

Colonel Thomas William PORTER # 4224



Colonel T. W. Porter, C.B.

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Born in India in 1844. He was the son of Major Porter of Jabulpur who served with the Bengal Native Infantry during the Indian Mutiny. He descends, on his mother's side, from the ancient and aristocratic Roses of Kilravock Castle, Geddes, Nairnshire, and to be a nephew of Lord Strathnairn.

He served as a midshipman on H.M.S. *Hercules* in raids against pirates on the coast of China in 1857–8, and then migrated first to Australia and then to New Zealand. In 1861–3 he was in the Wanganui Militia; in 1864, at Mohaka; and, in 1865, was present at the Siege of Waerenga-a-Hika. Two years later he married Herewaka te Rangi-Paea POTAE, of Tokomaru Bay. He served with the A.C. at Ngatapa (1868); took part in the pursuit of Titokowaru in Taranaki (1869); and, with Ropata, engaged in several expeditions against Te Kooti in the Urewera Country (1870–2). He was in charge of the force which was sent to Opotiki in 1889 to prevent Te Kooti from paying a visit to Poverty Bay. For several years he was a Lands Purchase Officer on the East Coast, and, later, engaged in business at Gisborne. He was Commander first of the Seventh New Zealand Contingent (1901) and then of the Ninth Contingent (1902) in the Boer War. When he retired from the Public Service in 1908 he was Acting Under-Secretary for Defence.

He was the author of *The History of the Early Days of Poverty Bay: Life and Times of Ropata*

Wahawaha. His second wife was Florence E. Sheppard, of Wellington. He died at Wellington on 12 November, 1920.

THE FATHER OF TE RANGI PAI.

Otago Witness, Issue 2536, 22 October 1902, Page 66

What General Brabant is to South Africans, Colonel Porter, C.B., who commanded the New Zealand Seventh Contingent at the front, and more recently the New Zealand Coronation Contingent, is to New Zealanders—a leader who, by his reckless bravery and unfailing success, has the love, the respect, the entire confidence of his men. It speaks volumes for his work in South Africa that he was singled out by Lord Kitchener for especial approval, both verbal and written. The father of that sweet singer, "Te Rangi Pai," mentioned in M. A. P. last week, is certainly (writes the military correspondent of M. A. P.) one of the finest-looking men I have ever seen. Standing 6ft 3½in. he is so well-proportioned that his great height is less apparent than real, and, although he is nearing 60, probably few men half that age would care to "take him on" at a trial of strength or endurance. Like many colonial officers, he wears a beard, and, as I say, is a fine figure of a man, especially when in his smart, serviceable uniform, on the coat of which may be seen the C.B., the New Zealand war medal, the New Zealand distinguished long-service medal, and, of course, the South African medal, with three clasps.

COLONEL PORTER'S NINE YEARS' WAR.

On the outbreak of the Maori war, just 40 years ago, Colonel Porter, then a lad of 18, born of an English father and a Highland mother—the colonel often dons the kilts in New Zealand, and is a judge of pipe music and Highland dancing—went to New Zealand with the 70th Regiment, now the East Surrey, and fought with it as lieutenant in the early stages of the war. When the Imperial troops were withdrawn, and the prosecution of the war fell to the colony, Colonel Porter remained, and took service in the local forces, in which he has risen step by step till now he is senior staff officer. The Maori war lasted from 1862 to 1871, and Colonel Porter did not miss a single engagement of any importance. Nine years of continuous fighting! The fires of the Boer war pale into insignificance before such a Homeric blaze of strife. Colonel Porter was wounded four times, twice severely, and it would take a whole issue of M. A. P. to relate a tithe of his adventures and achievements during those stirring times. One, however, may be briefly touched upon.



Colonel T Porter c. 1869
Officer in Bush Fighting Costume

"POATA" ON THE WAR-PATH.

The tale of "Poata" (as the Maoris call Colonel Porter) and of the famous rebel Te Kooti is a dramatic one. Throughout the long nine years' war "Poata" and Te Kooti fought constantly against each other, although they never came face to face. After the last battle of the war—I must open a parenthesis to mention that by a curious coincidence Colonel Porter fought the last action of the Maori war, and also what was practically the final one of the Boer war. Bothasberg, where he and his men so greatly distinguished themselves—Te Kooti escaped, but lived to be captured 18 years later, in somewhat different circumstances it is true, by his former enemy. In 1889 Te Kooti collected a following of some 1500 men and began moving about the country preaching sedition and threatening, without actually resorting to, violence. Great uneasiness was felt, and the task of capturing Te Kooti was entrusted to Colonel Porter. He accomplished it without a drop of drop being spilt on either side and by means of his own intrepidity and finesse, and, incidentally, a marvellous cavalry march. It was essential to catch Te Kooti before he got into the bush. Leaving camp at 11 p.m., Colonel Porter and his men had covered 94 miles by 8 o'clock next morning, and had Te Kooti surrounded. A fine achievement at any time, this ride was almost superhuman by night, considering that the track was a bridle path along which the men had to move in single file.

Te Kooti sent an envoy to ask "Poata" to leave his "guns" (soldiers) behind and come and talk things over. Accompanied by a reporter and a police officer, who held a warrant for Te Kooti's arrest, "Poata" went. One is reminded irresistibly of the late Mr Rhodes's famous "indaba" in the

Matoppo Hills. As on the later occasion, the three men held their lives in their hands, and an indiscreet word might have meant instant death. The palaver began: "Well, Te Kooti," said Poata, "are you going to surrender to me?" "No, Poata," Te Kooti answered stubbornly; "I cannot surrender. I must go to the king (the Maori king)." Just then an excited Maori in the listening circle cried out: "Ha! Poata has come. Poata means bloodshed. Why should we wait? Let us begin first." Approving murmurs greeted this menacing speech. The least sign of fear, the faintest movement to escape, and probably all would have been lost, but Poata merely turned to Te Kooti, and said in his calmest tones: "Te Kooti, can't you keep your people in order? Tell that man to be quiet."

THE COLONEL SCORES.

Te Kooti hesitated, but the white man's phlegm carried the day, and the unruly one was told to restrain himself, which he did. Twice again "Poata" put his question, and twice again Te Kooti answered in the negative. "Very well, Te Kooti," said "Poata," producing his trump card, "if you won't surrender to me, you will be arrested. This is a police officer, and he holds a warrant." This was a severe blow, for whilst Te Kooti might surrender with honour to an officer, it would be an indelible disgrace to be arrested by a policeman. Again tumult arose, during which the reporter, in response to a nod from the colonel, slipped on his horse and rode off unnoticed. Amidst terrific shouting the inspector read the warrant, and Te Kooti, awed either by the majesty of the law or the sudden appearance of "Poata's" "guns," summoned by the reporter, caved in, and begged as a favour, which was granted, that he might be taken back as "Poata's" and not the policeman's prisoner.

