



EK BOOKS TEACHER NOTES & RESOURCES

Title: Voices of World War II

Subtitle: New Zealanders share their stories

Author: Renée Hollis

Publisher: Exisle Books

Price: ANZ \$49.99

ISBN: 9781991001238

Publication date: Apr 2021

Audience age: 12+ years

Key Curriculum Areas: Humanities and Social Sciences, English Literacy, The Arts, Writing



SYNOPSIS:

Ki te kotahi te kākaho ka whati, Ki te kāpuia e kore e whati.

Alone we can be broken. Standing together, we are invincible.

'We are only a small and young nation, but we are one and all a band of brothers and we march forward with a union of hearts and wills to a common destiny.' — Michael Joseph Savage, Prime Minister of New Zealand, upon the outbreak of WWII in 1939

Voices of World War II shows the human side of war through dozens of first-hand memories, stories, and reflections on life during wartime in New Zealand and overseas. A visually captivating compendium of photographs and written accounts, it provides a snapshot of what life was like during WWII, from the point of view of those who lived through it. Descriptions are given by a soldier lying in his tent, hearing bombs land close by; young school children explain what it was like to have bomb shelter practices at school; a Land Girl meets the farmer she would work with for the first time. Stories are shared about leaving New Zealand and heading into the unknown, as well as WWI-veteran fathers refusing to send their sons to war. Women share what life was like as a WAAF, Wren or nurse overseas.

In this collection of memories sent in by families across New Zealand, you will find a rare insight into wartime life across generations and vocations. Fascinating and genuine, it is both a tribute to the resilience and bravery of those who served in WWII, and a historical account which will teach younger generations about the lives of their ancestors.

KEY WORDS:

1939 - 1946, pre-WWII and post WWII, War declared, outbreak of war, Army, Air Force, Navy, Māori battalion, life in New Zealand during wartime, rationing, Home guard, Pacific, Egypt, Italy, Greece, Japan, conscription, pacifism, women's roles, WAAF, WRENS, WAACS, land girls, prisoners of war, D-Day, Victory in Europe (VE Day), Victory over Japan (VJ Day).

SELLING POINTS:

- Compiled from incredible primary sources of letters and diaries, private family records and photographs, sharing people's experiences in New Zealand, Europe and the Pacific.
- Visually very strong with effective layouts and 50/50 images and text, broadening the reading demographic.
- An important reflection on a turbulent time in history from which younger generations can learn about the experiences of lives before theirs.
- Edited by Renée Hollis, a writer with experience in drawing out remarkable stories about our social history and share this information in an interesting way.

NEW ZEALAND CURRICULUM:

Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories

Strands:

Whakapapa me te whanaungatanga | Culture and identity

Tino rangatiratanga me te kāwanatanga | Government and organisation

Know: Changing views on conflict

Aotearoa New Zealand's participation in international conflicts over time reflects our changing view of our country's place in the world and our identity. Our remembrance of these conflicts and our honouring of those involved has evolved over time (e.g., the Crown apologised to Vietnam War veterans and their families for the way their service was not recognised).

Understand: Relationships and connections between people and across boundaries have shaped the course of Aotearoa New Zealand's histories

People in Aotearoa New Zealand have been connected locally, nationally, and globally through voyaging, discovery, trade, aid, conflict, and creative exchanges. This has led to the adoption of new ideas and technologies, political institutions and alliances, and social movements.

Do: Identifying sources and perspectives

I can use historical sources with differing perspectives and contrary views (including those that challenge my own interpretation), giving deliberate attention to mātauranga Māori sources. I can recognise that the sources available may not capture and fairly represent the diversity of people's experiences.

Interpreting past experiences, decisions, and actions

I can make informed ethical judgements about people's actions in the past, basing them on historical evidence and giving careful consideration to the complex predicaments people faced, what they knew and expected, the attitudes and values of the times, and my own attitudes and values.

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM:

Humanities and Social Sciences

Understand how modern history works | Modern Nations in the 20th century.

By the end of this unit, students:

- Understand the characteristics of modern nations, the internal divisions and external threats that they encountered, and the different experiences of individuals and groups within those states.
- Understand the significance of the changes experienced by modern nations and the different paths of development they have taken.
- Apply key concepts as part of a historical inquiry, including evidence, continuity and change, cause and effect, significance, empathy, perspectives and contestability.
- Use historical skills to investigate the history of selected nations, frame questions for research, determine the reliability and usefulness of sources and evidence, explore different interpretations of the past, and use a range of evidence to analyse interpretations and representations, and communicate historical arguments.

Perspectives and interpretations

- Identify and analyse the perspectives of people from the past.

Elaborations

- Identify and analyse different historical interpretations (including their own).



TEACHER ACTIVITIES/NOTES:

N.B. These questions and activities can be adapted to suit the experience and ability of students.

LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Explore examples of:

New Zealand's participation in international conflicts, in particular the Second World War. The significant home-front impact in the Second World War; the participation of professional military and the increasing inclusion of women.

The difference between our remembrance of international wars and the New Zealand Wars, with their past and continuing impact on Māori; remembering achievements and loss.

