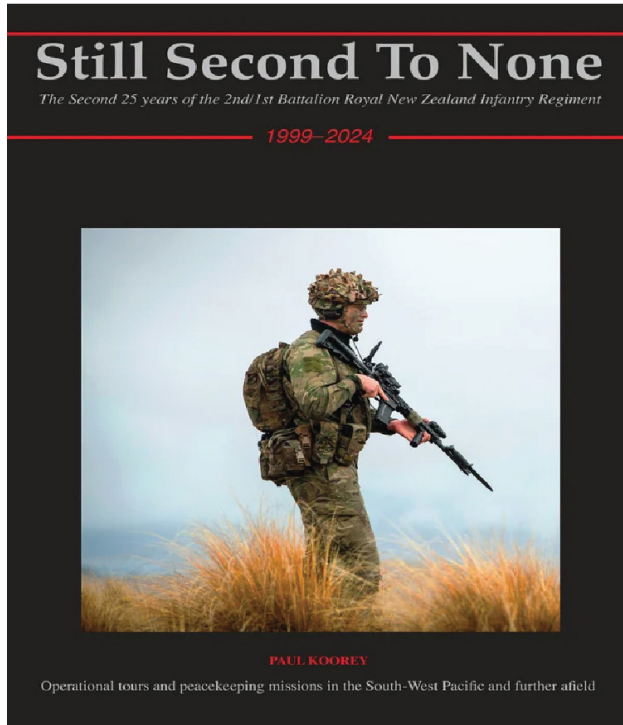


TEACHING RESOURCE – Still second to none: The Second 25 Years

Edited by: Paul Koorey

Publisher: John Douglas Publishing Ltd



Lesson Plan 1:

Introduction

To the 2nd / 1st Battalion (RNZIR)

– Legacy and Identity

Level:

Year 11–13 History / Social Studies / English

Time Allocation:

1–2 lessons (60–90 minutes)

Learning Objectives

Students will:

Understand the historical role and identity of the 2nd / 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (RNZIR).

Explore themes of service, sacrifice, and legacy within a military context.

Analyse personal accounts and visual material to reflect on how history is recorded and remembered.

Develop critical thinking through discussion and source analysis.

Curriculum Links:

History: Understand how individuals, groups, and institutions have influenced events over time.

English: Analyse and understand a range of texts, including historical non-fiction.

Social Studies: Understand how people define and seek justice, rights, and responsibilities.

Key Themes

Military identity and tradition

Comradeship and service

New Zealand's international military engagements

Memory and commemoration

Materials Required:

- Still Second to None (excerpts or full text)
- Printed handouts of selected personal narratives or profiles
- Whiteboard or digital display
- Research and Reflection worksheet (provided by teacher)
- Internet access for digital resources

Lesson Activities

1. Introduction/Starter (10 minutes)

Pose the question: “What does it mean to serve your country?”

Brainstorm student responses on the board.

Brief overview of the RNZIR and its origins.

2. Reading and Reflection (30 minutes)

Distribute selected excerpts from Still Second to None (e.g., profiles of soldiers, deployments, or key events).

Students read in pairs or small groups.

Use the Reflection Worksheet to note:

- The subject’s role and experiences
- Challenges faced
- Personal qualities displayed (e.g., leadership, resilience)

3. Group Discussion (15 minutes)

What common values and traits emerge across different stories?

How does the book preserve the Battalion’s legacy?

What might be the impact on family, community, and national memory?

4. Extension Activity

(Optional homework or second lesson)

Choose one individual from the text and create a short presentation or creative response:

- A letter home
- Illustrated timeline of their service
- Profile poster

Assesement Opportunities

Formative assessment through worksheet completion and class discussion.

Optional summative assessment: creative response or presentation evaluated on understanding, creativity, and connection to key themes.

Teacher Notes

Select excerpts appropriate for your class's reading level.

The book offers a mixture of narrative, historical analysis, and visual material - use this variety to support different learning styles.

Link to other units on ANZACs, New Zealand's overseas conflicts, or oral history.