



Cover Images: Arras Tunnel Photograph Courtesy of Sean Gillespie. New Zealand Pioneers Badge & Te Hokowhitu a Tu Badge: Courtesy of: L Osborne Collection, image B O'Sullivan.

July image: 'Armentières sector 1916 map', URL: http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/armentieres-sector-1916-map, (Ministry for Culture and Heritage).

Rarotongan men volunteered for WWI service and became part of the 3rd Māori Contingent and also formed the 11th Māori Contingent Reinforcements.

The Māoris, who compose our Pioneer Battalion, did splendid work —not in actual fighting, but in following up the infantry with communication trenches and supplies, etc. They always carried a rifle, but a shovel was their other weapon, and they used their shovels to their best ability. On one occasion they held themselves in readiness to go over the top one afternoon if our second brigade could not reach a certain objective; but the second brigade were successful, so Rangi kept on digging. Turk Lane was his chief work —a fine broad communication trench which they carried forward four or live miles. Small inclines had, names, "Rimutaka incline" was one rise, and a culvert for field guns was labelled for those who passed beneath it in the trench, "Paekākāriki Bridge," but Turk Lane was their special pride. They dug it and duckboarded it. They swore about their hard lot when they trudged away up towards the front as evening came on, there to spend the night in deepening and lengthening the main artery for feeding and supporting the -New Zealanders in the front line. So nowadays if you talk with a Maon he will ask, "Were you at the Somme?" and the second question is, "How long was Turk Lane?" I reply on principle, "Seven or eight miles"; at least, I did the other day. There are two Māoris in a dug-out just over the way, and when they put me the leading questions 1 was watching them cooking; and when I put on the extra mile or two I was promptly rewarded with a beautifully grilled chop. No doubt by the time they reach New Zealand it will have stretched its weary length to ten miles. I had some long walks in Turk Lane, I not as constitutionals, but because 1 had to, for Turk Lane was unhealthy. Observation was at all times a matter of supreme importance to both sides. On fine days we could count behind us about twenty-live big war balloons and captive kites, and Fritz sometimes ' had up half a dozen or more.

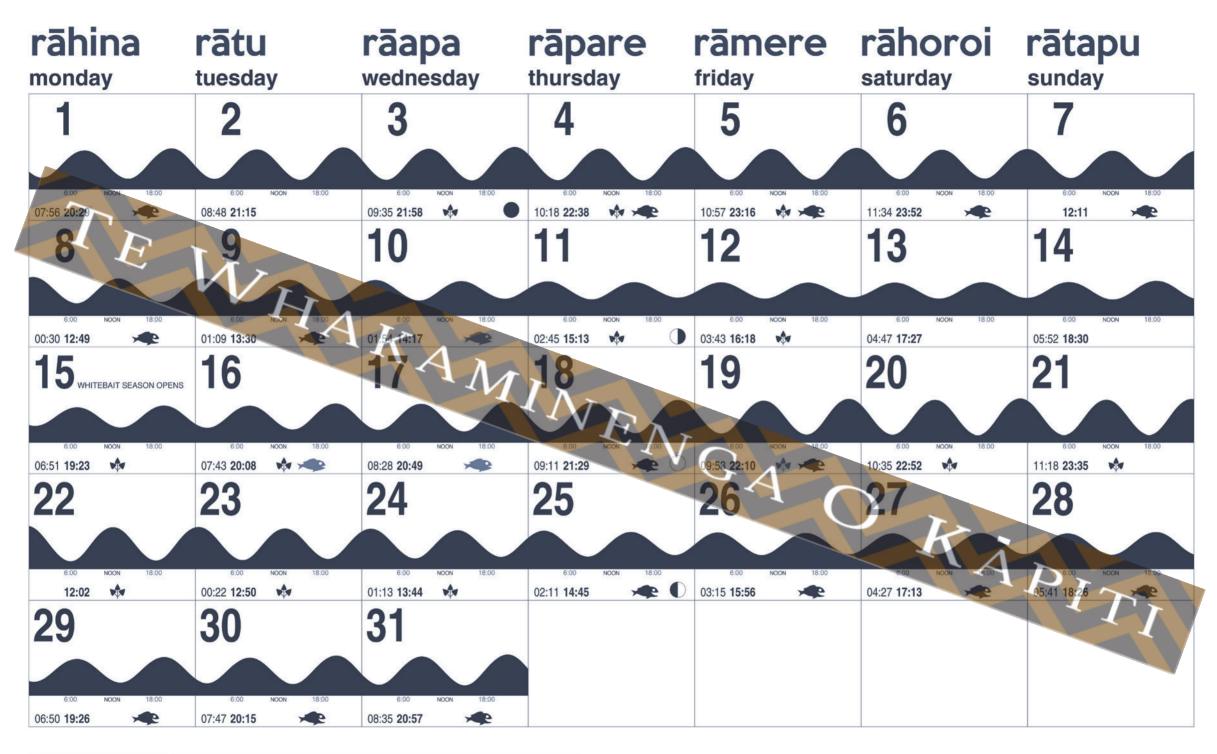
Wairarapa Daily Times, Volume LXX, Issue 146187, 28 February 1917, Page 2

## historic dates

He August - Pioneers are the first unit of the New Zealand Division to move to the Somme. They are sent ahead to prepare for the arrival of the rest of the New Zealand Division and begin work on an eight-kilometre communications trench, known as 'Turk Lane' which led to the front line.

