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NEW ZEALAND CLASSROOMS*

RACE RELATIONS
PART TWO: WWII & POST WAR SOCIETY

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WWII AND POST-WAR SOCIETY

THE IMPACT OF WAR

THE MAORI BATTALION

FIGHTING FURY

Fighting Fury: Maoris Ready to Reinforce Famous Battalion

Fox Movietone 194- . Duration 2:03

Reinforcements for the Maori Battalion training in New Zealand. The men on parade, at bayonet practice, marching and singing the “Maori Battalion” song. The song became the New Zealand army song regardless of race, such was the reputation of the Battalion as a fighting force. Used continuously in front line, often hand-to-hand situations the casualty rate during WWII was 6 out of 10 killed or wounded (5 out of 7 if POWs are added), nearly 3 times the overall NZ casualty rate.

MAORI BATTALION RETURNS

Weekly Review 232: Maori Battalion Returns

National Film Unit 1949. Duration 10:26

Early in 1946, the 28th Maori Battalion returned to New Zealand on board the Dominion Monarch. A powhiri for the men is held on Pipitea Wharf in Wellington, a marae for the occasion. Acting Prime Minister, Mr Walter Nash, Members of Parliament, and former commanders of the Battalion were present. Ngati Poneke performed, haka, the poi and action songs during the happy occasion. Preparations for a large hangi were done earlier in the day at Porirua, for the hakari which was to follow.

More than 7,000 Maori soldiers fought with distinction overseas but suffered a terrible casualty rate of five in seven. Those who lost their lives were honoured on their return home. One such soldier was Gunner Jack Seymour. His memorial stone was unveiled at Kuku Ohau, near Otaki. At Turangawaewae marae a powhiri for soldiers returning home to Tainui was held.

The Maori Battalion volunteered two days after the war began and remained voluntary throughout. This was an unusual achievement. The Battalion fought in Greece, Crete, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Italy.

WOMEN IN WARTIME

Our People Our Century: Families at War (extract)

Ninox Films 2000. Duration 2:45

The Harrison sisters hit the big city in 1943.

THE LOST GENERATION

Te Puhi Kai Ariki: A Salute to the Maori Women's Welfare League (extract)

Pacific Rose Productions / Front of the Box 2004. Duration 1:16

Helen Clark and Ranganui Walker on the social aftermath of war on Maori society - the lost generation and those who returned.

GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RESPONSES

REHABILITATION

Weekly Review 409 (extract)

National Film Unit 1949. Duration 5:50

MĀORI REHAB... NEW FARMS BESIDE WAIROA: Modern homes for former members of the Maori Battalion have been built on the subdivided land of the Carroll family estate. The ex servicemen are trained to be farmers and are shown eating lunch in the camp lunch room. A housewife cooks in her kitchen while her daughter knits on the couch. Here on the estate the Māori tennis champs are held. Besides traditional farming the land also produces asparagus and tomatoes.

EDUCATION

MAORI SCHOOL

Weekly Review 324 (extracts)

National Film Unit 1947. Duration 2:21

MAORI SCHOOL: (RUATORIA) In the Manutahi district of the East Coast, children on horseback ride to Manutahi Native District High School, where the roll is 300. Two things are readily apparent here - first the 'understood' future occupational prospects of these 'children of the land', and two the understanding that pakeha practice is best practice. The male jobs would be practical, the female future the domestic. Certainly there were aspects of this delineation throughout society as a whole, but there is no mention here of higher learning for Maori.

MEET NEW ZEALAND

Meet New Zealand (extract)

National Film Unit 1949. Duration 2:19

Government version of assimilation and racial harmony in the late 1940s.

Rural Maori children had access to "Native District Schools" in some regions but most attended local state institutions.