Now comes the finishing touch to the story. Colonel Porter learned that more than 20 years back Te Kooti had said: "The day 'Poata' and I come face to face means that my end is near." Strangely enough, soon after his first and only meeting with "Poata," the old rebel died in exile. For averting what might have developed into a serious rising, Colonel Porter received the thanks of the New Zealand Houses of Parliament.

8 December 1904 -

DEATH OF MRS PORTER.

Mrs Porter, wife of Colonel Porter, recently officer commanding the Canterbury Volunteer District, now Under-Secretary for Defence, died suddenly at New Brighton last night. Mrs Porter had just finished dinner, when she complained of a suffocating feeling, and before a friend who was with her could reach her she dropped dead. The late Mrs Porter was a chieftainess of the Ngatiporou tribe. She was the mother of Mrs Howie ("Te Rangi Pai"), the well-known singer at present in England, and of Mrs James Dalrymple, of Gisborne.

Mrs Porter had been living at New Brighton for the past two or three months, having taken her residence there in order to nurse her son, Lieutenant Porter, who died on November 9th. Mrs Porter grieved much over the death of her son, who was the youngest of the family. Colonel Porter, for whom much sympathy is felt in his second bereavement, is in Wellington, and has been telegraphed for.

12 December 1904 - THE LATE MRS T. W. PORTER

The funeral of the late Mrs Porter, wife of Colonel Porter, C.B., took place on Saturday, the interment being at the Linwood Cemetery. In compliance with Mrs Porter's expressed wish, her remains were interred near those of her son, the late Lieut. R. H. Porter. The funeral was attended by several members of the family, and a large number of friends whom Mrs Porter had made during her short residence in the district. The Rev. W. S. Bean conducted the service at the grave side. Amongst those present were:—Captain Seddon, Colonel Day, Colonel Slater, Captain McGee, Lieut. Pavitt, and many other local volunteer officers. Sympathetic letters and telegrams were received from all parts of the colony, among them being messages from the Premier and Mrs Seddon and family, the Hon. J. and Mrs Carroll, Hon. C. H. Mills, Hon. Colonel Pitt, Hon. F. Trask, Hon. R. H. J. Reeves, Mr R. H. Rhodes, Colonel and Mrs Webb, Colonel Bauchop, Colonel Chaytor, District Grand Lodge and Masonic Lodges. Wreaths were received from Hon. R. J. and Mrs Seddon, Rev. W. S. and Mrs Bean, Mr and Mrs Goodwin, Mr and Mrs Year, Mr and Mrs Checkley, Mr and Mrs de la Mare, Mr and Mrs E. Blake, Mrs Wakelin, Mrs Allen and family, Mr and Mrs Franks, Mr and Mrs Staniland, Mr and Mrs E. F. Moore, Mr and Mrs Geo. Mason, Defence store staff (Christchurch), staff Under-Secretary's Office, Mrs Wm. White and family, Mr and Mrs F. O. Hamilton, grandchildren at Heatherlea, Highland Rifles, New Brighton Tennis Club, Mr and Mrs Dudley Hill, Mr and Mrs D. Bowen.

The late Mrs Porter was a chieftainess of the highest rank, descended from a long line of noted ancestors in a clear genealogical line of fifty-two generations. She was closely related to the loyal chief, the late Hon. Major Ropata, N.Z.C., M.L.C., and first cousin of the loyal chief, the late Captain Henry Potae, who were distinguished in their tribal allegiance to the Queen in suppressing the Hauhau rebellions on the East Coast of the North Island. Her father was the chief who signed the Treaty of Waitangi on behalf of the East Coast tribes, surrendering sovereignty to the Queen in 1840. In the Maori and Polynesian rights of rangatira (noble) ancestry, Mrs Porter was of remarkable rank, being known as an "Ariki Tapairu" (i.e., equal to rank of queen in the Polynesian genealogies). The Tapairu rank refers only to the senior female descended by a direct senior line of ancestry, and this was the case with Mrs Porter, who had no brothers or sisters through the chieftainship line of her father, he being the head chief of his tribe, and many sub-tribes all concentrated in his only child, Mrs Porter. Mrs Porter's chieftainess name was Herewaka To Rangi i Paea, the same as that of a celebrated ancestress of their line. Mrs Porter had devoted herself to an European life, but never forgot her own people, and was much respected and loved by all who personally knew her. She leaves a surviving family of four daughters and four sons, the eldest of whom is Mrs Howie (To Rangi Pai), who now becomes the "Tapairu."

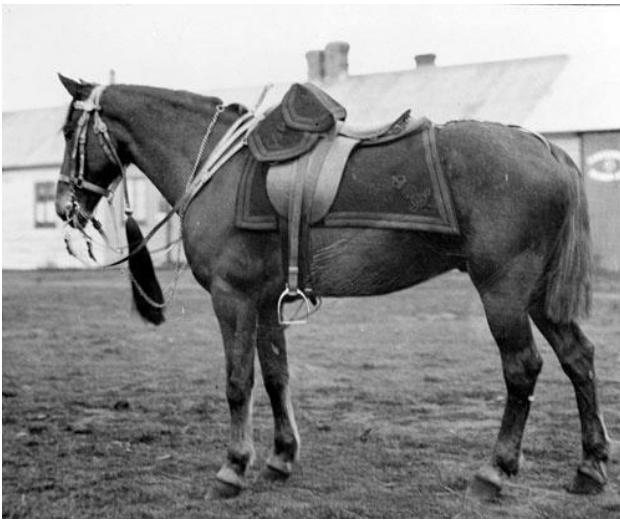
20 June 1905

COLONEL PORTER RESIGNS. APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF MAORI COUNCIL.

(Per Press Association.)

WELLINGTON, this day.

Colonel Porter has resigned and severed his connection with the Defence forces of the colony. He has taken a position as president of the Te Rawhiti Maori Council, and will be stationed on the East Coast. In this capacity he will be able to influence large areas of native land being thrown open for settlement.