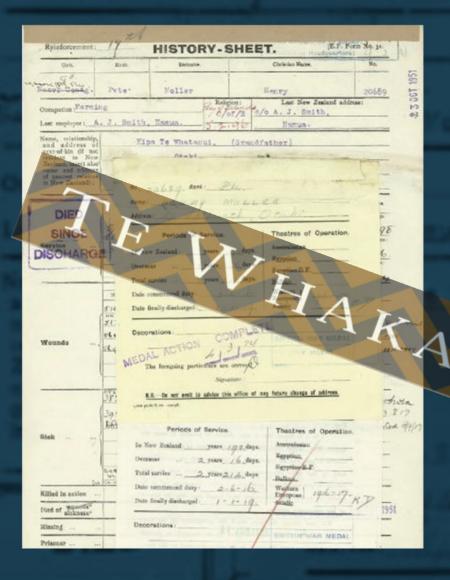
RAPITI







'Cowans map' www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/armentieres-sector7916map



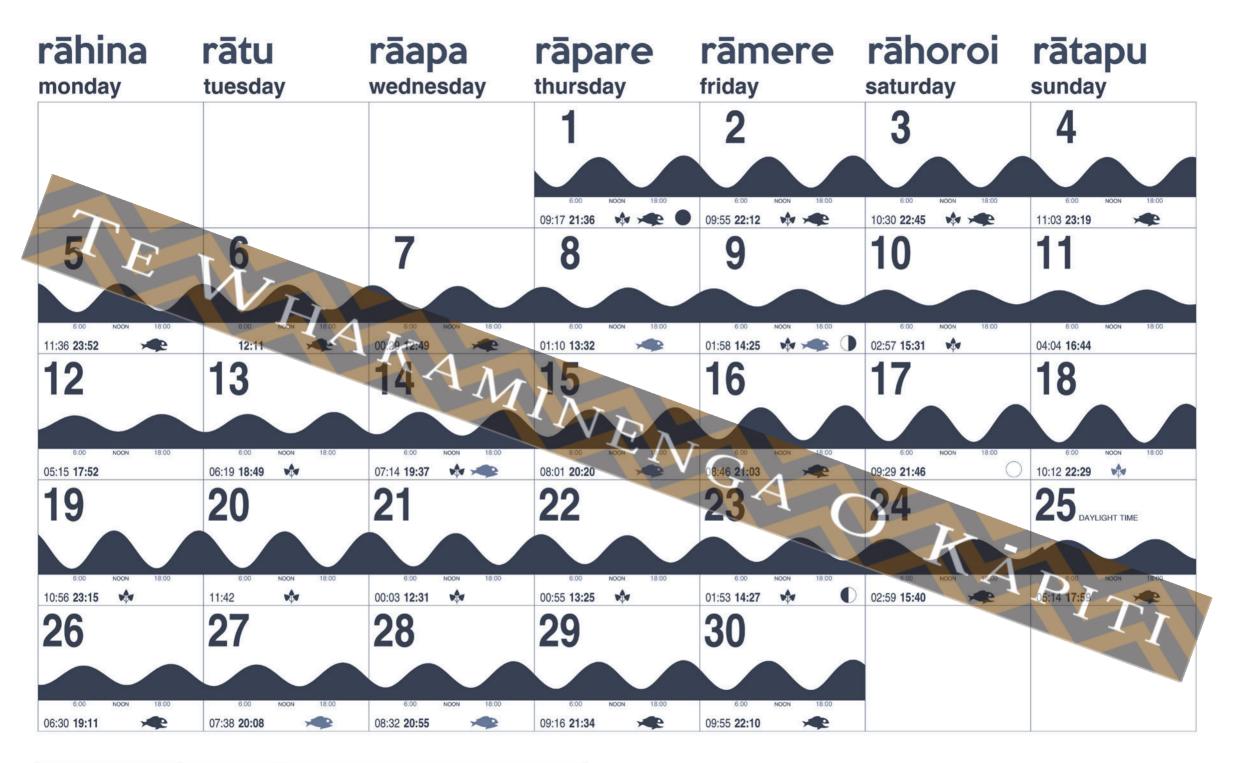


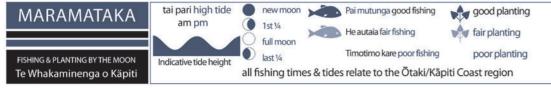
23 September - 8th
Reinforcements sailed 23
September 1916. Onboard was
Private Henry MOLLER,
20659, Ngāti Raukawa.



Private Huke Royal, 16/728, Second Māori Contingent, Ngāti Raukawa was wounded on the 15 September 1916 Tanks were introduced on the battlefield in September 1916, during the battle of Flers-Courcelette

## mahuruseptember





'History Sheet' for Henry Moller www.archway.archives.govt.nz

'Portrait of Huke Royal' Courtesy of www.thetreasury.org.nz/warpioneers.htm

'British Mark I male tank' By Ernest Brooks, Retrieved from: https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=119588

