

# CISWW1

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COOK ISLANDS SOLDIERS OF WORLD WAR ONE

## Private VAVIA TUORO

My speech for the commemorating of the Cook Islands WW1 Soldiers, held in Auckland 2015.

By Mata Tumu-Makara

**Cook Islands Soldiers of World War One  
Personal Profile**

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**Name:** Vavia Tuoro (Tuoro Vavia)<sup>1</sup>

**Father:** Tuorio Vavia, (Tuoro the son of Tetumuenua<sup>2</sup> and Vaviatane<sup>3</sup>)

**Mother:** (Teaira the daughter of Taunga and Pareuariki)

**Country of birth:** Mitiaro, Cook Islands

**Village:** (Atai)

**Date of birth:** 18<sup>th</sup> March 1895

**Date of death:** (late 1950s to 1960 in Rarotonga.)<sup>4</sup>

**Occupation:** Self Employed (Laborer)

**Enlisted in the New Zealand Army**

**Company:** 11<sup>th</sup> Maori Battalion, Rarotonga Company

**Reg. No.** 19345

**Rank:** Private

**Embarked for Suez, Egypt:** 16<sup>th</sup> November 1916

**Arrived:** 24<sup>th</sup> January 1917

**Embarked for New Zealand:** 14<sup>th</sup> December 1918

**Arrived:** 28<sup>th</sup> January 1919

**Somes Island Wellington:** 29<sup>th</sup> January 1919

**Discharged:** 20<sup>th</sup> March 1919

**Decorated:** 21<sup>st</sup> June 1924

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<sup>1</sup> See the third paragraph on page 5 for a discussion about his name. The names in brackets are mine.

<sup>2</sup> His married name is Teiomarama

<sup>3</sup> Her married name is Akemata

<sup>4</sup> For further research in the future.

Kia Oraana. On behalf of the Mitiaro Community, Te au Tavini o te Atua, Nga Ui Ariki e toru, Member of Parliament, Mayor and his councilors, we would like to express our gratitude to the Honorable Alfred Ngaro, Cook Islands Consulate Rosie Blake and the committee for making us proud Cook Islanders today as we commemorate our tupunas who fought in WW1.

In the early 1800s the people of the Cook Islands were engaged constantly with tribal and inter-island warfare over land, women, possessions, status and revenge for killing another person or animals. The tribal and inter-island warfare were cruel and many had died in some of the battles. In 1821 the Gospel came to the shores of the Cook Islands for the first time through the work of the Reverend John Williams, Orometua Papeiha and Vahapata under the direction of the London Missionary Society. Their purpose was to ‘take the glorious Gospel of the blessed God’ to all people of the world.<sup>5</sup>

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1823 the Gospel arrived on the island of Mitiaro (also known as Nukuroa) and Orometua Taua from the island of Tahaa in French Polynesia (Tahiti) became their first pastor. There were other Tahitian Orometuas placed on Aitutaki, Atiu, Mauke, Rarotonga and Mangaia. In return Orometuas from those islands were sent out as ‘messengers of peace’ to Manihiki, Penhryn, Pukapuka, Rakahanga and Palmeston. The Gospel had a positive impact on the people and they ceased to engage in tribal and inter-island warfare.

Furthermore, they joyfully took the Christian message throughout the islands of the Pacific. The Cook Islands church sent out over 446 known men and women to Samoa, New Caledonia, New Hebrides, Tahiti, Tuvalu and Papua New Guinea from 1830-1913, one other in 1963. One of the

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<sup>5</sup> Cited by Mata Tumu-Makara, ‘The Cook Islands Church Mission Heritage: Relaunching the Global Mission Activities of the Church.’ (Auckland: Laidlaw-Carey Graduate School, MTh Dissertation, 2011).

Orometuas that served in Papua New Guinea who was from the island of Mitiaro was Makara and his wife Pati. They left the Cook Islands on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1902 and both died there in 1906.<sup>6</sup>

In the year 1914 World War 1 began. The first groups of Cook Islanders (45) along with Niuean soldiers were sent from New Zealand to France with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force (NZEF) in 1915. In July 1916, the second group of Cook Islanders (120), left the shores of New Zealand for Suez. There were many more Cook Islanders that were sent after the first two groups. The estimate of Cook Islanders sent to fight in that war was 500.<sup>7</sup>

Among the 500 soldiers was Private Vavia Tuoro, the only soldier to identify himself from the island of Mitiaro. He left the beautiful shores of Rarotonga for New Zealand for four months training at Narrow Neck Camp in Auckland.<sup>8</sup> It was during his second month training that the Niuean soldiers and the first Cook Islands soldiers withdrew from France because they suffered from the cold. There was an urgent call for more soldiers to go and fight in France. Tuoro's chance came in November 16<sup>th</sup> 1916 when he left the shores of New Zealand with the '11<sup>th</sup> Maori Reinforcements' and later known as the 'Rarotonga Company' with the intention of joining their brothers, after the winter months, in France. The Rarotonga Company never made it to France because the British needed more good soldiers in Egypt to help fight against the Ottoman Turks in Sinai and Palestine.<sup>9</sup> The young, enthusiastic, courageous, energetic, strong, and God-fearing Cook Islands warriors were what was needed.

