

THE MAADI ROLL

During the Second World War (1939-1945) a large New Zealand Army Camp was located outside Maadi, Cairo, Egypt. Maadi is the most exclusive area of Cairo.

On 5 August 1943 a large group of Mount Albert Grammar School Old Boys held a reunion at El Maadi Casino. As a record of their gathering they signed a document which was good-quality heavy paper. It is 26 ½ inch x 22inch / 675mm x 560mm. It has a carefully lettered work-of-art heading.



It is not known who the artist was, or how it survived two more years of war or how it ended up at School in such good condition, or how it was kept so well before it was framed. It could have been a gift from Vic Butler who was the first name on the list. He was the School's first All Black, 1928. He also played Cricket for Auckland and won New Zealand University blues in Rugby, Cricket and Athletics. He graduated MA in History and was the first Old Boy to come back here and teach (1930-1932) and he was the inaugural principal at Mount Roskill Grammar School (1953).

In the list, the soldiers gave their ranks in short form. The lowest ranks in each Corps is:

Private. Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment.

Gunner. Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery.

Trooper. Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps.

Long Range Desert Group, now New Zealand Special Air Service.

Sapper. [Pioneer/Combat Engineer] Corps of Royal New Zealand Engineers.

Signaller. The Royal New Zealand Corps of Signallers.

Other equivalent Ranks appear in the list, such as Driver and Bandsman.

The next rank up is Lance Corporal or, in the Artillery, Lance Bombardier. Then Corporal / Bombardier. During World War Two there was the unusual rank of Lance Sergeant which was given to a Corporal to allow him to fulfil the duties of a Sergeant. A Sergeant is the second in command of a platoon (30 men) or may have other duties in other Corps. A staff sergeant (addressed as Staff) may be a quartermaster. Next there is a Warrant Officer 2 (WO2) who would be Company Sergeant Major (CSM). He/she is addressed as 'Sergeant Major' and Warrant Officer Class 1 (WO1) is addressed as 'Sir' or 'Ma'am'. A WO1 may be a Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM).

The first officer rank is Second Lieutenant and then Lieutenant, ranks are then Captain, Major, Lieutenant Colonel, Colonel, Brigadier. The next rank is Major General who is head of the Army. However, there have been NZ Heads of the Army who held the higher rank of Lieutenant General.

Army units are often mentioned in abbreviated form in the Maadi Roll, eg:
 21Bn (and other numbers) is the 21st Battalion, an infantry battalion of the Second World War. It was part of the 5th Brigade, 2nd New Zealand Division of the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force (2NZEF). 5FldRegt (and other numbers) was one of the regiments of The Royal New Zealand Artillery. Also included were the 7th Anti-Tank Regiment and 14th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment and a Survey Battery.

Some personnel may be at Brigade HQ or belong to dental, medical, postal or other such units. In the lists there is first the military number, rank, signature, corps, first name or nickname and years at school. Also, in square brackets there is an added note if he has been decorated, wounded or worse. MID means Mentioned in Dispatches – an honour. Some have added messages such as “Cheerio Mr Gamble” or some such.

The List:

601523	Lieut. VC Butler	21Bn	Vic	1922-1925	[Wounded, MID]
76575	L/Cpl RH Bramley	2NZDivSigs	Bram	1925-1928	[Wounded, invalided home]
20045	Lieut./Col HM McElroy	21Bn	Mc	1924-1926	[DSO and Bar,ED,Wounded x4,MID]
4559	Maj GG Pryor	2NZDiv Sigs	Geoff	1922-1926	[OBE, MID]
61002	Gun LJ Fisher	6FldRegt	Lou	1927-1930	
23295	Lieut. GO Sims	32FIdRegt	Graham	1929-1934	[Wounded]
102120	Gnr RR Towers	7 th AntTank	Herb Jun	1930-1932	
1694	Lieut. BF Betts	6NZDivHQ	Fishbits	1926-1928	
8726	Sgt EJ Laird	27 MaGunBn	Eric	1927-1928	
26149	Lieut. BW Brock	5 FldRegt	Parvis	1932-1935	[Wounded]
6354	Sgt RJ Peace	Postal Corps	Jack	1926-1928	
14523	L/Cpl LV Leman	Postal Corps	Lemon	1932-1935	
64430	Tpr AJ Lowe	18 ArmdRegt	Fatty	1930-1933	
2744	Cpl AO Hegh	24 NZBn	Ball	1930-1932	
092831	Pvt EVE Felton	5BrigW/S Sect	[Ordinance Corps]	Nig	1936-1937
269145	Sigmn AC Campbell	2NZDivSigs	Colin	1934-1936	
023640	Pvt CJ Redmond	27thMGunBn	N----	1934-1936	[Died on Active Service]
28742	Lieut. FA Findlayson	4FldRegt	Lin/Little	1930-1932	
72643	Pvt CF Young	15LAD	[Ordinance Corps]	1931-1934	
419355	Pvt RG Watts	27McGunBt	Napoleon	1934-1936	[Wounded]
38204	Pvt RM Bennett	4FldAmb	Murray	1932-1934	
28925	Bdr JA Reeve	5FldRegt	Plum	1929-1932	
226175	Pvt SC Philip	21Bt/27Bn	Flip/Skinny	1934-1937	
405855	Pvt TR Shaw	21Bt	Ross	1934-1936	
48160	Tpr RG Coldham	18Bt	George	1934-1938	
40867	Cpl MD Bailey	Postal Corps	Bill	1929	
29390	Gnr A Massey	5FldRegt	Bill	1935	
23823	WO2 OC McKibbin	HQ4AmBde	Mac	1930-1934	
279690	Sigmn EG Bollard	2NZDivSigs	Ted	1934-1938	
63001	Trp JO McGuinness	4ArmdBde	Band Mac	1934-1936	
60155	Bde LB Stables	14NZLtAAREgt	Buck	1930-1934	
23742	Capt SB Edmonds	18NZArmdRegt	Stan	1927-1928	
2940	Lieut. GB Nelson	18NZArmdRegt	Gunboat	1931-1934	
62043	Sgt KR Jackson	24BT	Ken	1933-1937	[Killed in action]
60409	Lieut. B Bookman	6FldRegt	Barney	1931-1933	

