

MORE MAKETU NOTES

Not the Only Maketu

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The immigrants of Te Arawa canoe, whose final landfall was at Maketu, Bay of Plenty, are said to have named the place after "the original field where they grew their kumaras [or sweet potatoes] in Hawaiki",¹ the traditional Maori homeland from whence they had come.

The name Maketu, which apparently is one of the "few Maori names to defy translation",² is found in several of the Cook and other Pacific islands.³ Nor is Maketu, Bay of Plenty, the only place so named in New Zealand, although it is generally regarded as the principal place of the name in this country.⁴

The best known of the other places named Maketu in New Zealand marks the final landing place of Tainui canoe on the shores of Kawhia Harbour.⁵ According to tradition, Tainui canoe was built at the same place in Hawaiki at the same time as Te Arawa canoe and both canoes afterwards arrived at Whangaparaoa, eastern Bay of Plenty, almost simultaneously.⁶

Many years ago, when the late Mr H. Tai Mitchell (of Te Arawa descent on his mother's side)⁷ was surveying in the Kawhia district, he tried to obtain some information about this "lesser known Maketu". Whether or not it was through any prior knowledge of traditional history, he was reported to have come "to the conclusion that both the Tainui and Arawa canoes came from the same original home where Maketu was a place name".⁸ Modern topographical maps show Maketu Pa by the shore of Kawhia Harbour alongside Te Ahourei (Resting place of Tainui canoe).

Inland from Kawhia in the present town of Te Awamutu is the site of Otawhao Pa, which for a time was believed by some to have been called Maketu Pa.⁹ This error appears to have arisen from the misleading wording of the title of a wash drawing of Otawhao Pa made by J.J. Merrett in December 1843: "The Pah of 'Maketu' at Otawao in the Waipa."¹⁰ The pa at that time contained the famous meeting house "Maketu", so named to commemorate the taking of Maketu Pa, Bay of Plenty, on 28 March 1836, warriors from Otawhao having assisted the chief Te Waharoa of Matamata in its capture.

In 1844 the meeting house was seen by the Australian artist G.F. Angas,¹¹ who made a painting of it which has since been reproduced in different forms in several publications. It also features in the Te Awamutu Borough Council crest. As Elsie Locke has indicated, Merrett's title for his drawing would have been more accurate as "The pa of Otawhao with the meeting house 'Maketu'".¹²

One place formerly known as Maketu is a pa site about 5 kilometres south-east of Drury, South Auckland, now called Peach Hill. Majority opinion accepts this site as Old Maketu (to distinguish it from the neighbouring pa site of New Maketu, of obviously later construction), although the matter still seems unresolved.¹³

In answer to questions about the Maketu place-name south-east of Drury, author Nona Morris writes:

As I say in "Early Days in Franklin", Maketu was originally an ancient pa site of the Waiohau people. After the 1840s, the Maori came down from their hilltop pa

and settled on the flats below. All this land was confiscated after the Waikato War [1863-64]. The immigrants who settled here (many on 5 acre grants) called the area Maketu but today the area is known as Ramarama. The old Maketu hilltop pa site is known today as Peach Hill.¹⁴ [Ramarama is nearly 3 kilometres west of Peach Hill]

Not surprisingly the settlers used Maketu as the name of their road board, formed in 1868, and their school, opened in 1871.¹⁵ On 11 May 1878 however, they changed the name of their road board, and presumably their settlement, to Opaheke.¹⁶ The reason no doubt was a report in the *New Zealand Herald*, 2 May 1878, which stated that a letter addressed to "Maketu" only but intended for Maketu, South Auckland, and posted in Bombay, 3 miles away, had taken 19 days to reach its destination, having been sent first to Maketu, Bay of Plenty. The paper pointed to the absurdity of having several places with the same name in the province. "One of these days some serious consequence may ensue." Opaheke, also, eventually ceased to be used as the name for the settlement. The Opaheke post office was opened there on 12 February 1881 but closed on 20 November 1893.¹⁷

Postal historian R.M. Startup of Masterton writes that this Opaheke was no longer listed in the 1899 edition of Wise's *Every Place in New Zealand*.¹⁸ Probably the reason was confusion with the original Opaheke only some 6½ kilometres away near Papakura.

