

Tonga Honors WW I & WW II Soldiers



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In 1923, a War Memorial commemorating the men from Tonga who had served in the Great War was erected at Pangai Si'i, in Nuku'alofa. The names were collected by the Returned Servicemens Association of Tonga. Not all the men from Tonga were included, only those whose names had been submitted to the organizing committee. Queen Salote unveiled the Memorial on Armistice Day 1923. It has now had names from later wars engraved upon it, and is used every Anzac Day as the centre of commemoration in Nuku'alofa.

On February 2 the Kingdom of Tonga joined the many nations who have commemorated the 100th Anniversary of World War I and the 75th Anniversary of World War II.

The WW I issue depicts the War Memorial that stands at Pangai Si'i, in Nuku'alofa (Tonga). The WW II issue utilizes archive photographs of soldiers during the various aspects of training in Tonga.

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75th Anniversary of WW II
1939-1945

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ANZAC Day, which is a public holiday in Tonga, commemorates servicemen and women from Australia, New Zealand and Tonga who fought and died 101 years ago in Gallipoli during the First World War.

This year, on ANZAC Day, April 25, Tonga's King Tupou VI and Queen Nanasipau'u attended the ANZAC Day Dawn Service, marking the 100th anniversary of the service of Australian and New Zealand forces in the First World War, on the Western Front (France and Belgium) in the Battle of the Somme, with the support of Pacific Island nations, including Tonga.