19 May 1909 - NEW ZEALAND'S VETERAN WAR HORSE.

"Major," the valuable charger of Colonel Porter, C.B., died at Heatherlea on May 11th from the effects of a severe chill. The noted historical career of "Major" has on several occasions been published throughout New Zealand and in London, where his photograph was also published. The deceased charger was an exceptionally fine stamp of horse, possessing all the best points of strength and endurance, with a good pedigree of well-bred stock in the Wairarapa district. The Dominion's contribution to the remount horses sent to South Africa during the war numbered 10,000, and of this large number "Major" was the only one that returned to New Zealand, after escaping all the hardships of campaigning and the deadly sicknesses peculiar to South Africa. During his campaigning he trekked through the Portuguese territory from Beira to Rhodesia, and Kimberley, Orange River Colony, Transvaal, Natal, Zululand, and Cape Colony, during which he was twice wounded, once in the knee and once in the shoulder, but otherwise was never once on the sick lines. The wound in the knee nearly caused his being destroyed, as being on trek, all disabled horses had to be shot rather than be left to the enemy. In the evening the veterinary officer reported he must be shot, but "Major" was given until the morning, by which time the bullet, which had lodged in the joint, worked out, and so saved his life. The wound in the chest was from a long range, and the bullet did not penetrate beyond the bone, from whence it was cut out; so he escaped again. On another occasion, during an engagement against General Botha, the orderly in charge, after Colonel Porter had dismounted with his men, left "Major" in an exposed position for several hours, during which he received several bullet scratches. When Colonel Porter left South Africa to command the Coronation Contingent, Lord Kitchener,

who had much admired the horse, gave instructions to send him by a troopship to England from the Cape for Colonel Porter. Landed at Southampton, he was sent by mistake to Colonel Porter's cousin, at Tremerton Castle, Cornwall, but afterwards reached London, and was ridden by Colonel Porter during the Coronation celebrations. From England he returned to New Zealand by a New Zealand Shipping Company's steamer, and was quarantined three months on Somes' Island, thence being taken to Canterbury, and used by Colonel Porter during his command of that district; thence to Wellington, and subsequently to Gisborne; and has now ended a remarkable career, to the deep regret of the owner, which will be joined in by the many hundreds of South African Contingenters, particularly those of the Seventh, who so well knew "Major."

18 September 1911 - RETIREMENT OF COLONEL PORTER, C.B.

The retirement of Colonel Porter, C.B., T.D., from the N.Z.M. active list, appears in the New Zealand Gazette of the 7th September. Memorandum: "Colonel Thomas William Porter, C.B., T.D., New Zealand Militia, retires under the provisions of paragraph 118, general regulations, 1911, with permission to retain his rank and wear the prescribed uniform. Dated 28th August, 1911.—(Geo. Fowlds, for Minister of Defence.)" The retirement is under regulations limiting service in the N.Z. forces to 60 years, with extension, by permission, up to 65, which extension in Colonel Porter's case has expired. There is in this case a divergence from the usual English and colonial customs upon retirement. If any officer upon retirement has rendered long efficient service, it is the custom to promote him to a step in rank. Thus Colonel Porter by long active service and seniority of commissions in the Dominion should receive promotion as Major-General; but although he has reached the highest rung in the service he is by limitation of colonial service barred from further promotion. In the English army an officer, having attained the rank of colonel, may receive promotion to the grades of general rank, after which he may continue his service if fit up to practically unlimited age. The last N.Z.M. officer, who held the rank of Major-General was Sir G. J. Whitmore, upon whose death Colonel Porter became the senior N.Z. officer.

13 November 1920

MAORI WAR VETERAN.

DEATH OF COLONEL PORTER.

WELLINGTON, this day.

A prominent figure in connection with New Zealand's early history has been removed by the death early yesterday morning of Colonel T. W. Porter. Only the previous night Parliament passed in its final Bill of the session, a clause granting Colonel Porter a permanent pension of £200 per year, in recognition of his services to the Dominion. He was a midshipman in the navy in 1857, and fought in China the following year. He was attached to the 70th Regiment in New Zealand in 1860, and fought all through the subsequent Maori wars, chiefly on the East Coast. One of his achievements was the capture of Kereopa Kaiwhatu, the murderer of the Rev. Mr. Volkner, for which feat he received £1000 reward. Incidentally he was wounded four times. The war over, he was employed by the Government in native land transactions. He was four times Mayor of Gisborne. He commanded the 7th New Zealand Contingent in the Boer War, where he was awarded the Queen's Medal and four clasps, and was for some time Under-Secretary for Defence. When the great war broke out he was the chief factor in promoting the national reserve, in which capacity he did the Empire service. His widow, who resides in Wellington, is prominently associated with the Women's National Reserve and in several valuable phases of public service.—Special to Herald.

The following record of service of the late Colonel Thomas William Porter, C.B., appears in the Army list:—"Porter, T. W.—Midshipman, R.N., 1857-9. Operations coast of China, 1858. New Zealand war, 1861-71. Attached to H.M. 70th Regiment, 1860-63; served Colonial Defence Cavalry, 1863-66; commanding Native Contingent, armed constabulary force, 1866-71. Operations in the field on East and West Coasts of North Island including actions at Waiapu, Waerenga-a-hiaka, Opotiki, Raukituri, Makeretu Ngatapa, Tauranga Ika, Wararua, Waitotara, Otautau, Manutahi, Te Nguere, Ahi-Kereru, Urewera, Mangapohatu, Te Whana, Maraetai, Waikaremoana, Uawa, Te Hapua, Ruatahuna, and many skirmishes. Commanded force in last engagement of the New Zealand war at Te Hapua, Urewera country, dispersion of rebels 1871. Capture of Kereopa-Kaiwhatu, Ruatahuna, received £1000 reward. Wounds (one severe, three slight). In command of field force in 1889 to suppress fanatical rising in Bay of Plenty. Captured Te Kooti and followers, medal. South African war, 1901-2. Operations in the Transvaal, May to July, 1901, August to December, 1901, April and May, 1902.

Operations in the Orange River Colony. July to August, 1901, December, 1901, to April, 1902. Operations in Zululand frontiers of Natal, September and October, 1901. In command of the 7th New Zealand Contingent from 6th April, 1901, to 19th April, 1902. In command 9th New Zealand Contingent from 20th April, 1902, to 14th May, 1902. Queen's medal, with four clasps. "C.B."

Colonel Porter, it may be added, has held many other appointments during the 45 years he was in the service of the Dominion. Notable amongst these was the command of the Coronation Contingent which attended King Edward's Coronation celebration in London shortly after the close of the South African war.