The name Maketu, however, is still retained in the district for the stream which flows past Peach Hill nearly 3 kilometres east of Ramarama and for a road 1½ kilometres north-east of Ramarama.

Besides the above, some even lesser known places named Maketu are recorded in "The New Zealand geographic place-names database" (Land Information New Zealand, 1997).¹⁹ They include a stream

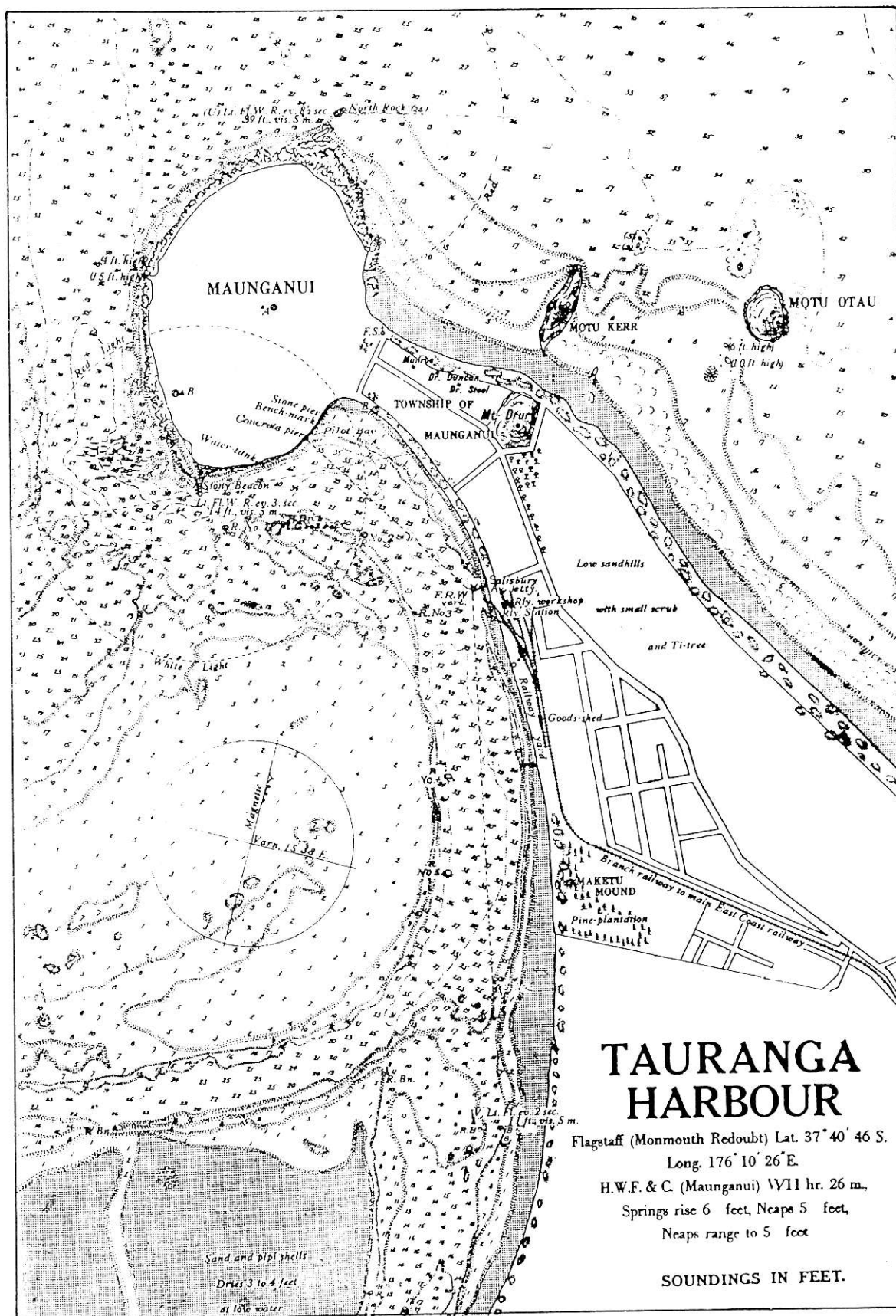
and a locality in Taranaki province, a stream in North Wellington province and an island in the delta at the mouth of the Tongariro river at the south end of Lake Taupo.²⁰ In the Rotorua district, in the heart of Te Arawa territory, Don Stafford has recorded several places called Maketu near the shores of lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti.²¹

