

Middle East
Nov 9th 1941.

To Api

Tena koe, korua korua ko te iwi e noho mai na i te kairanga
He ahua nei o nga mea e hoki atu ana, Nga mea mate, me nga
mea korua, ka hae mai te whakamatautauranga ki te ngatani me
te hinangaro, te waanata nei ki te hoki atu. Kahore na, kae ki
mohio tonu iho ano, Kahore e taea te whakaaere matua kore iho
ki whanau nei, ko Major Bertrand, ko Werohia, ko Weir, kae
nei pea te timatanga o te ope korua e hae no ratou ki hiahia
ki te hoki atu, engari ko nga kae whakaaere kae te matahihi
mai ki te iwi, ka hae ki kowhiri. Pea tonu ai nga pataka.
Ko nga hore o tena pakanga te papua nei, Haunga ai nga mea
na te mate i whakakohi atu, ko te Punga tena, kare te tamata
mauon tena tamaiti, e hae te aha, e hinga atu ana e aha
mai ana. Kare te ora o nga korua e noho atu nei, ara
ko Parekura te meretara. I kihi matua tonu iho i te hoki ki te
pore hiahia, he mea mate nei ka hoki ki punga, me mahi
nei ka noho ki raro. I te pua ka hae te pore ki raro i te aua
punga i te hore tonu o hane, ara i te tanga o te mate
o te Tamara, ka hiahia ano i Parekura ki raro, ka ala -
whakakohi ki raro i te taha o te pore, ka whanga pore
ano, ka hinga mai te pore o Capt Weir, ka waanata iho me
tena wa, ka hae atu ratou, ka noho au me nga mea
tokohu o matua i punga ano i tena pore hiahia, engari kae
kore nei me a maua ko Kopu ki raro kae whakakohi
ki te taha o te pore, e hae tonu ara te mate o te pore,
Kare te kino o nga iwi nga hinga, e Api he mea hira
whakakohi, ahau hapahapainga e maua, me te maua mohio
iho ano kae te mamae, kore rawa e haurua, Pea ke e au
mehehe e riri atu ana i te mamae tena pea e kore e hira
aroha iho, tena ia ko te hore e haurua atu, ka hae me
iho nga kaimata, ka whakahihi noa iho hae huna i te
mamae kei raro. Hei ano ka hoki i te pore karenga ai ki nga
pore i hae nei: - "Any room for four wounded?" Hei ano te
whakahihi, "Sorry mate, full up." Hei ano ki au kore matua kae
matua atu, ka waanata au ki hiahia pore karenga. Ka utua
a maua tangata ki punga, ka hae matua, no te 5 o nga hore

Translation of letter from Kahi Harawira to Sir Āpirana Ngata

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O' Api

Greetings, to you both and the people residing back there at home. It appears certain that some [of the men] are to return home. The sick and those who feel they are too old are undergoing physical and psychological examinations, in the hope that they will be able to return. Kahore ra, kei te mohio tonu iho ano, kahore e taea te whakareke matua kore iho te whanau nei. Major Bertrand, Werohia, Weir, these are perhaps the start of the older group [and while] they do not wish to return, it is those tasked with examining them, which make the selection. Its the same for the Europeans. The soldiers of the last war are being sought out. Including those whom sickness has forced them to return. [Paul] Te Punga is one, he is very ill, what a loss that lads is [to the Battalion], but what can be done, when one falls, another takes his place. The old fullas are keeping well, and Parekura is the real miracle. In Crete it was I who helped him onto the first truck, it required a real effort to get to his feet and another great effort to get him seated. At night the truck fell into a ditch in the town of Canea, to be precise, the result of the work of the Germans. Parekura was again lifted down and he sat patiently on the side of the road, waiting for another truck. Capt. Weir's truck chanced along and he [Parekura] was fortunate for awhile. Away they went, while myself and four others [who were wounded] remained with the first truck, but Kopu and I took them off and lay him on the roadside while the truck went on. The young lads were in tremendous agony, oh Api, and it was really heart wrenching. Although we assisted them and we knew they were in pain, they wouldn't make a sound. To me it would have been better if they had expressed their pain, then maybe we would not have felt so bad, yet they never made a sound. It was only when we saw their tears that we realised the pain they were concealing. Anyway we stood at the side of the road and called to passing trucks, "Any room for four wounded?" But the response was, "Sorry mate, full up." Well just when I thought we would be left behind I was lucky enough to be picked up by an Aussie truck. We lifted our men aboard, and away we went. At 5 o'clock

