

91003R



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

QUALIFY FOR THE FUTURE WORLD
KIA NOHO TAKATŪ KI TŌ ĀMUA AO!

Level 1 History, 2019

91003 Interpret sources of an historical event of significance to New Zealanders

2.00 p.m. Tuesday 12 November 2019
Credits: Four

RESOURCE BOOKLET

Refer to this booklet to answer the questions for History 91003.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–11 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

YOU MAY KEEP THIS BOOKLET AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

INTRODUCTION

New Zealand and the Vietnam War

New Zealand was involved in the Vietnam (Viet Nam) War from 1963 until 1975. New Zealand sent 3 980 troops over to Vietnam – 37 were killed and 187 wounded.

The Vietnam War divided the nation like no other conflict before. The public saw the images of the conflict in their living rooms on the television night after night. This swayed public opinion. Many New Zealanders no longer supported the Government's decision to be involved in the conflict, and many took to the streets to voice their disagreement with the war.

Instead of coming home as heroes, New Zealand's Vietnam veterans (vets) were labelled "baby killers" and "murderers". Many men arrived home late at night and not wearing their uniforms.

For many years, the Vietnam vets were largely ignored and given very little official recognition or support for their service. Many Royal New Zealand Returned and Services Associations (RSA) did not allow Vietnam vets to join.

In December 2006, an agreement was signed by the Government, the Ex-Vietnam Services Association (EVSA), and the RSA for an official recognition of their service and a government apology for the treatment of the veterans. This occurred over Queen's Birthday Weekend, 2008, and is officially known as Tribute 08.



Parliament was the natural focus for the protests of the late 1960s, such as this anti-Vietnam War protest in 1969.

Source (image): 'Anti-Vietnam War protest at Parliament', URL: <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/anti-vietnam-war-protest-parliament>, (Ministry for Culture and Heritage), updated 16-Jul-2014.

SOURCE A

Ministerial Statements – Viet Nam Veterans – Crown Apology

Rt Hon. HELEN CLARK (Prime Minister): ...

Today the Crown formally acknowledges the dedicated service of the New Zealand Regular Force personnel deployed during the Viet Nam War and of the many servicemen and women who supported them in their mission. ...

We will remember them.

JOHN KEY (Leader of the Opposition): I rise today to support the apology from the Crown, and to offer the gratitude and thanks of the National Party to those New Zealanders who served in the then Republic of Viet Nam. I also offer our apologies to them and their families for the failure of the Crown to properly acknowledge or address the results of their service in a toxic environment in Viet Nam.

...

Rt Hon. WINSTON PETERS (Leader – New Zealand First): New Zealand First supports the Crown apology to Viet Nam veterans, and endorses the sentiments expressed by the Prime Minister and Mr Key. ...

...

It is a tragedy that so many soldiers who died then, and since, will never hear this apology.

...

Hon. TARIANA TURIA (Co-Leader – Māori Party): The Māori Party endorses the apologies of the Crown in this House today. ...

They went where their Government sent them, but they returned to the hostility and controversy of a country in crisis, a country divided.

* *recriminations* accusations

** *tangata whenua* Māori people

Source (adapted): Ministerial Statements (2008), *Viet Nam Veterans – Crown Apology* (retrieved 9 April 2019) from https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/hansard-debates/rhr/document/48HansD_20080528_00000001/ministerial-statements-viet-nam-veterans-crown-apology.

SOURCE B

Tribute 08 March to Parliament

Vietnam veterans participate in an honour march in Wellington during the Tribute 08 gathering on 31 May, 2008.

Many veterans felt their service in Vietnam was not given sufficient recognition and that the Government and the public had ignored their contribution, despite the fact that the 161st Battery paraded through Auckland in May 1971.

The gathering in Wellington that followed was known as Tribute 08. It included a parade in which veterans and relatives carried pictures of the Vietnam dead, an unusual event in New Zealand veterans' parades.

¹ *Agent Orange* a chemical spray used over the jungle proven to cause a range of devastating health issues

Source: Ian McGibbon, 'Asian conflicts – Withdrawal from Vietnam', *Te Ara – the Encyclopedia of New Zealand*, <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/photograph/34545/tribute-08-march-to-parliament> (accessed 9 April 2019)
Story by Ian McGibbon, published 20 Jun 2012, updated 27 Feb 2016.