Maketu Mound, Tauranga

Early charts of Tauranga Harbour made after the 1852 survey by H.M.S. *Pandora* show a prominent sandhill marked "Maketu Mound" by the shore about 1½ kilometres south-east of Mt. Maunganui (Mauao). The deep waters in a stretch of the channel near this sandhill were used by warships supporting the British military operations in Tauranga in 1864. Consequently it was known for many years as the "Man-o'-War Anchorage".²²

The sandhill, however, was levelled in the 1950s during the development of the wharf area in the Port of Tauranga. Older residents and visitors who travelled by Faulkner Bros' Ferries between Tauranga and Mount Maunganui township before the 1950s will remember the sandy face of the great sandhill set against the background of a pine plantation.

The name Maketu here could conceivably have been given by the crew of Te Arawa canoe, which, according to tradition, anchored at Maunganui, Tauranga, "hence the name Tauranga [meaning 'safe anchorage']",²³ before it reached its final destination at Maketu, at the mouth of the Kaituna river. Or it could have been given by the Waitaha-a-Hei descendants of the immigrants of Te Arawa canoe, who once occupied the eastern Tauranga district. However, the name is more likely to have come from the most recent conquerors of Tauranga, the ancestors of the Ngaiterangi. These people had during their fighting migration along the Bay of Plenty coast from the east displaced the Arawa people from Maketu and had lived there themselves until they eventually



Tauranga Harbour showing Maketu Mound sandhill and pine plantation. From the N.Z. Nautical Almanac, 1948. Soundings are in feet.

moved on to Tauranga and drove out Waitaha-a-Hei.

But whatever the reason the mound was named, or by whom, there is no doubt the



View looking south-east from above Pilot Bay, Mount Maunganui, Tauranga Harbour showing Maketu Mound, the largest sandhill by the beach against background of pine plantation (middle distance), circa late 1940s.

PHOTO: Tauranga Public Library

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Perhaps if they had loved living at Maketu they were inspired to bring the name with them to their new home at Tauranga.

name Maketu was brought to New Zealand by Te Arawa and Tainui canoes²⁴ and that it is found in territory where the descendants of their crews have lived during their time in this country.

References

1. *Wise's New Zealand Index*, 1939. Later editions of *Wise's New Zealand Guide* refer to either a "kumara" or a "sweet potato" plantation. In answer to a telephone enquiry, a Wise's staff member replied that information about New Zealand places usually came from local councils. In the case of Maketu, it was presumably supplied by the Maori elders of Maketu.
2. *Bay of Plenty Times*, 8 March 1948
3. Pomare, M. & Cowan, J. - *Legends of the Maori*, 1930, p.44
4. Andersen, J. - *Maori Place Names*, 1942, p.244
5. *Bay of Plenty Times*, 8 March 1948
6. Stafford, D.M. - *Te Arawa*, 1967, pp. 6,17
7. *Bay of Plenty Times*, 12 June 1939
8. *Ibid.* 8 March 1948
9. Anderson, J. - *Maori Place Names*, 1942, p. 244
10. Locke, E - *Mrs Hobson's Album*, 1990, p.153
11. Angas, G.F. - *Savage Life and Scenes...*, 1847, Vol 11, p.149
12. Locke, E - *Mrs Hobson's Album*, 1990, p.153

