

Appendix 1:

Some Summary Comments

1. William Magnus Peterson was born on 24 November 1890 at Wayby (near Wellsford) (obtained from his attestation form on his Military Record). This date conflicts with that provided by the Petitioner which is given as 24 November 1885. He is recorded as dying on 10 March 1977 at Cambridge.
2. OTS knows nothing definitive about what he did prior to the war except for a couple of references in his military attestation forms to being a butcher and working for the Public Works Department and his identification as a selector of Crown land in the Mokauiti area in 1914.
3. Peterson was a successful selector for Sec 12 Blk II, Mapara SD on 25 March 1914. (*Taranaki Daily News*, 26 March 1914.) He obtained a Renewable Lease #82/200 on 25 March 1914 under the Land Act 1908 for a term of 66 years. (Taranaki Lease 82/200, LINZ Land on Line.) The annual rental charge was £25/12. *The King Country Chronicle* recorded on 3 February 1915 that at a meeting of the Taranaki Land Board in late January; 'W.M. Peterson, lessee of section 12, block 11, Mapara, leaving with the Expeditionary Force, was granted 12 months exemption from residence and extension of time to effect improvements.' Upon his return from overseas service Peterson acquired a mortgage from the Taranaki Land Board on 12 December 1916. The same Newspaper recorded on 4 March 1919 under the bye line "Taranaki Land Board", that the monthly meeting of the Board occurred on 26 February 1919 and under a heading of "Non-residence", it was observed 'Section 12, Block 11, Mapara, W.M. Peterson, non-payment of rent - Adjourned.' The lease document for sec 12 discloses that Peterson sold his leasehold interests to Herbert George Gill of Mokauiti, farmer, on 19 January 1920 for £942.7.4. the sum of which also included the amount owned by Peterson to the Department of Lands and Survey and which Gill discharged as a part of the arrangement. (Transfer 38494, LINZ Land on Line.)
4. Peterson had volunteered for service in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force [NZE] on 18 December 1914 and was listed as a trooper in the Auckland Mounted Rifles (Service # 13/840). He served 89 days in New Zealand (Trentham and Wairarapa reinforcement training camps) and 259 days overseas (including the voyage to Egypt and return). His military record discloses that he was in the 3rd Reinforcements of the NZEF and arrived in Egypt on 27 March 1915. About the 27 July 1915 Peterson was recorded as being admitted to hospital in Egypt with a septic ankle and was treated. He was discharged on 4 August 1915 but later complained of pain and an inability to carry out full duties. A decision was made by the Military medical authorities to repatriate him to New Zealand. He returned to New Zealand in the *Willochra*, arriving in Dunedin on 30 October 1915 along with some 500 men of the second contingent of New Zealand's wounded and ill men to return. Peterson was discharged from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in Dunedin on 27 November 1915 as medically unfit for further military service because of a pre-existing pre-war injury to his ankle. The proceedings of the Medical Board disclose; 'old injury left ankle – broke down again in Egypt.' He was determined to be permanently unfit for further military service.