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Sir Joseph Ward



**Alexander Godley** 

William Ferguson Massey. Schmidt, Herman John, 1872-1959

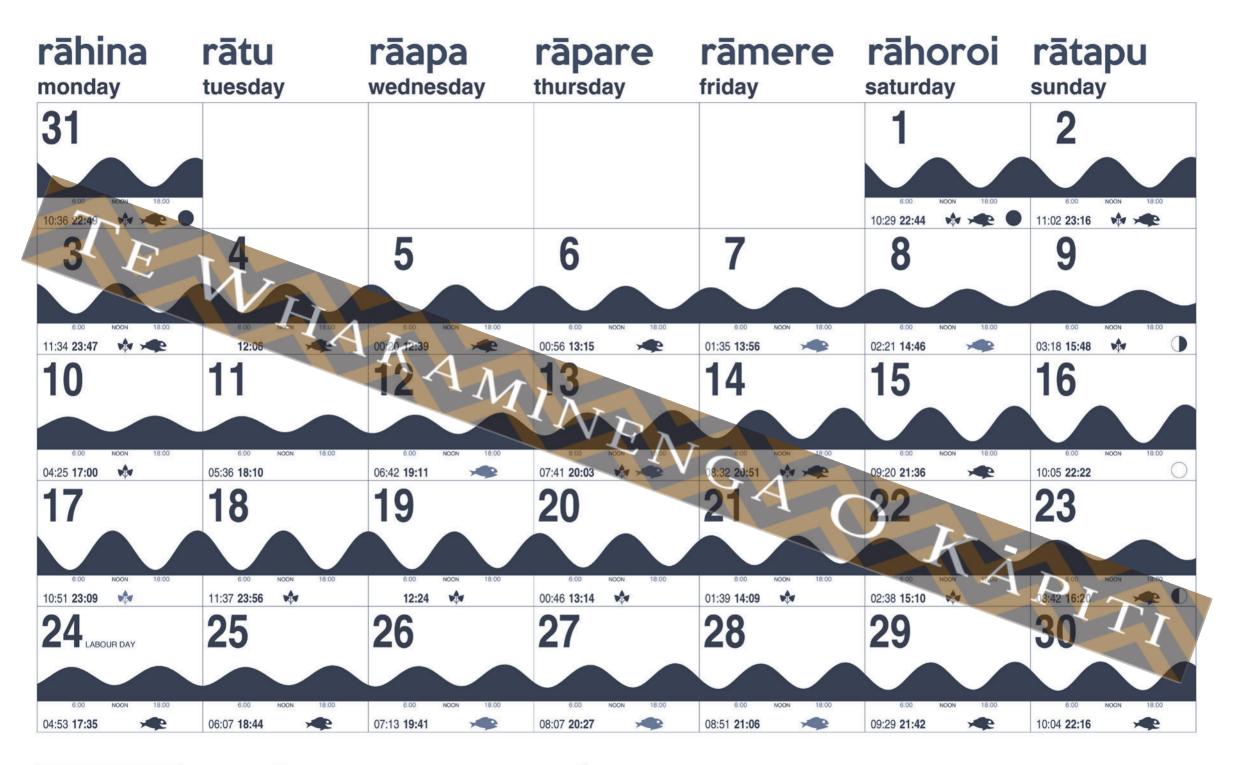
## historic dates

#### 11 October 1916

- The 9th Māori Reinforcements sail from New Zealand on board HMNZT67 Tofua

31 October - Medal decoration day. General Godley with William Massey, Prime Minister of New Zealand, and Sir Joseph Ward, inspect the Pioneers

## whiringa-ā-anukuoctober





'Alexander Godley', URL: http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/alexander-john-godley-0, (Ministry for Culture and Heritage), updated 21-Mar-2014.

'Sir Joseph Ward' image retrieved from: http://binged.it/29iqlna

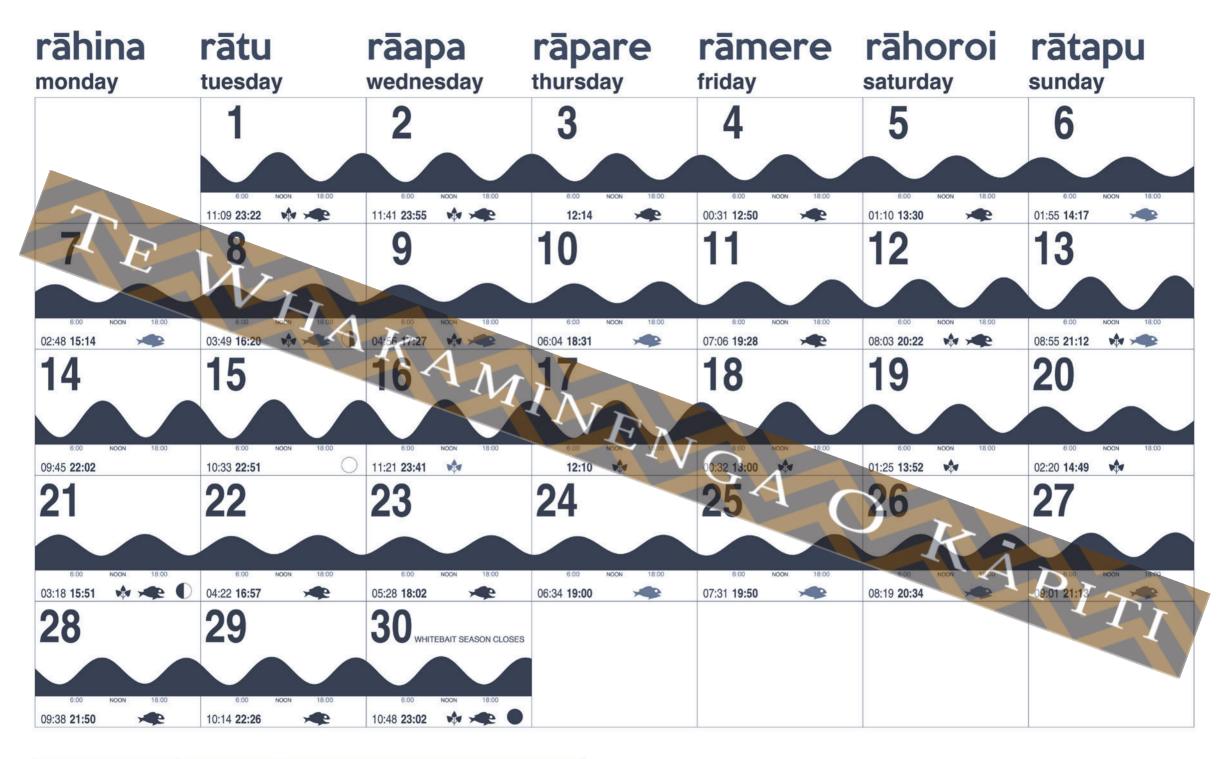
William Ferguson Massey. Schmidt, Herman John, 1872-1959 :Portrait and landscape negatives, Auckland district. Ref: 1/1-001538-F. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. http://natlib.govt.nz/records/22773582



