

HAERE TONU

MAORI WAR SONG

WORDS BY

ERNEST DENIS HOBEN

MUSIC BY

R. A. HORNE

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"HAERE TONU."

A MAORI CONTINGENT WAR SONG.

In the days that now are gone,
When our fathers went to war,
They fought with spear and mere
And patued many a score.
And as they drove the foeman
Beyond the hard held pa,
Cried Haere tonu! Haere tonu!
Haere tonu Ra!

CHORUS.

Whitike Taua! Whitiki taua!
Haere tonu Ra!
Haere tonu Nga Motu—
Haere tonu Ra!
Whaia to mana! Whaia to hoa!
Haere tonu Ra!
Ake! Ake! Kia Kaha!
Haere tonu Ra!

2.

But here we fight strange foemen,
In lands far, far away,
Beside us sons of foes of old,
Our blood-bound friends to-day;
And when we clear the trenches,
As once we cleared the pa,
Cry, "Haere tonu! Haere tonu!
Haere tonu Ra!

3.

The shells may burst around us,
The bullets take their toll,
The enemy surround us,
His cannon thunders roll,
But still we hold out stoutly,
As comes the shout afar—
Haere, tonu! Haere tonu!
Haere tonu Ra!

4.

And when the fight is over,
We bring the wounded in,
Help stricken friend and foemen,
For suffering makes men kin.
As each takes up his burthen,
The bearers cry au-e!*

Haere tonu! Haere tonu!
Haere tonu Ra!

* The Maori word au-e means a Maori wail of lament in the Tangi and equivalent to our English alas!

HAERE TONU

(Maori War Song)

Words by
ERNEST DENIS HOBEN

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VOICE

PIANO

mf

In the days that now are gone When our Fa - thers went to

war They fought with spear and mere, And



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Pa - tied ma - ny a score; And as they drove the

foe - man Be - yond the hard held Pah, Cried,

Hae - re to - nu Hae - re to - nu Hae - re to - nu Ra..

CHORUS

Whi - ti - ki tau - a Whi - ti - ki tau - a Hae - re to - nu

To be sung with fierce animation.

Ra. Hae - re to - nu Nga mo - tu

Hae - re to - nu Ra . . . Whai - a to ma - na Whai - a to ho - a

Hae - re to - nu Ra A - ke A - ke

ki - a Ka - ha Hae - re to - nu Ra

ff *mf* Till ready

HAERE TONU

"Haere Tonu" (pronounced Hi-ah-ree Toh-nu) is an old Maori war cry similar to the Celtic "Faugh-a-ballah." It is literally "Forward Only," but its significance is to charge through all opposition and never turn back. It has also been used by Maori footballers in forward charges. "Whitiki" is the opening command of the Haka. "Taua" is a war party. It is the command to the war party to rise for the fight. "Nga Motu" is "For your islands," that is, for New Zealand. "Whaia to mana, Whaia to Hoa" (every syllable is given full value and the "Wh" pronounced almost like "F.") The words are an adjuration to "Fight for your honour—fight for your Friends." "Ake Ake, Kia Kaha" is a combination of the "no surrender" reply of the Maori General at Rangiriri to General Cameron's demand that his exhausted and starving garrison should surrender. He replied that they would fight on "For ever and ever"—"Ake, Ake." The adjuration, "Kia Kaha," "Be strong to fight on and never yield," is also a well-known war cry. "Ake, Ake, Kia Kaha" was coined by the writer as a war cry of the first Maori football team to Britain, and adopted by it and subsequent Maori and representative New Zealand teams and it has become the National War Cry.