



Headquarters
New Zealand Defence Force
Defence House
Private Bag 39997
Wellington Mail Centre
Lower Hutt 5045
New Zealand

OIA-2026-5744

30th April 2026



Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 3 April 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), *all external and internal correspondence; all inter agency / ministry correspondence; research documentation (together with all notations) all communication releases including draft documentation, legal opinions other than those protected by other legislation, in whatever form physically, digital or other* about the awarding and issuing of World War II medals to 85 members of the Cook Island Local Defence Force.

The Review of Medallie Entitlement for Members of the Cook Islands Local Defence Force is enclosed. Veteran identifying information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect privacy.

The other parts of your request are addressed below.

1. *What are the timelines relating to completing the awarding of the appropriate medals to the descendants of these servicemen.*

Applications are open for these servicemen or their descendants to make a submission. These applications will be processed within the standard timeframes and in the order that the applications are received.

2. *How are those descendants going to be identified and contacted.*

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) relies on family members and community networks to spread the word, and does not proactively contact servicepersons or their families regarding medals applications. As you mentioned, a NZDF press release has been issued. This was picked up by media based in the Cook Islands, New Zealand, and across the Pacific.

3. *What is the mechanism by which descendants can apply for the medals noting that in many cases the aged descendants have no access nor knowledge of the internet.*

The required form is enclosed, and is available on the NZDF website. In the case of an aged descendant or barriers due to internet access, the NZ High Commission in the Cook Islands is available to assist with statutory declarations where needed. The Cook Islands Online Cenotaph volunteers have also spread the word throughout their networks in the Cook Islands and in New Zealand.

4. *What is the mechanism by which eligibility for the medals is determined if there are competing claims between dependents or if the senior family member is no longer in contact with the rest of the whanau.*

Now that the majority of the Second World War generation have passed, it falls to families to determine amongst themselves who is best placed to claim any previously unissued medals.

5. *Who and what agency conducted the extensive research that led to the identification of the personnel who were deprived of medallic recognition.*

NZDF staff and independent researchers conducted the research.

6. *Has the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) been formally advised of these impending awards to a number of Cook Island families*

MFAT has been formally advised.

7. *Has the NZDF Defence Attache to the Pacific Islands instigated any contact with the Cook Islands Authorities or has any intent or plans to do so in relation the awarding of these medals been considered.*

The Defence Attaché and NZ High Commission staff are aware of this matter.

8. *Has the National Office of the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services Association been advised and/or engaged in the retrospective awarding of these service medals.*

The Association has not been advised beyond the existing press release and subsequent media coverage. I note this is not a retrospective award but a correction of an inconsistent application of the NZ Army's forfeiture instructions in the years following the Second World War.

9. *What is the NZDF media plan surrounding this retrospective recognition of service to New Zealand by Cook Island Soldiers and the presentation of medals to surviving descendants.*

This is not a retrospective award but a correction of an inconsistent application of the NZ Army's forfeiture instructions in the years following the Second World War. Any request from families for a presentation ceremony will be considered on a case by case basis.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that responses to official information requests are proactively released where possible. This response to your request will be published shortly on the NZDF website, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

GA Motley
Brigadier
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

Enclosures:

1. Review of Medallic Entitlement for Members of the Cook Islands Local Defence Force
2. Application & Declaration Form - Cook Islands Local Defence Force (CILDF) medals



NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE

Review of Medallic Entitlement for Members of the Cook Islands Local Defence Force

Report author: Denise Travis

Date of report: 11 November 2025



Heritage, Commemorations and Protocol

The Heritage Commemorations and Protocol (HCP) Group received a request from the Deputy Chief of Army to evaluate a research paper by Rick Howland regarding medallic entitlement for individuals who were discharged from the Cook Islands Local Defence Force (CILDF) prior to the end of the Second World War. Research conducted by Howland and Cate Walker, a Voluntary Cemetery Conservator and Researcher of Graves and Memorials from Australia, suggested that 94 of approximately 200¹ members of the Cook Islands Defence Force had been denied their medals in 1952 because they had received “certified dishonourable discharges” (*as defined by the Resident Commissioner’s Office in 1952.*)²

History

The Cook Islands Local Defence Force was formed in April 1941. The Regulations refer to the Army Act and specify that “In these regulations the term ‘Army Act’ means the Imperial Act called the Army Act, and includes any Act continuing or amending the same and the rules of procedure for the time being in force made under the authority thereof respectively, whether heretofore or hereafter enacted and whether for the time being in force in New Zealand or not.”³ While there is no mention in the regulations of the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force (2NZEF), some New Zealand personnel were seconded to the CILDF.

