

## Write a Citation

A **citation** is a piece of writing that explains why someone has been given their medal or award.

Citations don't have to be long but they should tell us:

- Who is being awarded a medal?
- What medal they are being awarded?
- What did they do to receive the medal?
- Did this happen in a particular place or on a particular date?
- What makes this so special?
- Why do they deserve this medal?

Citations are usually written in the third person. They use powerful, descriptive words to help build a picture of why the medal has been awarded.

Citations are a formal document. Students could create a scroll for their citation or design their own 'official' document.



### Examples of Citations from Phase One

In the boxes from Phase One was a copy of Aubrey Dalton's citation, for his US Silver Star Medal. The language used is complicated but this could be used as a talking point.

You could highlight the sections where descriptive words are used to build a picture of the event. Or see if the citation tells you the information listed above.

William Sanders' (who was awarded the Victoria Cross) original citation is much shorter for a special reason. It didn't really talk about what he *did* to be awarded the medal because what he was doing was top secret at the time. It just said that he was awarded it "In recognition of his conspicuous gallantry, consummate coolness and skill in command of His Majesty's ships in action." \* After the War they released a longer citation which gave more detail about what he did which can be found [here](#)\*\*

When sailors are awarded a long service medal, like the one Julie Fitzell has, their citation would read a bit like a biography. It would tell people about the time they had spent in the Navy and some of the important things they had done over that time.

Winkie the Pigeon got a citation too. Part of hers read "for delivering a message under exceptional difficulties and so contributing to the rescue of an Air Crew while serving with the RAF in February 1942." \*\*\*

\* NZ History website: <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/files/documents/vc-citations/william-sanders-citation.pdf>

\*\* NZ History website: <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/files/documents/vc-citations/william-sanders-citation-full.pdf>

\*\*\* Army museum website: <https://www.armymuseum.co.nz/fearless-flyer/>