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<sup>6</sup> Tumu-Makara. 'The Cook Islands Church Mission Heritage,' 2011.

<sup>7</sup> Quoting the Honorable Alfred Ngaro at the Cook Islands ANZAC celebration held at the Atiu Hall in Mangere Auckland New Zealand. 26<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

<sup>8</sup> [www.nzhistory.net.nz](http://www.nzhistory.net.nz) cited on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

<sup>9</sup> [www.nzhistory.net.nz](http://www.nzhistory.net.nz) cited on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

The Cook Islands soldiers were described as ‘formidable workers, physically strong and quicker than anyone else.’<sup>10</sup> Their duties were to unload supplies from surfboats on the Mediterranean Coast and carry ammunitions for the Royal Artillery Eastern Force Ammunition Unit. The good work however caused much friction with the Egypt Company who was doing similar jobs. The Rarotonga Company was reassigned to more responsible role; handling ammunitions, keeping the dumps concealed to prevent attacks and clearing stockpiles of captured ammunition.

The Cook Islands soldiers who survived in France joined the Rarotonga Company in the Middle East in February 1918. The Middle East climate was suitable for the Cook Islands soldiers but still very vulnerable to malaria and measles. The Mitiaro soldier was constantly challenged by these diseases which were evident in his medical certificates highlighting that he was constantly going in and out of the hospital. And at one time he stayed in the hospital for over a month trying to recover.

In December 14<sup>th</sup>, 1918 Private Tuoro along with the survived Cook Islands soldiers returned to New Zealand because of the influenza epidemic. They were quarantined at Somes Island Wellington harbor. Tuoro was discharged from the army and returned to the Cook Islands along with most of the Cook Islands soldiers on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1919. He was decorated on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 1924.

So, who was Private Tuoro Vavia? The name on the WW1, 1914-1918 Roll of Honours recorded his name **Tuoro Vavia** that is Tuoro is the first name and Vavia the surname and his father’s name was Vavia Tuorio.<sup>11</sup> This was supported by WW1 records; History-Sheet and Certificate of Discharge. However, three of the WW1 records; Certificate of Magistrate or Attesting Officer, Hospital and

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<sup>10</sup> [www.nzhistory.net.nz](http://www.nzhistory.net.nz) cited on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

<sup>11</sup> This could be a spelling error of the soldier’s father Vavia Tuorioia. For future research.

Convalescent Home Certificate and Certificate of Medical Examination shows that his name was Vavia (first name) and Tuoro (surname).

I focused my search on the Tuoro family because there is only one Tuoro family on the island of Mitiaro. I examined two genealogies of the Tuoro family and asked some of the Mitiaro people living in Auckland New Zealand about Vavia Tuoro.<sup>12</sup> The two genealogies recorded that Tuoro married Teuira and they had eight children.<sup>13</sup> One genealogy does not have a child named Vavia.<sup>14</sup> In the other genealogy, Vavia was recorded.<sup>15</sup> To make sense of the complexity, according to Tautua Tautua the longer version of Vavia's name was Vavia Papaia.<sup>16</sup> He was known by some as Vavia and by some Papaia.<sup>17</sup> To make things more complicated Mama Ina Tekaa, (her family lives next door to Teuira and Tuoro) Papaia is another brother of Vavia. She remembered that Papaia lived on the island of Atiu and she saw Papaia when he came with the Atiu people to pick oranges to Mitiaro on the *Maui Pomare*.<sup>18</sup> Pativai Tutini also remembered that day when Papaia came from Atiu to pick oranges.<sup>19</sup>

If this is the same Tuoro then the above evidences suggest that his name should read Private **Vavia Tuoro**. He was born on the island of Mitiaro on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1895. He grew up in a Christian home where faith in God and hard work was valued. He was 11 years old when his uncle Makara and aunty Pati died in Papua New Guinea as missionaries. Vavia was a hard worker. According to

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<sup>12</sup> There is also a Vavia family which is the family of Tangata Vavia who is the current Member of Parliament of Mitiaro. I did not have time to ask him to see if there is a Tuoro in his family genealogy. I needed to write this speech in a rush so that it will be presented on time. For future research.

<sup>13</sup> On his New Zealand Expeditionary Force Certificate, the spelling of his father is **Tuorio** Vavia. Could this be a spelling error? The longer version of his name is Tuoroia.

<sup>14</sup> Taunga Tumu. 'The Family Tree of Tumenua Makara and Tangata Kauri' Compiled, 2011.

<sup>15</sup> Tereva Makara. 'Makara and Akeoiu Family Tree,' Mitiaro: Makara Reunion, 2003.