Amongst the various civil offices he held at various times he was Native officer East Coast district, Land Purchase Officer, Inspector of Native Schools, East Coast, interpreter to Native Land Commissioner, Native Reserves Officer, East Coast, president of Tairarwhiti Maori Land Council, Judge of Native Land Court, and president of the Tairarwhiti Maori Land Board.

Colonel Porter earned distinction in the seventies as adjutant of the East Coast district and subsequently commanding officer. On his retirement from the staff adjutancy in 1877 he was commended by Parliament for his services to the colony.

In 1890 he commanded the East Coast volunteer district, and just prior to the South African campaign held a similar position in respect to the Wellington district. His final relation to the Defence Department was as acting Under-Secretary for Defence.

As purchase officer he completed the purchase of nearly 1,000,000 acres of land for the Government. He resigned from this office in 1890 to contest the Parliamentary election. At the close of the native rising he received £1000 reward from the Government for the capture of Kereopa, a notable rebel who was afterwards hung.

Col Thomas William Rose & Herewaka te Rangipaea PORTER'S children were,

Sons are:

- b. 1868 - **Thomas Richard** - died 1942 - member of the 7th Contingent # 4124
- b. 1870 - **Francios Henare** - died in 1936
- b. 1877 - **Donald Kerr** - died in 1954
- b. 1880 - **Raymond George** - died 1968 - member of the 6th & 7th Contingents # 3648 & # 4698 & RNZA # 1031
- b. 1882 - **Richard Hugh** - died 1902 - Member of the 6th Contingent # 3537

Daughters are:

- Fanny Rose** (she was the singer known as 'Te Rangipai') married John Howie in 1891 in Christchurch
- Minnie Kathleen** m. John Arthur Perry in 1894
- Ada** m. James Dalrymple in 1895
- Isabelle** m. Frederick Orton Hamilton in 1897



Fanny Rose Howie, née Porter (right), and her three sisters – from left, Belle, Minnie and Ada – received their musical education at home. From these beginnings Fanny went on to become a world-class contralto under the stage name Te Rangī Pai.

Nov 1920

COLONEL PORTER'S FUNERAL

The remains of the late Colonel T. W. Porter will be interred in the Karori Cemetery to-morrow afternoon. It will be a full military funeral, the gun-carriage being provided by the R.N.Z.A., and the firing party by the 5th (Wellington) Regiment, the whole battalion parading under the command of Colonel R. St. J. Beere. The Regimental Band will be in attendance, and the pall-bearers will be officers who served with the deceased during his fighting career. The cortege will leave deceased's late residence in Austin-street at 2.30 p.m.

Last name	PORTER
First name	THOMAS WILLIAM ROSE
Age	76 Years
Occupation	COL N Z MILITARY
Service provided	Burial
Burial date	14/11/1920
Cemetery	Karori
Section	CH ENG
Plot number	69 N
Record number	49681



Colonel T W R Porter's Memorial
And his 2nd wife Florence Sheppard

Sergeant THOMAS RICHARD PORTER # 4124

Son of Colonel Thomas William PORTER



Gisborne's members of the 7th Contingent

James Hanlon # 4176, Charles J Denny # 4156, T F Carlyle, Norman Law # 4188, Percy W Teesdale # 4213, Edward G W Parker # 4200, William L Cato # 4150, Daniel D Buckley # 4143, Ernest A Guilford # 4167, Thomas R Porter # 4124

B. 1868 – Thomas Richard PORTER in Tokomaru Bay. (Aka – also known as Tahati & Tame Poata).

25 Feb 1901 THE SEVENTH CONTINGENT. DESPATCH OF THE GISBORNE SECTION.

Tucker's paddock presented an animated appearance yesterday morning. The aspirants for places in the Seventh Contingent were then put through their tests by Major McCredie. A fine body of men they were, too. From a physical point of view they presented a fine appearance, and on the faces of most of them was most indelibly stamped the impress of a determination which should see them through anything. Some of the candidates certainly looked strikingly youthful, but there was about them all unmistakable evidence of true grit. They were all fairly well mounted, too, and with one or two exceptions sat their horses as if born there. The exceptions were, however, somewhat noticeable, and provided the crowd with an opportunity for rough-and-ready judgment that was freely expressed in good-natured banter, and the antics of one or two candidates when it came to hurdle work, furnished an excuse for more than one hearty laugh. The preliminary work left the men on very even terms. But the stiff jump that was set the men was only negotiated by about three of them, young Jones taking it in the best and cleanest style. Some of the horses had

probably never seen a jump before. At any rate, they showed decided ignorance as to how to get over, and a most pronounced unwillingness to try. The capers of one or two of the men were in consequence a trifle more than undignified. One, for instance, raced his horse at the jump as if the performance were a matter of life and death, and as soon as his horse neared the obstacle, strong arms and stout reins did all they could to spoil whatever intention the mount had of jumping. Another, with a most pained expression, gave his horse a check just before the fence was reached, and forgot about the horse stopping, continuing his progress till he landed about midway up the animal's neck. And he was not above embracing the horse most affectionately till he got back again to the "pigskin." But he passed. The jumping, though, was not much of a test. Some of the best hunters in the district were among the mounts, and they absolutely refused to look at the jump. The jumping over, the men were still on sufficiently even terms to make their separation a matter of extreme difficulty. They were again paced round the paddock, and the selection finally made was: C. J. Denny and Percy Teesdale (passed for Sixth Contingent), E. D. Guilford, Daniel Buckley, F. T. Carlyle, N. Law, William Parker, T. H. Porter, J. Hanlon, and William L. Cato. John R. Taylor and Elias Partridge were selected as emergency men. After the men had lunched, they went under Major McCredie and the Troopers

Johnstone to Dr Hughes, all getting through this portion of the examination with the most satisfactory results. Shortness of time precluded the possibility of shooting tests. Why the men were so hurriedly despatched no one seems to know. Major McCredie had no explanation to offer.