13. Goodliffe, Leslie K. & Albert, Heather - *Maketu Paa and Other Archaeological Sites of the Bombay-Papakura Escarpment*. See also other archaeological studies of the area (photocopy supplied by Kim Tatton, Regional Archaeologist, N.Z. Historic Places Trust, Auckland).
14. Morris, Nona. - Letter to A. Matheson, 14 Aug. 1998
15. Morris, Nona. - *Early Days in Franklin*, 1965, p.183
16. Ibid. p.200
17. Startup, R.M. - *New Zealand Post Offices*, 1977, p.129
18. Startup, Robin. - Letter to H.D. London, 4 April 1978. In the same letter, as if to confuse matters, Robin Startup also wrote that Maketu, "1 ½ miles north-west of Bombay, was the Maori name for what became Cape Settlement in the early 1870s". That name was given because the settlers came from Cape Colony, South Africa. The Cape Settlement post office there was open from 1 February 1874 to 31 October 1876, "but the placename as such has long been 'lost'".
19. Per Glenn Taitoko, Reference Librarian, Alexander Turnbull Library.
20. Site information photocopy supplied by Judy Nicholas, Taupo District Council.
21. Stafford, D.M. - *Landmarks of Te Arawa*, Vols 1 & 11, 1994, 1996
22. Mair, G. & Gifford, W.H. - *The Story of Gate Pa*, 1937, p.9
Interestingly, Mrs Heather White of "Broken Hill", Papamoa, has a cannon ball which was found in "a sandhill" at Mount Maunganui seaside resort by her grandfather Major W.A. Bennett's family on one of their many visits to The Mount. It was always believed to have been fired at the sandhill by a warship during target practice in the early days, no doubt from a man-of-war anchored nearby in the "Man-o'-War Anchorage" in 1864. Mrs White also recalls that the *Bay of Plenty Times* reported the discovery of a number of cannon balls in the Maketu Mound when it was demolished to make way for wharf development about the late 1950s and assumes hers came from this same sandhill and possibly the same man-of-war.
23. Taylor, R. - *New Zealand and its Inhabitants*, 1870, p.266
24. Andersen, J. - *Maori Place Names*, 1942, p.244

The Mounted Rifles Camps

In the autumn of 1904, less than a year after the Tauranga Mounted Rifles were divided into two companies, known respectively as the Tauranga Mounted Rifles and the Te Puke Mounted Rifles, the latter formation was reported to have held a week's camp for training and instruction at "Mrs Way's paddock" near Maketu (presumably "Ashton" farm a few kilometres south-west of Maketu). A full report of the camp activities appeared in the *Bay of Plenty Times* on 4 May 1904:

On Friday, 29th April, the Te Puke Mounted Rifles proceeded into camp, at Mrs Way's paddock, (at Maketu), for their annual training, their strength being 45 N.C.O.s and men under Captain Bennett,¹ Lieutenants Frazer-Hurst,² Boucher and Tuthill, and Sergt-

Major Coleman being the Staff Instructor.

On arrival in camp the men were dismounted and told off in fours to pitch tents, etc., after which a guard was told off and posted.

Next morning dismounted drill was held at 7.15 a.m., under N.C.O.s and Troop Leaders; breakfast 8 a.m.; tent inspection, 9.15; mounted parade, 10 a.m., at which the men were instructed in field work. In the evening a general meeting was held and Mr Tuthill re-elected Lieutenant.

On Sunday morning, at 10 a.m., the men were paraded under their Troop Leaders and proceeded to their

respective Churches, No 1 Troop to Te Puke and No 2 and 3 to Maketu.

proceeded on their route and safely reached their day's destination.



Lieut. W.A. Bennett (left) at the camp of the Te Puke Division of Tauranga Mounted Rifles somewhere near Te Puke. Black arm bands denote the recent death of Queen Victoria, 22 January 1901.

PHOTO: Te Puke Museum

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On Monday there was a dismounted drill from 7.15 to 8 a.m. At 9.30 the Fours-leaders were paraded to draw lunches for their respective fours, and at 10 a.m. the Squadron paraded, mounted, and after being served out with ten rounds of blank ammunition, were told off to furnish an advance guard, and proceed in the direction of Matata.