15 November - The 10th Māori Reinforcements sail from New Zealand on board HMNZT69 **Tahiti** 

- The 8th Māori Devenport, England CAPITI

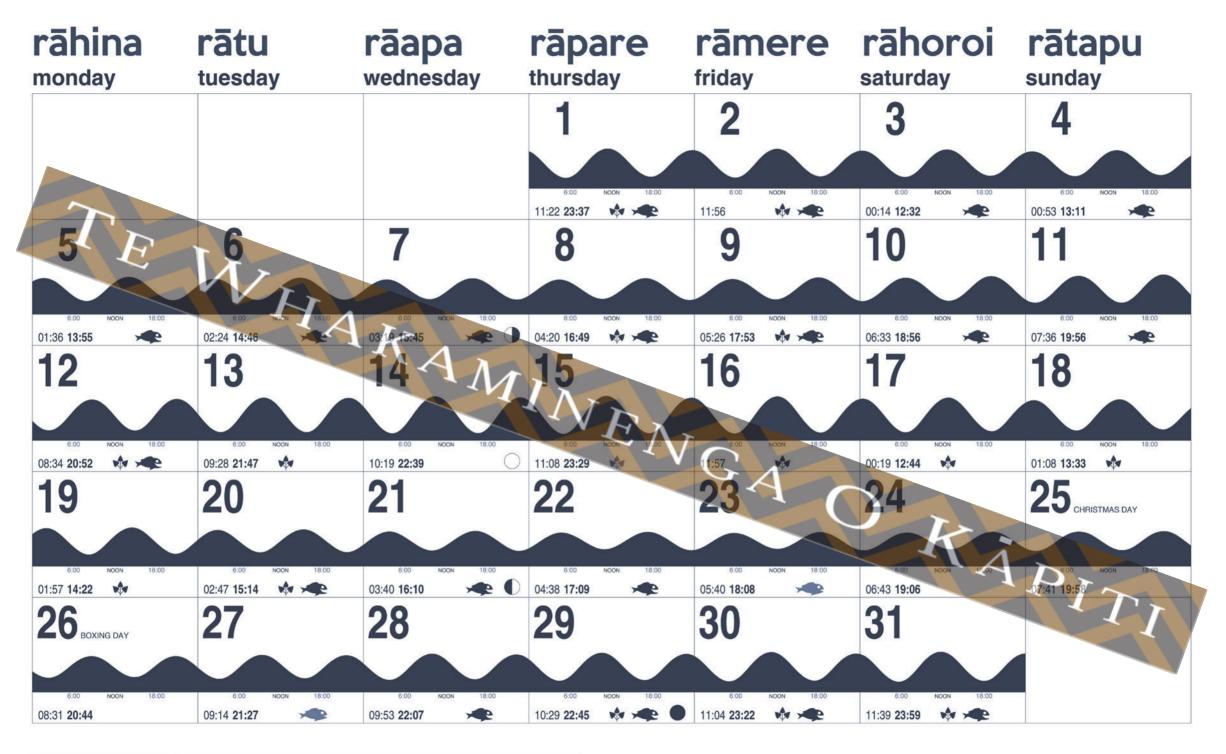
# whiringa-ā-ranginovember





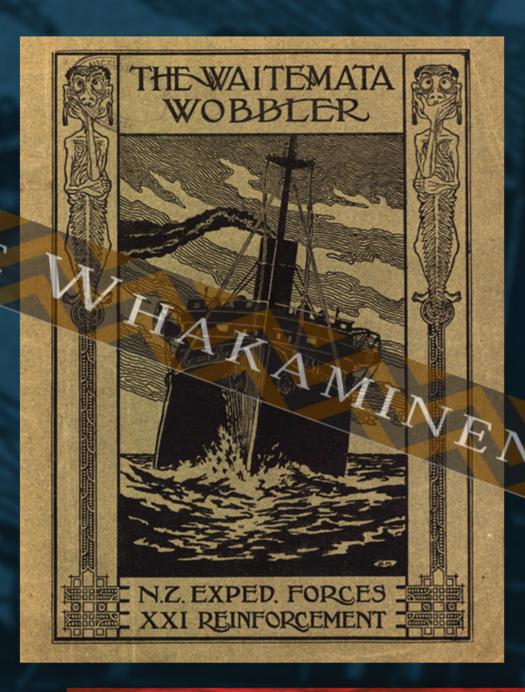
'The Pākehā' image Courtesy of Te Papa http://collections.tepapa.govt.nz/object/247193







Remember ANZAC, Gallipoli, 25th April, 1915. Christmas 1916, New Year 1917. http://natlib.govt.nz/records/22590424