In early 1946, an effort was made by the Government of New Zealand to ensure that the Western Samoa Local Defence Forces and the “Rarotonga Defence Force” were recognised for their service. Requests were made to include the Cook Islands in the non-operational service areas eligible for the Defence Medal. In addition, the Government of New Zealand requested an adjustment to the qualifying service times so that personnel would be eligible for the medal. In a telegram from the Minister of External Affairs, Wellington to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, London dated 14 January 1946, the Minister noted, “It is considered that the award of the Defence Medal should be made to personnel of both these forces. It would not be practical for personnel to qualify under the conditions prescribed in the White Paper without excluding all of the Rarotongan Defence Force and the Reserve of the Samoa Defence Force.” The Minister further advised that it would be politically beneficial to recognise the service of both forces and proposed that “the award of the Defence Medal for these two forces be fixed at one month service with the forces.”⁴ The Minister of External Affairs, Wellington, sent a similar request again on 17 July 1946.⁵ In response, the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs agreed to include Western Samoa and the Cook Islands among the non-operational service areas that qualified for the Defence Medal. However, the Secretary expressed concern with setting the service time at one month and instead suggested a time of 18 months for

¹ Howland, Rick, “Cook Islands Local Defence Force,” provided to Army General Staff in email dated 9 May 2025.

² Memorandum from the Resident Commissioner’s Office to the Department of Island Territories, Wellington dated 10 October 1952, Archives New Zealand R22438946 – Honours and Awards – Decorations – Defence Medal.

³ The Cook Islands Local Defence Force Regulations, 1941, New Zealand Legal Information Institute, https://www.nzlii.org/nz/legis/num_reg/cildfr1941356/

⁴ Telegram from Minister of External Affairs, Wellington to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, London, dated 14 January 1946, Archives New Zealand R22438946 – Honours and Awards – Decorations – Defence Medal.

⁵ Telegram from Minister of External Affairs, Wellington to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, London, dated 17 July 1946, Archives New Zealand R22438946 – Honours and Awards – Decorations – Defence Medal.



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service with Rarotonga Defence Force in the Cook Islands and 3 years with the Western Samoa Local Defence Force.⁶

In order to identify the recipients for the medals, a request was sent by the Department of Island Territories to the Cook Islands Administration for service records in June 1951.⁷ The Administration responded in March 1952 that it had no records, as they had been turned over to the Army Department. Subsequently, a request was made to the Army Department for a records search and a complete list of those eligible for war medals.⁸ Army Headquarters responded in a memorandum dated 6 June 1952 that a thorough search of clothing allowances and gratuities was unable to produce a complete list of personnel who had served with the Rarotonga Local Defence Force. The Army was only able to provide a list of individuals from December 1945 who were discharged at their own request after refusing duty or for other reasons. The Army Department advised that at the time of the January 1945 disbanding, the Rarotongan Local Defence Force had a strength of 91 Rarotongans.⁹ In a later communication, the Department of Island Territories advised the Army Department that the Cook Islands Administration held the original vouchers authorising the payment of gratuities and a request was made to the Administration to compile a list of personnel eligible for war medals.¹⁰

On 10 October 1952, the Resident Commissioner's Office sent a memorandum advising the Secretary of Island Territories, Wellington that "a parcel was located which appears to contain the complete record of personnel in the Rarotongan Local Defence Force."¹¹ The memorandum included a list of Cook Islands Local Defence Force individuals eligible to receive the Defence Medal, the War Medal 1939-1945, and/or the New Zealand War Service Medal. The Resident Commissioner's Office noted that "There were a number of other personnel who served the requisite qualifying times but as they received certified dishonourable discharges their names have been accordingly omitted from the above lists."¹² The memorandum did not name the individuals who had been dishonorably discharged. In December 1952, a parcel containing 38 Defence Medals, 59 1939-1945 War Medals,

⁶ Telegram from the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, London to the Minister of External Affairs, Wellington, dated 25 September 1946, Archives New Zealand R22438946 – Honours and Awards – Decorations – Defence Medal.

⁷ Memorandum for the Secretary, Army Department, Wellington, from CE Quinn, Assistant Secretary, Department of Island Territories, dated 28 March 1952, Archives New Zealand R22438946 – Honours and Awards – Decorations – Defence Medal.

⁸ Memorandum for the Secretary, Army Department, Wellington, from CE Quinn, Assistant Secretary, Department of Island Territories, dated 28 March 1952, Archives New Zealand R22438946 – Honours and Awards – Decorations – Defence Medal.

⁹ Memorandum from Army Department, Wellington to Secretary, Department of Island Territories, dated 6 June 1952, Archives New Zealand R22438946 – Honours and Awards – Decorations – Defence Medal.

¹⁰ Memorandum from Department of Island Territories to Army Department, Wellington, dated 3 July 1952, Archives New Zealand R22438946 – Honours and Awards – Decorations – Defence Medal.

¹¹ Memorandum from the Resident Commissioner's Office to the Department of Island Territories, Wellington dated 10 October 1952, Archives New Zealand R22438946 – Honours and Awards – Decorations – Defence Medal.

¹² Memorandum from the Resident Commissioner's Office to the Department of Island Territories, Wellington dated 10 October 1952, Archives New Zealand R22438946 – Honours and Awards – Decorations – Defence Medal.



