

THE FILM ARCHIVE

Ngā Kaitiaki O Ngā Taonga Whitiāhua The New Zealand Film Archive

ON DISK

*A MOVING IMAGE RESOURCE FOR
NEW ZEALAND CLASSROOMS*

ANZAC
PART ONE

ANZAC – NEW ZEALANDERS AT WAR

PART ONE: 1899 – 1918

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THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR 1899–1902

NEW ZEALAND'S OLDEST SURVIVING FILM 1900

The Departure of the 2nd Contingent for the Boer War (extract)

[1900] Duration 1.59

On Screen Text:

At the end of 1993 a small piece of nitrate film was deposited with the Film Archive. It appeared to be early New Zealand footage. The film was as brittle as egg shells. Even with extreme care, new breaks would appear with handling. In many places the picture layer had actually peeled off the film base.

However frame enlargements were shown to historians and archivists. Experts agreed that the film was of soldiers departing Wellington for the Boer War in 1900. This meant that we had found the earliest surviving piece of New Zealand film, and it might not be able to be saved.

Realising the importance of the find and using methods yet untried in archiving, Film Archive staff spent 160 hours repairing the film for transfer. It is both significant and poignant that the earliest surviving New Zealand film images are of New Zealand soldiers on their way to a foreign war.

FACTS & FIGURES

Duration 0:16

On Screen Text:

The 6,495 New Zealanders who went to fight the South African Boers were all volunteers & had to supply their own horses and equipment. 228 died and 133 were injured during the campaign.

WORLD WAR ONE 1914–1918

OVERVIEW

NEW ZEALAND AT WAR 1914-18

Landmarks: The Bitter & the Sweet (extract)

TVNZ 1981. Duration 3:59

Kenneth Cumberland talks about New Zealand's WWI experience in Palestine, Gallipoli and The Western Front.

FACTS & FIGURES

Duration 0:38

On Screen Text:

New Zealand's effort during the First World War is self-explanatory. 100,444 New Zealanders out of a population of just under one million saw active service. 16,697 died (1:6) and 41,317 were injured, a casualty rate of 58%.

The less recorded facts indicate that well over 1000 soldiers never recovered from their wounds, over 1000 were in psychiatric institutions for the rest of their lives, and apart from generally impaired health, soldiers succumbed to potentially fatal diseases like tuberculosis at far higher rates – soldiers died at four times the national average.

1990 TV ADVERTISING

1990 Commonwealth Games Advertisement

Lee Tamahori 1990. Duration 3:08

Set “Behind the lines near Passchendaele. 1917” Commonwealth soldiers lay bets to see who the fastest runner is, and decide they should do it again some day...” Is it significant that New Zealand would come up war as the narrative backdrop for its Commonwealth Games advertising? No-one else has.

GALLIPOLI

SHORT DOCO

Gallipoli : The Muddle That Moulded a Nation

Quilla Films 1985. Duration 13:41

On 25 April 1915, 3100 New Zealand troops landed on an un-named beach on the Gallipoli Peninsula. On the first day New Zealand suffered over 600 casualties. From then on it was a struggle to survive. Of the 8500 New Zealanders sent to Gallipoli only 1000 were classed as non casualties). 2700 died. The Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association was founded in 1916 by wounded veterans returning from World War I.

ANZAC COVE 2000

One Network News: 25/04/00 (extract)

TVNZ 2000. Duration 3:44

Lead item. Some emotional footage from Helen Clark's visit to Gallipoli features the opinions of young people who had traveled with the PM.

SILENT ACTUALITIES 1914–18

TERRITORIALS 1914

Territorials: New Zealand Brigade

[1914] Duration 0:55

Parade of the Auckland and Northland contingents of the main body of the NZ Expeditionary Force at Alexandra Park sometime between August and October 1914. Features infantry, mounted troops and cyclists. The Auckland Infantry Battalion was led by Colonel Arthur Plugge, Headmaster of Dilworth School. Plugge led the Battalion at Gallipoli but his poor leadership saw him relieved of command and he returned to New Zealand.

OFF TO THE FRONT 1914

Off to the Front

NZ Govt 1914. Duration 2:05

Final inspection of the Wellington contingent of the First NZEF by the Governor General, Lord Liverpool, at Newtown Park on 24 September 1914 followed by a march along Lambton Quay by the Wellington Infantry Battalion, commanded by Colonel William Malone who was killed at the head of his troops on Chunuk Bair. There were 2,500 men on parade and a crowd of 25,000–30,000 at the park. The troop ships were loaded and pulled out in the stream but it all proved to be an anti-climax as the news of a possible threat from the German Pacific Fleet delayed the sailing until a warship escort could arrive. This meant that the men of the Main Body were able to see the film of their own departure in the local picture theatres.

SLING CAMP 1917

New Zealand Boys at Sling Camp. New Zealanders in England

(extract)

NZ Govt / Pathe Freres / New Zealand Picture Supplies 1917. Duration 1:53

This film is of the training of recruits at Sling Camp in the United Kingdom.

These extracts show a grenade practice, trench fighting drill, a bridge crossing exercise (in reality filmed at the Tauherenikau River in the Wairarapa in 1915) and the final inspection and departure of a reinforcement draft of the Otago Regiment for France farewelled by the local Camp Band.

WESTERN FRONT 1917

Review of New Zealand Troops by Hon Walter Long (extracts)

NZ Govt / Pathe Freres 1917. Duration 6:38

Film opens with visit of Hon Sir Walter Long, Secretary of State for Colonial Affairs in March 1917 as the New Zealand Division were preparing for the Messines Offensive. Long is escorted by Major General Sir Andrew Russell, the Division commander. They inspect 2nd NZ Infantry Brigade and other units including the NZ Pioneer Battalion, later known as the NZ Pioneer (Maori) Battalion), whose second in command was Major Peter H Buck (Te Rangi Hiroa).

Followed by scenes of rifle grenades being fired, a Lewis (machine) gun in action, views across a desolate no-mans' land, officers struggling through the mud and flooded trenches and a line of soldiers marching through woods just behind the lines. Notice how several of the soldiers rejoin the line to be filmed a second time. The film ends with shots of hidden artillery firing from the ruined houses of a village and shell-bursts landing in the distance.

EXPEDITIONARY FORCE TRAINING 1918

Snow Man's Land [Expeditionary Force Training, Featherston Camp] (extract)

L W Mence 1918. Duration 0:55

By 1917 the training of new recruits benefited from the experience of three year of war and many of the training camp staff were by now veteran officers and NCOs. The film shows the results (advanced Lewis gun practice and mapping skills along with the regulation bayonet drill) as well as the lighter side of training: snowball hijinks between recruits and camp staff.

WESTERN FRONT 1918

Visit of the Hon W H Massey and Sir J Ward to Western Front 1918 (extracts)

[1918] Duration 2:19

This is the last of three surviving films taken of the 'Siamese Twins' , Prime Minister Massey and Ward, then Minister of Finance, on their frequent trips to the UK and the Western Front. Popular PR moves of the time obviously included the symbolic cigar, the patriotic speech, the message taken for folks back home, and the mandatory observance of the haka. Given that these images were shot just 4 months before the Armistice, and the grim 58% casualty rate for New Zealanders on active service, the whole affair seems remarkably jovial.