

91231R



Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 2 History 2024

**91231 Examine sources of an historical event that is
of significance to New Zealanders**

Credits: Four

RESOURCE BOOKLET

Refer to this booklet to answer the questions for History 91231.

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.

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INTRODUCTION: The settlement of returned servicemen

World War I (1914–1918) led to a change in how the government settled people on land. The Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act 1915 was passed, with a focus on settling returned soldiers from the war onto farmland. The government used Crown land, was gifted land (including Māori land), and also bought private land to subdivide and develop. 9,500 men were financed onto farms – 4,000 following subdivision of 1.4 million acres by the Crown, and 5,500 by purchase of existing properties – totalling 1.2 million acres.

SOURCE A: The Soldier-Settler Scheme

The Lands and Survey Department administered what would prove to be the most ambitious strand of the official repatriation programme. In October 1915, parliament passed the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act, which allowed returned servicemen to be granted farmland on generous terms, and to apply for cheap finance to develop it.


More than 12,000 people applied for land during the three years after the armistice. Potential applicants visited a Lands and Survey office to be apprised² of the relevant regulations and given information about the land available. Each application was forwarded to the district's commissioner of Crown land, a senior departmental official, who decided whether the applicant had the ability to succeed as a farmer. He forwarded the approved applications to the local Land Board, which either allotted land or held a ballot where there was more than one suitable applicant. Of the 15,060 applicants between 1915 and 1930, only 4,018 were allotted land under the scheme.

¹. allotted gave or distributed officially to

². apprised informed

SOURCE B: Soldier settlements

The New Zealand Government, already facing the prospect of years of austerity¹, thanks to their war spending and pre-war infrastructural efforts (including paying for the battle cruiser HMS *New Zealand*), was desperate for a source of income and employment for returning soldiers. As a result of this need, they proposed the Soldier-Settler Scheme.



While much of the land was for farming, some of the land was already developed, and in towns and cities. Following the return of New Zealand soldiers in 1919, interest in the scheme was high with over 12,000 applicants in three years. Unfortunately, with much of the land being of poor quality, as well as heavy bureaucracy during the application process, interest soon waned, with only an estimated further 3,000 applicants between 1921 and 1930. Out of this considerable number of applicants, only a mere 4,000 were awarded land.

¹. austerity difficult economic conditions created by government measures to reduce public expenditure

Source (adapted): National Army Museum. *Soldier settlements*. <https://www.armymuseum.co.nz/soldier-settlements/>

SOURCE C: Land for sale or lease to discharged soldiers, 15,960 acres

Newspaper advertising notice that “the undermentioned lands are open for sale or lease to discharged soldiers under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act 1915, and the regulation thereunder, and that applications will be received at the District Lands and Survey Office, Auckland, up to 4 o’clock p.m. on Monday, 23rd August, 1920”.

SOURCE D: The economic rehabilitation of Māori military veterans

By 1918, some 120,000 men had enlisted in the armed forces and over 103,000 served abroad, including 2,688 Maori, while 550 women served as nurses.



The exclusion of Maori clearly discomfited² some members of the Committee, but by 10 votes to eight it was retained...

¹ eking making a living with difficulty

² discomfited spoilt or upset the plans of

Source (adapted): Hearn, T.J. (2018, May 15). *The economic rehabilitation of Maori military veterans*. The Waitangi Tribunal for the Military Veterans Kaupapa Inquiry (Wai 2500, #A248). https://forms.justice.govt.nz/search/Documents/WT/WT_DOC_137836128/Wai%202500%2C%20A248.pdf. pp. 22, 26, 27, 105, 114, 125, and 135.

SOURCE E1: Māori returned soldiers—a special office suggested

Lieutenant Arthur Te Waata Gannon (Māori Pioneer Battalion), in a letter to the Editor on 28 April 1919, wrote:

“Conventionally, I admit, the Maori is treated as other men are; actually he is at a manifest disadvantage.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Political influence and military red tape are the curse of the returned soldier, and we, as Maoris, claim as a representative body who bore our part in the war, and claim to have such an office established ...”

Source (adapted): Gannon, Arthur Te Waata. (1919, April 28). Maori returned soldiers: A special office suggested. *The Dominion*. <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/DOM19190428.2.54#print>. p. 8.

