

THE NEW ZEALAND MEDAL 1845-1866

Medals struck for the Maori Wars of 1845-47 and 1860-66 are complex, and reliable information about some of them is scarce. The obverse of all the medals shows the diademed head of Queen Victoria with a veil covering the back of her head. The reverse shows NEW ZEALAND on top and VIRTUTIS HONOR at the bottom. In the centre, surrounded by a laurel wreath, is the date of service. The ornamental suspender is of a design used on the New Zealand medals alone.

No fewer than 28 different medals were issued, of which one was issued undated. The medals were not sanctioned until 1869, and then only to survivors.



OBVERSE - Head of Queen Victoria, crowned and veiled to left. The crown is ornamented with alternate Maltese Crosses and Fleur-de-Lis. *Legend:* VICTORIA D:G:BRIT:REG:F:D. Below head is J.S.A.B. WYON. SC *

(*Omitted on some)



REVERSE - Within two branches of laurel, forming a wreath, the date of the services for which the medal is given.

Legend: Above, NEW ZEALAND. Below, VIRTUTIS HONOR.

RIM - The name, rank and unit of the recipient is indented or engraved.

SUSPENDER - A silver bar representing a fern leaf split down the centre, the butt joining the claw by which it is attached to the medal.

RIBBON - Dark blue, 1¼ inches wide, with a broad red stripe down the centre.