<sup>16</sup> Papaia was recorded in Taunga Tumu's genealogy

<sup>17</sup> This conversation with Tautua Tautua took place at 13 Santos Place, Onehunga Auckland, New Zealand. 5<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

<sup>18</sup> Conversation took place at 31 Anglesea Street, Ponsonby Auckland 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015.

<sup>19</sup> Conversation took place at 31 Anglesea Street, Ponsonby Auckland on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

his 'Certificate of Magistrate or Attesting Officer' he was self-employed before he enlisted in the army at an 'apparent age' of 19 years old in 1916.<sup>20</sup>

Vavia never married and he never had any children but he comes from a big family that has links to the islands of Ngaputoru (Atiu, Mauke & Mitiaro). Vavia lived on Rarotonga after the war, with few occasional visits back to his home land, Mitiaro.<sup>21</sup>

One of Private Vavia Tuoro's grandnephews Tautua Tautua (age about 8 years at the time) remembered one of those visits in the 1950s. Vavia was a proud soldier and he always wore his army uniform where ever he went. He wanted to take Tautua to Rarotonga but his older brother Makara Marii would not allow it. Tautua came to Rarotonga in the early 1960s for further education, Vavia had already died.<sup>22</sup>

In conclusion, whoever Private Vavia Tuoro was I know the 'vaerua' of his ancestors as warriors, missionaries and his high work ethics helped him survived the war. He was a man of faith, courage and a proud soldier. *Private Vavia Tuoro, your efforts to bring peace in the world and as the only WW1 soldier to identify yourself as a Mitiaro will always be remembered. Lest we forget.*

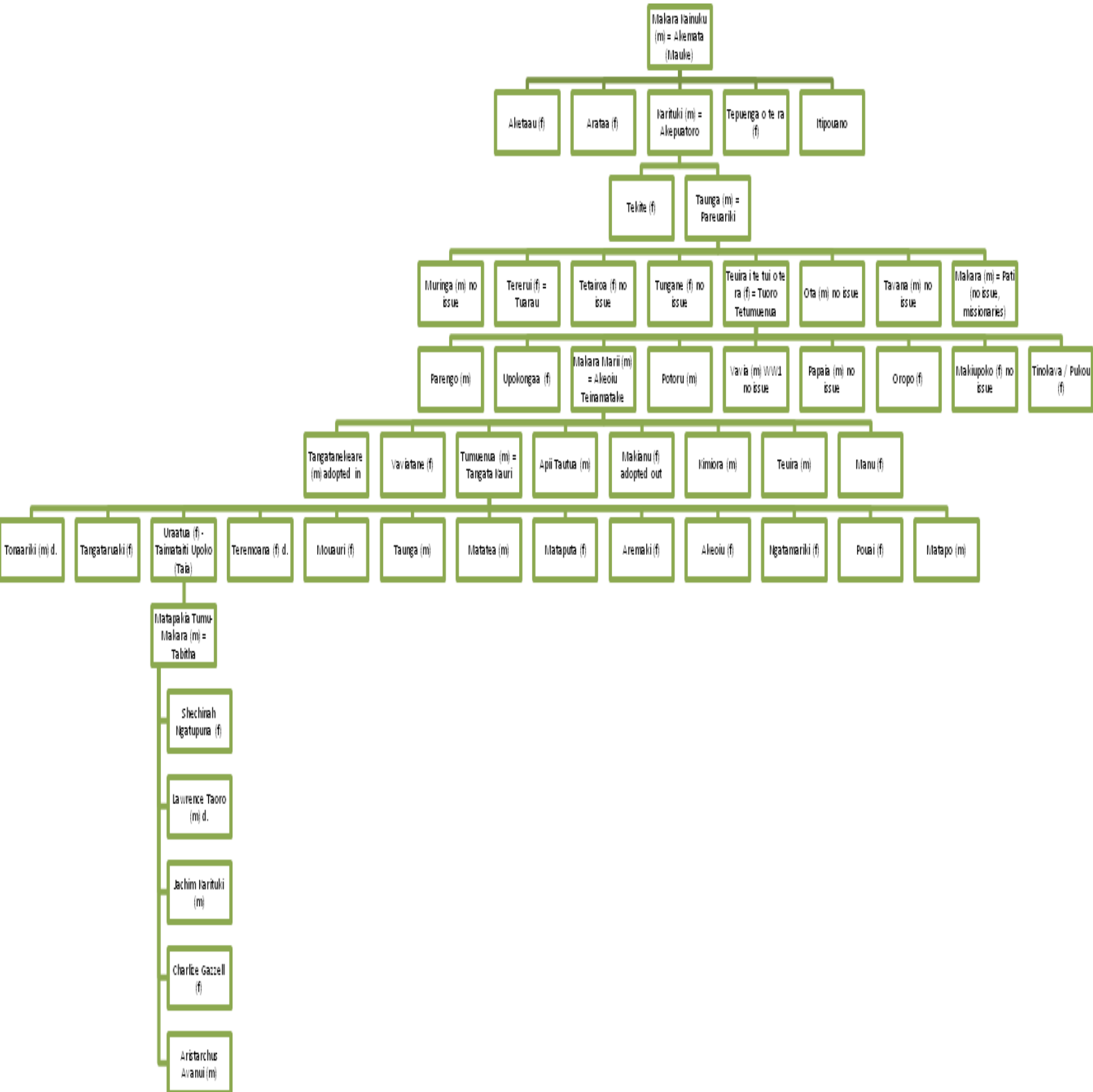
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<sup>20</sup> He was 21 years old in 1916 not 19 years. The war records are attached to this speech.