i te ata ka tae mai ki te Hōhira. Ko te tānga ki te wahi
e hāhi atu ana ki Spargia ki te wahi hoki hei tānga ki nga
tūira mo Shipa, ka hīia mai kua he a Parekura ki reira
ngari ka muti ki kaha o te roa, me haere roro ki te
Laketai, ka hīia au ki nga roro, ahakoa he tangata ora
he wāhi tau ana roro, Kahore au i hīia e Api, ngari he mea
pākeha hea tangata i hīia ai ki pare; mas te ranga anake o
te Ranga roro, ka tae mai mai ki Shipa he haere au
hei hīia, ahakoa i reira, Kahore tau au i mahara tau au
ia e Kahā ki te hōki mai ki te Pū, ahakoa i muri mai o
tau hōki mai kahore au i whakaa tau ia e Kaha, Inaeani
katata au au ka whakaa. He aha taua ranga? E ki ana i
Ngatiporo, "He kaiti no te manawa." Kōi te C. C. Ngatiporo
ka muti i a roro. Ko D Coy ko Timu, ko B te Rangi. Hei au
ko te mōrehu Kauripū a te Hōhira he pātaka ko Harave,
Kāua te fā, ngari he wāwāhi me ake mekemea fā i hōki mā
pākeha kua Harā katāu ngā kōi whakaa, ka hīia au a te
Whāki ka reira H. B. i a Urlich, ngari ahau i te mea pūmanu,
Kōi te tūira tau ki C. O. i tātahi tangata hīia, ahau au fā
pātaka ai au, ko C Bennett fā te mahi a Weir, J. Bennett
2 i C Coy, Tomason Adjutant, S. B. S.

Ko tūira Pātaka ka whakaa hīia mai a māhi
Karatia, H. R. A + B pātaka, C + D pātaka, he muti kōi Hāpa i te
ra reira i wāwāhi i a C Coy. Ko te ata he taua bāge he mea
whakapūi ka hīia a ranga ki te hōki ka hōia ki Hātari
hīia mai a te whakaa i roro i te opepe, Ewha au au
he he te Pū ki tau i nga mea i roro i te whā, Ngā wāhi
katā o te Kōmanāti hīia he mea hāngi ki wahi, Kōi iho
au i te ngātanga o taua māhi i taua pā ki roro i te manawa
o taua o taua o wāwāhi, Kōi te pātaka tātahi ngā hōia, ahau au
ka te Pū wahi mo tūira pātanga, ka wāwāhi ahau Kauripū a tūira
Pātaka me tūira he whakaa i te māwā pātaka tātahi, ko tātahi
tūira e Api, kōi a kōi au tau, ka tātahi taua pātanga ka
tātahi hōki te Pū, Ahau kua tātahi noa atu iho i mea noa
atu, ngari iho mo te pātahi. I tātahi he mea te māhi, I Harave
pūira au, I Parekura pūira au, i hōki pūira au, i Lōtū pūira au,
mekemea mo tūira taua hōki ka te au, kua muti noa atu

in the morning we arrived at the hospital. When we reached the place near Spargia the place where we were also to board the ships for Egypt, I was told Parekura had made it there but due to the truck breaking down, was forced to go down to the beach on foot. I looked at the road, and even if one was healthy the road was still difficult. I did not see Api, but how did that man reach the bottom? Only by the mighty hand of the one above. When we got to Egypt I went to see [him], and even though he was there, I was never in doubt that he would regain sufficient strength to return to the Bn. However after he returned [to the unit] I could not accept that he would return to full fitness. Only now have I accepted it. What is his remedy? Ngati Porou say, "He's got a big heart." He is the C.O. of Ngati Porou [i.e. C Coy] how wonderful for them. Tiwi [Love] has D Coy, Rangi [Royal] has B. And so the remnant company of Hairiri [Harding Leaf] is under the command of a European named Harvey. All is well, but we had hoped that if perhaps he [i.e. Harding] had returned all the commanders would have been Maori. Whetu is returning [to New Zealand]. HQ [Coy] has gone to Urlich, however it is not a long-term command. The C.O. is still looking for a permanent person. Soon perhaps it will again be a European. C. Bennett has taken Weir's role. T. Bennett is 2 i.e. B Coy. Sorrenson is adjutant, Awatere is I.O.