On reaching Maketu, No 1 Troop, under Lieut. Frazer-Hurst, scouted through and took up a position on the high ground overlooking Waihi and signalling all clear. No 2 Troop, under Lieut. Boucher, then occupied, as quickly as possible, a Pah in a good position in case of a retreat being necessary. No 3 Troop, under Lieut. Tuthill, representing the main body, then

After lunch had been partaken of the men were exercised in extended order, and it then being time to retire to camp, No 1 Troop were ordered to attack the Pah that was occupied by No 2 Troop in the morning, and after they had taken it Nos 2 and 3 Troops were told off to retake it, and No 1 finding their position untenable retreated by fours alternately, and were pursued and driven back to camp by Nos 1 and 2 Troops.

A feature of the camp is the great keenness shown by all hands in their work, and classes for N.C.O.s are held every evening to prepare them for examination on Thursday.

On Tuesday and Wednesday the Squadron will do out post duty. On

Thursday afternoon they will be 'At Home' and will be inspected by the Officer Commanding the District on Friday.

main Maketu-Te Puke road via the cemetery road, which in those days was "just a rough track that could be got through somehow": As to the camping



The camp of Te Puke Division of Tauranga Mounted Rifles outside Te Puke, early 1901.

PHOTO: Te Puke Museum

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In later years the mounted rifles camps were held at Maketu in 1906, 1907, 1909 and 1910. In 1906, and probably 1907, the camps appear to have been held on a piece of "waste land" between the eastern side of the "Ivy Isle" property (the place where the old Spencer house had stood before it was burned down) and the cemetery road, now known as Spencer Avenue.

In a letter to the late Mr A. van der Wouden in 1977 the late Sister Sylvia of St. Joseph's Retreat Home, Auckland (formerly Eileen Dudson), who lived with her parents in the former police station-house at Wharekahu, Maketu, well remembered the mounted rifles camping on this waste land. The camp was only a few hundred metres south-west of the Dudson's home, and it had access to the

ground:

There was a spring in it and the water was easily got. They would ride past our place every morning and return in the evening. They had what was called 'sham fights' on the 'Redoubt' [Pukemaire Pa site]... The volunteers, as we called them, made quite a stir. They had Church service on Sunday afternoon and quite a number of Te Puke people were present as well as others. A good afternoon tea was served by the ladies. On the last night an impromptu concert was arranged with the aid of a big bonfire. The stage was a 'dray'. Also to end up an enjoyable evening there was a big 'tug-of-war'.

By good fortune a full account of the concert was published in the *Bay of Plenty Times*, Friday, 18 May 1906:

On Friday evening last the members of the Te Puke Mounted Rifles gave an open-air concert at Maketu. The night was a beautiful moonlight one, and there was not a breath of wind. A huge bonfire was made, on the ground around which was spread water-proof sheets for the comfort of the numerous guests.

The following programme was gone through. Miss W. Adams, of Tauranga, acting as accompanist:- Cornet Solo, 'Killarney', Bugler Henry; song, 'Queen of Angels', Miss F.M. Harris; duet, 'Life's Dream is O'er', Miss K. Robertson and Captain Beach; song, 'Robin Adair', Mrs Dudson; song, 'Island of Dreams', Trooper Wolfenden; song, 'Good Old Jeff', Corporal Way. Items were also contributed by Mr Crosby, Sergeant Cooney and other members of the squadron ... Miss Way played a number of accompaniments also ... An excellent performance, the haka, given by the local natives, was greatly appreciated by all present.

Supper was handed round by volunteers after which some 20 couples engaged in dancing on the green. A tug-of-war between the sinewy representatives of Te Puke and Pongakawa was held and after a hard-fought contest, the Te Puke representatives vanquished their opponents. At the conclusion, Mr Harris, on behalf of the residents of Maketu, thanked the Captain, officers and members of the squadron for the very pleasant evening's entertainment provided. Captain Frazer-Hurst responded and said it afforded him great pleasure to see so many of the Maketu people present, and the kindness and hospitality extended by them to the volunteers during the encampment would not be readily forgotten.