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and 81 New Zealand War Service Medals was despatched to The Official Secretary, Cook Islands Administration, Rarotonga.¹³

A search of Archives New Zealand was unable to locate a complete list of individuals who had been dishonourably discharged from the Cook Islands Local Defence Force. A memorandum, dated 15 December 1945, lists 45 individuals who had been discharged from the Cook Islands Defence Force for refusing duty, failing to attend parade, or at their own request.¹⁴ This list does not include dates of service. An Extract from the Company Conduct Book, dated 14 July 1943, also contained a list of personnel in the Cook Islands Defence Force,¹⁵ however, this document only lists the dates of infractions or noted good conduct. It does not include attestation or discharge dates or information pertaining to medallic entitlement. Neither of these documents provide sufficient information to determine medallic entitlement.

Rick Howland provided Army with a handwritten list of Cook Island Defence Force service members, their reason for discharge, and their medal entitlement.¹⁶ HCP Group has confirmed with Paula Paniani, National Archives of the Cook Islands, that the document is part of their collection. No corresponding document could be located at Archives New Zealand. NZDF Personnel Archives and Medals does not hold any service records for members of the Cook Island Defence Force.

Policy

The policy for medals forfeiture was outlined in Army Pay Warrant of 1940, paragraphs 665-666 and 1227-1228. Subsequent amendments applied the policy to the Campaign Stars and War Medals of the Second World War.¹⁷ The following policy was specified in the Royal Warrant, Grant Forfeiture and Restoration of Medals, May 1950:

“3. Every officer or every soldier who has been convicted of an offence of the following nature, viz., treason, sedition, mutiny, cowardice, desertion, or disgraceful conduct of an unnatural kind, shall forfeit any war medal and clasp and any medal and clasp awarded for long service, meritorious service (except for gallantry,) or efficiency of which he may be in possession (together with any gratuity appertaining thereto, not already paid), or to which he may be entitled by his service up to the date of conviction.

4. Every officer who is cashiered, dismissed or removed from the Service for misconduct, shall forfeit any war medal and clasp and any medal and clasp awarded for long service, meritorious service (except for gallantry,) or efficiency of which he may be in possession (together with any gratuity appertaining thereto, not already paid), or to which he may be entitled by his service up to the date of cashiering, dismissal or removal.

¹³ “Issue of War Medals to Rarotonga Defence Forces,” The Assistant Secretary, Department of Island Territories, Wellington, dated 4 February 1953, Archives New Zealand R22438946 – Honours and Awards – Decorations – Defence Medal.

¹⁴ Memorandum for the Resident Commissioner from Defence Headquarters, Rarotonga, 15 December 1945, Subject: Payment of 6d A Day Gratuity to Discharged Members of the Defence Force, Archives New Zealand R17963848 – Cook Islands Defence Force.

¹⁵ Rarotonga Defence Force, Extracts from Company Conduct Book, 14 July 1943, Archives New Zealand, R18871572 – Defence of Pacific, Cook Islands, Rarotongan Garrison.

¹⁶ National Archives of the Cook Islands Record 11/6/14 (Rarotonga Defence Force).

¹⁷ See Royal Warrant for the Pay, Appointment, Promotion, and Non-Effective Pay of the Army, 1940, paragraphs 665-666 and paragraphs 1227-1228.



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5. Every soldier who has been discharged from the Service with disgrace or with ignominy, or who, on account of misconduct, has been discharged under King's Regulations, 1940, para 519, serials (iii), (iv) or (x) of Table or under Regulations for the Supplementary Reserve, 1939, para 108, serials (vii), (viii), or (x) of Table....shall forfeit any war medal and clasp and any medal and clasp awarded for long service, meritorious service (except for gallantry,) or efficiency of which he may be in possession (together with any gratuity appertaining thereto, not already paid), or to which he may be entitled by his service up to the date of discharge."¹⁸

After the Second World War, the similar provisions were outlined in the King's Regulations, 1950 and the Queen's Regulations, 1955 and 1975.¹⁹

A search of Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force (2NZEF) files held at Archives New Zealand found several communications that reference various acts and orders providing for the forfeiture of campaign medals under certain circumstances, including convictions of "an offence under Sections 4, 7, 12, 16, 18, or 41 of the Army Act."²⁰ For example, British Army Council Instructions 1003, dated 26 November 1947, which governed the forfeiture of war and campaign medals stated:

"Every officer or soldier who has been:

- (i) Convicted of treason, sedition, mutiny, cowardice, desertion or disgraceful conduct of an unnatural kind or,
- (ii) cashiered, dismissed, removed or discharged from Service with disgrace or with ignominy, will forfeit any campaign star, commemorative war medal and clasp of which he may be in possession, or to which he may be entitled by his service up to the date of conviction, or the date of cashiering, dismissal, removal or discharge."²¹

The Defence Medal and the War Medal 1939-1945 Star were included in the list of medals that could be forfeited upon dishonourable discharge.

When war medals became available after the Second World War, instructions were provided to Army Headquarters for the assessment of medallic entitlement. Applications were received and passed to the History Sheet Section. Members of this section were instructed to take the following steps:²²

- Draw the History Sheet of the applicant and verify the Stars, Medals, etc. to which he is entitled and initial the application form against each entitlement.
- Note in the appropriate place on the History Sheet the Stars, Medals etc. that are to be issued.
- Address an envelope with the applicants name and full postal address and pin this to the application form.

¹⁸ Appendix XXXI, Royal Warrant, Grant Forfeiture and Restoration of Medals, May 1950, AMDT 77/June/1950, 68/General/8697, pages 5-6.

