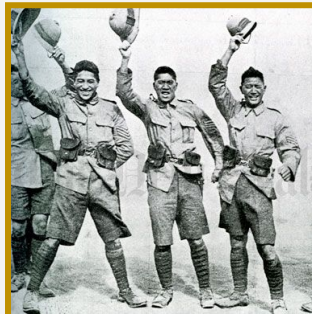


Fighting for king and country was difficult for one group of New Zealanders in particular - Māori. When the Great War broke out in Europe in 1914 Māori must have asked themselves if they could fight for a monarch who had failed to protect their rights as British citizens under the Treaty of Waitangi. Their land was gone. Could they fight for a country that treated them as second class citizens? Evidence was clear from the start of the war that Māori were not seen as equal in a country that was being shaped as a new Britain.

Māori were not allowed to enlist in the war as they were viewed by the British Empire as inferior. It was only after the passionate intervention of prominent Māori, including Sir Apirana Ngata, that a 'Native Contingent' of modern warriors was given permission to fight. The government sought 150 Māori or Pacific island volunteers **per month** but it soon became clear that getting even this number would be difficult. Māori in the Waikato region in particular stayed away. By the end of the war only 74 of the 552 conscripts had turned up for training. They were led by the **Māori Queen** Te Puea who urged her men not to fight for this foreign king when they already had a queen. She stated to the government that if all the Waikato lands confiscated by the crown during the New Zealand Land Wars were returned, then they would reconsider. The government responded by introducing a conscription (forcing men to go to war) of Māori men from the Waikato and neighbouring King Country, the heart of the resistance of Māori refusing to fight. When many of these men still refused to go, they were forcibly imprisoned. Seeing this, many more men ran away and 'went bush' until the war was over in late 1918.



Queen Te Puea and Sir Apirana Ngata had different perspectives on whether Māori should fight in the Great War. Those that went fought gallantly and were seen as great fighters.

Questions (look in the text for highlight clues!)

- 1) What two groups of people were to make up the 'Native Contingent' formed by the government?
- 2) How many men **per month** was the government hoping to recruit for the 'Native Contingent'?
- 3) What war began in 1914?
 - a) The New Zealand Land Wars
 - b) The Great War
 - c) The Treaty of Waitangi
- 4) Which person was the main reason why Māori in the Waikato region did not sign up for the war?
- 5) What were two reasons that the **Māori Queen** gave for not wanting her men to fight?
- 6) How did some Māori men respond when they were told they had to go to war as conscripts?
 - a) They went to see the queen.
 - b) They chose to go to prison.
 - c) They escaped by going to the bush.
- 7) What does the phrase 'second class citizens' mean?
- 8) What reason from the story explains why Apirana Ngata wanted Māori to fight in the war?

Word Salad

Find the meaning of these words and put each of these words into a sentence.

- 1) monarch
- 2) enlist
- 3) inferior
- 4) resistance
- 5) forcibly

Action Words (Verbs)

For each sentence find the word that indicates an action taking place.

- 1) The conscripts hid in the dense bush.
- 2) Sir Apirana Ngata passionately spoke for Māori.
- 3) The proud soldiers raised their hats in the air.

Responses to War - International

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