<sup>21</sup> The conversation with Tautua Tautua on the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

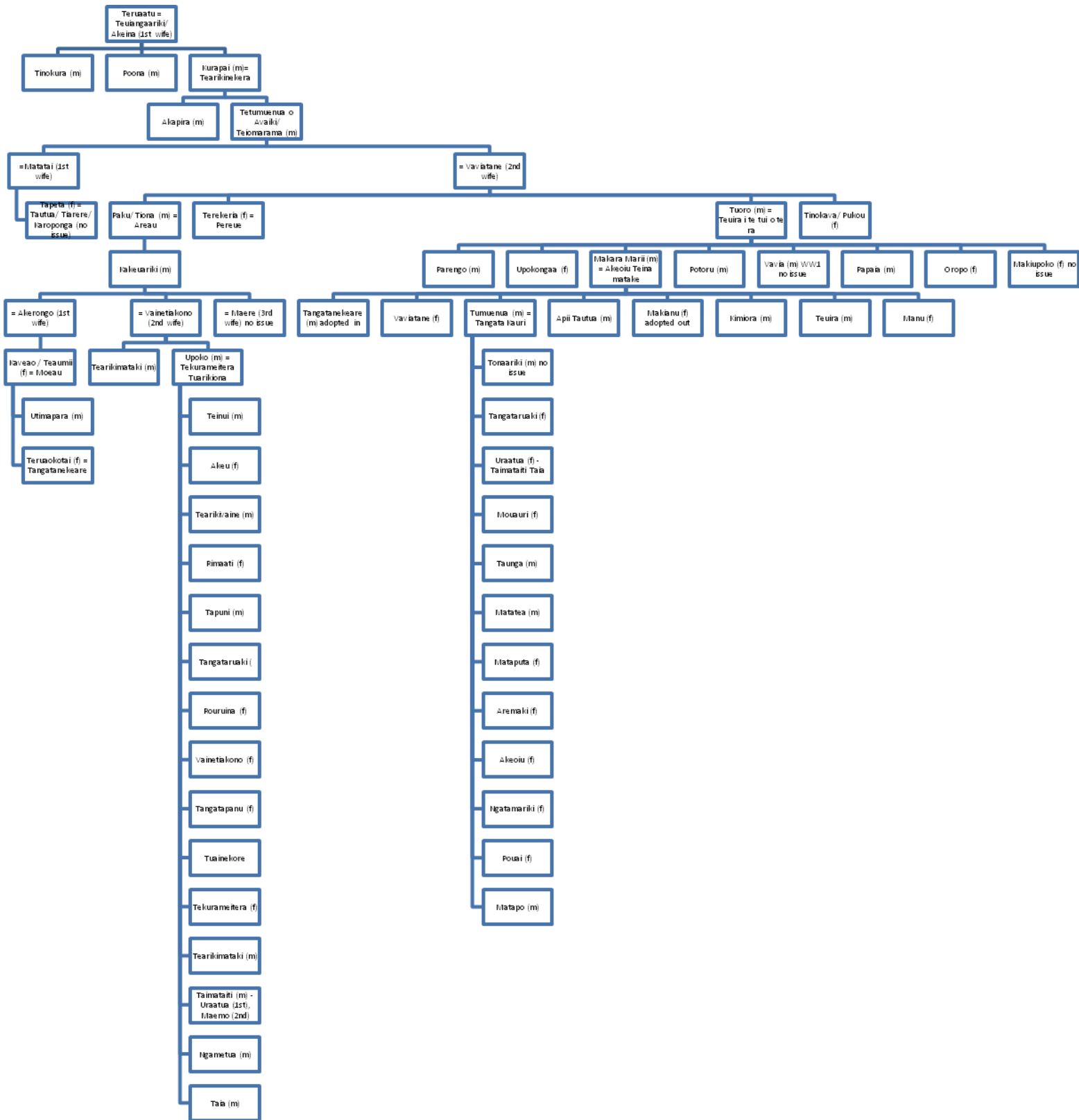
<sup>22</sup> This story suggests that Vavia and Papaia were brothers rather than one person. See the genealogies on the following pages.

