

20250427 ANZAC STORIES

FROM WW100 – New Zealand's First World War Centenary
Programme ran from 2014 to 2019

1. Peter Fraser, who would later become New Zealand's Prime Minister during World War II, played a significant role during World War I as a staunch opponent of conscription and an advocate for workers' rights. Originally from Scotland, he emigrated to New Zealand in 1911 and became active in socialist politics. By 1914, he was a key figure in the Social Democratic Party and later helped form the New Zealand Labour Party in 1916. His strong anti-conscription stance led to his arrest and imprisonment for sedition after a public speech in 1916. While in prison,

Fraser deepened his political thinking and maintained his commitment to social justice. After his release in 1917, he quickly returned to political organizing, leading Labour to electoral successes and winning a seat in Parliament in 1918. His wartime experiences shaped his lifelong dedication to fairness and equality, values that would define his leadership in the years to come.

2. The article "Victor Low – the Chinese Anzac who laid out the Bulford Kiwi" highlights the contributions of Sergeant Major Victor Low, a Chinese New Zealander born in Dunedin in 1894. Victor, from New Zealand's first Chinese family, served in the New Zealand

Engineers Tunnelling Corps during World War I. After the war, while stationed at Sling Camp in England, New Zealand troops, frustrated by delays in repatriation and poor conditions, rioted in March 1919. To restore order and morale, authorities initiated the carving of a giant kiwi into the chalk hillside above the camp. Victor Low, leveraging his engineering skills, surveyed and laid out the design, creating what became known as the Bulford Kiwi. This emblem not only served as a morale booster but also became a lasting symbol of New Zealand's presence in the area. Victor's role underscores the diverse contributions of Chinese New Zealanders to the nation's military history. ([Victor Low –

the Chinese Anzac who laid out the Bulford Kiwi -

WW100](https://ww100.govt.nz/bulford-kiwi?utm_source=chatgpt.com), [Bulford Kiwi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bulford_Kiwi?utm_source=chatgpt.com))

3. The article "Khaki Weddings" on WW100 New Zealand explores the phenomenon of New Zealand soldiers marrying shortly before departing for World War I. Hundreds of men who enlisted as bachelors chose to wed before embarking, leading to a surge in wartime marriages. These weddings were often hastily arranged, with grooms in military uniform and brides in modest attire,

reflecting the urgency and uncertainty of the times. Professional studios like Berry & Co. in Wellington captured formal portraits of these couples, many of which are now preserved in Te Papa's 'Berry Boys' collection. Notable examples include Cecil and Hannah Baker, Edmund and Mary Robinson, John and Maud Taylor, and Alfred and Queenie Hart. These stories highlight the personal dimensions of war, where love and commitment persisted amidst the looming threat of separation and conflict. The article underscores how these "khaki weddings" became a poignant aspect of New Zealand's wartime experience, blending personal milestones with national service.

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<https://www100.govt.nz/feature-article-categories/personal-stories>