At about a quarter to five the men assembled at the Drillshed and formed up, and were marched to Primrose and Leslie's corner, where it had been intimated that the Rev. Canon Webb, of Holy Trinity Church, wished to see the men. He there presented the men with a copy each of the New Testament as a parting gift, following up the practice he had observed in connection with the members of the other contingent. His good wishes, and the form of his recognition of the departure of the men, were much appreciated, and will doubtless serve to keep the kindly pastor in their warmest recollections of "home." The City Band, under Bandmaster Morrison, here joined them and led the march with the patriotic "Red, White, and Blue." A crowd quickly gathered, and the march, as it turned the Post Office corner into Read's quay, presented a fairly imposing spectacle. The strains of the music changed to the even more effective and appropriate "When you're goin' awa', Jamie." Arrived at the wharf, the men broke up, and while the Band filed on to, and took up positions on, the Waihi, took their final farewells. This occupied some time, and finally got on the nerves of Sergeant-Major Finn, who was in charge of the party. "Come on there, you men," he shouted from the gangway head. "You ought to have been here half an hour ago." Still the men lingered. "Come on," again called the irate Sergeant-Major; "come on. Hurry up, there. You can kiss them when you come back," a sally at which those in the immediate neighborhood did not forget to laugh. All on board, the telephone bell rang, and the order was given "easy ahead." As the Waihi with her complement swang out into mid-stream cheering, hearty and prolonged, rang out from the dense and enthusiastic crowd on the wharf. These were answered by the no less hearty cheering of the "boys" on board, and over all floated the strains of "Auld Lang Syne," pealed out with feeling by the members of the Band. The Waihi had a fairly rough passage out, the southerly wind heaping the waters up sufficiently to expose the vessel's screw repeatedly. Consequently, the trip did not prove any too pleasant for a number of those on board. The transhipping to

the Te Anau was fairly exciting, but was accomplished in safety, and with commendable despatch. The men were lined upon the lee-side, amidships, and Major McCredie delivered the following parting remarks: "Now, men, I want, before leaving you, to say that you will be under the charge of Sergeant-Major Finn as far as Napier. He will see you safely on board the train for Wellington in the morning, and then I have appointed Trooper T. R. Porter as acting sergeant to take charge of you from Napier to Wellington. He will receive the despatches from Sergeant-Major Finn at Napier and carry them on, and deliver them to the officer commanding the district, from whom he will take his orders for all future operations. In saying good-bye to you, boys, I don't wish to inflict anything like a lecture on you regarding discipline. You are all in a fair way to learn that. In saying good-bye I feel quite sure that each and all of you will maintain equally the rights of our grand Empire with those who have gone before, and I am quite satisfied that none of you will do anything that will tarnish the good old British flag. I hope nothing will happen to any of you, and that you will all return after a good experience to receive the warm welcome of those whom you leave behind, and who now heartily wish you 'God-speed.'" The last good-byes were quickly said. The Waihi's whistle sounded, and amid hearty cheers, the waving of handkerchiefs, and the band playing "Auld Lang Syne," the shore contingent left "our boys" to start on their great mission.

Shortly after 5 o'clock last evening Major McCredie received a telegram from Colonel Porter at Napier asking that the quota of men be selected according to the standard, and that they be forwarded to Wellington by Sunday's steamer; from Napier they are to take the train and go overland. The men are subject to final acceptance in Wellington. The telegram mentioned only seven men as the quota, although Major McCredie had been assured the previous day that ten men would be taken from this district, he recognising that they would be more likely to get suitable, hardy troopers from a bush district like this than from among the dwellers in the towns, where the quotas are larger. The short notice given for the despatch of the Gisborne section of the contingent is very unreasonable. Some of the applicants live as far away as Tokomaru, their applications having been in hand since the departure of the Sixth Contingent, and, supposing they left their homes immediately on receipt of Major McCredie's message last night, they could not get into town before late to-

night, and will have to undergo inspection on Sunday. The candidates are notified that they must attend at the Drillshed this evening to receive instructions, and to-morrow morning, at Captain Tucker's paddock, they will be tested in field exercises by Major McCredie and Captain Winter.

Following is the complete list of applicants for the Gisborne section of the Seventh Contingent, with particulars of weight, measurements, and service:

R. S. Breingan, age 20, height 5ft 9½in, weight 11.3, service Gisborne Rifles; J. A. Bruce (Tokomaru), 25, 5ft 11½in, 34½in (chest); Daniel Buckley, 23 years, 5.8, 12.1, chest 39½in; Alex. Cameron, 29, 6ft 1in, 12.5, chest 39, Gisborne Rifles; T. F. Carlyle, 22 years, 5ft 11½in, 12.3, chest 39½in; W. L. Cato, 24 years, 5ft 9in, 10.4, chest 36in; M. F. Collins, 27 years, 5ft 10in, chest 38in, 11.8; Archie B. Curtis, 5ft 9½in, 24 years, chest 37½in; Geo. Darling, 26 years, 5ft 9½in, 11.10, chest 38, three years H.M.S. Wolverine; Matthew Dwyer, 26 years, 5ft 7in, chest 37in, 11.2; E. D. Guilford, 23 years, 5ft 7in, chest 37, 11.2; Thomas Hamilton, 21 years, 5ft 8½in, chest 36½in, 10.11; J. Hanlon, 25 years, 5ft 8½in, 11.7, chest 38in; Jones, 20, 5ft 9in, 11.0, chest 35in; Ernest N. Law, 20 years 4 months, 5ft 11½in, 11.0, chest 37in; W. J. Lindegar, 28 years, 9.10, 5ft 7in, chest 35in; James Lloyd, 21 years, 5ft 8½in, chest 34½in; Frank McCabe, 25 years, 5ft 6in, 11.3, chest, 39½in; Harry Martin, 21 years, 5ft 7in, chest 34½in; T. W. Martin, 23 years, 5ft 6in, chest 35in; Robert Maynard, 32 years, 5ft 7in, chest 37in, 11.0; Percy W. Teesdale, 23 years, 5ft 9in, chest 37½, 11.0 (two years' Bruce Volunteers and in Milton Cadets); William Parker, 20 years, 5ft 7½in, 10.4, chest 36in (Gisborne Rifles); James Roller Parker, 22 years, 5ft 9in, 11.10, chest 39in; Elias Partridge, 21 years, 5ft 6½in, 9.10, chest 36in; T. R. Porter, 32 years, 12.0, 5ft 9½in, chest 39in (service five years New Zealand Permanent Artillery, three years N.S.W. Artillery, and sergeant-signal instructor in "Limelight" Heliograph, big and small flags, etc., six months Cuban Light Infantry, instructor 1893, Bechuanaland Police, 1874 to 1896, in fighting Mashonaland, Matabeleland; taken prisoner at Krugersdorp as one of Jameson's raiders).

John Ralph Taylor, 21 years, 5ft 9in, chest 36in, 11st 6lb. Service Blenheim Cadets.

