

17 MAR 1980

## Nau Paraone Kawiti Puriri

Ka mimiti nga puna wai o Taumarere,  
Ka toto nga tai ki Hokianga.  
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Ka toto nga tai ki Taumarere.

Te pononga a te motu; te tukinotanga a te motu; te Puriri  
whakatutuupuehu o Taiamai, e Nau, tiraha mai ra i te  
moenga roa o tatau wheinga. Moe mai te uri i whakakoikoitia  
e ona tupuna hei hapai i wa ratau toki, i hahau ti ai e koe

te mauri o te aroha,  
te mauri o te manaaki,  
te mauri o te whakaponono,  
te mauri atawhai,

te mauri arataki i te iwi e aue nei mou kua ngaro i te  
tirohanga kanohi.

Tera o maunga i roto ia te Aitanga-a-Mahaki, Ngati  
Kahungunu, Te Rarawa, Te Aupouri, Te Uri-o-Hau, Ngati  
Hine, Ngapuhi-nui-tonu, e tuohu nei mou kua wahangutia.  
Kotahi tonu tau na awhi i nga iwi huhua i tupono mai ki a koe.  
E kore ra o mahi i waenganui o nga iwi huhua o te motu e taea  
te korero. Me kii, nau i whakatinana te moteatea a nga  
tuupuna:

"Rere ki uta, rere ki tai  
Ui mai ki au he aha te mea nui,  
Maku e kii ake,  
He tangata! He tangata! He tangata!"

Ko koe tenei kua wheturangitia. Ara kua hinga te pouto-  
komanawa o te whare o Puhi-Moana-Ariki, kua hinga te  
kauri whakaruruhau o nga manu o te rangi, kua noho pani ra  
te iwi. Aue! te pouri, te tangi e!

No reira hoki atu ki a ratau kei tua o te arai. Ki nga totara  
haemata, nga kauri whakahihi o te Wao-tapu-nui a Tane  
Mahuta; nga hautu, nga haumi, nga whakaterere o nga waka;  
nga toka tu moana, aaki tai, aakinga hau, aakinga ngaru tu  
atea; aku whakaruruhau; aku manu tioriori, nga kaakaa  
wahanui o te pae i o ratau wa. Kua tae atu ra a koe ki a ratau;  
ki Tawhitinui, ki Tawhitiroa, ki Tawhitipamamao, ki te  
Hono-i-wairua. Kua maunu koe i runga i te waka o tenei  
tangata kaha o aitua.

He mea waihangia i roto i nga pouritanga maha o tenei ao.  
Kua kauria e koe o taua tupuna moana; a Pewhairangi, a  
Hokianga me Rangaunu. E takoto mai ra tona nei whaka-  
tauaki:

"He iti pioke no Rangaunu, he au tona."  
Haere, haere, haere atu ra ki te kainga tuturu mo tatau mo te  
tangata, e Nau.

Selwyn Muru

## Brigadier George Dittmer

The Maori Battalion's first commanding officer died recently  
in Auckland at the age of eighty-six.

He was born in Maharahara, Hawkes Bay, in 1893. In the  
First World War he fought at Gallipoli and in Egypt, and on  
the Western Front. He was wounded several times, and was  
awarded the Military Cross.

Promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel in the early days of the  
Second World War, he was appointed to the command of the  
newly formed Maori Battalion in January 1940 and occupied  
this post until February 1942. During this time the Battalion  
fought in Greece, Crete and Libya, and it was in Libya that  
he received a shrapnel wound in the back which led to a  
daring escape. Evacuated to a field hospital which was  
subsequently surrounded by enemy forces, he helped over  
twenty Commonwealth troops to freedom in an ambulance,  
despite his own wounds.

Following his return to New Zealand, he served as com-  
mander of the 1st Infantry Brigade group, the Fiji Military  
Forces and the Fiji Infantry Brigade group. After the war he  
was commander of the Papakura military camp and of the  
Central Military District. He retired in 1948.

He had a very special affection for every fighting man who  
was ever under his command, though many will remember  
his stern discipline and his ability to put fear into the hearts  
of the most unruly men. But it was his manner — his bravery  
in action and his profound knowledge of his profession —  
which drew such praise, respect and loyalty from all who  
served under him. He was affectionately called "the Old  
Man", and his troops would follow him and fight right to the  
end.

Haere, e Koro, haere ki to nuinga i to po.

Bill Herewini