TE PUHI KAI ARIKI

Te Puhi Kai Ariki: A Salute to the Maori Women's Welfare League (extract)

Pacific Rose Productions / Front of the Box 2004. Duration 3:09

Nice historical grab on education and Te Reo, and the role of the Maori Women's Welfare league. Begins with a comment on emphasis during the 60s and 70s regarding the urban scenario and education and crime, but then backtracks to the post-war period and the 'impoverishment of language' that occurred. It also highlights the fact that Maori leadership had often come out of the church schools and boarding schools with an academic curriculum. The state schools did not cater for Maori students in the same way.

TOWARDS TOMORROW

Towards Tomorrow

Pacific Films 1956. Duration 10:32

Commissioned by the Department of Education this film is designed to encourage Māori students to pursue careers in the 'Pakeha world'. At a

Ruatoki Marae, Minister Wharetini Rangi and elders discuss the importance and the need to educate their young people in preparation for the future. At Ardmore Teachers Training College, Maori students are taught the art of tukutuku weaving and are seen participating in various other curriculum areas. Also featured on this film are young men living away from home in a Maori Boys' Hostel in Wellington. They move here from the country to study and train for various trades and occupations. Many remain in the city once their study is over, with the hope of finding employment in the careers they have chosen.

HOUSING AND HEALTH

TE PUHI KAI ARIKI

Te Puhi Kai Ariki: A Salute to the Maori Women's Welfare League (extract)

Pacific Rose Productions / Front of the Box 2004. Duration 2:16

Housing and Health. Mira Szazsy relates the experience of the first wave of urban drift in the post-war period. Housing was an immediate problem - the refusal of white landlords to rent reasonable dwellings to Maori was widespread. Maori were relegated to sub-standard slum housing. The Housing Corporation would not give out loans, and only allowed state houses as a percentage of the total available after a protracted battle with Maori groups such as the MWWL. Pressure from leaders such as Whina Cooper resulted in later decades, the opening of new suburbs like Otara in the Auckland region.

TB & THE MAORI PEOPLE

Tuberculosis and the Maori People of the Wairoa District (extracts)

National Film Unit 1952. Duration 23:40

This film was made with the help of Mr Turi Carroll and the Ngati Kahungunu Tribal Executive who come from the areas of Mohaka, Waikaremoana, Frasertown, Te Reinga, Nuhaka, Whakaki, Taihoa and Mahia to meet monthly at Wairoa.

Today's topic is tuberculosis. A film 'TB How it Spreads', by the NZ Department of Health, is shown. It outlines causes and remedies; shows the role of the District Nurse, doctors and Mobile X-Ray Unit; recommends isolated rest in a sanatorium or TB hut in the garden along with a good diet; compares lifestyle and statistics for Maori and Pakeha; suggests improvements in living quarters, which would combine Maori community life with Pakeha standards of living.

At Rangimarie Marae in Taranaki a mobile unit is set up to check the local people. Mr Turi Carroll emphasises the role of diet, exercise at work and home.

THE IMPACT OF THE URBAN

WHITE SHEEP

White Sheep (extracts)

Wide Eye Productions 2000. Duration 9:28

“In the late 1950’s thousands of rural Maori were encouraged to migrate to New Zealand’s main cities. This programme follows the fortunes of a cheeky group of Maori boys, including Mike McRoberts, who moved from Wairoa, Hawkes Bay to the predominately Pakeha city of Christchurch.”

DANCES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

Dances of the South Pacific (extract)

Pacific Films 1955. Duration 1:45

A young Polynesian girl with very nice European clothing & a standard European job, views historical painting of early Maori. The message of the subsequent commentary suggests that Maori are fully assimilated & that cultural activities are rolled out for ceremony only.

THE MAORI TODAY

The Maori Today

National Film Unit 1960. Duration 15:47

Summarised from NFU shotlist intro: This documentary shows how Maori have adjusted to living in New Zealand today (1960), their homes; work and leisure. They have accomplished much by adapting their traditions to suit the European and more so the twentieth century lifestyle which was once foreign to them. Features artist Mervyn Taylor and Sir Eruera Tirikatene

“These changes and achievements for Maori are accomplishments for which they and their fellowmen should be justly proud.”

Total Duration Part Two: 77 minutes