T. R. Porter, son of Colonel Porter, and brother of Mrs Howie, the well-known singer, is amongst the applicants for a place in the seventh contingent.

became involved in Local Politics and a member of the Tokomaru Bay Harbour Board

In 1941 - Thomas Richard Porter died

MR. TAHATI POATA

The death has occurred in Waihi of Mr. Tahati Poata, aged 78, a veteran of several wars, and a noted authority on Maori folklore and history. Born in Gisborne, Mr. Poata, or Mr. Thomas Porter, was a son of Colonel Porter, who fought with the British troops in the Maori War. As a youth, he joined the New Zealand Mounted Constabulary and served with the New Zealand forces during the Boer War with the rank of sergeant-major. He was with the Maori Battalion, again with the rank of sergeant-major, in the last war. He has one son serving with the present Maori Battalion, while another is in camp. He was also a member of the Home Guard.

Mr. Poata was present at the coronation of King Edward VII. When the Warbrick brothers formed their famous Maori Rugby team that toured Britain in 1888, he played in the trial matches, but an accident spoiled his chances of selection. Mr. Poata is survived by three sons and daughter. Princess Te Rangi Pai, the noted singer, who toured Great Britain and Europe many years ago, was a sister.

Sept 1942

PORTER.—In loving memory of my dear husband, Thomas Porter, of 37 Alison Avenue, Devonport, who fell asleep September 30, 1940.

Though death has snatched from view
A loving husband, kind and true;
It cannot from my mind efface
His cheerful smile and loving ways.
His deeds, his actions, are not dead,
But in my mind are daily read.

PORTER.—In loving memory of my dear dad, who fell asleep September 30, 1940.

A beautiful life, full of kindly deeds,
A helping hand to those in need;
Always so loving, so gentle and kind,
What a beautiful memory he left behind.

—Inserted by Joe and Bertha Porter, 3 Cowper Street, Devonport.

PORTER, Thomas.—Cherished memories of my dearest dad, who fell asleep September 30, 1940.

There's never a day that passes by
But my thoughts reach out to you;
Never a joy that comes to me
But I wish you might share it, too.
And somehow, as years pass onward
And memories richer grow,
More tender still the love I hold
For the dearest dad I know.

—Sadly missed by his daughter, May, and son-in-law, Frank, Ruawai.

After the SA War Thomas Richard Porter settled in Gisborne then Tokomaru Bay where he



Tame Poata was the son of Thomas Porter, a British army colonel who fought in the New Zealand wars, and Te Rangi-i-pāea, a Ngāti Porou woman of mana. Poata served in the South African War, on India's north-west frontier and with the Pioneer Battalion in the First World War, and is seen here wearing his military decorations. From about 1920 he worked as a carver and tohunga tā moko (tattooing expert). Until his death in 1942 he carried out needle tattooing throughout the East Coast, Urewera, Rotorua and Waikato districts.

Warrant Officer FRANÇOIS HENRI PORTER # 373

Son of Colonel Thomas William PORTER and Herewaka nee' POTAE

b. 30 August 1870 - François Henri Porter was born at Whareponga, HB, NZ. Also known as Frank Henry

1892 - He joined the NZ Permanent Military Forces in Wellington and then re-attested in 1895

4 Jan 1893 - Francois H Porter married Ellen Glover

20 Feb 1936

MR. F. H. PORTER

Mr. Porter was 65 years of age, and had been in indifferent health since his retirement from the New Zealand Military Forces after thirty years of activity in various branches of the Defence Department.

Commencing as a lad of 18 in the Submarine Miners' Torpedo Corps, Mr. Porter later transferred to the Royal New Zealand Artillery, where he remained until his retirement as a warrant officer in 1925, thus completing a commendable military record.

Mr. Porter's father was the late Colonel T. W. Porter, C.B., T.D. He is survived by his widow and one daughter, Mrs. O. M. Shakespeare, of 61 Hutt Road, Petone, and one son, Mr. E. C. G. Porter, of Nelson.

The funeral of the late Warrant Officer F. H. Porter took place at Taita Cemetery last week. A large cortege testified to the esteem in which the late Mr. Porter was held, and the reserve officers of the R.N.Z.A. were represented by Lieut.-Colonel S. G. Sandel, Master-Gunner Thompson, R.N.Z.A., and T. K. Asher, R.N.Z.A. The Rev. J. C. Loan officiated at the graveside.

Surname	Porter
Forenames	Frank Henry
Gender	Male
Date of Birth [Cemetery]	
Residence	Petone
Occupation	Retired
Date of Death	20/02/1936
Date of Burial	21/02/1936
Age	60
Age Unit	Years
Cemetery	Taita Cemetery - Old Section
Block Reference Chart	BLOCK A C.E.
Plot	243
Headstone Transcription	
Ceremony Performed By	Rev Loan
Denomination	Church of England

Surname: Porter
Forenames: Ellen
Gender: Female
Residence: Petone
Occupation: Widow
Date of Death: 21/10/1937
Date of Burial: 23/10/1937
Age: 67 yrs
Cemetery: Taita Cemetery - Old Section
Block Reference Chart: BLOCK A C.E.
Plot: 242
Ceremony Performed By: Rev Loan
Denomination: Church of England

They had 2 children

b. 1894 – Eric Clinton Gordon in Wellington

b. 1896 – Olive Mona in Auckland – married W Stuart Shakespeare, son of George Shakespeare of Melbourne, NSW, Australia



Gunner Porter

This photo is held by the Te Papa Museum and they are trying to identify who this soldier is. They think it is:

Eric Clinton Gordon Porter # 2/1951. Eric was born in Wellington in 1895. His father, Francois Henri Porter, was also an Artilleryman, and the family lived at 53 Hopper Street, close to the barracks in Buckle Street and a short walk from Berry & Co.'s studio.

Eric was 20 years and 3 months old and working as a cadet on a sheep farm when he enlisted in March 1915. He was described at his medical

inspection as 5 feet 8 3/4 inches tall, with a dark complexion, brown eyes and black hair, so his age and description fits the appearance of the man portrayed.

Eric embarked from Wellington with the 5th Reinforcements on 13 June 1915, but his time on active service on Gallipoli was to be short. In September, while stationed near Suvla Bay, he received an injury to his spine when a shell exploded nearby and buried him in a 'dug out'. He was evacuated and returned to Wellington on the Hospital Ship 'Maheno'.

Eric survived his injuries and served with the Home Guard and as an Army storeman during World War 2. He died on 1 September 1961, aged 66.



