

## SHORT HISTORY OF ALBERT FORRESTER of TOKOMARU BAY

**b. 1896 - Albert Barron Forrester was born in Te Puia.**

**Alfred is the son of Alfred Charles FORRESTER and Maud Mutu RATAPU who married in 1895**

Albert's father Alfred Charles FORRESTER was a contractor in the Te Puia & Tokomaru Bay District. Alfred C Forrester died in 1905.

**In 1906** – Alfred's widow, Maud then married Walter Hector PIPER of Te Puia

**14 August 1915** - Albert FORRESTER and his friend Godfrey Alexander FAIRLIE enlisted together for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Maori Pioneer Battalion and trained at



**Albert FORRESTER and Godfrey A FAIRLIE  
AT NARROW NECK CAMP IN 1915**

Card sent to Mrs C McCracken of Te Puia Springs  
from Albert FORRESTER

The boys had to turn up the hem of their pants on ill-fitting uniforms

The McCracken Family also lived at Te Puia and Albert wrote to Mrs Harriet McCracken during his time in the services and Godfrey also wrote home his family and to the McCracken Family during the war.

Albert Forrester was a member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Contingent of the NZ Maori Pioneer Battalion. Albert's unit served in North Africa from 26 Oct 1915 to January 1916 and it is during this period that Albert was 1<sup>st</sup> injured.

On arrival at Mooscan, the boys all have their photos taken. There is a photo of Albert Forrester, Godfrey Fairlie with another friend Whetuki Kopua, also from Tokomaru Bay. This photo was treasured by the Albert's Forrester Family

**6 Dec 1915**

### **ROLL OF HONOUR.**

A casualty list issued at the week-end reported six men wounded, one of whom is dangerously ill in hospital at Malta, and a member of the Maori contingent discharged convalescent. The list is as follows:—

#### **REPORTED WOUNDED.**

##### **Canterbury Mounted Rifles.**

Second-Lieut. John Leslie Wilson.

##### **Otago Mounted.**

Trooper William Prentice.

##### **Wellington Battalion.**

Private Frank Alfred H. Simmiss.

##### **Auckland Battalion.**

Private Allan Riddell.

##### **Otago Battalion.**

Private Vincent McNabb.

#### **DISCHARGED CONVALESCENT.**

##### **Maori Contingent.**

Private Albert Forrester.



**PRIVATE ALBERT FORRESTER,**  
who has been in hospital in Egypt.  
His mother resides at Tokomaru Bay,  
East Coast.

**In April 1916 – The 2<sup>nd</sup> Maori Pioneer Battalion embark for France**

**17 May 1917 – Poverty Bay Herald**

The following are reported wounded :  
Maori Contingent, May 2, Forrester, Albert, Lance-Corporal (Mrs Maud Piper, Tokomaru Bay, mother); Haronga, Tamahu, Private (Paora Haronga Nuhaka, Wairoa, father). Still dangerously ill : Parata, Paul, Private, Waipiro Bay; Wineata Heta, Private, Hick's Bay. Not severe case : Bourke, Cecil Henry, Staff-Sergeant, Gisborne.

**28 June 1917 - Auckland Weekly News**



L. CORP. A. FORRESTER, of Tokomaru Bay,  
Wounded.

**4 Aug 1917 - Whetuki Kopua # 16/643 was killed in Action in Ypres, Belgium**



Godfrey Alexander FAIRLIE with his friend Albert FORRESTER

Photo taken about January 1918 probably in England when they were on leave

**5 April 1918 – Godfrey Alexander FAIRLIE was killed at Somme, France**

**Poverty Bay Herald, Volume XLVI, Issue 14873, 29 March 1919, Page 7**

Lance Corporal Albert Barron Forrester is listed as returned home from the war

**1945 - Albert Barron FORRESTER married Ellen MAXWELL**

**11 May 1965 – Walter Hector PIPER died at Te Puia**



**1<sup>st</sup> NZEF Maori Pioneer Battalion  
# 16/983 – Cpl A B FORRESTER  
Died 7 November 1975 aged 79 yrs  
He is buried in the Taruheru Cemetery, Gisborne**

