

HISTORY ROAD

September 1st 1939
Start of World War 2

2nd MAY, 1940

The Battalions 681 men travelled from Wellington to an Australian port where they met up with other troops before travelling to

26th MAY, 1940

The Aquitania anchored at a nearby naval base. The Pākehā troops were soon given shore leave, but due to South Africa's policies of racial segregation, the men of the Maori Battalion were kept on the ship for four days.



31st May, 1940

The 1st and 2nd Echelon left South Africa on 31st May 1940, heading for the United Kingdom.



D Companies 16 Platoon March past Winston Churchill and Lieutenant-Colonel Dittmer

16th June

After arriving at Gourock, Scotland, on 16 June, the Maori Battalion was sent to southern England, where they spent days of training and preparing defences for the Battle of Britain.

December, 1940

The 2nd Echelon left for the Middle East. Sailing around Africa again, it arrived in Egypt on 3 March 1941.