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WHEN THE EMPIRE CALLS

Patriotic Organisations In  
New Zealand During  
The Great War

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Patriotic Organisations In  
New Zealand During  
The Great War

'If we are wise we shall bundle every Hun out  
of the country.'

Lady Anna Stout, President of the  
Women's Anti-German League.  
(Hawkes Bay Herald, 20 June 1916, p.6)

A thesis presented in partial  
fulfilment of the requirements for the degree  
of Master of Arts  
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Graham Hucker

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Abbreviations

AFEL	All For Empire League
AJHR	Appendices to the Journals of the House of Representatives
APPWRA	Auckland Provincial Patriotic and War Relief Association
AR	Auckland Institute and Museum Library
AWN	Auckland Weekly News
EDPL	Empire Defenders Parents League
ESL	Empire Service League
ETL	Empire Trade League
HBH	Hawkes Bay Herald
MDT	Manawatu Daily Times
NDL	National Defence League
NZH	New Zealand Herald
NZPD	New Zealand Parliamentary Debates
NZT	New Zealand Times
SDL	Second Division League
WAGL	Women's Anti-German League
Warc	National Archives

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## PREFACE

One noticeable feature of theses completed in New Zealand in recent years has been the absence of studies dealing explicitly with aspects of the Great War. Some thesis writers have used the War years as convenient departure and initiation points for their particular topics of study. Others have spanned the War years using a wider chronological context with the result that a limited number of studies have been presented on the watershed years 1914 to 1918.

Upon researching this topic, maps were constructed to plot the location of patriotic organisations and kindred bodies active during the War in an attempt to achieve some sort of illustrative perspective. The ensuing result virtually left no corner of New Zealand untouched. The situation is quite different today however. At present there exist fourteen provincial patriotic councils which focus primarily on the Second World War. The only exception being the Otago Provincial Patriotic Council which has retained files covering the Great War. These files have recently passed into the possession of the Hocken Library.

Documents, files and other related papers pertaining to patriotic organisations are held by the Alexander Turnbull Library, Auckland Institute and Museum Library and the National Archives centre. Annual Reports and statements of Accounts figure prominently in the quantitative make up of documentary material. A certain bonus for researchers exists in the form of a near complete set of minutes of the meetings conducted by the executive committee of the Auckland Provincial Patriotic and War Relief Association. It is this particular organisation which I wish to concentrate on throughout chapters two and four of this study, not because it served as a model, but because of the ease of access to material.



At this stage I welcome the opportunity to thank several people who have been most helpful throughout the research and writing stages of this thesis: my supervisor, Professor W.H. Oliver, who initially suggested the topic and gave me guidance; Dr R. Gwynn for allowing me access to his collection of the Auckland Weekly News; Simon Johnson for his comments and interest shown; the Reference staffs of the Auckland Institute and Museum Library (especially Lorraine Wilson), the New Zealand section of the Auckland Public Library, the Alexander Turnbull Library, National Archives and the staff of Massey University Library. I am most grateful also to the Alexander Turnbull Library for granting permission to reproduce photographs. I would also like to thank friends and relatives in the main centres who made floorspace available to me while on my research trips. Finally, I would like to thank my typist, Jill Cheer, for her contribution.

Palmerston North

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