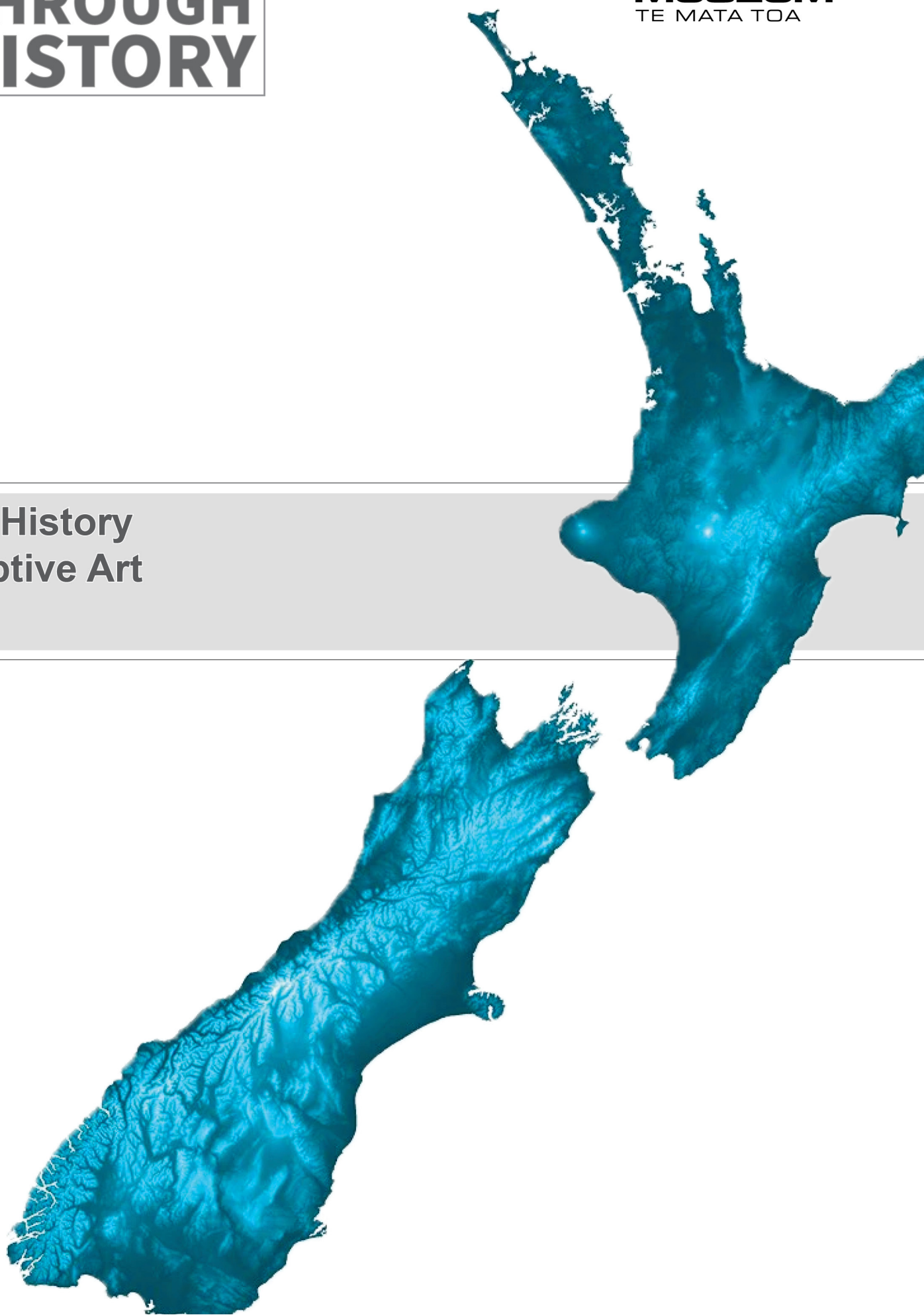


LIVING THROUGH HISTORY

**NATIONAL
ARMY
MUSEUM**
TE MATA TOA

NZ History
Captive Art



Activity 1

When our soldiers, doctors, and nurses prepared to leave New Zealand to go overseas, they would only have been allowed a few small personal items with them. They would have had to think carefully about what was important to them that they could not leave behind – a link to their loved ones and their home.

New Zealanders going to war in 1914 (WW 1) and in 1939 (WW 2) were probably excited. They had to choose personal items to take. They were sent to train in new places with new people in new conditions. They were given all the equipment and many of the skills they would need to survive. They were then sent away overseas leaving their families, friends, and everything familiar behind.

1a How do you think our people felt during their first six weeks away?

1b What sort of personal items do you think people took with them?

1c What are some of the games soldiers may have played to stop them being bored?



Activity 2

Soldiers settled into their new routines in other countries. They adjusted to new foods, new climates, new ways of doing things.

Often these experiences were terrifying - being in a trench on the Western Front, cold, wet, hungry, muddy and constantly hearing bombs and guns firing.

Being in a trench at Gallipoli with the flies, the heat, the sickness and the unwholesome food.

But there were times for the soldiers when they had nothing to do. They had time to do their training and then down time. They would write letters home, read newspapers, no matter how old they were, they would chat and they would play games.

2a Using just one box (a cereal box is a good size and weight of cardboard) make a board game. You must make the game board, the counters that the players use, a dice or spinner, and any other equipment needed for the game. Open the box out flat, plan your game on scrap paper first and then get creative! Test it on family members to make sure it works!!!!