SOURCE C**Kiwi Vietnam War veterans finally honoured, 50 years on**

Thirty-two Vietnam War veterans are being honoured with Special Service Awards this week, 50 years after they fought in the war.

It's seen as one of the final gestures from the Government, which has in the past been blamed for ignoring their service.

It's almost 50 years since Bill Teller arrived home from Vietnam. On Thursday, he finally received formal recognition for his exceptional bravery on the front line.

[REDACTED]

In 2008, the Government did formally move to honour the veterans with a ceremony called 'Tribute 08'. But for many, feelings of frustration still linger.

"And they've never actually satisfied people like myself — I think the New Zealand Government has got a long way to go," Mr Teller said.

They may still have years of righting wrongs left, but he says this is definitely a start.

Source (adapted): Mitch McCann, *Newshub*, 14 February, 2019, <https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/new-zealand/2019/02/kiwi-vietnam-war-veterans-finally-honoured-50-years-on.html>.

SOURCE D**Green Green Grass of Home**

Many New Zealand troops serving in Vietnam did not feel that the New Zealand Government adequately supported them during their tours. [REDACTED]

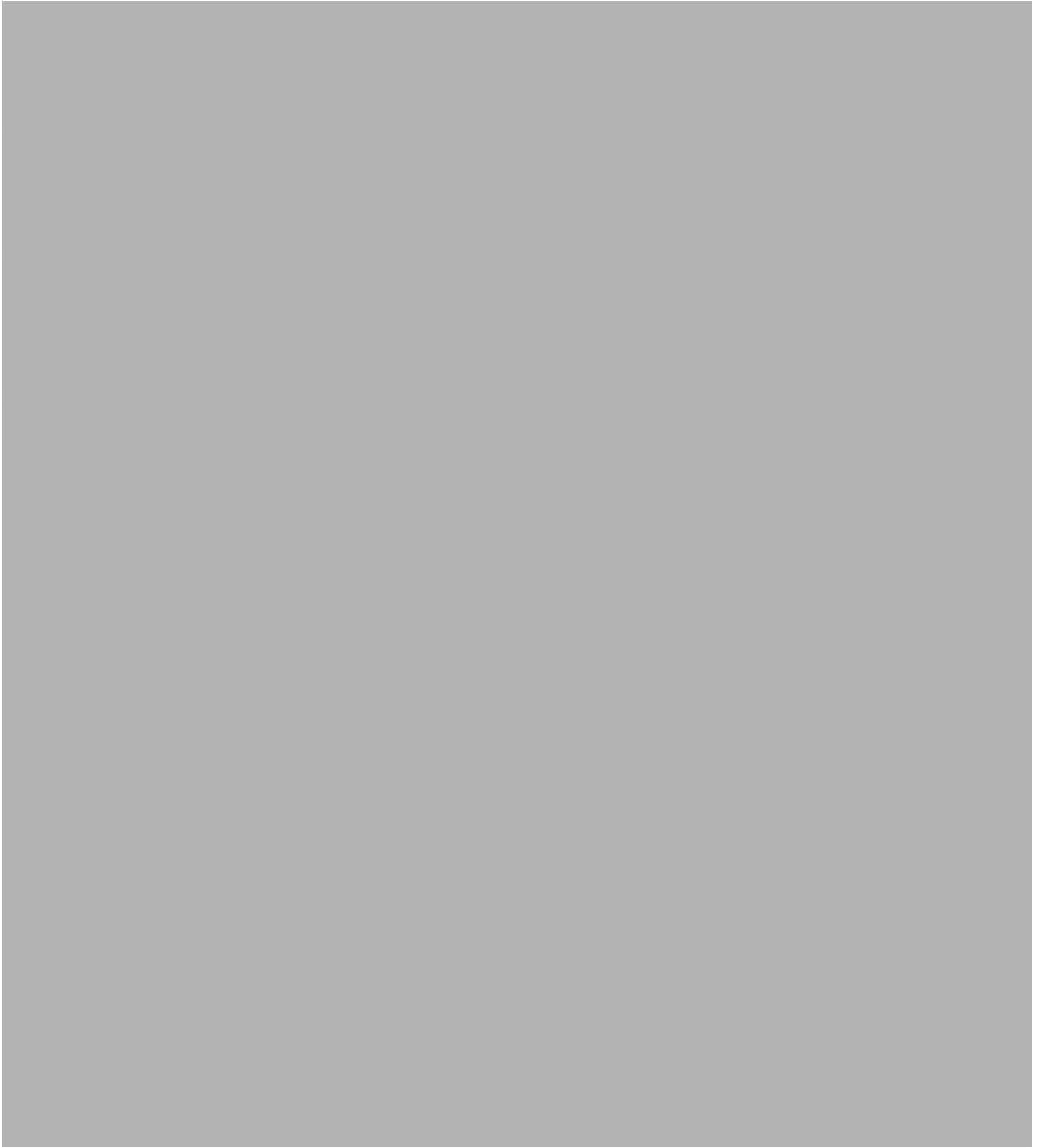
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Many veterans attempted to join the RSA when they came home from Vietnam, assuming that as soldiers returned from active service overseas they would be welcome and supported, but felt rejected and insulted when they discovered that this was not the case. "At the one place where they expected support, the RSA, they felt rejected by some World War One and Two veterans who said the younger generation didn't know what it was like to be in a 'real' war, had only served short terms overseas and were known as drug and alcohol users."