**Private VAVIA TUORO'S GENEALOGY ON HIS MOTHER'S SIDE OF THE FAMILY.**





**Private VAVIA TUORO'S GENEALOGY ON HIS FATHER'S SIDE OF THE FAMILY.**



**WAR RECORDS<sup>23</sup>**

19345.  
[Army Form B. 108] 16

**ACTIVITY FORM—ACTIVE SERVICE.**

Regiment of Rare Coy. Tuoro Yavia  
 Rank: Pvte. Name: Tuoro Yavia. (I)  
 Enlisted: 1/7/16 Date of Service\*: Duration of War Service reckons from\* 9/7/16  
 Date of promotion to present rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of appointment to lance rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Numerical position on roll of N.C.Os.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Extended: \_\_\_\_\_ Re-engaged: \_\_\_\_\_ Qualification †: \_\_\_\_\_

REPORT.		Record of Promotions, Reductions, Transfers, Casualties, &c., during Active Service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or in other Official Documents. The Authority to be quoted in Each Case.	Place.	Date.	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other Official Documents.
Date.	From whom received.				
27/12/16	Nom Roll	Disembarked ex "Malwa"	Suez	27/12/16.	
27/12/16	Nom Roll	Marched in & Posted to Train. Units & Depots.	Moascar	27/12/16.	(P1-ITR 3/15)
27-1-17	o/c Train Units' Depots	Marched out to El Strish	do	22-1-17	B213 (P1-ITR 1/20)
14/3/17	do.	Posted to strength from H.Z. M. R. B. Brigade.	Moascar	10/3/17	B213 (P2-19/118)
14/4/17	do.	Marched out to Kantara	do.	7/4/17	B213 (P2-27/162)
	o/c Rare Coy	Admitted to Hospital	The Field	9-5-18	B213 11/3/18 (P2-21/116)
	77 Gen Hosp	Admitted - Myalgia	do	9-5-18	A36 Y3530 11/5/18
	36 St Hosp	Admitted - do	Gaza	12-5-18	W3034 Y2524 13/5/18
	44 St Hosp	Admit from 36 SH do	Kantara	18-5-18	F1 Y2625 19/5/18
	27 Gen Hosp	Admit from 44 SH do	Abbasia	19-5-18	Y2602 20/5/18 (P2-19/118)
	Abba Clinics	Admit from 27 GH do	Helipolis	23-5-18	Y2708 24/5/18
	do	Disembarked to duty	do	27-5-18	

REPORT.		Record of Promotions, Reductions, Transfers, Casualties, &c., during Active Service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or in other Official Documents. The Authority to be quoted in Each Case.	Place.	Date.	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other Official Documents.
Date.	From whom received.				
1-6-18	o/c Coy Sgt	Posted from Hosp	Moascar	25-6-18	
		Detach to D.M.C. Rest Camp	do	27-5-18	(P2-29/118)
8-6-18	-	Rejd from D.M.C. Rest Camp	do	5-6-18	B213 11/12 59/304
29-6-18	-	Admitted to Hosp	Ismailia	25-6-18	B213 11/12 54/302
25-6-18	2 Ans 51 Hosp	Admitted - measles	Moascar	25-6-18	W3034 Y3134 (P1-59/353)
8-7-18	do	Told to D.M.C. Rest Camp	do	8-7-18	Y3304
20-7-18	o/c Coy Sgt	Rejd from Hosp ex D.M.C. Rest Camp	Ismailia	18-7-18	B213 11/12 31/317 (P2-60/317)
3-8-18	do	Told to Rare Coy	do	30-7-18	B213 11/12 44/391
3-8-18	o/c Rare Coy	Posted from Coy Sgt	The Field	31-7-18	B213 11/12 90 (P2-33)
25-10-18	do	Sick to Hospital	do	18-10-18	A98 (P2-49/126)
27-10-18	No 16 St	Adm 1/10/18 transferred	do	20-10-18	W364 Y5324
21-10-18	24 St	Adm from 36 St	Kantara	21-10-18	W3034 Y 21049
23-10-18	24 St	Discharge to duty	Kantara	23-10-18	W3034 Y 21049 (P2-49/126)
26-10-18	ing Regt	Posted from Hospital	Ismailia	23-10-18	P2115 (P2-56)
DEC 14 1918	"	Embarked for H.Z. "MALTA."	Suez	DEC 14 1918	Nom Roll

TC  
RECEIVED BY THE  
14.3.19

<sup>23</sup> Retrieved from the 'archives.govt.nz' on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.





