

THE NEW ZEALAND SUNSET
CEREMONY COMMEMORATING
THE BATTLE OF PASSCHENDAELE

12 OCTOBER 2017
BUTTES NEW BRITISH CEMETERY
POLYGON WOOD, BELGIUM

Programme





Programme

THE SUNSET CEREMONY FOR THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF PASSCHENDAELE

*Cover: A New Zealand
signaller on a bunker at
Gallipoli Farm in Belgium,
12 October 1917. Alexander
Turnbull Library
1/2-012945-G*

*New Zealand Engineers
resting in a large shell hole
at Spree Farm, Ypres Salient,
12 October 1917. Alexander
Turnbull Library
1/2-012935-G*

Programme

Welcome

Nicole Jamieson

The arrival of the Official Party

Kaiārahi

The New Zealand Defence Force Māori Cultural Group escorts the Official Party into the cemetery

National Anthems

Please remain standing for the National Anthems of the Kingdom of Belgium and of New Zealand sung by Leading Aircraftsman Barbara Graham, Sergeant David Fiu and Able Musician Rebecca Nelson

The National Anthem of the Kingdom of Belgium

*O dierbaar België, O heilig land der Vaad'ren,
Onze ziel en ons hart zijn u gewijd.*

Aanvaard ons kracht en bloed van ons ad'ren,

Wees ons doel in arbeid en in strijd.

Bloei, o land, in eendracht niet te breken;

Wees immer uzelf en ongeknecht,

Het woord getrouw, dat g' onbevreesd moogt spreken,

Voor Vorst, voor Vrijheid en voor Recht!

Het woord getrouw, dat g' onbevreesd moogt spreken,

Voor Vorst, voor Vrijheid en voor Recht!

Voor Vorst, voor Vrijheid en voor Recht!

Voor Vorst, voor Vrijheid en voor Recht!

The National Anthem of New Zealand

E Ihowā Atua *God of nations at thy feet*

O ngā iwi mātou rā *In the bonds of love we meet*

Āta whakarongona *Hear our voices, we entreat*

Me aroha noa *God defend our free land*

Kia hua ko te pai *Guard Pacific's triple star*

Kia tau tō atawhai *From the shafts of strife and war*

Manaakitia mai *Make her praises heard afar*

Aotearoa *God Defend New Zealand*

Aroaroā

Sorrow

From a population of just over one million, 42 percent of New Zealand men of military age enlisted. Ultimately over 100,000 soldiers and nurses served with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force overseas in the Pacific, at Gallipoli, on the Western Front and in Sinai-Palestine. The musical work, Tarakihi, symbolises this exodus of New Zealanders.

Tarakihi

Cicada

Performed by the band, the Māori Cultural Group and the vocalists from the New Zealand Defence Force. During the musical work Tarakihi the Regimental Colours are paraded.

Christmas

A century after the First World War it's difficult to comprehend the horror of trench warfare. A few short months after war began, movement ground to a halt. Both sides settled into the Western Front – a system of trenches remained in place for almost the entire war. Over 40,000 km of interlinking and opposing trenches ran from the Belgian coast to the Swiss border. Cold, wet and surrounded by death from battle or disease these trenches were an appalling place to live and die. Trench warfare created a stalemate which turned the conflict into an horrific war of attrition.

There were, however, occasional reprieves from the horror. The Christmas truces of 1914 and 1915 saw a series of unofficial ceasefires occur along the front; soldiers mingled, exchanged food and souvenirs. In New Zealand their families gathered together to celebrate Christmas as best they could, but always knowing their loved ones were in harm's way.

Silent Night

Hāngu te Pō

Performed by Sergeant David Fiu and Leading Aircraftsman Barbara Graham

These were torturous times for families back in New Zealand. News took months to travel around the globe to home. Families seldom knew how their loved ones were faring. They consoled themselves praying for a safe return.

Bring Him Home

Performed by the band and vocalists from the New Zealand Defence Force

Passchendaele

Sergeant Major Dwayne Bloomfield's composition Passchendaele is a musical depiction of the events that unfolded that day; the six movements are titled Barrage, Reflection, Slaughter, Aftermath, Grief and Requiem.

The music opens in the trenches. Young soldiers in the half-light of early morning wait while all around them the artillery barrage storms.

Barrage

Reflection

Slaughter

Aftermath

Grief

A karanga – mōteatea – lament performed by the Māori Cultural Group

Requiem

A solemn Requiem to the dead honours their bravery and comradeship

The Catafalque Guard mounts

Acknowledgments

The work concludes with the sound every New Zealand household dreaded during the First World War; the telegraph delivery boy knocking on the front door, bringing news of death – a sound heard nearly two thousand times throughout New Zealand after the October 1917 Passchendaele battles.

Prayer for Peace

Chaplain Class 3 Hamish Kirk

Royal New Zealand Chaplains' Department

The Commemoration

The Ode

E kore rātou e kaumātuatia
Pēnei i a tātou kua mahue nei
E kore hoki rātou e ngoikore
Ahakoa pēhea i ngā āhuatanga o te wā
I te hekenga atu o te rā
Tae noa ki te aranga mai i te ata
Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou

Response: Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou

They shall grow not old,
As we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun,
And in the morning,
We will remember them.

Response: We will remember them.

The Last Post with Nightfall in Camp

Silence is Observed

Poem

Ellen's Vigil

Benjamin Isaac Tom
Passchendaele Ypres and Somme
three ovals float
on the cold wall
plastered whiter
than their bones,
young, khaki'd,
their bud-tender eyes
premonition filled.

Ellen,
her three boys gone,
transplanted seventy years
from Lurgan's linen
no longer counts crops
in season
but digs, diligently, delicately,
digs down
further down
her spade searching
her garden for
three lost sons

Thomas Isaac and Ben.

By Lorna Staveley Anker, from The Judas Tree, edited by Bernadette Hall, Canterbury University Press, 2013.

Lorna Staveley Anker was born in 1914 and grew up in the home of her grandmother, Ellen Claridge. Five of Ellen's sons served during the First World War, of whom three died. Isaac was killed at Passchendaele, Benjamin was killed at Messines and Thomas was wounded on the Somme and died as a result of his injuries over a year after his return to New Zealand.

The Closing

The Regimental Colours are Marched Out

The band plays Fernleaf Headstones

Catafalque Guard Dismounts

The Sunset Ceremony will close with an iconic Māori love song, composed in 1914 and sung by the 19th and 20th Māori Reinforcements, serving as combat engineers here in 1917

Pōkarekare Ana performed by the band, the vocalists and the Māori Cultural Group

The Official Party Departs

The New Zealand Government would like to thank the following for their support and assistance with the New Zealand Sunset Ceremony to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele:

*The Government of the Kingdom of Belgium
The Minister-President and the Government of Flanders*

*The Mayor and Community of Zonnebeke
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission*