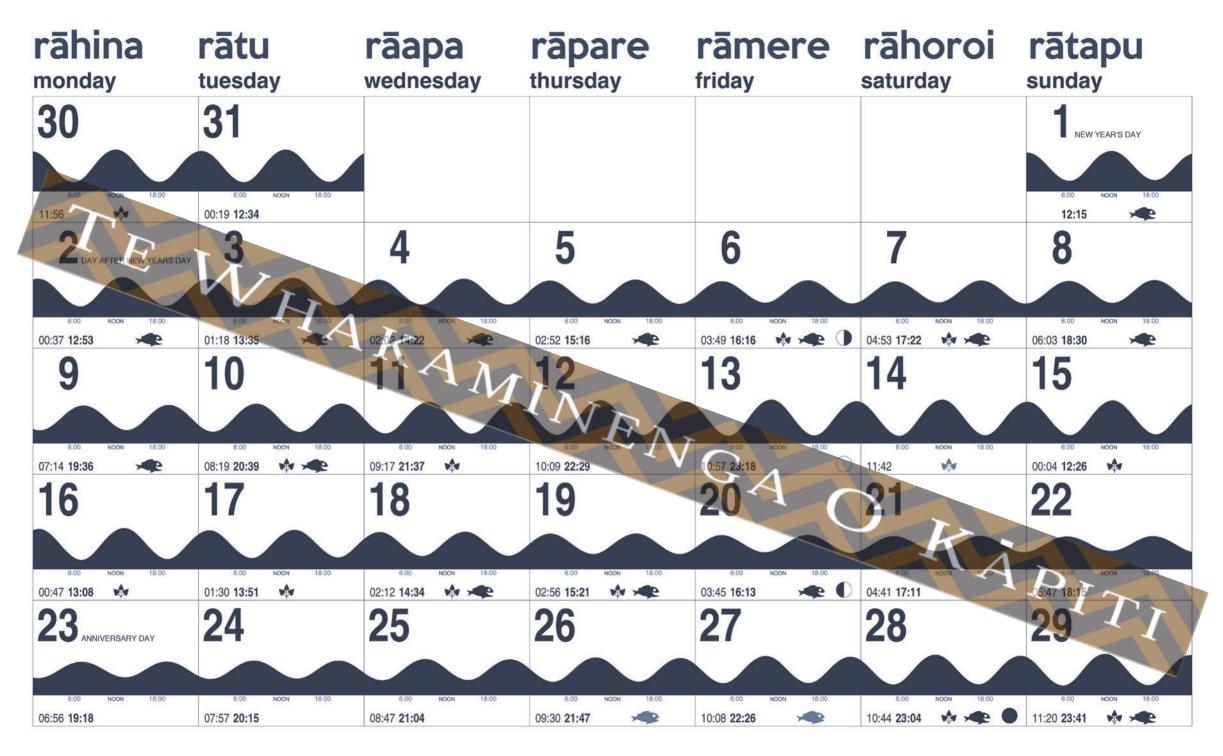


2 January - The 12th Reinforcements NZ
Pioneer Battalion sail from New
Zealand on board the HMNZT73 Opawa.
Some on board were off loaded at
Cape Town, South Africa and camped at
Simons Town. The 13th Reinforcements
NZ Pioneer Battalion sail from New
Zealand on board the HMNZT75
Waitemata

24 January - The 11th Māori Reinforcements (Rarotongans) arrive Egypt on board RMS Malwa

29 January - The 10th Maori
Reinforcements arrive Devonport,
England on board HMNZT69 Tahiti

## kohitāteajanuary



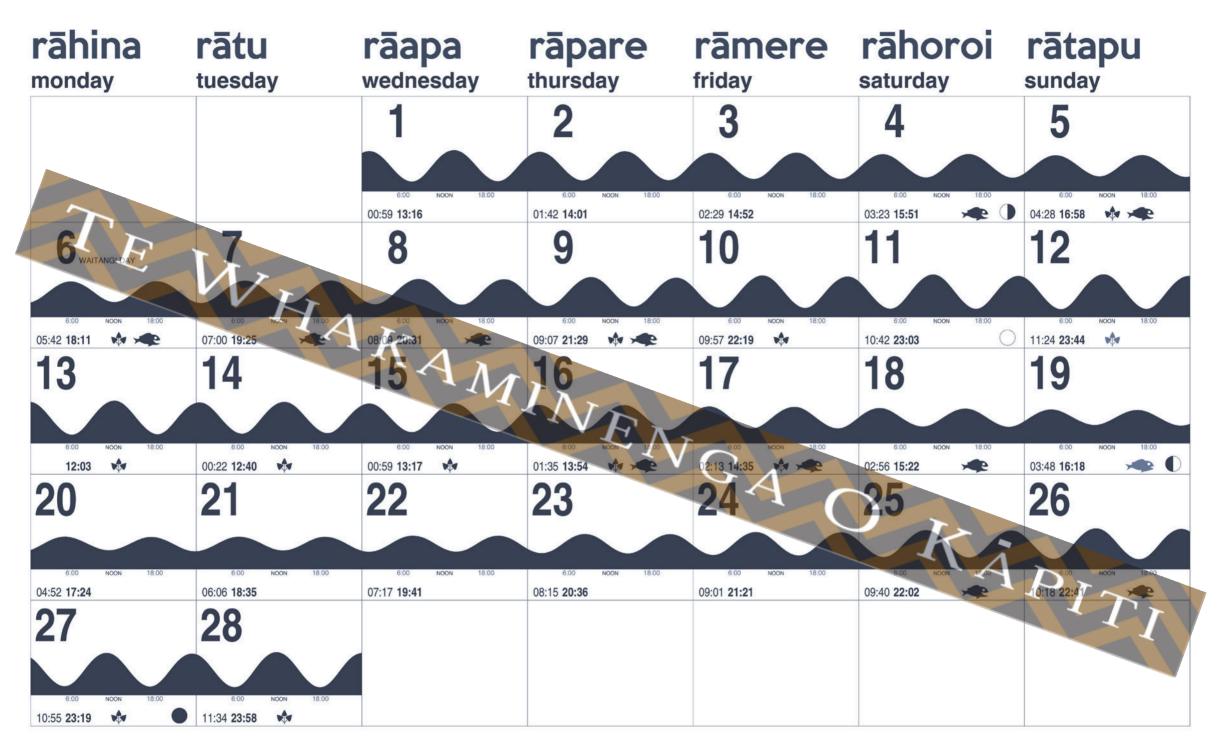


 $Waitemata\ Wobbler.\ \ Auckalnd\ War\ Memorial\ Museum-Online\ Cenotaph.\ \ Retrieved\ from\ http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph/record/C10810$ 



16 February - The 14th
Reinforcements New Zealand
Pioneer Battalion depart
Wellington on board HMNZT76
Aparima. Onboard was Private
Taipea Skipwith COOTES,
19564, Ngāti Toa Raigatira /
Ngāti Raukawa

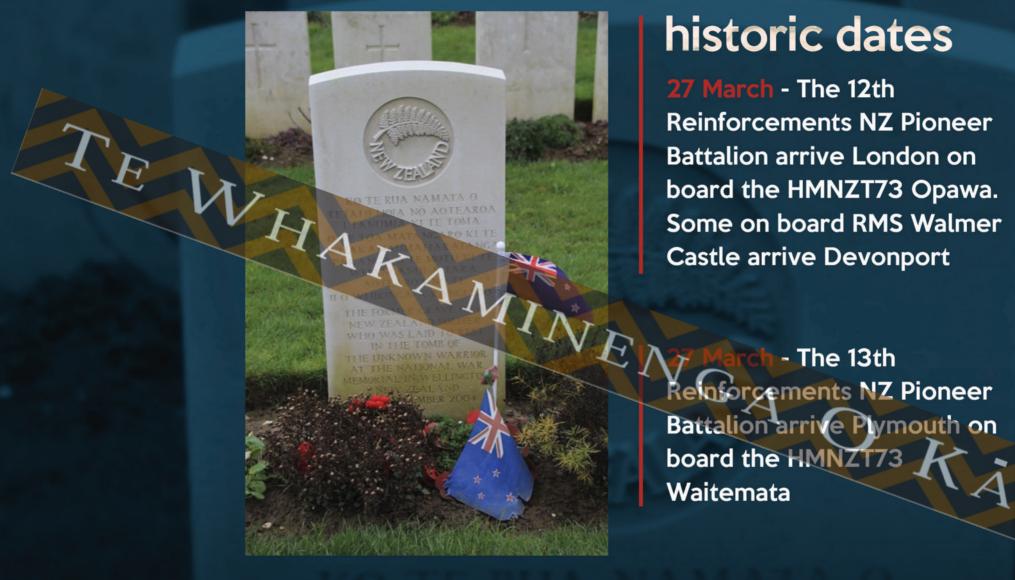
# hui-tangurufebruary





'Taipua Cootes and wife' image courtesy of great granddaughter Fiona Kwan www.nzwargraves.org.nz/ userstory-1373371666

