. 4.
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES	Private Don Henry Stephens was the son of Isaac Marks Stephens and Evelyn Martha Stephens, of Kaimai, Auckland, New Zealand
SOURCES USED	<u>Cody, J. (1953). 21 Battalion. Wellington, Dept. of Internal Affairs, War History Branch.</u> Commonwealth War Graves Commission. URL: http://www.cwgc.org Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force Nominal Roll No. 4 (Embarkations from 1st April, 1941 to 30 June, 1941)

Name: Don Stephens



What I found out about this person:

Uncle Don was from a family of 13 children. He is on the right hand side. He was an axe man and he worked in the bush and did competition cutting.

3. There are many war memorials around New Zealand, can you find out more about some different types of memorials such as bridges or trees and where these are located in New Zealand?



Above: Paterangi Land Wars graves, on road to Pirongia
Ministry for Culture and Heritage



Above: Te Rore New Zealand Wars Graves
Ministry for Culture and Heritage



First World War Memorial Bridge near Mt Bruce in the northern Wairarapa