¹⁹ The Queen's Regulations for the Army, 1975, Annex B to Chapter 10.

²⁰ Memorandum to AG from JAG, NZ Army Legal Department, 15 September 1947, Archives New Zealand R22442033 – Medals and Decorations – Decorations and medals, forfeiture, and restoration.

²¹ Army Council Instructions, dated 26 November 1947, Issue 1723 (997-1009), 1003: Awards—War Medals—Forfeiture and Restoration.

²² A Treatise on the Pay and Records Procedure inaugurated, developed, and maintained for the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force and The Territorial Forces (Records) Within New Zealand during the war years 1939-1945 and afterwards, page 147.



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- ***Where there is any doubt as to eligibility the application form will be handed to the investigating section for enquiry and confirmation of entitlement. (Emphasis added)***
- In those cases where a claim has been disallowed appropriate action will be taken to advise the applicant. If the decision is such that no Stars or Medals are to be issued the application form and copy of advice will be marked file and forwarded to the Records section of attachment to the personal file. The other approved application forms will be handed to the Despatch Section and the History Sheets refiled in the bins.

These procedures instruct the History Sheet Section to pass the medals application to the investigation section in the event that entitlement is in doubt. It is unknown, however, what instructions guided assessors in their determination of the entitlement. Research conducted by HCP group indicates that when medals became available in 1950, medallic entitlement was assessed and stamped on the history sheets of service members. Very few applications appear to have been denied entitlement.

Policy Application

A survey of 42 personnel files of service members who had been court martialled and convicted of various charges, including desertion, indicates that an inconsistent policy of issuing campaign medals emerged in New Zealand after the Second World War. While some New Zealand service members were denied their medals on the basis of desertion or discharge with ignominy, a significant number of medals were awarded to the individuals or next of kin despite offences that justified forfeiture. In seven of the 42 cases surveyed, the medallic entitlement was left blank or denied. For example, a private, who was convicted of desertion and sentenced to two years imprisonment with hard labour, was denied his medals in 1950. The Brigadier Adjutant General wrote, "A soldier who is convicted of desertion forfeits all campaign stars and medals to which he may have become entitled as at the date of the offence."²³ Similarly, another private, who was convicted on multiple occasions of desertion and other offences, was discharged "with ignominy" and no medals were issued. Another private was convicted by court martial of desertion and sentenced to nine months in prison. When he applied for his war medals in 1946, the application was referred to Army HQ but a decision was not recorded, nor were his medals issued. In 1960, the private applied for restoration of his war medals, however his application was denied and no further action was taken. In the case of a soldier who was sentenced to life in prison for murdering a fellow serviceman, the medallic entitlement was marked with a red question mark.

While a forfeiture policy existed and was at times applied, the prevailing practice was to issue the medals to individuals or next of kin regardless of any offences committed. In 8 of the 42 cases, medallic entitlement was approved, but the medals were never claimed by the service member or their family. For example, a Sergeant was convicted of desertion, reduced in rank, sentenced to 3 years in prison and discharged from the 2NZEF. His file is marked with a medallic entitlement of the 1939-1945 Star, the Africa Star, the Defence Medal, the War Medal 1939-1945, and the New Zealand War Service Medal, none of which were ever claimed.

In the majority of cases surveyed by HCP Group, medallic entitlement was assessed, marked, and awarded. In 27 of the 42 cases, medals were issued to service members or next of kin regardless of

²³ Letter from Brigadier, Adjutant-General to Officer in Charge, 2NZEF Records, Wellington, dated 12 July 1950, personnel file, 530373.



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convictions or imprisonment. In one case, a note next to the entitlement stamp read “Deserter Refer AHO,” but the medals were awarded to family members in 2021. Many individuals who were convicted of offences, both military and civil, (including desertion, absence without leave, theft, rape, and murder) applied for and received their war and campaign medals. Additionally, family members have also received unclaimed war and campaign medals of deceased service members convicted of various crimes and offences. *See Annex D for examples of service members who were convicted of crimes and yet received their medals.*

Recommendation

Service members of the Cook Islands Local Defence Force were dismissed for desertion, refusal of duty, misconduct, failure to parade, and venereal disease. Two individuals were convicted of stealing stores and sentenced to prison. In contrast, 2NZEFC servicemen who were convicted of similar offenses or worse crimes were neither dishonourably discharged nor denied their war and campaign medals. Venereal disease was a recurring problem among soldiers overseas and not a reason for the forfeiture of medals.

Based on this inconsistent application of the Army’s forfeiture instructions, as well as the extensive practice of issuing war and campaign medals in spite of infractions and offences, HCP Group supports the award of war and campaign medals to individuals who were discharged from the Cook Islands Local Defence Force.

Individual eligibility is listed in Annex A. To date, no service records for members of the Cook Islands Local Defence Force have been located. The list in Annex A is based on the document entitled “List of Personnel in the Rarotonga Local Defence Force,” provided by the National Archives of the Cook Islands. The names have been cross checked with sources available at Archives New Zealand and with the Cook Islands Online Cenotaph, with the help of Cook Islands researcher Cate Walker, Cook Islands genealogist Bobby Nicholas, and archivist Paula Paniani, National Archives of the Cook Islands. Annex B contains a list of individuals who were identified in 1953 as eligible, however they did not sign for receipt of their medals. Annex C contains a list of individuals who are not eligible for medals. Available resources indicated that these individuals did not serve the requisite qualifying time.