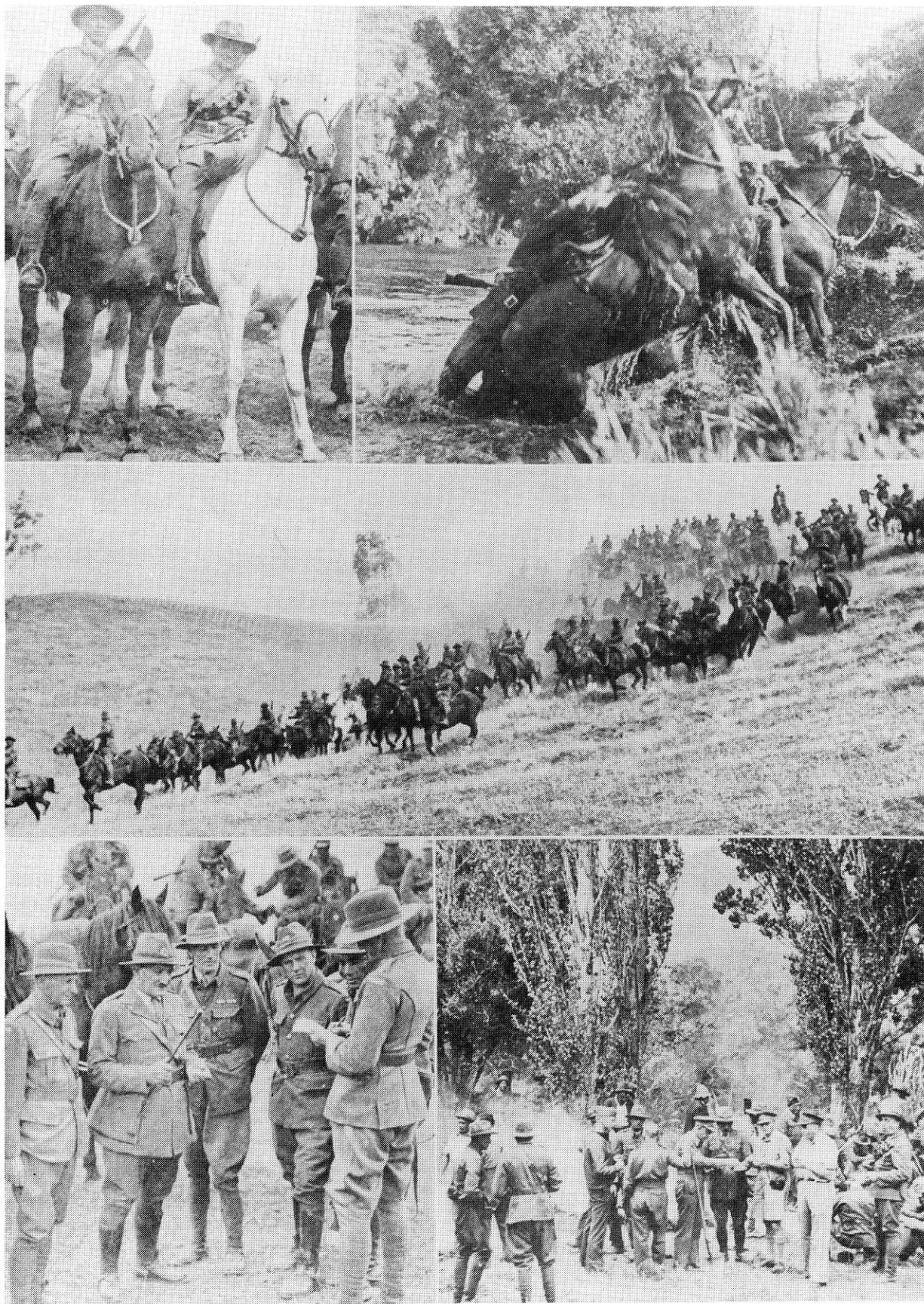
The day before this concert (Thursday, 10 May) the squadron was entertained by the ladies of Maketu and the Harris family at a garden party at the latter's home, the former C.M.S. (Anglican) mission station at Wharekahu.

