

World War I military records can tell us more than just about our ancestors' service during the war.

## WWI Personnel Files

The New Zealand World War I Military Personnel files have been digitised and are available on the Archives New Zealand website through Archway ([www.archway.archives.govt.nz](http://www.archway.archives.govt.nz)) and are also available on the Ancestry website.

The files are multiple page documents that give the history of the soldiers service from signing up to discharge. Sometimes duplicates of documents (carbon copies) are included within a file, so look for the clearest copy. Likewise some of the documents have other documents glued to them and so these have been scanned to show information under the additional pieces of paper.

The documents within a file can be downloaded and saved to your computer which can help with the readability as you will have more options to enlarge the pages.

Beyond the service record of your family members there are two main forms within the document which can be helpful in the research of the wider family. The first is the Attestation form and the second is the History-Sheet.

## Attestation form

These documents were filled out by the enlisting person and will include their signature. This can be useful for comparison to pre and post war documents.

The form has a range of questions that

are completed by the enlistee, however like all information given, there can be errors or purposeful omissions. Information can include: birthdate and birthplace, parents names and birthplaces, length of residence in New Zealand, last address, occupation and employer, education level, previous military service, whether married and any dependent children and a physical description. Use this information to research for example their pre war employment.

Over the war the form changed and it can be useful to compare the forms of other family members to see if their form includes more information.

## History-Sheet

This form covers the enlistee's time in the military.

Information on the form includes: military unit, religion, next-of-kin, war service, conduct, discharge, medals, pension, marriage and childrens birth details.

The next-of-kin area can show the changing relationships within a family as family members die, change name or move. The addresses given can help you to trace the family from home to home and can be used in conjunction with electoral rolls, directories and newspapers to add to your family history. Maybe the house may even still exist and you can find an image online on Google Maps.

## We Will Remember Them