Note: In May 1943, the Cook Islands Local Defence Force was demobilised. For a period of three months, servicemen worked alternate weeks of duty in order to give them a chance to replant their crops. At the end of three months, the Force reverted to a Territorial Status with one training day per week. A permanent cadre of 20 men was maintained,²⁴ of whom ten were on duty each alternate week.²⁵ This part-time status effects medallic entitlement for the War Medal 1939-1945, which required 28 consecutive days of full-time service. Individuals who attested after May 1943 served under different terms and are not eligible for the War Medal 1939-1945. These individuals served on a full-time basis only one day per week. Those who accumulated an aggregate of 28 days full-time service are eligible for the New Zealand War Service Medal.²⁶

²⁴ Letter to the Resident Commissioner, Rarotonga, from R. Gladney Capt., Commanding RDF, dated 21 May 1943.

²⁵ Telegram from Minister of External Affairs, Wellington to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, London, dated 14 January 1946, Archives New Zealand R22438946 – Honours and Awards – Decorations – Defence Medal.

²⁶ Memorandum for The Secretary, Department of Island Territories, Wellington, from the Resident Commissioner’s Office, dated 10 October 1952, Archives New Zealand R22438946 – Honours and Awards – Decorations – Defence Medal.



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Annex A

Defence Medal (2), War Medal 1939-1945 (2), New Zealand War Service Medal (2)

Surname	First Names	AKA	S/Number (WW1)	Rank	Attested	Discharged	Days Served
				Pte	22/12/1941	3/11/1943	570.5
				Pte	15/12/1941	29/11/1944	580

War Medal 1939-1945 (73) and the New Zealand War Service Medal (73)

Surname	First Names	AKA	S/Number (WW1)	Rank	Attested	Discharged	Days Served
				Pte	15/12/1941	7/05/1943	423
				Pte	22/12/1941	7/05/1943	471.5
			19264	Pte	15/12/1941	7/05/1943	467.5
				Pte	15/01/1942	7/05/1943	344
				Pte	27/03/1942	7/05/1943	409
				L/Cpl	15/12/1941	3/09/1943	398
				Pte	17/01/1942	12/06/1942	139
			60751	Pte	20/02/1942	7/05/1943	446
				Pte	27/03/1942	7/05/1943	409
				Pte	5/01/1942	30/04/1943	468
				Pte	22/12/1941	6/11/1942	289.5
				Pte	22/12/1941	14/05/1943	418.5
				Pte	5/01/1942	7/05/1943	467
				Pte	15/12/1941	7/05/1943	467.5

²⁷ Added by Cate Walker and Bobby Nicholas, as listed at <https://www.cookislandsonlinecenotaph.com/wwi/tutai/tuakanakore>

²⁸ Added by Cate Walker and Bobby Nicholas, as listed at <https://www.cookislandsonlinecenotaph.com/wwi/mata/angene>

²⁹ See also <https://www.cookislandsonlinecenotaph.com/wwi/mata/angene>

³⁰ Added by Cate Walker and Bobby Nicholas.

³¹ Listed in the Company Conduct Book as [REDACTED] Rarotonga Defence Force, Extracts from Company Conduct Book, 14 July 1943, Archives New Zealand, R18871572 – Defence of Pacific, Cook Islands, Rarotongan Garrison.

³² Added by Cate Walker and Bobby Nicholas.

³³ Added by Cate Walker and Bobby Nicholas.



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	Pte	13/11/1942	7/05/1943	117
	Pte	19/06/1942	7/05/1943	329
	Pte	17/01/1942	30/04/1943	461
	Pte	28/01/1942	19/03/1943	418
	Pte	15/12/1941	14/05/1943	474.5
	Pte	15/12/1941	7/04/1942	87
	Pte	17/01/1942	30/04/1943	442
	Pte	5/01/1942	3/04/1942	74
	Pte	27/05/1942	7/05/1943	402
	Pte	17/01/1942	10/04/1942	76
	Pte	13/03/1942	6/11/1942	245
	Pte	15/12/1941	7/05/1943	412
	L/Cpl	17/01/1942	14/05/1943	476
	Pte	13/11/1942	14/05/1943	184
	Pte	17/01/1942	27/03/1942	63
	Pte	15/12/1941	7/05/1943	467.5
	Pte	15/12/1941	12/06/1942	140
	Pte	17/01/1942	8/01/1943	349

³⁴ Added by Cate Walker and Bobby Nicholas, as listed at <https://www.cookislandsonlinecenotaph.com/wwi/teariki/karotaua>

³⁵ Added by Cate Walker and Bobby Nicholas.

³⁶ Added by Cate Walker and Bobby Nicholas as listed at <https://www.cookislandsonlinecenotaph.com/wwi/tinirau/rangimakea>

³⁷ Added by Cate Walker and Bobby Nicholas.