Reinforcement: *11<sup>th</sup> Maori*

# HISTORY-SHEET.

Service despatched [B.F.] Form No. 347  
 Authority to Head  
 No. *71270*

*to bay*  
*4th Bn 3rd Div 19*  
*Wz Hosp*  
*Maori Co*

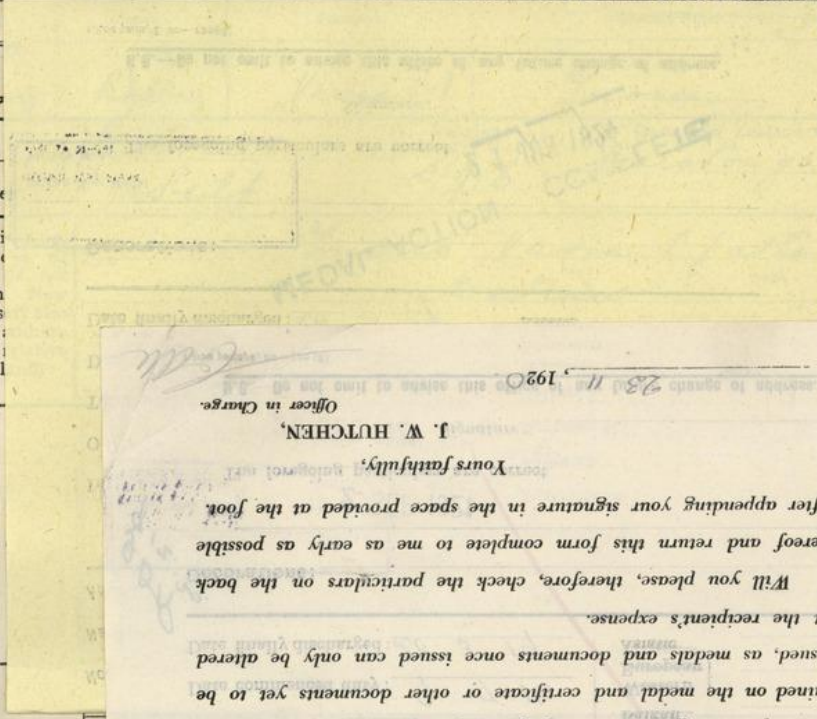
*19345*

Occupation:

Last employed:

Name, relationship and address of next-of-kin resident in New Zealand, insurance name and address of nearest relative in New Zealand

Address:



Dear Sir,—  
 Wellington.  
 As it is hoped that it may shortly be possible to issue the British War Medal and Illuminated Certificate of Service, it is desired to give you an opportunity of agreeing with the information held by this office concerning yourself, and which will be contained on the medal and certificate or other documents yet to be issued, as medals and documents once issued can only be altered at the recipient's expense.  
 Will you please, therefore, check the particulars on the back hereof and return this form complete to me as early as possible after appending your signature in the space provided at the foot.  
 Yours faithfully,  
 J. W. HUTCHEN,  
 Officer in Charge.

Service

Wounds

Sick	PR	19.5.18	Kapiti	Adm 44 <sup>th</sup> St. Hosp 18.5.18 <i>neuralgia</i>
	PR	26.5.18	Barro	Sick to Hosp 27.5.18 Adm 27 Gen Hosp 19.6.18 (a12216)
	PR	20.5.18	Barro	Adm No 27 <sup>th</sup> Gen Hosp Abbassia Jero. Sal.
	PR	1.7.18	Maori ear.	Adm 2 Aust St. Hosp measles 25.1.18. Sal.
	PR	21.10.18	Kapiti	Adm 24 St Hosp 21.10.18 P.W.D.
	PR	10.3.19	Levy	PR for NZ per Malta

Killed in action

Died of wounds\*  
sickness\*

Missing

Prisoner

Injuries in or by the Service

*in termination of period of engagement*

Discharge

Provisional: \_\_\_\_\_ (Date.)  
 Final: *20.3.19.* (Date.)

Intended address: *Rarotonga*

Pension

\* Strike out words not required.





# NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

## ATTESTATION OF

NO. 19345 NAME: Vavia Tuoro Maori Reinforcements.  
Regiment or Unit:

*Questions to be put to the recruit before enlistment.*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. What is your name? ...  | 1. <u>Vavia</u>  |
| 2. Where were you born? ...  | 2. <u>Mitiaro, Cook Islands</u> ✓  |
| 3. Are you a British subject? ...  | 3. <u>yes</u>  |
| 4. What is the date of your birth? ...   | 4. <u>18<sup>th</sup> March 1895</u> ✓   |
| 5. What is your trade or calling? ...  | 5. <u>Labourer</u>   |
| 6. Are you an indentured apprentice? If so, where, and to whom?  | 6. <u>No</u>   |
| 7. What was the address at which you last resided?   | 7. <u>Rarotonga</u>  |
| 8. Have you passed the Fourth Educational Standard or its equivalent?  | 8. <u>No</u>   |
| 9. What is the name and address of your present or last employer?  | 9. <u>working for self</u>   |
| 10. Are you married?   | 10. <u>No</u>  |
| 11. Have you ever been sentenced to imprisonment by the Civil power? If so, when and where?  | 11. <u>No</u>  |
| 12. Do you now belong to any military or naval force? If so, to what corps?  | 12. <u>No</u>  |
| 13. Have you ever served in any military or naval force? If so, state which and cause of discharge   | 13. <u>No</u>  |
| 14. Have you truly stated the whole (if any) of your previous service?   | 14. <u>yes</u>   |
| 15. Have you been registered for compulsory military training under the Defence Act, 1909? If so, where  | 15. <u>No</u>  |
| 16. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for the military or naval forces of the Crown? If so, on what grounds   | 16. <u>No</u>  |
| 17. Are you willing to be vaccinated or revaccinated?  | 17. <u>yes</u>   |
| 18. Are you willing to serve in the Expeditionary Force in or beyond the Dominion of New Zealand under the following conditions, provided your services should so long be required: For the term of the present European war and for such further period as is necessary to bring the Expeditionary Force back to New Zealand and to disembark it? | 18. <u>yes</u><br><u>W. H. T. Raup</u><br><u>Pres. of Kin.</u><br><u>Tuoro Vavia Tuoro</u><br><u>Mitiaro</u> |
| 19. Have you ever been ill? If so what was the nature of the illness?  | 19. <u>No</u>  |
| 20. Have you ever had a fit?   | 20. <u>No</u>  |