Source (adapted): Deborah Challinor, *Grey Ghosts* (Auckland: HarperCollinsPublishers (New Zealand) Limited, 1998), pp. 181–195.

SOURCE E**My Grandfather's War**

Source: Glyn Harper, *My Grandfather's War* (Auckland: Reed Publishing (NZ) Ltd, 2007), p. 7.

SOURCE F

The war at home – a Vietnam vet's return

Wayne John "Mac" McCallion was a career soldier, joining the NZ Army in 1964 as a wet-behind-the-ears 17-year-old. If you'd asked him then where Vietnam was, he wouldn't have had a clue.

...

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

"It was a war on our back door step and brought into our homes every night with television coverage. I know people who left NZ to live overseas because of the abuse they got. It was like the whole country came down on top of some of these poor bastards."

¹ *Vilified* abused or spoken about badly

SOURCE G**Anti-Vietnam War protests in Auckland, 12 May 1971**

Anti-war protesters disrupted a civic reception in Auckland for New Zealand soldiers returning from the Vietnam War.

The civic parade was led by the Band of the Royal New Zealand Artillery followed by Land Rovers carrying the gunners of 161 Battery, and troopers from New Zealand's Special Air Service. The march was relatively uneventful until the column reached the reviewing platform outside Auckland Town Hall.

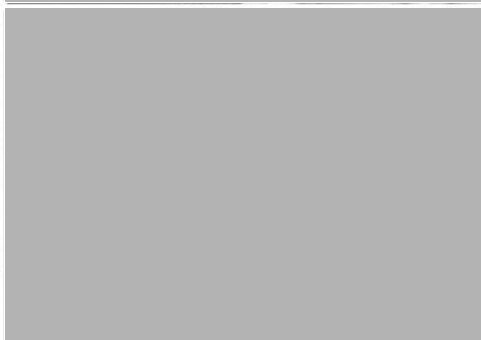


New Zealand's involvement in the Vietnam War aroused considerable public debate. By 1971 up to 35 000 people were protesting on the streets. Many argued that the conflict was a civil war in which New Zealand should play no part. They wanted this country to follow an independent path in foreign policy, not take its cue from the United States.

Source : 'Anti-Vietnam War protests in Auckland', URL: <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/anti-vietnam-war-protests-on-queen-street>, (Ministry for Culture and Heritage), updated 15-Dec-2016.

SOURCE H

Return of Vietnam War soldiers



Troops return
1973



Photographs of crowds gathered to view a parade of returning Vietnam War soldiers

Source: Return of Vietnam War soldiers. Oettli, Max Christian, 1947 – : Photographs of New Zealand scenes. Ref: PADL-000144. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. / records/23128300.

SOURCE I

'Biggest insult' – Veterans angry after repatriation ceremony snub

The image shows a screenshot of a Twitter interface. At the top, the tweet title is displayed: **'Biggest insult' – Veterans angry after repatriation ceremony snub**. Below the title is the profile information for RNZ (@radionz), including a verified account icon and a 'Follow' button. The main content of the tweet is obscured by a large grey rectangle. The background of the screenshot shows the Twitter home page with various navigation elements and a footer containing copyright information for 2019.

Source: "'Biggest insult' – Veterans angry after repatriation ceremony snub" (RNZ@radionz, 10 September 2018), <https://twitter.com/radionz/status/1039250069231349762>.

