

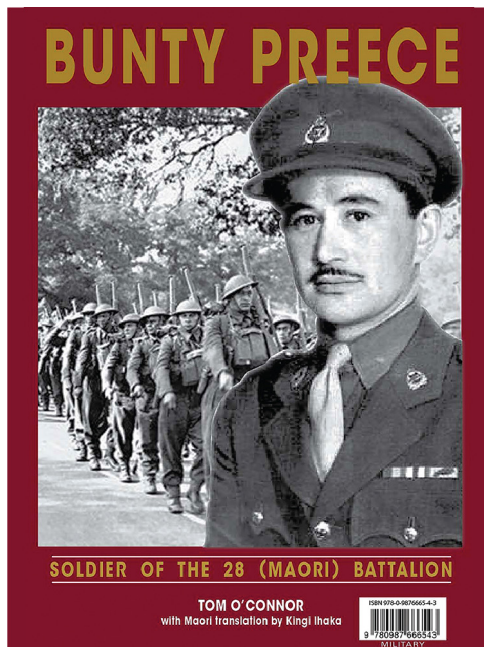
Exploring: Bunty Preece: Soldier of the 28 (Maori) Battalion

Author: Tom O'Connor

Publisher: John Douglas Publishing Ltd

Overview

Bunty Preece: Soldier of the 28 (Māori) Battalion by Tom O'Connor is a bilingual biography chronicling the life of Alfred "Bunty" Preece from the Chatham Islands. Preece served with distinction in the 28 (Māori) Battalion during World War II and later became a farmer, local body politician, and advocate for his people. The book provides personal recollections of the Italian Campaign and insights into the impact of war on individuals and communities.



Curriculum Connections:

This resource aligns with the New Zealand Curriculum in the following areas:

Social Sciences: Understanding the role of New Zealanders in global conflicts and the impact on national identity

History: Exploring World War II, specifically the contributions of the 28 (Māori) Battalion

English: Analyzing biographical texts and understanding narrative perspectives

Te Reo Māori: Engaging with bilingual texts to enhance language skills

Learning Objectives

Students will:

Gain knowledge of New Zealand's military history, focusing on the 28 (Māori) Battalion

Understand the personal experiences of soldiers during World War II

Analyse the structure and content of biographical writing

Develop empathy and critical thinking through engagement with historical narratives

Suggested Activities

1. Timeline Creation

Objective: Understand the chronology of Bunty Preece's life and military service

Activity: Students create a timeline highlighting key events, including his enlistment, battles participated in, and post-war contributions

2. Character Study

Objective: Analyze the traits and motivations of Bunty Preece

Activity: Identify and discuss qualities that defined Preece as a soldier and community leader, citing examples from the text

3. Comparative Analysis

Objective: Compare the experiences of Māori soldiers with other New Zealand soldiers during World War II

Activity: Research and present findings on similarities and differences in experiences, challenges, and recognition

4. Creative Writing

Objective: Encourage empathy and understanding through imaginative engagement

Activity: Write a diary entry or letter from the perspective of Bunty Preece during a significant moment in his military service

5. Language Exploration

Objective: Enhance bilingual literacy skills

Activity: Translate selected passages from Te Reo Māori to English or vice versa, discussing the nuances of language and meaning

Assesement

Formative: Participation in discussions, completion of activities, and engagement with the text

Summative: Presentation of the timeline, written character analysis, comparative essays, and creative writing pieces

Resources

Book: Bunty Preece: Soldier of the 28 (Māori) Battalion by Tom O'Connor

Additional Materials: Access to historical records, interviews, and documentaries on the 28 (Māori) Battalion

Extension Oppurtunities

Field Trip: Visit a local museum or memorial dedicated to World War II or the 28 (Māori) Battalion

Guest Speaker: Invite a historian or veteran to discuss the significance of Māori contributions to New Zealand's military history

Community Project: Students create a display or presentation for the school or local community to share their learning

This teaching resource provides students with a comprehensive understanding of Bunty Preece's life and the broader context of Māori participation in World War II, fostering appreciation for New Zealand's diverse history and cultural heritage.