

## Te Hokowhitu a-Tū/Te Hāpai O

The 28th Māori Battalion was formed in 1940 in response to WWII 'The Price of Citizenship' later penned by Tā Apirana Ngata both galvanised and divided Māoridom. Many of his closest allies in the Young Māori Party such as Te Rangihiroa Buck chose to help him recruit.

The Māori Battalion, Te Hokowhitu a Tū was formed in 1940 as a response to WWII. They were the tamariki and mokopuna of the Pioneer Battalion who fought bravely in WWI. Tā Apirana Ngata labelled our involvement as Māori as "The price of citizenship" in the hope that when Māori soldiers returned from overseas, all Māori would be viewed as equals within Aotearoa.

The Battalion was made up of 4 companies of many iwi both pan-tribal and rurally based from around the country. Each had a particular moniker attached to it that has stuck to this very day.

A Company - The Gum Diggers (Nga Puhi, Te Rarawa, Ngāti Hine, Ngati Whatua)  
B Company - The Penny Divers (Te Arawa, Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Manawa)  
C Company - The Cowboys (Whakatohea, Te Whanau Apanui, Ngāti Porou, Rongo Whakaata)  
D Company - Ngāti Walkabout (Te Atiawa, Ngati Kahungunu, Taranaki, Ngāi Tahu)

It is important to note the various iwi affiliations listed for each of the companies. A large number of these are represented in our Te Huarahi Māori Motuhake māngai today.

Members of our association can whakapapa to each of these companies, iwi and rohe throughout Aotearoa.

As our wider membership now comes to understand this newly created position of Māori Vice President or Te Hāpai Ō for our Te Wehengarua body moving forward.

Te Hokowhitu a Tū, an elite fighting force who were renowned for their bravery kei te mura o te ahi.

Ahurea, Tuakiri and Whakapapa provided their foundation. Leadership was evident in spades from within the various conflicts, Te Moananui-ā-Kiwa Ngarimu being posthumously awarded the VC but the ability for the 28th being able to adapt to their foreign surroundings quickly and then stick together in extremely trying circumstances for torrid campaigns in Greece, North Africa and Italy.

These same grit and determination shown by our tupuna is evident in each of our Te Huarahi and Māori māngai today, he taonga tuku iho, Each of them regularly present at conferences, attend flagship events alongside our Kaihautū; National Manu Kōrero and National Secondary School Kapa Haka. They involve themselves in committees and passionately advocate for Kaupapa Māori, all the while, upholding the mana of Te Wehengarua and Te Huarahi.

The history of the title Te Hāpai Ō can be traced back to the time of the padre known as Wii Te Tau Huata who accompanied these brave warriors overseas.

He nui i ngā piki me ngā heke mō te whakaritenga o te tūāpapa ki te whakatū i te tūranga nei, e kore e mimiti te puna aroha ki a rātou mā kua whetūrangitia, ko rātou te hunga e whawhai ai mai rāno... I kōrero tahi mātou ki te rangatira a Ngahiwi Tomoana, Nāna te kī

ehara nō rātou anake tēnei whakataukī, nō Te Hokowhitū-ā-Tū hoki, nā te minita a Wii Te  
Tau Huata i tito.

Ko te amorangi ki mua, ko te hāpai ō ki muri  
Both a leader and a supporter in times of need