On one occasion at least (probably 1910) the volunteers' camp was made on the present school grounds. The late Dorothy Forrest of Auckland, who lived with her parents, Mr and Mrs E. Prentis, on Te Rahui ridge in front of this camp site, had vivid early childhood recollections of the troopers' tents and the sound of bugles morning and evening. Then, "One morning I woke up and they were gone!"

Apparently the Te Puke Mounted Rifles camped at Maketu again early in World War 1 (1914-18) about Labour Day, 26 October 1914. According to the *Te Puke Times*, visitors to the seaside settlement on that day "were permitted to witness a stirring sham fight by members of the local yeomanry corps, under Major Bennett".

Another mounted force to visit Maketu was the Paengaroa troop of the Waikato Mounted Rifles, on 18 March 1932. Watched by about 70 friends and relatives, they held a parade, rifle exercises and troop drill, as well as target practice on the beach.

The largest and most impressive gathering of mounted rifles ever held at Maketu was probably the wartime camp of a squadron of 150 horsemen of the Home Guard from Rotorua under the command of Major R. Vercoe, D.S.O., D.C.M., during the weekend of 27-28 June 1942. The four platoons of men and horses, plus two dunnage waggons and two trucks, came to Maketu as part of their training and made their camp in the grounds of the Whakaue meeting house. Their ranks were composed of about equal numbers of Maori and Pakeha and the same proportions of young men and veterans of World War 1. Among the officers was Dr. Bertram of Rotorua.



Mounted Home Guardsmen on exercise in the Rotorua-Bay of Plenty district in 1943 under the command of Major R. Vercoe, D.S.O., D.C.M. (second from left in bottom left photo). A year earlier, in 1942, these men and horses camped briefly at Maketu.

PHOTO: Weekly News, 30 June 1943

Within a few hours of their arrival at Maketu early on Saturday morning (after travelling all night), the troops were visited and inspected by Major-General Bell, D.S.O., and other officers. On Sunday morning, which was fine and almost summerlike, a church parade and service was held in front of the Whakaue meeting house. Over 500 people, including Home Guardsmen from Te Puke, Paengaroa and Pukehina were present, and the *Te Puke Times* reported that in the bright sunshine

the uniformed men and the well-dressed assembly made an impressive sight. During the service, which was conducted by the Revs Manu Bennett and Tamahori, visitors were moved by the singing of the first Maori Battalion hymn which 500 of them had sung just before going over the top at Gallipoli during World War 1. When the squadron left Maketu on Sunday afternoon the men and their much-admired horses were cheered on their way by a large number of people.

Footnotes

1. William Atherton Bennett was born in Plymouth, England, about the year 1865. He left on the Bechuanaland Expedition under General Methuen in 1884. After a year in Africa he returned to England and left for New Zealand shortly afterwards, settling in the Tauranga district.

In 1888 he married Sophia Graham, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Snodgrass of Otumoetai. Nine years later William and Sophia purchased land at Papamoa which they developed from its native state. This property, called "Broken Hill", became widely known in the mid twentieth century when their youngest son Ken conducted a Jersey stud there.

William Bennett's career as an officer of the Te Puke Mounted Rifles had its beginning at a parade of the Tauranga Mounted Rifles (in which he was then a sergeant) on 10 January 1901. On that day he was unanimously elected Lieutenant of the Te Puke division of the Tauranga unit. A few years later the Te Puke division became a separate company known as the Te Puke Mounted Rifles. Bennett meantime rose to the rank of captain and later major. For a brief period around 1906, however, command of the Te Puke Mounted Rifles was taken over by Dr Frazerhurst.

During the nationwide waterfront strike in 1913 Major Bennett was one of the farmer volunteer special constables (mounted and armed with batons) who were sent to Auckland to help protect the strike breakers. Trade unionists called them "Massey's Cossacks", after the Prime Minister of the day William Massey. The Major's granddaughter, Mrs Heather White of "Broken Hill" still retains his baton, which has always been known to her as "Grandpa's 'waddy'".

