

Application concerning the Posthumous Issue of the New Zealand Special Service Medal (Erebus)

NEW ZEALAND STATUTORY DECLARATION

- *This Statutory Declaration may only be completed by the person who believes that they have the highest legal claim in accordance with the order of entitlement shown in the list contained in the "How to Apply" instructions.*
- *All deletions or corrections are to be initialled.*

I (full name) _____
*Here insert **title** and **full name** of person making the declaration.*

of (full address) _____

_____ Postcode _____ Telephone () _____

do solemnly and sincerely declare: That I wish to apply for a posthumous issue of the New Zealand Special Service Medal (Erebus) in respect of the following deceased person:

Rank	Family name	Given name(s)	
Rank on discharge	Service number(s)	Date of birth	Date deceased
Service	<input type="checkbox"/> NZ Police <input type="checkbox"/> United States Navy <input type="checkbox"/> Civilian <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify below).	Citizenship	

Details of Service related to the Erebus Plane Crash of 28 November 1979

Location (if known) (delete not applicable)	Dates served (if known)	Service / Organisation served with (e.g. NZ Police, US Navy, NZ Antarctic Research Programme)
The crash site, Mount Erebus. Supply or support flights to and from the crash site on Mount Erebus. Williams Field, McMurdo Station. Mortuary, Auckland University School of Medicine, Auckland.		

Nature or work and specific tasks performed while serving in the above location(s) (if known)

Number of pages of Proof of Service material (if any) enclosed with this application: _____

I declare that I am (*Relationship**) _____ to the above deceased,

**Insert title of relationship from Instructions*

and believe that I am the person entitled to receive the New Zealand Special Service Medal (Erebus). I further undertake that, should an applicant having a preferential claim come forward in the future, I will surrender the Medal in his or her favour, and hereby indemnify the New Zealand Defence Force and the New Zealand Police against any claim arising from the incorrect award of the medal.

I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true in every particular, and by virtue of the Oaths and Declarations Act 1957.

Signature of person making declaration _____

Declared at _____ on the _____ day of _____ (month) _____ (year)

before me, _____ (Print name)

Signature of the person before whom the declaration is made _____

Justice of the Peace / Solicitor / Officer duly authorised to take Statutory Declarations (Delete as appropriate)

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Instructions for completion

About the New Zealand Special Service Medal (Erebus)

The New Zealand Special Service Medal, (NZSSM), (Erebus) is awarded to those New Zealanders, and citizens of the United States of America and other countries, who were involved with the extremely difficult and very unpleasant, hazardous, and extreme circumstances associated with the body recovery, crash investigation and victim identification phases of Operation Overdue. Operation Overdue was mounted by the New Zealand Police following the crash of Air New Zealand DC-10-30 ZK-NZP Flight TE901 on the north slope of Mount Erebus, Ross Island, Antarctica on 28 November 1979, with the loss of all 257 passengers and crew.

The recovery and investigation phase of Operation Overdue lasted in Antarctica from 29 November 1979 to 12 December 1979. The identification phase of the operation at the mortuary of the Auckland University School of Medicine lasted from 6 December 1979 to 12 February 1980.

Service at one or more of the following locations will qualify persons for the award of the NZSSM (Erebus):

- i) the crash site, Mount Erebus;
- ii) on supply or support flights to and from the crash site;
- iii) at Williams Field, McMurdo Station; or
- iv) the Mortuary, Auckland University School of Medicine, Auckland.

Service being recognised

The medal recognises the extremely difficult and very unpleasant, hazardous, and extreme circumstances associated with service with Operation Overdue involving—

(a) the following physical risks:

- (i) the debris, wreckage debris, and contaminated wreckage trail from the Erebus crash at the Erebus crash site;
- (ii) the extreme climatic conditions at the crash site;
- (iii) the hazardous physical location of, and conditions at, the crash site;

(b) the following psychological risks:

- (i) body recovery;
- (ii) victim identification;
- (iii) the scale of the tragedy of the Erebus crash;
- (iv) the fact that some of the victims of the Erebus crash were personally known to those providing services in the aftermath of the crash.

Persons eligible for the medal

The following persons can be awarded the NZSSM (Erebus):

- (a) all persons who were involved, at any time between 29 November 1979 and 12 December 1979,
 - (i) at the crash site with body recovery work; or
 - (ii) at the crash site with the provision of support for body recovery work; or
 - (iii) supply or support flights to and from the crash site for body recovery purposes; or
 - (iv) at Williams Field at McMurdo Station with the processing or packing of victims' remains and personal effects from the Erebus crash for transportation to New Zealand;

- (b) all persons who were involved, at any time between 6 December 1979 and 12 February 1980, at the mortuary located at the Auckland University School of Medicine, with the identification of bodies from the Erebus crash in any of the following capacities:
 - (i) pathology;
 - (ii) dental;
 - (iii) embalming;
 - (iv) morticians;
 - (v) as part of the Police victim identification team;

- (c) all persons who were involved, at any time between 29 November 1979 and 12 December 1979, at the crash site with investigation work as to the cause of the Erebus crash.

Note: Sub-clauses (a) and (c), above, apply both to New Zealanders, and citizens of the United States of America and other countries

Instructions on how to complete this form

- Posthumous and unclaimed Medals for deceased persons will be issued in accordance with the order of entitlement as follows:
 - (a) Beneficiary under Will
 - (b) Widow or Widower
 - (c) Son or Daughter
 - (d) Stepson or Stepdaughter
 - (e) Grandson or Granddaughter
 - (f) Father or Mother
 - (g) Brother or Sister
 - (h) Half-brother or Half-sister
 - (i) Nephew or Niece
 - (j) Other person named as Next of Kin in official records

- This form must be witnessed by a Justice of the Peace, a Solicitor, or an Officer duly authorised to take Statutory Declarations.
- Applications are subject to verification by Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force and Police National Headquarters.
- Please use BLOCK letters only.
- Copies of this form may be downloaded from the Breaking News page of the New Zealand Defence Force medals website: <http://medals.nzdf.mil.nz/news>

Please forward completed forms to the following address:

Assistant Director Medals Policy
Personnel Branch
Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force
Private Bag
Wellington
NEW ZEALAND

Any questions can be directed by e-mail to: medals.admp@nzdf.mil.nz