NOTE.—Your discharge will not be granted before your return to New Zealand unless permission for discharge elsewhere be obtained from the G.O.C. the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

I, Vavia, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagement made.

Signature of Recruit: Vavia

Signature of Witness: W. H. T. Raup

### Oath to be taken by recruit on attestation.

I, Vavia Tuoro, do sincerely promise and swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to our Sovereign Lord the King, his Heirs and Successors, and that I will faithfully serve in the New Zealand Military Forces, according to my liability under the Defence Act, and that I will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me, until I shall be lawfully discharged. So help me, God.

### Certificate of Magistrate or Attesting Officer

The above questions were read to the above-named recruit in my presence. I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at RAROTONGA, N.Z., on this 1st day of July, 1916.

Signature of Attesting Officer: W. H. T. Raup



DESCRIPTION OF Clavin Lucro ON ENLISTMENT

Apparent age: 19 years \_\_\_\_\_ months.

(To be determined according to the instructions given in Regulations for Army Medical Service.)

Height: 5 feet 4 inches.

Weight: 150 lb.

Chest measurement { Minimum, 32 inches.  
Maximum, 34 3/4 inches.

Complexion: Brown

Colour of eyes: Brown

Colour of hair: Black

Religious profession: Protestant

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.

Tattoo. Hand & heart left arm.  
Scar of burn left wrist.  
wound outer side left thigh.  
Scar of old abrasion inner side right thigh near knee.  
base of left forefinger

Medical Examination.

Sight: Right eye, normal

" Left eye, normal

Hearing: Right ear, normal

" Left ear, normal

Colour-vision: normal

Are his limbs well formed? Yes

Are the movements of all his joints full and perfect? Yes

Is his chest well formed? Yes

Is his heart normal? Yes

Are his lungs normal? Yes

What is the condition of the teeth? Good.

Is he free from hernia? Yes

Is he free from varicocele? Yes

Is he free from varicose veins? Yes

Is he free from hæmorrhoids? Yes

Is he free from inveterate or contagious skin-disease? Yes.

Is there a distinct mark of vaccination? Yes.

Is he in good bodily and mental health and free from any physical defect likely to interfere with the efficient performance of his duties? Yes

Are there any slight defects, but not sufficient to cause rejection? No.

Remarks.

Certificate of Medical Examination.

I have examined the above-named, and find he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.

I consider him fit for service in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

Dec 17

1916

G. Pearce Baldwin

Medical Officer.

MAORI  
REINFORCEMENTS  
NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

(Form No. 1.)

PERSONAL RECORD of

(Surname) Varia (1)

(Christian name) Tuoro.

1st NZEF	Army No.
Registration No. <u>19345.</u>	
2nd NZEF	

REGIMENT: Yarvis Pt Paratonga

GROUP: \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

PREVIOUS PAPERS: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBSEQUENT PAPERS: \_\_\_\_\_

**DISCHARGED**

on termination of period of  
Engagement.

20.3.19. EOB

✓

11th Maori Rpts. Kalla  
16.11.16 28.1.19  
No.

[B.R. Form No. 207A.]

39916  
18.2.19  
28

**NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.**  
**CERTIFICATE OF DISCHARGE.**

N.B. - (1.) This certificate is issued without alteration or erasure of any kind.  
(2.) Any person finding this certificate is requested to forward it to Headquarters, Military Forces, Wellington, N.Z.  
(3.) Should this certificate be lost or mistaid no duplicate of it can be obtained.

No. 19345 Rank: Private Unit: 17 Karotongan Company  
Name: Tuoro Paria

is discharged on the termination of his period of engagement.

Service abroad: 2 years 74 days.

**DESCRIPTION OF SOLDIER ON ENLISTMENT.**

Age: 21 1/2 years Height: 5 feet 4 inches  
Complexion: Brown Eyes: Brown  
Hair: Black Trade or occupation: Labourer

PARCHMENT DISCHARGE  Sent to S.I.  
Date 19.2.19 Initials: W Signature: [Signature]

WELLINGTON, 20th March 1919 For Major-General,  
Commanding New Zealand Military Forces.