³⁸ Added by Cate Walker and Bobby Nicholas.

³⁹ Listed in the Company Conduct Book as Private [REDACTED] Rarotonga Defence Force, Extracts from Company Conduct Book, 14 July 1943, Archives New Zealand, R18871572 – Defence of Pacific, Cook Islands, Rarotongan Garrison.

⁴⁰ See also <https://www.cookislandsonlinecenotaph.com/wwi/makuru/matapo>

⁴¹ Added by Cate Walker and Bobby Nicholas.



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	Pte	19/06/1942	7/05/1943	329
	Pte	19/06/1942	31/07/1942	49
	Pte	15/12/1941	7/05/1943	467.5
	Pte	27/03/1942	7/05/1943	409
	Pte	15/12/1941	16/07/1943	518
	Pte	15/12/1942	14/05/1943	474.5
	L/Cpl	15/12/1941	30/05/1943	458
	Pte	22/12/1941	28/05/1943	471.5
	Pte	15/12/1941	6/11/1942	285.5
	Pte	15/12/1941	21/08/1942	169
	Pte	17/01/1942	19/04/1944	508
	Pte	5/01/1942	7/05/1943	475
	Pte	19/06/1941	7/05/1943	329
	Pte	27/03/1942	15/05/1942	52
	Pte	19/06/1942	14/05/1943	336
	Pte	22/01/1942	12/06/1942	135.5
	Pte	5/01/1942	16/07/1943	531
	Pte	5/01/1942	7/05/1943	475
	Pte	15/12/1941	5/01/1944	509.5
	Pte	19/06/1942	7/05/1943	329
	Pte	22/12/1941	15/05/1942	114.5
	Pte	22/09/1942	6/09/1944	31
	Pte	15/12/1941	7/05/1943	472
	Pte	20/12/1941	7/05/1943	471.5
	Pte	19/12/1941	7/05/1943	253

⁴² Added by Cate Walker and Bobby Nicholas.

⁴³ Added by Cate Walker and Bobby Nicholas as listed at <https://www.cookislandsonlinecenotaph.com/wwi/tutara/ongoroaiti>.

⁴⁴ Added by Cate Walker and Bobby Nicholas as listed at <https://www.cookislandsonlinecenotaph.com/wwi/rae/piani>

⁴⁵ Added by Cate Walker and Bobby Nicholas as listed at <https://www.cookislandsonlinecenotaph.com/wwi/piautu-marama/mani>

⁴⁶ Added by Cate Walker and Bobby Nicholas.

⁴⁷ See also <https://www.cookislandsonlinecenotaph.com/wwi/john/ropu>

⁴⁸ Added by Cate Walker and Bobby Nicholas as listed at <https://www.cookislandsonlinecenotaph.com/wwi/toru/taku>

⁴⁹ Added by Cate Walker and Bobby Nicholas.



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	Pte	17/01/1942	7/05/1943	468
	Pte	15/12/1941	14/05/1943	479
	Pte	17/01/1942	19/01/1944	535
	Pte	19/06/1942	7/05/1943	327
	Pte	17/01/1942	7/05/1943	468
	Pte	15/12/1941	8/03/1944	540
	Pte	19/06/1942	5/12/1943	238
	Pte	19/06/1942	7/05/1943	329
	Pte	19/06/1942	7/05/1943	329
	Pte	5/01/1942	7/05/1943	459
	Pte	15/12/1941	7/05/1943	472
	Pte	15/12/1941	14/05/1943	479
	Pte	15/12/1941	16/07/1943	520.5

New Zealand War Service Medal (10) – an aggregate of 28 days full time service on the basis of 1 day per week.⁵⁷

Surname	First Names	AKA	S/Number (WW1)	Rank	Date of Attest	Disch Date	Days Served
				Pte	15/09/1943	17/05/1944	28
				Pte	15/09/1943	16/02/1945	260 (part-time)
				Pte	15/09/1943	24/05/1944	31
				Pte	15/09/1943	20/11/1944	196 (part-time)
				Pte	22/09/1943	27/08/1944	44
				Pte	22/09/1943	2/08/1944	31

⁵⁰ Listed in the Company Conduct Book as Private [REDACTED] Rarotonga Defence Force, Extracts from Company Conduct Book, 14 July 1943, Archives New Zealand, R18871572 – Defence of Pacific, Cook Islands, Rarotongan Garrison.

⁵¹ Added by Cate Walker and Bobby Nicholas.

⁵² Added by Cate Walker and Bobby Nicholas.

⁵³ As listed in the Company Conduct Book as Private [REDACTED] Rarotonga Defence Force, Extracts from Company Conduct Book, 14 July 1943, Archives New Zealand, R18871572 – Defence of Pacific, Cook Islands, Rarotongan Garrison.

⁵⁴ Added by Cate Walker and Bobby Nicholas.

⁵⁵ Added by Cate Walker and Bobby Nicholas.

⁵⁶ Added by Cate Walker and Bobby Nicholas.

⁵⁷ Memorandum for The Secretary, Department of Island Territories, Wellington, from the Resident Commissioner's Office, dated 10 October 1952, Archives New Zealand R22438946 – Honours and Awards – Decorations – Defence Medal.