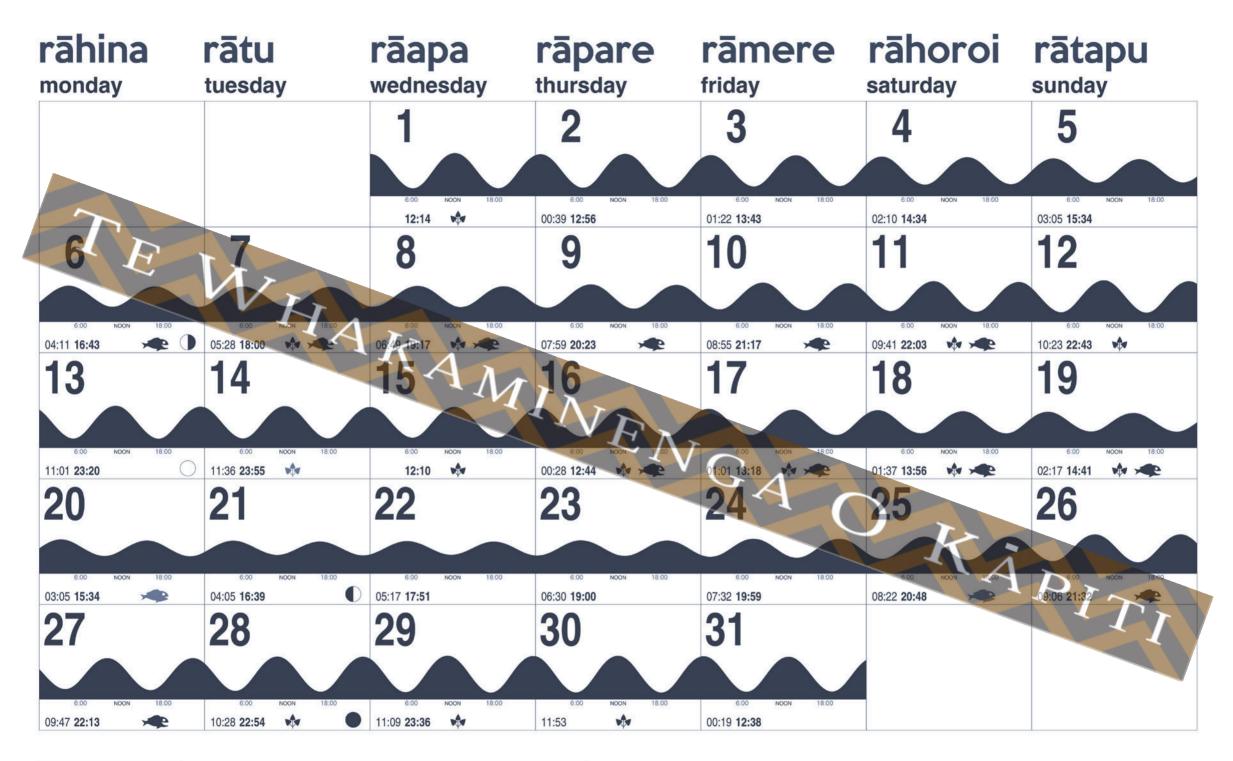
'George Gray COOK Post Card' image courtesy of Ōtaki Cook whānau



27 March - The 12th **Reinforcements NZ Pioneer** 

Battalion arrive Plymon, board the HMNZT73 RAPITI

poutū-te-rangimarch





'Monty Soutar, France Dec 2015 grave stone' image Courtesy of: Stephen McDougall, Studio of Pacific Architecture

26 April - The 16th Mathew BEVAN, 16/252 ex 1st

Turakina. Onboard was Private John HARMON, 19680, Ngati Toa Rangatira.