How we are selective in our memories (for example, the battle at Gallipoli compared with those at Passchendaele and the Somme, war in Europe and Africa compared with war in the Pacific, and the limited visibility of the contribution of Pacific, Chinese, and Indian troops to the New Zealand war effort); what we prefer to not remember (for example, field punishments and Palestinian murders in the First World War, the Featherston prisoner-of-war-camp killings, and the Hautu Detention Camp).

HISTORICAL INQUIRY

Students sequence events and developments within a chronological framework with reference to periods of time. When researching, students develop questions to frame a historical inquiry. They analyse, select and organise information from primary and secondary sources and use it as evidence to answer inquiry questions. Students identify and explain different points of view in sources. When interpreting sources, they identify their origin and purpose, and distinguish between fact and opinion. Students develop texts, particularly descriptions and explanations, incorporating analysis. In developing these texts, and organising and presenting their findings, they use historical terms and concepts, evidence identified in sources, and acknowledge their sources of information.

Potential inquiry questions

- How has our involvement in international conflicts changed over time?
- What and who do we now remember and not remember?
- How does this shape our current ideas about national identity?
- Look at the positives and negatives of New Zealanders travelling to Europe to fight?
- How was your city and town impacted by WWII?
- If you met a WWII veteran, what questions would you ask them?

Scan the following QR codes to learn more about New Zealanders experiences during WWII:



Athletics in Cairo, life in NZ, women's roles NZ, desert railways (1941)



Americans arriving in NZ, from an American perspective (1943)



Differences between NZ and Britain, food (1944)



Soldiers Go to Sea (1941)



New Zealand Marches On (1938), development of technology is helping the war effort in NZ



New Zealand is Ready, 1941



Wings over New Zealand, NZ Air Force (1941)



Soldiers return home, Māori battalion etc 1945



NZ Army in Italy, Winter Front (1944)



RNZAF In the Pacific - part 1 (1943)



RNZAF In the Pacific - part 2 (1943)

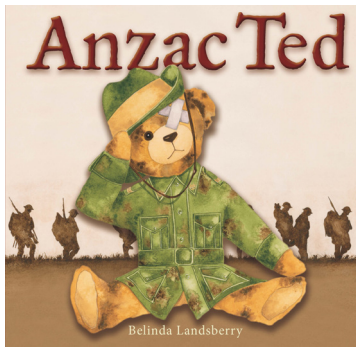
MORE ACTIVITIES

[Covid-19 and the New Zealand experience in WWII](#)

[The role of the Red Cross during WWII](#)

[The Māori Battalion, Fact sheets and activities](#)

RELATED TITLES ORDER FORM



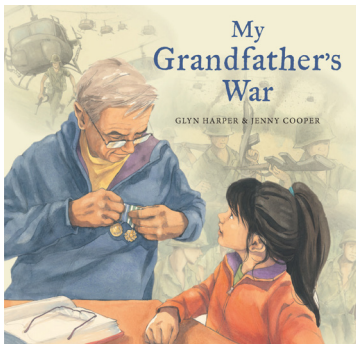
Anzac Ted

BELINDA LANDSBERRY

The poignant story of a little boy's teddy bear, that was passed down to him from his grandfather. He might look scary now but he has a great story to tell, for Anzac Ted went to war.

THEMES: FAMILY AND THE LEGACY OF WAR

9781921966569 | Hardcover | 245 x 255 mm | 9½ x 10 in | 32 pages | Colour | USA \$17.99 | CA \$23.99 | UK £10.99 | AU \$24.99 | NZ \$24.99 | **Ages 4-8**



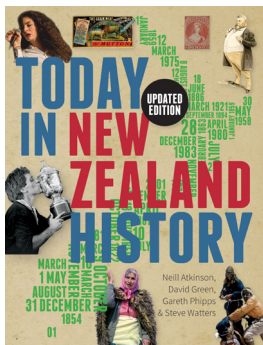
My Grandfather's War

GLYN HARPER & JENNY COOPER

A poignant story about a Vietnam veteran and his granddaughter, as she discovers how war affects all those who serve.

THEMES: VIETNAM WAR, PTSD, FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

9781775592990 | Hardcover | 245 x 255 mm | 9½ x 10 in | 32 pages | Colour | USA \$17.99 | CA \$23.99 | UK £10.99 | AU \$24.99 | NZ \$24.99 | **Ages 4-8**



Today in New Zealand History

NEILL ATKINSON, DAVID GREEN, GARETH PHIPPS AND STEVE WATTERS

A glorious, fully illustrated and updated discovery of the key moments and events throughout New Zealand's rich history.

THEMES: NEW ZEALAND HISTORY, POLITICS, SPORT AND CULTURE

9781775594284 | Paperback | 280 x 210 mm | 11 x 8¼ in | 304 pages | Colour | AU \$39.99 | NZ \$39.99 | **Ages 12+**

Contact your school supplier to order.

School: Customer Number:

Contact Name: Order Ref:

Phone No: Email:

Address:

EK Books are also available from all good bookstores and

www.ekbooks.org