SOURCE E2: Elsie Locke

... I went back home and settled among the canoes and the corn and the eels. Did we have help from the government; could we learn new trades or open a shop like the Pakeha soldiers?

[REDACTED]

Yes, we had seen great changes, and more changes were sure to come.

Source (adapted): Locke, E. (1984). *The kauri and the willow: how we lived and grew from 1801–1942*. Government Printer. pp. 155–156.

SOURCE F: Māori returned servicemen and the Omana Settlement

To qualify for land under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act 1915, applicants had to meet four conditions. These conditions were:

- (1) To have been a member of any New Zealand Expeditionary Force.
- (2) [REDACTED]
- (3) [REDACTED]
- (4) To have been discharged.

The issue of soldier settlement generally is covered by Dr Terry J Hearn in 'The economic rehabilitation of Maori military veterans'.

[REDACTED]

One of the key concepts explored in Hearn's report was that of equality of opportunity, or equal access, of Māori and Pākehā to Crown resettlement opportunities. Hearn notes that under these Acts, no distinction was made between Māori and Pākehā veterans, "enabling the Government of the day to claim that under the law both had equal access to the benefits of the rehabilitation programme".


The Omana Settlement

The Omana Settlement is located in Omana Valley, Nuhaka, in Wairoa County. The settlement comprised a total of eleven sections, nine of which were offered by the Crown for sale or lease to discharged soldiers in 1920. The Omana Settlement was established under the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act 1915.

The claims

Claimants to the Military Veterans Kaupapa Inquiry raised the issue that while local Māori had served in World War I, the government allocated land in Nuhaka to discharged British soldiers, not to local Māori returned soldiers. In his brief of evidence, Tiemi Whaanga stated that his family, and other Nuhaka families, contributed extensively to the New Zealand armed forces ... He noted that "even though our people have served and defended the Crown, the Crown have continued to take our lands and treat us with less respect than others".

[REDACTED]



Although Māori were not explicitly excluded from land ballots through the government legislation, the fact that no Māori were successful in the ballot for land at the Omana Settlement suggests ... that the policy alone was insufficient to assist Māori and Pākehā returned soldiers to practically obtain equal access to the benefits of the rehabilitation programme.

Source (adapted): McGill, E. (2020, 5 June). *Māori Returned Servicemen and the Omana, Awamate, Huramua, and Rakaukaka Farm Settlements, Gisborne and Wairoa District, c.1920–1958*. The Waitangi Tribunal for the Military Veterans Kaupapa Inquiry (Wai 2500, #A254). https://forms.justice.govt.nz/search/Documents/WT/WT_DOC_160246274/Wai%202500%2C%20A254.pdf, pp. 9, 16, 23–24, 27, and 38.

SOURCE G: Equality on the battlefield – but not at home

Generations of politicians and officials saw Māori as both poor at managing money and accustomed to a lower standard of living than other New Zealanders.



Historian Terry Hearn found that Māori were, at worst, deliberately excluded from the rehabilitation scheme and, at best, inadequately provided for compared to Pākehā.

¹ endowment property or income a person is given

² piecemeal partial; gradual

SOURCE H: Farm settlements for returned soldiers

During World War I (1914–1918), the New Zealand Government decreed that soldiers returning from overseas service would be given the opportunity to settle on farms of their own, specially purchased and developed for that purpose.

There would appear to have been two reasons for this decision:

- (1) Young men serving in the defence forces lost time and experience in civilian jobs, while serving their country and, at the same time, only receiving a set salary.

- (2) 





On returning from WWI, my grandfather applied for sections in both Erina and Moorlands Settlements and was successful in obtaining Section 6S of Moorlands, which was bounded by Rapaura and Jacksons Roads and the Opawa River. I believe the family lived in a mud 'whare' already on the property until he could afford to build a modern bungalow. He remained on the property until retirement in the late 1940s. Previous to the war, he had worked on farms in Canterbury and also in the Waterfalls area (Awatere).

Source (adapted): Mallet, M. (2020, May). *Farm settlements for returned soldiers*. The Prow. <https://www.theprow.org.nz/yourstory/farm-settlements-for-returned-soldiers/>

