

Pākehā families living in Whangaparāoa could be counted on just two hands prior to the outbreak of war in Europe in 1914. Puhoi and Waiwera were bigger settlements at the time! The few families that farmed the area relied on the hard work of men, fathers and sons, to tame the land. When news of war came, 92 of these men, many from Waiwera, Puhoi and Silverdale, signed up to fight for their country. The orchards, pubs, stores, farms, gum digging fields and butter factories of the region saw a significant part of their workforce disappear.



The Great War lasted over four years and claimed more than eleven million soldiers' lives. Many of the local families that had tearfully waved their men goodbye received the terrible news that their loved one would not be coming home. Upper Waiwera lost 38% of the men that went away. Puhoi lost almost a quarter of their sons and brothers. In total 23 local boys perished away at war, some in battle, many from their wounds or a few from disease. All of the names of those that died feature on memorials in Silverdale, Waiwera or Puhoi. These small communities honoured their fallen heroes and continue to do so each ANZAC day, when wreaths are laid, the ode is read and the national anthem sung. Many street names and local places are named for the families that gave their sons including Schollum and Wenzlick Roads, Schischka Campground and Turnwald Road and House.



Questions (look in the text for highlight clues!)

- 1) Where was the Great War fought?
 - a) Whangaparāoa
 - b) Europe
 - c) Puhoi and Waiwera
- 2) How many local men signed up for war?
- 3) What were two (2) businesses that lost some of their workforce to the war?
 - 1)
 - 2)
- 4) Which local region had the biggest percentage of men killed in the war?
 - a) Puhoi
 - b) Upper Waiwera
 - c) The story does not say.
- 5) What are three (3) ways that communities honour the local victims of the Great War?
- 6) What is the maximum number of pākehā families that called Whangaparāoa home prior to 1914?
- 7) There were two ways that the local boys died, when not in a battle. What were they?
 - 1)
 - 2)

Word Salad

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

- 1) significant
- 2) wreath
- 3) perished

Action Words (Verbs)

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

- 1) The soldier walked along the trench.
- 2) Many men died from disease.
- 3) The last time the soldier was seen, he had been running into battle.

Responses to war - international

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