21.2.19

NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

HOSPITAL AND CONVALESCENT HOME CERTIFICATE.

\* Strike out word not required

The undermentioned soldier is hereby ordered to report as an in-patient at the Romeo Island Hospital\* Convalescent Home\* on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1919, and is authorized to receive treatment. He is hereby ordered to report for instructions at the nearest Defence Office on the day he is discharged from the Hospital or Convalescent Home if he has not received another certificate of status from Base Records.

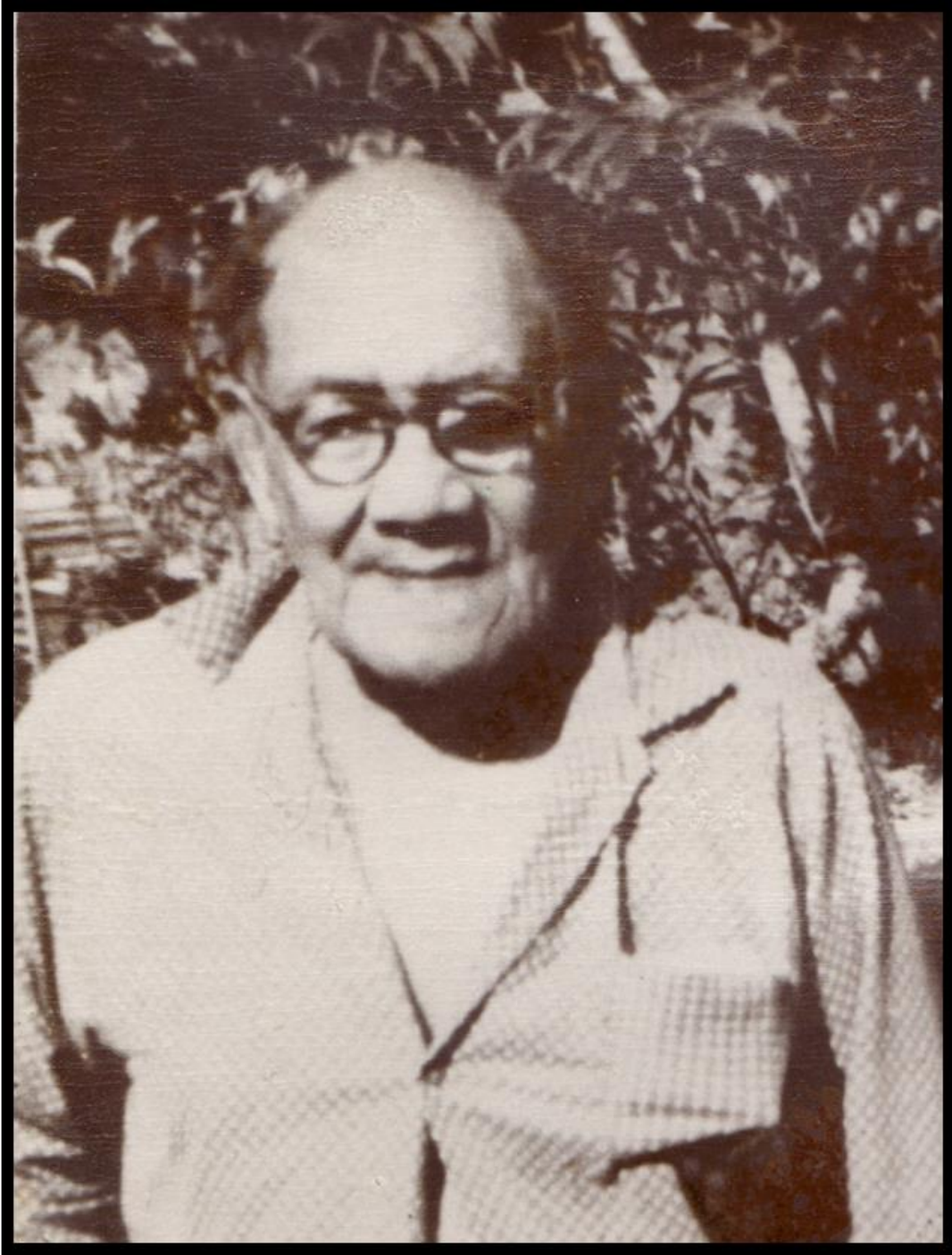
(Reg. No.) 19345 (Rank.) Plt (Surname) Moro (Christian name) V.

Date of issue: 12-2-, 1919

Signature: [Signature]  
For Director of Base Records.

Attention is called to the conditions laid down in the Returned Soldiers' Handbook. The status of this soldier is a hospital or convalescent-home patient as from the day following the date of issue of this certificate.

[Signature]



*Makara Marii Tuoro, brother of Private Vavia Tuoro.*

## References

1. Mata Tumu-Makara 'Oral History of Mitiaro,' Auckland: Tumu-Makara 2013.
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