Heritage, Commemorations and Protocol

	Pte	15/09/1943	29/12/1944	41
	Pte	15/09/1943	15/03/1944	28
	Pte	22/09/1943	25/11/1944	37
	Pte	22/09/1943	25/11/1944	40
	Pte	22/10/1942		unknown

⁵⁸ See also <https://www.cookislandsonlinecenotaph.com/wwi/teokotai/teokotai>.

⁵⁹ Rarotonga Defence Force, Extracts from Company Conduct Book, 14 July 1943, Archives New Zealand, R18871572 – Defence of Pacific, Cook Islands, Rarotongan Garrison.



Annex B

War Medal 1939-1945 and the New Zealand War Service Medal⁶⁰

Surname	First Names	AKA	S/Number (WW1)	Rank	Attested	Discharged	Days Served
				Pte	19/06/1942	30/10/1942	140

New Zealand War Service Medal

Surname	First Names	AKA	S/Number (WW1)	Rank	Attested	Discharged	Days Served
				Pte	15/09/1943	19/10/1945	89

⁶⁰ "List of Rarotonga Local Defence Force Members to Receive Defence, War, and New Zealand War Service Medals," provided by Cate Walker, archived at the Cook Islands National Archives. See also, Memorandum from the Resident Commissioner's Office to the Department of Island Territories, Wellington dated 10 October 1952, Archives New Zealand R22438946 – Honours and Awards – Decorations – Defence Medal.



Heritage, Commemorations and Protocol

Annex C

Ineligible – served less than 28 days consecutive or aggregated (8)

Surname	First Names	AKA	S/Number (WW1)	Rank	Date of Attest	Disch Date	Days Served
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Cpl	22/09/1943	15/03/1944	19
				Pte	15/04/1943	27/10/1943	6
				Pte	15/09/1943	8/03/1944	18
				Pte	22/12/1941	13/01/1942	4.5
				Pte	27/03/1942	29/03/1942	3
				Pte	22/09/1943	3/11/1943	7
				Pte	22/09/1943	19/11/1944	23
				Pte	15/01/1943	5/04/1944	26
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Pte	22/09/1943	5/04/1944	25

Notes:

There are several individual names that are present in the files, but do not contain enough information to assess medallic entitlement. If future information regarding service is located, entitlement may be reassessed.

[REDACTED] is listed in a Rarotonga Defence Force Conduct Book, however his name is neither noted on the list of eligible medal recipients nor the discharge list. The conduct book contains only one entry dated 22/16/42. The “16” is typed over another number, making it difficult to determine the month of the entry. The entry notes that [REDACTED] was discharged, but does not provide the sufficient information to determine medallic entitlement.

Researchers Cate Walker and Bobby Nicholas provided NZDF with a memorandum found at the National Archives of the Cook Islands, dated 4 March 1952, from the Cook Island Administration Treasury, Rarotonga to the Official Secretary, Cook Islands Administration, Rarotonga. The memorandum contains a list of individuals who had not received their mufti allowances or gratuities. This list contains three names that have not been located on others lists of service members of the Cook Islands Local Defence Force: [REDACTED]. The communication does not contain dates of service, therefore medallic entitlement cannot be assessed at this time.

In January 1943, the War Cabinet approved a request from United States Admiral Halsey for the formation of a Home Guard Company at Aitutaki, Cook Islands. The Aitutaki Home Guard existed from 30 June 1943 – mid November 1943, during which time 19 parades were held.⁶¹ Servicemen paraded one day per week.⁶² Based on the available information, members of the Aitutaki Home Guard did not serve enough days to be eligible for the New Zealand War Service Medal. If additional information becomes available, this can be reassessed.

⁶¹ Memorandum for the Secretary, Public Service Commissioner, from the Department of Island Territories regarding Mr RS Ridgley, Head Teacher, Aitutaki, Cook Islands, dated 4 March 1944, Archives New Zealand file R1763849, Aitutaki Home Guard.

⁶² Memorandum to the Hon. Minister of Defence from Lieutenant-General E. Puttick, Commanding New Zealand Military Forces, dated 26 August 1943.



Heritage, Commemorations and Protocol

Annex D

A Private, convicted by court martial of 12 charges and sentenced to five years penal servitude, received the 1939-1945 Star, Africa Star with 8th Army Clasp, Italy Star, War Medal, 1939-1945 and the New Zealand War Service Medal in 1950.

A Private, convicted by court martial of rape and sentenced to five years penal servitude, received the 1939-1945 Star, Africa Star with 8th Army clasp, War Medal 1939-1945, and the NZ War Service Medal in 1950.

A Private, convicted by court martial of wounding with intent to murder a fellow soldier, was sentenced to six years penal servitude in 1943. His sentence was reduced to four years, but he was released from prison in 1946. The Private received the 1939-1945 Star, the Africa Star with 8th Army clasp, the War Medal 1939-1945, and the New Zealand War Service Medal in 1953.

A Trooper, convicted by court martial of rape and sentenced to five years penal servitude in 1945, received the War Medal 1939-1945 and the New Zealand War Service Medal in 1953.