**Private John HARMON** 

paenga-whāwhāapril

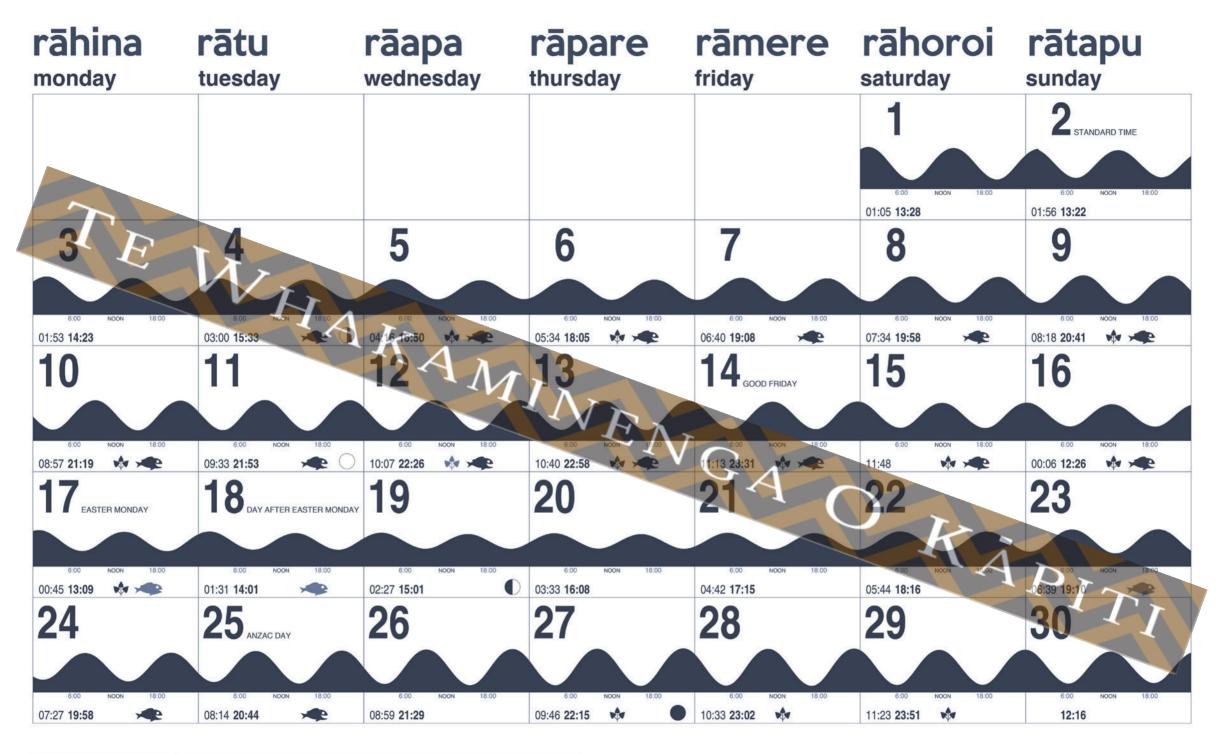


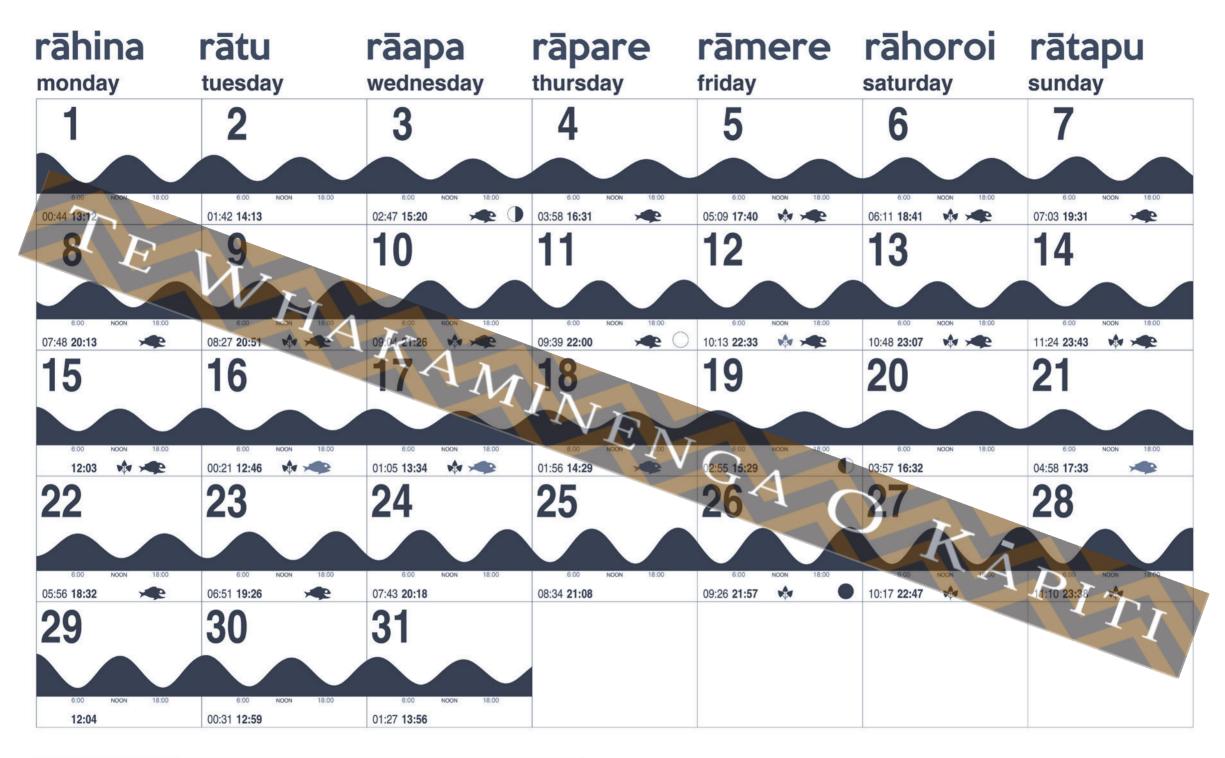


Image courtesy of Auckland War Memorial Museum "AWMM" – Online Cenotaph, from Auckland Weekly News 2 May 1918 page 41



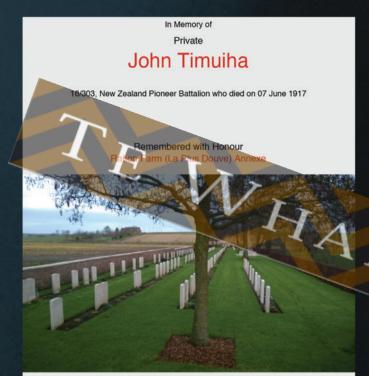
2 May - The 14th Reinforcements New Zealand Pioneer Battalion arrive

haratuamay





'The troopship Aparima', URL: http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/troopship-aparima, (Ministry for Culture and Heritage), updated 19-Aug-2014







Private Alfred John COOK

12 June - 18th Reinforcements sailed 12 June 1917. Onboard was Private Alfred John COOK, 19663 and Private Hakopa HIKAMATE, 19773, both Ngāti Raukawa.

In June, 1917, the Pioneers had their share in the great battle of Messines; their casualties in three weeks were 17 killed, 88 wounded, 45 gassed.