2b Make a model of a plane, a tank, a ship, or any other object that interests you.

Model Plane, Trench Art, WWI



This is a model of an Albatros biplane flown by the Red Baron, German pilot Manfred von Richthofen, during World War One. Richthofen is credited with downing 80 Allied planes, but with a level of chivalry which, when he was finally shot down himself, earned him a funeral with full military honours, conducted by the Australians. He did not receive the name Red Baron until after the War finished. During WWI the French named him *Le Diable Rouge* which translates as The Red Devil and is written on the stand. Richthofen flew several variants of Albatros biplanes during 1916 and 1917 before he received his iconic red Fokker triplane. (1980.5826)



Grenade Ashtray, Trench Art, WWI

This ashtray is made out of a Mills 36M1 grenade. The cast iron 'pineapple-style' body of the grenade provides the bowl to collect the ash. A section has been cut away for the opening and the insides have been removed but the pin has been kept attached.

Activity 3

Imagine a soldier being trapped in a Prisoner of War camp. There is nothing to do except survive, talk with fellow prisoners, draw, write letters home, try to get some sort of exercise, dream of what they are going to do when they escape... Some used their time making pieces out of stone or small pieces of wood to play chess. They made some other cool stuff too - like an eggbeater and a working model engine using bits and pieces they found lying around.

3a Have a look at the following link. See if you can make something interesting using recycled materials you have around your home. https://www.pinterest.nz/pin/462885667949841068/?nic_v1=1aCt%2F2FyQlpgexGGR4mc6no4OKEjRg0%2FjFCIOY2IVHTiV4X1Sakx58CtK50VMBK37t

[nic_v1=1aCt%2F2FyQlpgexGGR4mc6no4OKEjRg0%2FjFCIOY2IVHTiV4X1Sakx58CtK50VMBK37t](https://www.pinterest.nz/pin/462885667949841068/?nic_v1=1aCt%2F2FyQlpgexGGR4mc6no4OKEjRg0%2FjFCIOY2IVHTiV4X1Sakx58CtK50VMBK37t)

3b Look at the following pictures. All of these things were made by soldiers who were prisoners in some way. See if you can make something like these. You could carve pumice, soap, or a candle or you could mould clay into a shape that interests you.

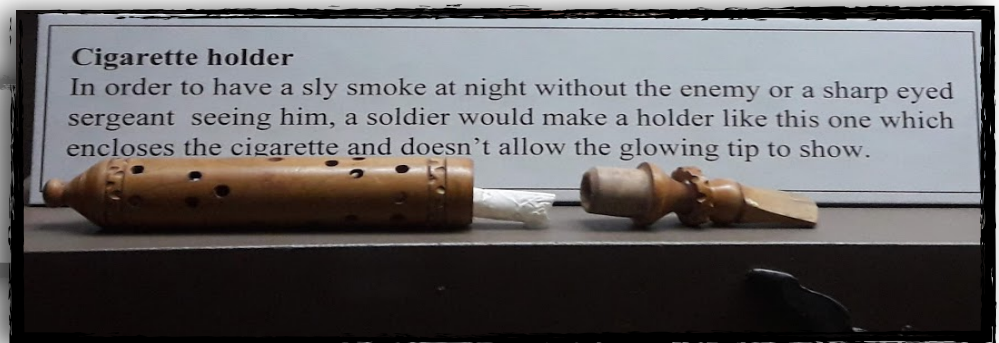


Activity 4

Many soldiers were allowed small 'treats' for good behaviour. Being able to have a little more to eat, an extra 20 minutes outside, extra cigarettes, or being able to work in Prisoner of War camp kitchens, gardens, laundries, road making teams - these were all things that helped break the BOREDOM of daily life.

People got very clever with adapting to new situations. Look at this interesting tool that a soldier invented.

(People didn't know the dangers of smoking during the war!)



4a Make a soft toy out of an old clean sock or tee shirt.

4b Tell a story. It could be something you have done, an adventure you have been on, an experience that you found rewarding. (Be creative in HOW you present/tell it!)



Beyond the Worksheet

Soldiers used the skills they had to entertain themselves and keep busy. They spent a lot of time reading letters, newspapers, and magazines and writing letters home. They learned from each other and found new ways to do things when they did not have what they needed. Adapting and problem solving was BIG!

Think about a world with no access to television/online movies/devices – scary, but possible!

How do you think you would keep yourself entertained or busy?

What changes would have to be made in your life?

Look up the word 'innovation'. How does this apply to you?

Many of the skills that our grand parents and great grandparents had have almost been lost. See if you can learn a new 'old' skill. Here are some to choose from or think of one of your own:

Knitting.

Building a wooden toy.

Making doll's clothes.

Baking food from scratch.

Making a vege garden.

Making a set of building blocks for a five-year old.

Hand stitching a sampler.

Making a picture book for a younger brother or sister.



Souvenir of Egypt Embroidered Cloth, QAMR, WWI

Many soldiers brought home cloths similar to this one. They had them made in Egypt, often with a mixture of iconic images and corps crests. This one is machine embroidered in chain stitch and features a Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles crest and is personalised with the words "To My Dear Mother".

Letter Opener, Trench Art, WWI

This trench art letter opener is made of a .303 casing attached to a flat brass blade. It is believed to have been made by a soldier in the New Zealand Engineers Corps and given to Sergeant Horace Hargood who used it in his work with the Postal Service, New Zealand Post and Telegraph Corps.