A Sapper, convicted by court martial of being absent without leave and "disgraceful conduct," received the 1939-45 Star, Africa Star with 8th Army Clasp, Italy Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45, and the New Zealand War Service Medal in 1956.

A Private, convicted by court martial of desertion and sentenced to 18 months imprisonment, received the 1939-1945 Star, Africa Star, Italy Star, War Medal 1939-1945, Defence Medal, and New Zealand War Service Medal in 1964.

A Private, convicted by court martial of multiple civil offences, including breaking and entering, stealing, and receiving stolen goods, was sentenced to 15 months in prison in 1942. He was awarded the Africa Star Ribbon in 1943. His family claimed the 1939-1945 Star, the Africa Star with 8th Army Clasp, the Italy Star, the Defence Medal, the War Medal 1939-1945, and the New Zealand War Service Medal in 2004.

The 1939-1945 Star, Africa Star with 8th Army clasp, War Medal 1939-45, and the New Zealand War Service Medal were issued in 2021 to the family of a Driver, convicted by court martial of desertion and sentenced two years in prison.

The 1939-1945 Star, Africa Star with 8th Army clasp, War Medal 1939-1945, and the NZ War Service Medal were issued in 1991 and 2022 respectively to the families of two Privates convicted by court martial of rape and sentenced to five years penal servitude.

The Italy Star, the War Medal 1939-1945, and the New Zealand War Service Medal were issued in 2011 to the family of a Private who was convicted by court martial of absence without leave, desertion, and escaping confinement, and sentenced to 18 months imprisonment with hard labour. His service record indicates that the ribbons for the 1939-1945 Star and the Italy Star were awarded in 1945. This soldier's commanding officer wrote that the Private "has been in action for approximately 12 hours as far as anyone here can now remember. For the remainder of his time with us he has been AWL or under close arrest. Even in a rest area, he cannot be trusted to remain with his Company." The Private was later referred for psychiatric evaluation and discharged as unfit for active service.



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:	
DATE RECEIVED:	SENS NUMBER:

PAM F 25 - APPLICATION & DECLARATION FORM COOK ISLANDS LOCAL DEFENCE FORCE (CILDF) MEDALS

ENQUIRER/YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

Your Family Last Name(s)/Surname	
Your Full Given/First Name(s)	
Your Postal Address	
Daytime and/or Mobile Phone	
Your Email Address	

SERVICE PERSONNEL DETAILS

Service Number (if known)		
Family/Last Name(s)/Surname		
Full Given/First Name(s)		
Date of Birth (if known)		
Other Name(s)/Alias		
Is the person living or deceased?	(Circle) Living/Deceased	If person is deceased, proof of death and confirmation of your lineage must be supplied. ^{*1}

¹ See the NZDF PAM website (FAQ) for details.

Warning: It is an offence under the Crimes Act to make a false declaration

DECLARATION *(Required for Applications from Living Ex-Service Personnel)*

Note this Declaration is only required when the service person is applying

I acknowledge that, as part of the processing of this application, the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) will seek to verify the information I have provided. By signing this declaration, I give permission for the NZDF to supply my details to any such responsible agency.

I declare:

- I have never been sentenced to dismissal by a court martial; and
- I have never been convicted during or after completion of military service for any offence that resulted in a sentence of imprisonment for seven years or more, and that the information provided in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, true and complete.

...../...../.....
Signature of person making the declaration Date

See next page for statutory declaration for posthumous medal applications

STATUTORY DECLARATION (Required for Posthumous Medal Applications)

Note that this Statutory Declaration is only required when applying for medals for a deceased service person

I acknowledge that, as part of the processing of this application, the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) will seek to verify the information I have provided.

I undertake that, should an applicant having a preferential claim come forward in the future, I will surrender the medal in his or her favour, and hereby indemnify the NZDF against any claim arising from the incorrect issue of the medal.

I declare that the information provided in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, true and complete.

I declare that I am (*relationship*) to the service person referred to in this application and I believe that I have the greatest legal entitlement to receive the unclaimed medal.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the Oaths and Declarations Act 1957.

DECLARED at this day of20.....

.....
Signature of person making the declaration

Before me:
(Print name)

.....
Signature of the person before whom the declaration is made
Justice of the Peace/ Solicitor / Officer duly authorised to take Statutory Declarations

[Apply authorising stamp in this space]

If person is deceased, proof of death and confirmation of your lineage must be supplied. *1

Information Relating to Applying for Medals for Deceased Personnel

Note 1. If you are applying for a medal for a service person who is deceased the declaration form should be completed by the person who believes they have the best legal claim in accordance with the law; the order of entitlement generally being as shown below:

- The beneficiary under the deceased's Will
- The legally recognised partner, i.e. Wife, Husband, Widow, Widower, Civil Union or De Facto Partner
- Son or Daughter
- Grandson or Granddaughter
- Father or Mother
- Brother or Sister, including Half-Brother or Half-Sister
- Grandparents

Note 2. When none of the above persons are still living then NZDF is able to issue the unclaimed medal to another person named as next-of-kin in official records, step-son or step-daughter, nephew or niece, great-nephew or great-niece.