Can you help the museum identify whether this is Eric Porter. Do you have a photo of him for a comparison?

1916 - Eric Clinton Gordon Porter m. Agnes Marsden Hughan
 1925 - Eric Clinton Gordon Porter m. Rose Pauline McEwen

Last name	PORTER
First name	ERIC CLINTON GORDON
Age	66 Years
Deceased date	01/09/1961
Service provided	Cremation
Cremation date	04/09/1961
Cemetery	Crematorium
Record number	20916

Last name	PORTER
First name	ROSE PAULINE
Age	38 Years
Occupation	Married
Service provided	Burial
Burial date	19/03/1936
Cemetery	Karori
Section	CH ENG
Plot number	243 Y
Record number	57293

Lieutenant ROBERT HUGH PORTER # 3537

Youngest Son of Colonel Thomas William PORTER and Herewaka nee' POTAE

B. 18 Nov 1882 – Robert Hugh PORTER in Gisborne NZ, youngest son of Colonel T W PORTER and Herewaka nee' POTAE of Tokomaru Bay

15 January 1901 - Robert Hugh PORTER enlisted for the 6th Contingent, No. 18 Company

No. 18 (Wellington) Company: J. Allport (Wanganui), F. J. Burrell (Petone), H. P. Browne (Feilding), H. Bushnell (Gisborne), J. Burroughs (Marlborough), O. T. Baigent (Wakefield), E. Beardmore (Nelson), W. F. Boyes (Motueka), F. J. Biggs (Taranaki), J. W. Baker (Palmerston North), A. B. Birkett (Opunake), A. Balstad (Wellington), F. Bourne (Upper Hutt), E. Brown (Wellington), T. Brown (Wellington), J. W. M. Brown (Wanganui), J. Campbell (Mosgiel), W. Cameron (Marlborough), F. R. Cotton (Reefton), H. Connell (Taranaki), H. Cornop (Hastings), S. H. W. Crawford (Wellington), C. B. De Lautour (Gisborne), P. A. De Loree (Hunterville, late third contingent), A. S. Ericson (Wanganui), W. C. Ellis (New Plymouth), D. P. Evans (Taranaki), T. Fraser (Gisborne), W. K. Freeman (Dunedin), H. W. Gillies (Napier), J. M. Grayson (Gisborne), C. Glass (Gisborne), J. P. Gibbons (Nelson), R. J. Glen (Greymouth), C. S. Girdlestone (Wellington), F. H. Harris (Palmerston North), P. E. Harvey (Kumeroa, H.B.), G. D. Hewitt (Wanganui), J. S. Hurry (Gisborne), C. Hurry (Gisborne), G. Humfrey (Gisborne), J. Hackett (Gisborne), G. S. Hibberd (Nelson), R. Hayes (Greymouth), H. J. F. Heley (Nelson), E. Haslett (Wellington), J. H. Hayward (Dannevirke), L. A. Johnston (Te Aute, H.B.), A. W. Jensen (Greymouth), J. Jickell (Nelson), A. T. Kitney (Marion, late second contingent), A. Law (Gisborne), C. N. Lewis (Wanganui), J. N. Leshe (Gisborne), J. Linklater (Westland), E. W. Lahman (Hokitika), L. F. Leech (Taranaki), J. F. M'Cutchen (Hunterville), R. T. M'Callum (Napier), A. W. M'Millan (Napier), D. M'Niven (Clive), J. M'Kinley (Gisborne), J. M'Goldrick (Napier), A. M'Keown (Stratford), G. J. Metcalf (Daylesford, Victoria), A. Miller (New Plymouth), J. W. Morrison (Taranaki), A. Mooney (Wanganui), E. E. S. Marsh (Napier), J. G. P. Morgan (Napier), J. A. Moore (Gisborne), W. J. Morris (Blenheim), W. Middock (Blenheim), E. L. Meade (Nelson), H. Mence (Westport), F. Newcombe (Blenheim), L. O'Neill (Gisborne), W. E. O'Donnell (Wanganui), J. J. Phillips (Wellington), A. Powell (Dannevirke), F. E. Paul (Nelson), R. H. Porter (Gisborne), E. J. Quinlan (Wellington), J. F. Richards (Marlborough), J. Reid (Westport), J. D. Ross (Taranaki), A. Snowell (Napier), R. G. Sturm (Clive), E. A. Skeet (Gisborne), G. Smith (Nelson), A. Scott (Motueka), J. Street (Nelson), H. Stevens (Napier), T. Stafford (Waipawa), G. W. Sullivan (Wanganui, late fifth contingent), E. Terrin (Blenheim), W. K. Taplin (Patea), E. Theobald (Wellington), F. G. Thomas (Marlborough), W. R. Tipler (Inglewood), E. J. Turvey (Canterbury), H. W. Watkins (Hastings), A. Walsh (Napier), J. D. Williamson (Marlborough), G. Wilson (Greymouth), H. R. Young (Wanganui).

rode back under heavy fire and brought the Sergeant in.

Robert transferred from the 6th to the 7th and then to the 9th Contingents before returning back to Gisborne in 1904. He was suffering from an enlarged liver and Tuberculosis and under-went treatment in the Gisborne Hospital.

10 November 1904

DEATH OF LIEUT. PORTER.

Lieutenant R. H. Porter, youngest son of Colonel Porter, died yesterday at New Brighton after a lingering illness. Deceased served in South Africa in the Sixth, Seventh and Ninth Contingents, and was specially commended for his gallant rescue of a sergeant of his company at Warmbadt, while under fire. The hard life he led in South Africa impaired his constitution, and after suffering from several complaints he eventually succumbed. He was only 22 years old.

War's aftermath continues to claim its victims. The seeds of disease sown by the hard experiences of the South African struggle have caused numerous deaths in the short period which has elapsed since the war, and another has now to be recorded, this time a young volunteer well-known to Gisborne people. A wire was received by Major McCredie this morning from Colonel Porter containing the sad news of the death of Lieutenant Robert Porter, who passed away calmly at Christchurch yesterday. Lieutenant Porter will be buried to-morrow with military honors, and much sympathy will be felt for Colonel Porter and family in their bereavement.

PORTER.—November 9, 1904, at New Brighton, Lieutenant Robert Hugh Porter, the youngest son of Colonel Porter, C.B.; aged twenty-two years. Served in South African War in Sixth, Seventh, and Ninth Contingents. Will be buried with military honours on Friday, November 11, at Linwood Cemetery. Time and place in future notice.

