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- [Get support](#)

The support you may be able to get depends on your circumstances.

[Currently serving](#)

While serving, the NZDF will take care of your health and wellbeing issues. If you have qualifying service, we may be able to provide you with home help. Register now with Veterans' Affairs, and when you need some support, we'll be ready to help you.

[Ex-serving](#)

We can provide you with health, rehabilitation and financial support if you have a condition related to your service. We can also provide home help assistance and financial support for you to commemorate your service.

[Family and whānau](#)

How we can support you, your family and whānau.

[Non-military personnel](#)

Non-military personnel can have Qualifying Operational Service in certain circumstances.

- [Remembrance](#)

We're proud to honour the service of the veteran community.

[Services Cemeteries and plaques and headstones](#)

We help look after Services Cemeteries. We're also able to contribute towards plaques and headstones.

[Commemorative funding](#)

There are two types of financial contributions available from the Commemorative Fund.

[Medals and service records](#)

The NZ Defence Force's Personnel Archives and Medals team administer medals and hold most New Zealand military service records.

[When someone dies](#)

We may be able to provide support when someone who had Qualifying Service dies.

[Your family's military history](#)

Learning more about your family's military history is a great way to honour their service.

[Certificate of Appreciation and Veterans' Pins](#)

The Certificate of Appreciation and Veteran's Pin recognise operational service.

- [Eligibility](#)

To be eligible to receive support from us, you — or certain family members — need to have Qualifying Service.

[Check your eligibility](#)

Check the support, services, or entitlements you may be able to get from us.

[Qualifying Service](#)

To get support from us you — or certain family members — need to have Qualifying Service.

[Living outside NZ](#)

You can still get support from us even if you live outside NZ.

[Eligibility criteria for family and dependants](#)

You may be able to get support if you're the spouse, partner, child or dependant of someone with Qualifying Service.

[Veterans of foreign militaries](#)

Veterans' Affairs New Zealand was established to support New Zealand veterans.

- [For clients](#)

We put veterans and our clients at the heart of everything we do.

If you have a question at any stage please contact us—we're here to help.

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We'll work with you to help you get the best support available.

[Your treatment card](#)

Your treatment card helps you get no-cost treatment and medication for your approved conditions.

[Your rights and responsibilities](#)

We want to make sure you have the best possible experience when you deal with us.

[Payments](#)

Information on payment rates and dates.

[How we make decisions](#)

We use a number of tools and processes to make decisions. This helps ensure each decision we make is

fair and treats our clients consistently.

[Living outside NZ](#)

You can still get support from us even if you live outside NZ.

[Other benefits](#)

You may be able to access a range of discounts and benefits. Not only that, your family may get access too.

- [For providers](#)

Information for providers of services to Veterans' Affairs and our clients.

[Treatment cards and letters](#)

To help you identify our clients, we issue treatment cards and letters.

[Invoicing us](#)

How to invoice us to ensure we pay you quickly and correctly.

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Information for healthcare professionals providing treatment to our clients.

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Guidance for councils and local authorities relating to services cemeteries and memorials

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Forms for our clients, family and whānau, and our providers.

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## 34 memorial plaques unveiled at Mount View Cemetery

### 34 memorial plaques unveiled at Mount View Cemetery

Barry Rankin, a Marton resident and life member of the RSA, made it his mission to discover the final resting

places of New Zealand servicemen who died while at Lake Alice psychiatric hospital.

Barry Rankin kneeling at a memorial plaque in a cemetery



Barry Rankin at Mt. View Cemetery

Those World War I and II veterans who died while in the care of the hospital were often buried in Mt. View Cemetery, but their graves were unmarked.

In 2016, a member of the public approached Rankin to help find the grave of her uncle, a returned serviceman who she believed had died at Lake Alice.

He found a record of the burial and, with the help of the Rangitikei District Council and Archives New Zealand, discovered the names and locations of other servicemen who died at Lake Alice.

He has now identified the final resting places of over 30 servicemen and has helped to connect the deceased with living relatives.

Rankin believes that it is important for families to know where their loved ones are buried. Veterans' Affairs has helped by determining the service records of the deceased veterans and funding gravestones and plaques.

Marti Eller, deputy head of Veterans' Affairs, praised Rankin for his hard work and care in locating the last resting places of these veterans.

Many of these soldiers had suffered from shell shock, a psychological trauma caused by the stresses of war. They were admitted for treatment to the psychiatric hospital, sometimes without their families knowing.

## **Rededication ceremony**

On February 4, 2023, these servicemen were honoured at an unveiling and rededication ceremony at Mt View Cemetery.

Organised by the Marton RSA and the Rangitikei District Council, guests were welcomed by Marton RSA President Alan Buckendahl and members of the 5th/7th Battalion. The speakers were Barry Rankin and Marti Eller, and prayer was led by the Padre from 5th/7th Battalion.



