

Richard Alexandra Henderson



Richard Alexander "Dick" Henderson using a donkey to carry a wounded soldier at the Battle of Gallipoli on 12 May 1915.

Richard Henderson was a schoolteacher from Waihi. He joined the New Zealand Medical Corps in World War One. His job was to go out onto the battlefield and find wounded soldiers and carry them back to be helped by the doctors and nurses. Henderson found a donkey on the beach at Gallipoli and named it Murphy. He used Murphy to carry the wounded soldiers as it was easier than using a stretcher.

Later in the war he rescued soldiers on the Western Front in France. He was very brave and risked his life under fire everyday to bring back the wounded.

In 1917 he was caught in a poisonous gas attack and could no longer do his job.

He received 3 medals for bravery in 1918.

He was sick from the gas for the rest of his life and wasn't even able to teach for long when he returned home to New Zealand. He became blind in 1934 and eventually died in 1958.

This painting called *The man with his Donkey* by Horace Moore-Jones was of Richard Henderson and his donkey Murphy at Gallipoli.



1. What job did Richard do in Waihi?

2. What was Richard's middle name and nickname?

3. In World War 1, Richard joined the:

4. What was the name he gave to the donkey? What did he use the donkey for?

5. Where in France did he rescue soldiers?

- a. Northern Boarder
- b. Eastern Front
- c. Western Front
- d. Southern Boarder

6. Why could Richard no longer do his job? What year did this happen?

7. In 1918, how many medals did he receive?

8. What is the closest word that means received?

- a. Dismissed
- b. Avoided
- c. Awarded
- d. Declined