22962	Lieut. FJ Haslett	5FdRegt	Jack	1931-1933 [Wounded, MID]
26194	Capt HG Vivian	4FdRegt	Giff	1926-1929 [MID]
19290	Capt LR Sprague	NZDentalCorps	Lacey	1930-1934
62396	Cpl DMW Young	HQNZArdmBde	Dave	1933-1938
453214	Pvt TP Warren	24Bt	Niko	1936 [Wounded]
23230	Lieut. JB Walton	5FldRegt	Jack	1924-1927
25558	Sgt CR Evitt	5FldRegt	Col	1927-1929
20465	Lieut. CA Potter	5BdeHQ	Ces	1927-1928 [Prisoner of War]
281619	Lieut. H Hanson	14LtAARegt	Howard	1935-1937
26674	Cpl MP Hook	2NZProvostCo.MilPolice	Mare	1924-1928
63415	Gun H Bartlett	36SurveyBtyNZArtl	Bill	1926-1929
66088	L/Bdr CHP Galloway	36SurveyBtyNZArtl	Charlie	1928-1931
24854	Sgt NE Wormall	6FldRegt	Noel	1928-1931 [Wounded]
39641	F/O McGlymont	38SquadronRAF	Adam	1932-1935
1775	Lieut. MLS Marsh	7AntiTankRegt	Train Boy/Max	1930-1934
20306	Capt SF Catchpole	5FldRegt	Catchy	1930-1935
242808	Pvt RL Dorreen	24Bn	Ron	1936-1937 [Wounded, invalided home]
446853	Gnr FR Nagel	6FldRegt	-	1922-1924
335033	Spr AE Rankine	18TroopsCoNZEngin	Alex	1929-1931
31602	Sgt JG Wells	18TroopsCoNZEngin	Jack	1929-1930
468508	Gnr DE Matheson	6FldRegt	-	1923-1924
23324	Lieut. JH Eccleton	4FldRegt	Joe	1928-1929
20751	Lieut. CJ Wood	14LtAntAirRegt	Chips	1932-1935
287246	Lieut. FJ Lea	24Bn	Freddy	1932-1935 [Wounded x2]
437913	L/Cpl FA Woodroffe	24Bn	Woodie	1935-1939 [MC,US Silver Star, Wounded x2]
20469	Capt GS Rogers	21Bn	George	1929-1931 [Wounded]
41327	Sgt WHL Hedges	25Bn	Bill	1929-1934
28876	Sgt RC Guildford	5FldRegt	Gilly	1925-1929
454488	Pvt RC Blennerhasset	24Bn	Blenner	1935-1936 [Wounded]
38209	Cpl GL Jackson	6FldRegt	Jack	1933-1936 [BEM]
66181	L/Sgt RC Kitcher	6FldRegt	Bob	1933-1936 [Wounded]
41869	Dr RG Hambling	4CompArmyServCorps	Rus	1933-1935 [Wounded]
35877	Cpl JG Blennerhasset	25Bn	Blenner	1933-1935 [Wounded]
28961	Bdr HN Boyd	4FldRegt	Nib	1933-1935 [Killed in Action]
35978	Spr JW Anderson	8FldRegt	Dinty	1932-1933
28975	L/Bdr FL Ingram	7AntiTankRegt	Ing	1924
63157	L/Bdr JA Walters	HQRNZEF	Snowy	1933-1936
36632	L/Sgt ER Brash	5FldRegt	Eric	1935 [MID]
62183	L/Bdr FA Walton	5FldRegt	Alf	1927-1928
14366	Sgt TG Steen	HQInfBrigade	Tom	1928-1932
2775	Capt CG Gentle	LngRangeDesCp	Charles	1928-1932
66250	L/Bdr OEB Turley	6FldRegt	Ossie	1927-1929 [Wounded]
17640	Tpr H Kaad	2DivCavRegt	Hans	1926-1930
19301	Capt MJ Wall	5CampDental	Mick	1927-1930
66085	WO2 EWGH Forsyth	4ArmBrig	Fatty	1922-1923
273965	Lieut. JT Sheffield	7NZAntiTankRegt	Sheff	1930-1933
66113	Gnr KG Cantlay	36SurveyBty	Roose	1930-1933
17618	Tpr GE Davis	2DivCavRegt	Eric	1933-1937
407560	Lieut. AWC McLeod	7AntiTankRegt	Haggis	1934-1935

47624	Sgt GL Pulham	HQ4ArmedBde	Graham	1932-1936
48632	Tpr BH Smith	2DivCavRegt	Bruce	1931-1934
36063	Pvt RS Riding	6InfBrigBand	Rid	1930-1934
19306	Capt NE Wickham	NZDentalCorps	Wick	1931-1934
23326	Sgt GM Fenton	6FldRegt	Gerry	1931-1935
29307	Bdr CC Fowler	5FldRegt	Chuck	1933-1937
48012	Gnr N Atkinson	6FldRegt	Norm	1932-1933
60147	Lieut. TRC Overton	14LtAAREgt	Tom	1929-1933
45496	Pvt RH Busfield	YMCA	Buzz	1931-1932
38111	Cpl AHW Harte	MedCorps,No3GenHosp	Bot	1926-1929
29909	Lieut. JD Jepson	24Bn	Jeppy	1927-1931
63813	Bdsm CH Bye	NZBaseBand	-	1928-1930
24736	L/Sgt SG Ryan	30BtyNZArtl	Groggo	1928-1930
34588	Lieut. IC McLeod	36SurveyBty	IC	1934-1936
48766	Lieut. OG McGregor	21Bn	Mac	1934-1939 [Wounded, killed in action]
24647	Lieut. OD Mills	29BatNZArtly	Jo	1926-1929
22963	Capt GL Haslett	5FldRegt	Fatty	1927-1928
603635	Gun AL Dodd	6FldRegt	Alby	1922-1924
8771	Lieut. MK Hanan	27MGBn	Mike	1931-1932
22989	Lieut. ATL McKistry	7AntiTankRegt	Mac	1929-1933
14414	Lieut. JH Hodge	18NZArmedRegt		1924-1927 [MC]
43020	Cpl HF Robieson	TroopsCoEngin	Huia	1924-1926