Barry Rankin speaking at the ceremony



Marti Eller speaking at the ceremony

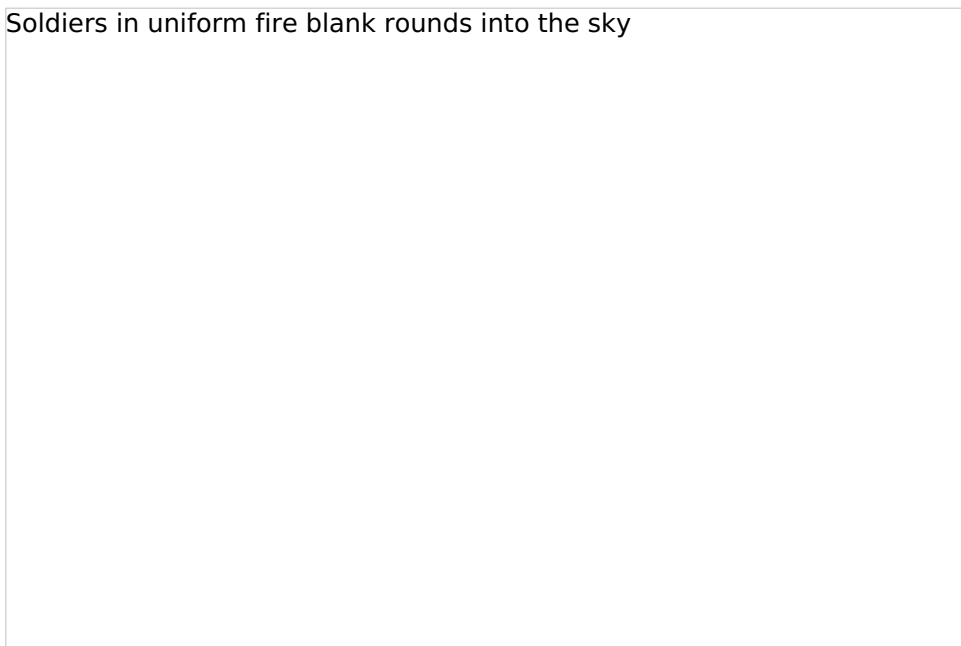
A flyover of Beechcraft T-6 Texan II aircraft by officers of 14 Squadron RNZAF Base Ohakea added another tribute to the event.



Flyover of the Beechcraft T-6 Texan II aircraft

WO1 Matt Bedford led the 5th/7th Battalion to fire off volleys, followed by the Bugler sounding the Last Post and Reveille.

Soldiers in uniform fire blank rounds into the sky



5th/7th Battalion performing a volley fire

The ceremony concluded with the unveiling of the 34 plaques by members of 5th/7th Battalion.

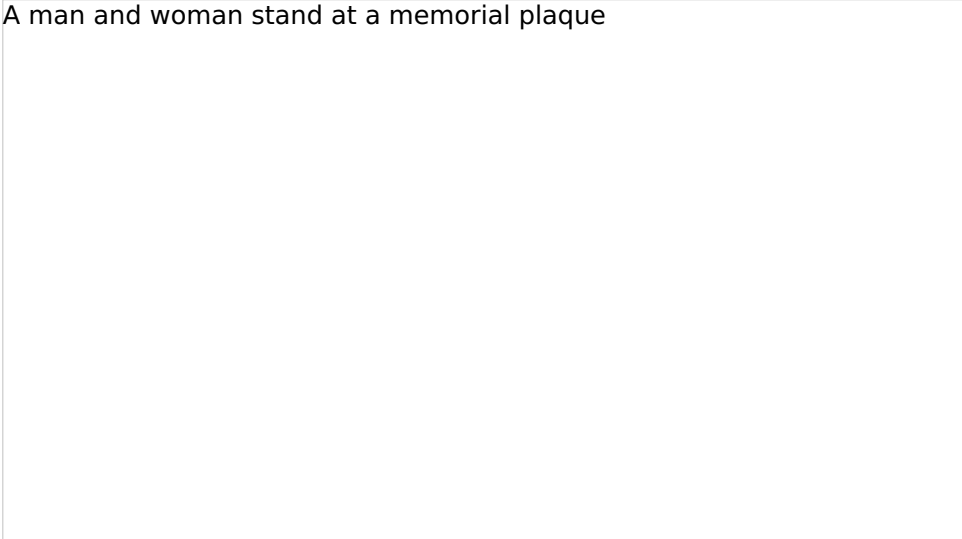
Close up of two people standing over a new plaque



A newly unveiled memorial plaque

One of the servicemen honoured at the event was Edward Knipe, a gunlayer who had served in North Africa. His nephew, Barry Knipe, remembers him as someone who had lived with his family in Lower Hutt after he returned from the war.

A man and woman stand at a memorial plaque



Colleen Treadwell and Barry Knipe pay respects to their uncle Edward Knipe now honoured with a new plaque on the previously unmarked grave

Knipe recalls that his uncle was a lovely man, though a bit of a loner, and had received war medals, but the family had no idea what had happened to them.

Edward Knipe had been lying in an unmarked grave since 1976, and his war service was only now being properly recognised.

The Marton RSA would like to hear from anyone who may have had a relative or knows of a serviceman who was at Lake Alice and maybe buried at Mt View Cemetery.

A circular wreath of flowers with a note in the middle

One of the many wreaths that were lain during the ceremony

**Date**

01 March 2023

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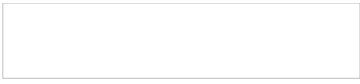
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