



Office of the Attorney General

02 AUG 2010

Tanya Peterson
13 McCutchan Road
Otakiri
RD3
WHAKATANE

Dear Ms Peterson

DISCHARGED SOLDIERS LAND

I refer to your letter of 17 July 2010 about your grandfather's land.

It is not my responsibility to investigate a previous Under Secretary of Lands or the present status of any money that remained in a discharged soldiers settlement account.

If you would like more information on the discharged soldiers settlement processes I suggest that you contact your local library, or the National Library of New Zealand whose details are available at www.natlib.govt.nz. Alternatively, if you have not already done this, you can request the relevant records from Archives New Zealand. I **attach** a copy of the record details for your information.

Yours sincerely

Hon Christopher Finlayson
Attorney-General

I note that later, on 11 May 1937, the Commissioner of Crown Lands wrote off the debt by your grandfather to the Crown, by then of £30. 3. 3.

The Great Depression between World Wars I and II was an extremely difficult time for many people. Your grandfather's story is a very sad one, and I acknowledge the pain that resulted for him and his family.

The actions taken by the Land Board at the time appear to be lawful. There is no legal mechanism by which you or your family could claim an inquiry into the matters you have raised. I do not consider that there would be any redress available to your family.

I asked my staff to gather some research materials about the process of discharged soldiers settlement and I **enclose** a copy of those materials for you.

I extend my sympathy to your family to the hardship that was faced during this very difficult time in New Zealand's history.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Christopher Finlayson', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Hon Christopher Finlayson
Attorney-General



Office of the Attorney General

14 JUL 2010

Tanya Peterson
13 McCutchan Road
RD3
WHAKATANE 3193

Dear Ms Peterson

REQUEST FOR ENQUIRY: WILLIAM MAGNES PETERSON

Thank you for your letter dated 26 June 2010 concerning your grandfather's loss of land granted to him in the Hauraki district.

You have advised me that your grandfather returned from military service in 1919 following the end of World War I. Under the Discharged Soldiers Act 1915 he was granted a block of land at Section 2 Block V Hauraki District in 1920. The land was leased to your grandfather under the Land Act 1908, which was later replaced with the Land Act 1924.

You have advised that as a result of the very difficult economic and social circumstances that existed at this time meant that your grandfather was forced to walk away from this land. By leaving the land your grandfather was deemed to have abandoned the section. He also had a debt outstanding of £33

He had earlier entered into an agreement with ~~Maure~~ Maure Sawmills, subject to the consent of the Land Board, to allow the sawmill to mill the timber on the land. He was using the royalties from this agreement to reduce a debt he had to the Crown.

At a meeting on 31 March 1927 the Land Board "carefully considered" your grandfather's land and resolved to forfeit your grandfather's interest in the land under s 117 of the Land Act 1924. On 5 April 1927 the Minister of Lands consented to this course of action, as was required under s 118 of the Land Act 1924.

Under the Land Act 1924, once the land was declared forfeited the Crown was able to take possession of the land and do with it what it wished, within the bounds of the law. You have advised that you have found evidence that the land was sold in parcels and that the timber continued to be milled.