

There is a giant kiwi high above Bulford in south-west England. It was created by soldiers of the first world war as a memorial for all those kiwis who died far from home.

Soldiers that had survived years of fighting and the horrors of trench warfare were stationed at Bulford camp until a ship could relocate them back home to New Zealand. Here the kiwis joined Canadians, Indians and Australians, all **waiting** to get home. Conditions were poor with 6000 men sheltered in a camp built for only 4000. This overcrowding led to anger, illness, and death for some who **succumbed** to the new influenza disease sweeping the globe. The soldiers were desperate to get home to their families after four years of war and this new threat of a disease that killed many.



The New Zealanders were known by most as 'kiwis' and this created a **new** sense of national identity. As they tried to pass the long wait, soldiers began to create their own kiwi. Standing over 127 metres high, the kiwi was carved into the hill above their camp and then filled with chalk from a quarry nearby. It was finished in June 1919, with most men boarding ships soon after. If you visit Bulford today, and stand 800 metres away, you can best see this unusual piece of our history looking down over the town.

**Questions (look in the text for highlight clues!)**

- 1) Why were the soldiers **waiting** at Bulford?
- 2) Why did the soldiers choose a kiwi?
- 3) What were three (3) things that the conditions at Bulford Camp led to?
- 4) How many soldiers made the kiwi?
  - a) 127
  - b) 800
  - c) We do not know.
- 5) What were two stated reasons why the soldiers were desperate to get home?
- 6) Why do you think it is best to view the 'Bulford Kiwi' from 800 away?
- 7) Can you think why being called kiwis would have created a **new** sense of national identity?

Responses to war - international  
Produced by Paul Tucker@Orewa College (2022)

**New Words (look in the text for highlight clues!)**

What do you think the word **succumbed** means in the story? Read the sentence.

Does it mean:

- a) Died from a disease.
- b) Got angry at the conditions.
- c) Were worried about their families.

**Action Words (Verbs)**

For each sentence find the action word.

- 1) The soldiers dug into the hill.
- 2) Chalk was carried from the quarry.
- 3) I viewed the kiwi at Bulford.

**Opinion**

If you could pick a different animal, native to New Zealand as our national symbol, what would it be? Explain your reasons.