Lieut. Robert Hugh PORTER # 3537 died 9 November 1904 and was buried in the Linwood Cemetery, Christchurch.

Robert H Porter was promoted to Lieutenant after being mentioned in Dispatches for his act of bravery. "While on patrol at Wambad with the 6th Regiment, he distinguished himself by rescuing Sergeant Turner left wounded on the field. Porter

Surname:	PORTER
First name(s):	ROBERT
Date of death:	Wednesday, 9 November 1904
Cemetery:	Linwood
Date of burial:	Sunday, 13 November 1904
Block number:	18
Plot number:	11
Age:	21 years
Address:	
Occupation:	TROOPER
Place of birth:	
Years in New Zealand:	21

Surname:	PORTER
First name(s):	HEREWAKA TE RANGI PAI
Date of death:	Wednesday, 7 December 1904
Cemetery:	Linwood
Date of burial:	Saturday, 10 December 1904
Block number:	18
Plot number:	11
Age:	59 years
Address:	
Occupation:	DOMESTIC DUTIES
Place of birth:	
Years in New Zealand:	Life

Herewaka Te Rangi Pai PORTER - The mother of the PORTER family requested to be buried next to her son Robert Hugh PORTER.

Sergeant RAYMOND GEORGE PORTER

6th Cngt # 3648; 7th Cngt: # 4698; RNZ Artillery # 1031

Son of Colonel Thomas William PORTER and Herewaka nee' POTAE

3 June 1880 – Raymond George Porter was born in Gisborne NZ. (Aka – sometimes known as Ramon Poata).

4 Dec 1900 –

The following telegram has been received by Lieutenant Colebourne from Colonel Porter, in charge of the Wellington district: "The Hon. J. Carroll has selected Trooper Ramon Poata for Natives on Federal escort. Please direct him to proceed at once to Wellington to report himself for final selection. Bring only necessaries." Trooper Poata leaves on Wednesday.

Jan 1901 -

Our Wellington correspondent telegraphs: The sixth contingent is getting a taste of cold, rainy, and boisterous weather in camp. The contingent has been formed into five companies. The headquarters district (Wellington and Nelson) constitutes Nos. 1 and 2 companies, Canterbury No. 3, Otago No. 4, and Auckland No. 5. It is expected that the whole of the tests will have been completed by to-day, and next week the training will be in full swing. The officers for the respective companies have not yet been appointed. There were close upon 200 horses in the lines yesterday morning; 400 will be taken away with the Park contingent, and the others required will be picked up at Auckland. There is still a considerable shortage of saddles. It is a pity the Canterbury men were not thoroughly tested before coming to Wellington. Some of those sent up were very poor horsemen, and no fewer than 20 had to be rejected. The remaining troopers from Canterbury and Otago constitute a fine body of horsemen. Among those rejected as a result of the riding tests was a trooper from the war, and another is likely to go out for the same reason. Although New Zealanders, they were not connected with any of the former contingents sent from the colony, but enrolled in corps formed in South Africa. Telegraphed instructions have been received from Sydney to include in the "special" section of the contingent several men of the Federal contingent, as well as a number of returned troopers. The list is as follows:— Federal contingent men: Lieutenant Markham, Sergeant Hamilton, Corporal Sutherland, Farrier-privates Davidson, Saunders, and R. G. Porter. Returned troopers: Sergeant-major Cardale (first contingent, Canterbury), Corporals Morrison, Mitchell, and Emmerson, Farrier Neilson, Privates Lockett, Wall, Galleways, 606 Wright, Crump, Mann, 189 Wright, and Smith. These are all coming back to the colony by the Tutanekei, and are to go into the camp at Newtown as soon as they arrive. In the rifle tests one man made the creditable score of 53 out of a possible 60.

sible 60 with the Martini-Henry at 200, 300, and 500 yards. Trooper Gray, of the Canterbury section, received a contused scalp wound through being struck by a horse's forefoot while working in the camp lines. The wound (which was dressed by the camp surgeon) is not a serious one.

Jan 1901

The non-commissioned officers of the Wellington, Canterbury, and Otago Companies of the Sixth Contingent have now been permanently appointed as follows:—

Included were:

No. 19 Company (Canterbury).—Sergt.-Major, A. H. Jones (Second Contingent); Farrier-Sgt., G. Rouse; Sergts, G. K. Jackson (Second Contingent), G. W. L. Mehrtens, E. G. Smith, P. T. Shand; Corporals, G. Smyth (First Contingent), L. Cabot (First Contingent), W. Moore, A. M. MacIntosh (Fourth Contingent); Lance-Corporals, J. Valentine, R. G. Porter, E. Willis (Fourth Contingent), N. D. Robertson (Second Contingent); Bugler, C. T. Flyger.

15 April 1902

The Government has received the following message from Major Pilcher, dated Capetown, 9th April: — The following sailed by the Columbia:—Surgeon-Captains Fenwick (Dunedin) and Gabites (Timaru), Nursing Sisters Littlecott and Eagle, Corporal R. G. Porter (Gisborne), Privates C. W. F. Lukis (Waiau), Morry, D. M'Niven (Clive, Hawkes Bay), C. J. Denny (Gisborne), G. J. Masson (Paparua, Auckland), E. M. Quolch (Dunedin), J. S. M'Donald (Kaipara), also 38 men who were left behind by the Cornwall.

1902 – Raymond George PORTER married Alice Louisa BOWSER in Wellington

August 1902

The New Zealand Times mentions that at the residence of Mr F. H. Porter, Oak Grove, Hankey street, Wellington, the marriage took place of Raymond G. Porter, fourth son of Colonel T. W. Porter, C.B., and Alice, eldest daughter of the late Mr G. A. Bowser, of Reighton Hall, Yorkshire, England.

Raymond George PORTER died in 1968 in Auckland and is buried in the Waikumete Cemetery

Plot : Cremation Lawn Old Row K3, Plot 4
Interment Type: Ashes Burial
Title: MR
Surname : PORTER
Given Names: RAYMOND GEORGE
Age : 87
Gender : Male
Occupation: RTD PERMANENT NAVY/ARMY
Date Of Death : 10-Jan-1968
Date Of Burial : 14-Jan-1968

Funeral Director : H MORRIS FUNERAL SERVICES

Head Stone Details: PLAQUE ILMO ALICE LOUISA PORTER died 29 January 1949 aged 69 years Also her husband RAYMOND GEORGE Died 10 Jan 1968 aged 87yrs