During World War 1 Bennett served with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in Egypt. According to family sources he put his age down in order to serve overseas while his son Geoffrey put his age up for the same purpose!

After the war he took a special interest in electricity reticulation in the Tauranga-Te Puke district and served on numerous local bodies. He spent his last years in retirement at Maketu and died at the age of 85 at the home of his son Walter, in Te Puke on 6 August 1950.

2. Dr Joseph Livingston Frazerhurst was a veteran of the Boxer Rebellion in China, 1899-1900, as a doctor in the Navy, and the Boer War, 1899-1902, in which he served in the Mounted Infantry.

Born in Northern Ireland circa 1873-74 and trained in medicine at Dublin, he practised as a doctor in Te Puke from the time he arrived in New Zealand in 1903 until 1907. At the

same time he took an active and enthusiastic interest in the Te Puke Mounted Rifles, in which he rose to the rank of captain and commanded the unit during their camp at Maketu in 1906. (His lifelong interest in all aspects of Army life had begun at an early age, having joined the Northumberland Hussars at the age of seventeen) A descendant, Mr Chris Frazerhurst of Auckland, has supplied copy of three paragraphs in a book (*The Unfinished Task*) about the doctor's life that refer to his connection with the Te Puke Mounted Rifles. Curiously only camps near Papamoa are mentioned and not those at Maketu:

The work of the practice was not heavy though it entailed riding long distances over unformed roads. This was not such a hardship to one who had so recently been trekking over the Transvaal. An added interest was in his taking over command of the Te Puke Mounted Rifles, a volunteer force which he built up to a strength of seventy to eighty men. He held a combatant commission as well as his rank in the Medical Corps, so was gazetted Lieutenant in the New Zealand Defence Forces on September 25th 1903.

The main amusements of the settlers were an occasional concert and dance, musical evenings at different houses, picnics and riding parties. Each Thursday a group of the lads from the Mounted Rifles, accompanied by their sisters, would assemble in the paddock behind the house and have several sets of Lancers on horseback or practice musical drill. The Rifle Range was also in a gully nearby and the ammunition was for a time kept under the bed.

Every year the Mounted Rifles had a ten days' camp on the hills near Papamoa, where warlike manoeuvres were held and sham-fights against the Tauranga or Rotorua Volunteers were conducted, according to strict military rules. These boys and others like them who rode fifteen or twenty miles into the monthly drills formed the nucleus of that territorial army which joined up in 1914-18. One boy sprang up from a group in Egypt to tell Livy "I tell the others we didn't have to learn anything after we joined up. You had taught us all about soldiering."

Dr Frazerhurst left Te Puke in 1907 and spent a year at Tauranga before going to England to further his studies. On his return he held posts, first at Waihi and then from 1912 to 1922 at Whangarei, where he started the first maternity annexe in New Zealand.

During World War 1 he served in Egypt, Salonika and France. In 1925-26 he was medical superintendent of Palmerston North hospital. *Wise's Directory* for 1929 records him as living at Norsewood, Hawke's Bay. From 1929 to 1935 he was head of the medical service of the New Zealand Army and for the same period he was honorary physician to the Governor-General.

For some years, circa 1934-38, (the dates are uncertain) he was medical superintendent of the Whakatane hospital. Mrs Lillian Jordan remembers him well, dressed in military uniform at parades in Whakatane, also his sons, one of whom was killed in World War 11, 1939-45.

In 1939, *Wise's Directory* records him at Tauranga, where in addition to his practice he was medical examiner of personnel entering the armed forces. After marrying his second wife in 1947 he shortened his name to Frazer and moved to Hastings, where he died in 1954 at the age of 80. In his obituary it was stated that Dr Frazerhurst had always been a popular doctor with the Maori people since he first practised at Te Puke. It was also recalled that he had been an active member of the R.S.A. movement, of which he had been Dominion Vice-President for two years.

Principal Source: Obituary. *Hawke's Bay Herald Tribune*, 22 May 1954.