End of those who signed

Always Remembered
Middle East Pals whom Death Claimed

266306	Pvt R Amore	24Bn		1936-1939 [Killed in action]
63268	Pvt D Anderson	24Bn		1933-1935 [Died of wounds]
7898	Capt HD Ball	27MGBn		1926-1930 [Killed in action]
13470	L/Cpl NS Bathgate	AmyServCorps,6ResMechTptCo		1928-1930 [Accidentally killed]
23883	Pvt JM Becroft	24Bn		1925-1927 [Killed in action]
23081	Capt J Beesley	24Bn		1924-1925 [Killed in action]
28883	L/Sgt RHB Bond	5FldRegt		1925-1927 [Killed in action]
3483	Driver CS Brown	AmyServCorps,AmmoCo		1928-1929 [Killed in action]
20732	L/Sgt WF Coulton	27BtyHQ		1929-1932 [Accidentally killed]
60042	Lieut. CR Capp	24Bn		1925-1927 [Died of wounds]
?	Pvt JC NB Clark	?		1929-1932 [Died of wounds]
483028	Pvt GG Cummings	24Bn		1929-1930 [Killed in action]
23978	Lieut. JB Dow	21Bn		1932-1936 [Killed in action]
23322	Gnr WJ Dunlery	6FldRegt		1931-1935 [Killed in action]
29084	Sgt ROG Gross	14LtAAREgt		1928-1932 [Killed in action]
2835	WO2 NT Halcombe	18BnHQ		1927-1928 [Wounded, killed in action]
1486	Bdr TR Kerr-Taylor	4FldRegt		1932-1934 [Died on troopship]
203470	Pvt RM Lamb	21Bn		1935-1936 [Died of wounds]
60627	Gnr AK Lampiere	5FldRegt		1932-1934 [Died of wounds]
20174	Lieut. RRW McBride	7AntiTankRegt		1926-1930 [Killed in action]

23309 Capt RJ McElroy	4FldRegt	1929-1932 [Killed in action]
22781 Bdr FS Marshall	7AntiTankRegt	1929-1932 [Killed in action]
20050 Capt JRB Marshall	21Bn	1926-1929 [Killed in action]
3623 Sgt GJD Mellsop	AmyServCorps,4ResMechTptCo	1924-1930 [Killed in action]
6299 Cpl JD Melville	DivSigs	1923-1924 [Killed in action]
11692 Lieut. G Mills	20Bn	1927-1929 [Died of wounds]
24646 Gnr LD Mills	6FldRegt	1933 [Killed in action]
12329 Pvt GH Plummer	24Bn	1929-1930 [Killed while prisoner of war]
590010 Gnr HF Preston	-	1926-1928 [Killed in action]
28783 Gnr AH Pugh	6FldRegt	1931-1933 [Killed in action]
4009 WO1 SAF Purnell	RSM 22Bn	1928-1929 [Killed in action]
23059 Sgt CW Ranum	24Bn	1929-1930 [Killed in action]
23198 Major AT Rawie	6FldRegt	1923-1926 [Died of wounds]
21530 Pvt EA Reid	21Bn	1923-1925 [Died while prisoner of war]
20438 Major IM Thomson	24Bn	1928-1932 [Wounded, killed in action]
6662 Pvt WF Wall	19Bn	1926-1928 [Died of wounds]
4929 Pvt DLC Watkins	19Bn	1930-1933 [Killed in action]
3601 Cpl AMcK Weir	AmyServCorps,AmmoCo	1926-1929[Died while prisoner of war]
229657 Pvt AH William	21Bn	1931-1932 [Killed in action]
20712 Lieut. TB Wright	4FldRegt	1922-1924 [Killed in action]

Brian Murphy