# pipirijune

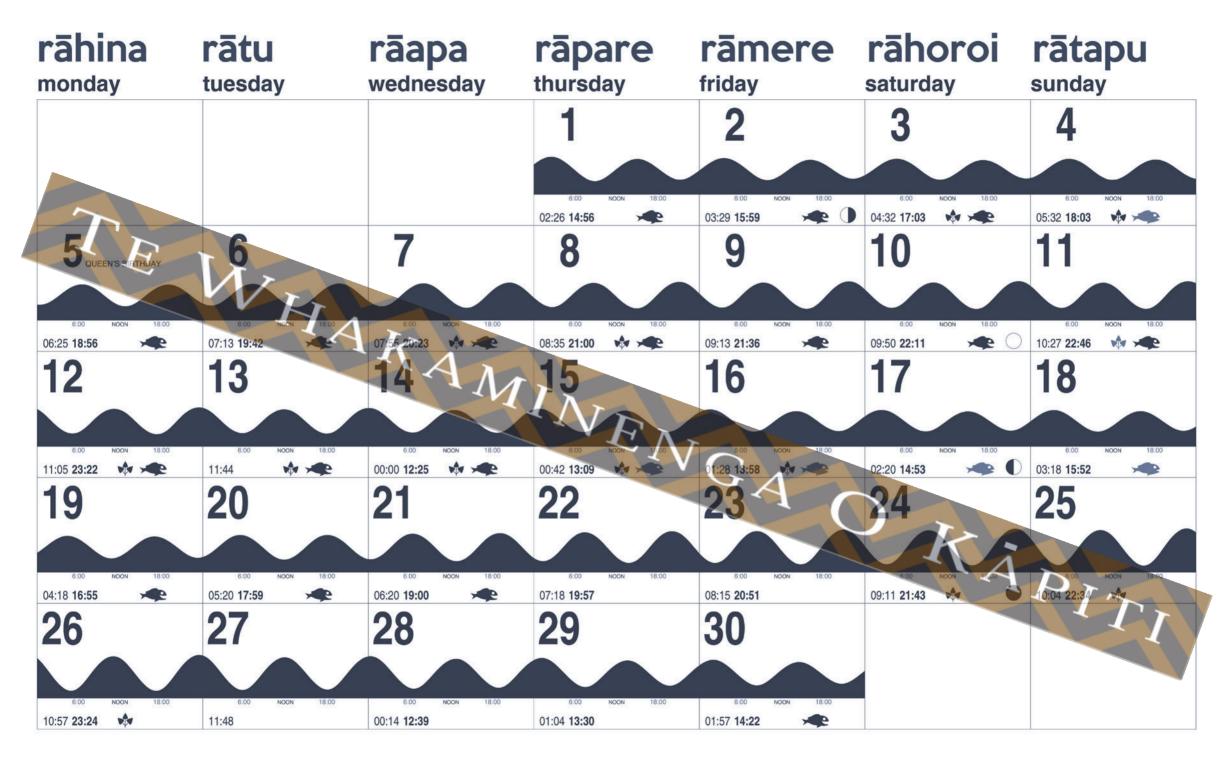




Image of Private Alfred John COOK courtesy of Ōtaki Cook Whānau

Private John TIMUIHA citation courtesy http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/445111/TIMUIHA,%20 JOHN



#### Matariki ahunga nui Matariki hunga nui

A time of assembly for the people

#### in the beginning . . .

our connection to the land some say, began with the stars and the heavens. Matariki has been and still is, a time to remember the past and a time to restore faith and hope for the future.

Traditional Māori lore tells of creation from Io Matua Te Kore (Io parent of the nothingness) to Te Ao Marama (the world of light).

Matariki is deeply embedded in Māori culture, acknowledged and revived through art, song, proverbs, stories and genealogy.

Like other peoples around the world, Māori looked to the heavens and noted the travel pattern of the stars and knew their rising and setting meant seasonal change.

The appearance of Matariki determined how to prepare the land. If Matariki appeared clear and bright, the weather would be warm and the harvest plentiful. If blurred and hazy, the weather would be cold and the harvest poor.

"Ngā kai a Matariki, nāna i ao ake ki runga"

Matariki scoops up the food, signifying the neccessity of planning and preserving food for the winter.

This whakatauki (proverbial saying) reminds us that the work should be completed by the time Matariki rises in late May or June.

#### maramatakalunar calendar

Ōtāne

whiro begins the day after a new moon on a pākehā calendar rākaunui begins the day after a full moon on a pākehā calendar

whiro the moon enters a new phase reasonably good night for crayfishing, eeling and planting tirea very good day for eeling, crayfishing, planting kumara hoata and sowing any seed a good day for establishing tuber beds, planting food and fishing another good day for planting food, fish are restless Ōkoro tamatea-kai-ariki a day for planting food, west winds prevail that only rain will quell eels are voracious feeders this night, tamatea-ā-ngana a good day for planting food and fishing but beware of fog and foaming sea eel, fish and kumara are abundant but small, tamatea āiā a productive day for collecting shellfish, fishermen beware! tamatea-whakapaua favourable day for planting from morning to midday, not very good for fishing a disagreeable day, one for marking time ariroa do not plant food. not a good day for fishing, huna eel and crayfish are wary a most favorable day for planting food. kumara are large, māwharu but rot quickly, a good day for fishing, a good night for

atua whakahaehae not a good day for planting food or fishing Ōturu a good day for bobbing eel a good day for fishing and for planting food from midday to sundown a very good day, crops are bountiful rākaunui a good day for fishing but not eeling a very good day for fishing but not eeling, seed plants rākaumatohi grow vigorously takirau (faintly visible) the moon is hazy, food is bountiful but small in size not a good day for fishing or planting food oike an unproductive night on the shore korekore te whiawhia Morekore te rawe winds sweep the seas not a fruitful night, food is scarce but await the turn of the tide a good day from midday to sundown

a productive period for taking eel, trapped or otherwise most foods are plentiful
tangaroa-ā-mua
a good day for planting food, for fishing and eeling tangaroa-ā-roto
productive days for fishing and for planting food

tangaroa-whakapau a good day for fishing and the cultivation of seed beds

tangaroa-ā-kiokio a good day for taking eel, for fishing and setting crayfish and eel traps

a good day for fishing, eeling and crayfishing.

Ōrongonui a very productive day for planting food, fishing and eeling

a reasonably good day for planting food

mauri not a productive day, food is scarce

fish are restless and turn tail
mutuwhenua unproductive day and night

the moon has diminished and the world is now in total

darkness



a very good day for planting food

trapping crayfish and eel

Ōhua











