

The Daily Times

20th September 1939

Brooke Mackenzie

Should the Maori fight in the war with their biggest rivals, the white men or should they stay home and protect their numbers?

The Maori are a fighting race, I quote Te Rangi Hiroa (Peter Buck) when I say "Our ancestors were a warlike people, the members of this war party would be ashamed to face their people at the conclusion of the war if they were not given an opportunity of proving their mettle at the front." Wouldn't it be an insult towards those who actually want to fight to not allow them to fight. There are many who wish to fight for King and Country, these men are ready and feel part of New Zealand as a people. They want to fight to keep our country out of the evil grips of the Axis Powers. The white men are able to go if they wish to, so why are the Maori boys not allowed to do the same?

Maori belong on this land just as much as we do, this debate of whether the Maori should go to war or not, is ridiculous. Those who want to fight should fight those who don't should be able to stay home. They are not a white feather race, they are a fighting race. They believe that to die in search of Tu the god of war is a manly way to die, isn't this the same thing. Myself and many others believe it is their duty and obligation to keep New Zealand a free country.

I strongly believe that the Maori should have the choice to fight. It would be a step in the right direction for our country. We would become a more united country. Maori should fight.



Te Rangi Hiroa