This Sunday [i.e. today] we combined our prayer service. H.Q. A and B together. C and D together. Our communion this day was in C Coy area. The altar consisted of sand bags stacked one upon another and covered with the flag on which was spread Holy Communion while the family [i.e. Battalion] knelt in the sand. I know that the Lord would have approved of that [altar] as much as those inside a building. All of the altars of the Old Testament were built outside. Today we saw how deeply and keenly that work [i.e. religious service] bites the heart of each of them. Some of the lads are asking when will God intervene in this war?" I abandoned my sermon [planned] for next Sunday and this [Sunday] so that I can address the question. This is what I [intend to] say Api, you will have yours [i.e. answer]. When this war began the Lord was there. That is, he was there long before, but the answer for the question. At Dunkirk we were beaten, Norway was the same. Greece was the same, Crete was the same, Lybia was the same. If Germany was the power behind these defeats this war would have been over

toari pakanga. He wa i tae a matou ke Ingarangi i muri
tata i Dunkirk e takohi takanga ana Ingarangi, he aha te
take i Koro ai a Hitara e hore i tere wa? Hei ano nga fua
e Ingarangi i tere wa ko a matou rauwhara i hore aha ai.
Kahore a Ingarangi e whawharia, heoi ano te raw ko te haere
a Hitara, angari he mea aha i ea wa te ringa kaha o te
Rongo rawa. He aha te mea e kaha nei ki te whakakakahi
e taiti, e tipu haere tonu nei te hahi kaha, ko tana Rongo
ra ano. Ka patia ano te kai patia - Mahomae ko Hitara hei
he, he aha i kumea ai hira raw te pakanga? (1) He hinga
hara kore ia taiti? (2) Mo o taiti he ano, ka uaruaia mai te
mea e taiti ana. (3) Hei aha ki nga whakakakanga hei te haere
mai, hira taea ai e patia te koro nga he o Hei whakakakanga
he hore nei rawa. he whakakakore i te Ahia, i waianai hei
kohu nei rawa hea taiti, ko nga iwi i nei ki tenei hore ko
Tiamana me Ruchia, e patia nei mai nei i te tangata, hea
tatai iho a Hitara he aha ano. Ka minoia Ruchia e patia
mai, ko taiti he aha, angari na te ringa kaha o te Ahia ka
meinga taiti hei kai matakitaki aha, angari kaha e waahi
i te matakitaki ana, angari tioria aha ano hoki te take
i pona ai. he take hoki ka tana he. Ahakoa he nei o
taiti he, kahore rawa taiti e, he ano "kahore he Ahia" he
waianai; a ki ana te Kai Waiahi. Hea taiti aha angari
tamariki nei te hore ki o taiti hea patia i waianai.

Kaati nei ra e Api, apopo matou ka haere whakamua
ohie kahore pea e tino tangata. We had two thrills yesterday,
a real good shower of rain, and a great football match All Blacks
v. Springbok. about 15000 spectators, all soldiers of course - Colonel
audacity, football just behind the line. The game itself was not
spectacular, now and then individual brilliancy, then back
again to indifference, result N.Z. 8 - S.A. nil. No doubt Api
hei a matou he tiamana hei patia i tana Springbok. I mean
Maori Br. Our Base team beat Rhodesia 27 to nil, methomae e
hei mai ana ara ki aha te maki, Kaati nei ra e Koro e
Api, Ma te Ahia taiti e manaki, hea nowa ki te aha
e kaitakaki ai ana taiti. Na te tamariki

Tiamana went to OCTU today.

Kahi.

long ago. At the time that we reached England, not long after [the fall of] Dunkirk England lay
bereft, why did Hitler not continue [his assault] at this time? For the guns of England at that time
consisted of the rifles we were carrying. England did not need to fight however, because Hitler took
so long to advance, as the mighty hand of the Lord prevented him. What will unite us fervently and
increase our power, once again it is His hand. The inquirer asks - If Hitler is at fault why is the war
being dragged out? (1) Are they a less sinful people than we? (2) Is it [punishment] for our sins
again, with the one who does right being more valued? (3) Is it to teach future generations, so that
they are able to avoid the mistakes of this generation, the greatest sin being - rejecting the Lord, so
that now a great fog is upon us? The nations who are most guilty of this sin are Germany and
Russia, who are massacring people. Once again Satan is behind this. Those millions of Russians
who are doing the shooting, that could be us too, but the strong hand of the Lord has made us
spectators, yet we must not remain just observers, but we should look to the cause that has brought
about that situation, lest we make the same mistakes. Although we have done much wrong we
would never say, "There is no God," that is foolishness says the Psalmist. Some of the lads have
began discussing [these matters] with their European mates now.

Well Api, tomorrow we move forward, although its probably not far. We had two thrills yesterday,
a real good shower of rain, and a great football match All Blacks v. Springbok. About 1500
spectators, all soldiers of course - Colonial audacity, football just behind the line. The game itself
was not spectacular, now and then individual brilliance, then back again to indifference. Result
N.Z. 8 - S.A. nil. No doubt Api we have the team to beat that Springbok team. I mean Maori Br. Our
Base team beat Rhodesia 27 to nil. If we combine those [i.e. Base] with these [i.e. Maori Br] it will
all be over. That's all Koro, Api. May God keep us until we all see each other again.

From your child

Kahi

Tiamana went to OCTU today.

REFERENCE

Letter from Kahi Harawira to Sir Āpirana Ngata

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