Motuihe Quarantine Station (1870-1930) HMNZS *Tamaki* (1941-1963)

Heritage Assessment

Andy Dodd, DOC, Auckland Conservancy

29 AUGUST 2006





Department of Conservation *Te Papa Atawbai* Motuihe Quarantine Station (1870-1930), HMNZS Tamaki (1941-1963)

Andy Dodd, DOC, Auckland Conservancy

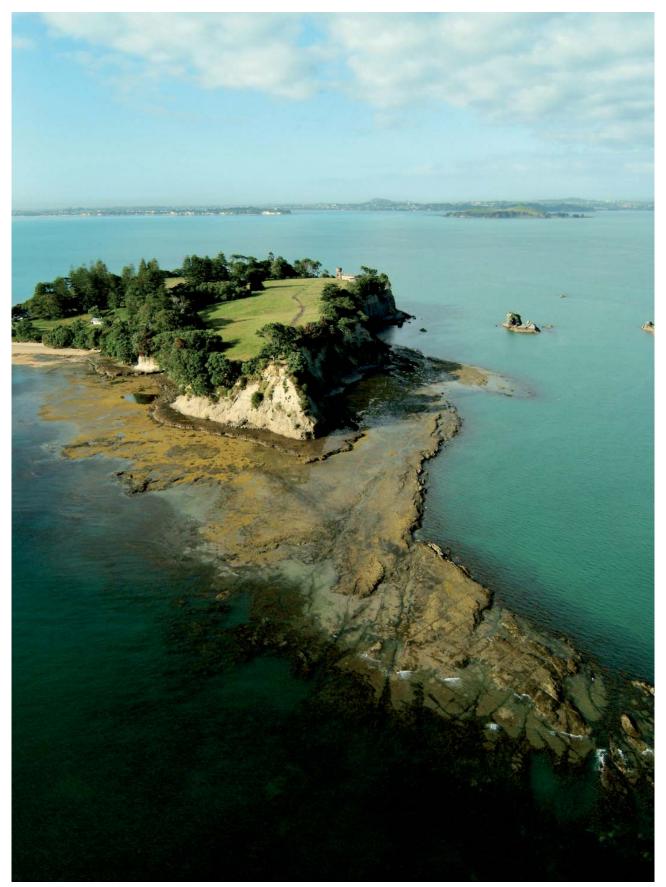
Peer-reviewed by Sarah Macready and Dave Veart, DOC, Auckland Conservancy

Cover: Motuihe Island in the outer Waitemata Harbour. Rob Suisted

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 $Viewed \ from \ the \ north \ looking \ south \ towards \ Auckland. \ Godfrey \ Boehnke, \ www.cad.auckland.ac.nz$

1. SITE OVERVIEW

The north end of Motuihe island has a long history of Polynesian occupation that included two pa sites. Subsequent activity includes farming 1848-1971, a human and animal quarantine station 1872-1941 then until 1963 the site was used as New Zealand's primary naval training base. The most significant remnants of the quarantine station are the 1918 cemetery and historic olive grove. NZHMS Tamaki facility remains include the concrete water tower, which is a well-known landmark, and the gun emplacements which overlook the Motuihe channel.

- Motuihe Recreation Reserve R11015
- NZAA site record R11/1784 (see also R11/148-149; 867; and 879)
- Administered by Auckland Area Office.
- Access by boat
- Visitor numbers estimated at 25450.
- An actively managed historic site.
- Total reserve area approximately 178.64 hectares (headland area is 13.22 hectares).
- VAMS site number 202032

2. HISTORY DESCRIPTION

The Motuihe headland is associated with most of the notable historical phases of occupation. It was settled during pre-European times, and pa were constructed at Mangoparerua and Te Tumurae, the former remembered as an important battle site.¹

Following an initial purchase in 1837, William Brown and John Logan Campbell bought the island from Henry Tayler in 1843. A farm manager named Fedarb was established, but it is unclear from his diaries where he was located.² Farming intensified from 1858 when new owner

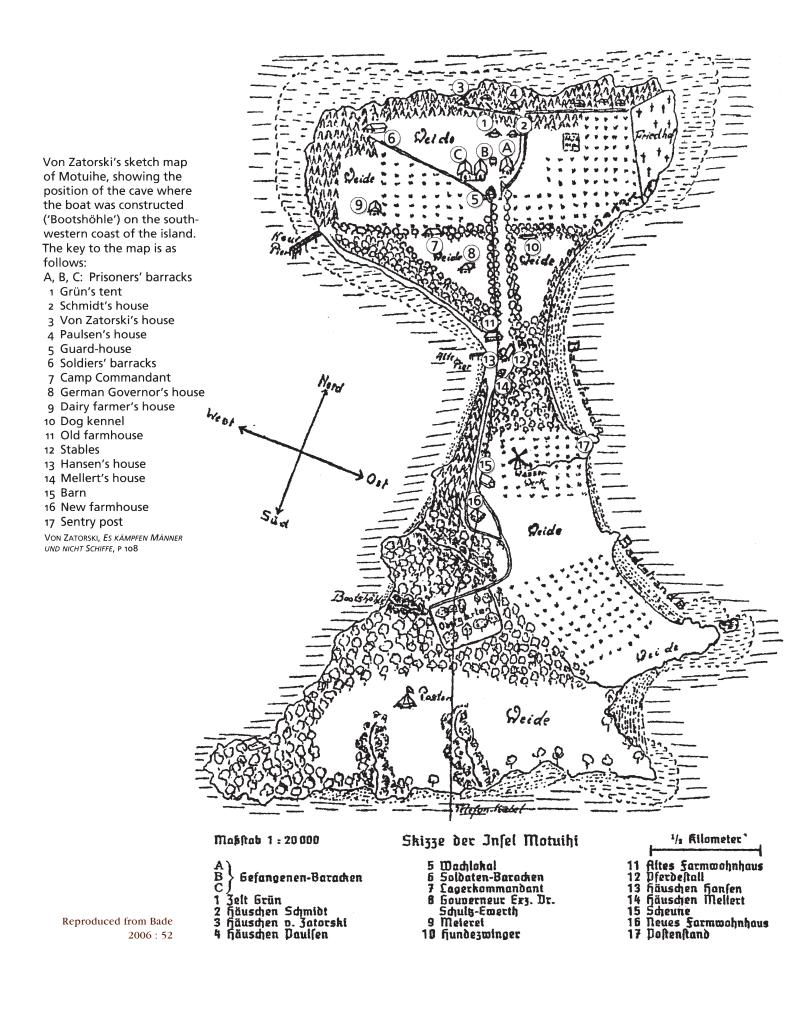
Captain Count Felix Von Luckner - Cleveland autograph picture



John Graham employed four men to manage his farming operations on the island until his death in 1868.

In 1872 the headland was selected by the Port of Auckland, Board of Health as the site for a human quarantine station.³ Buildings were erected shortly afterwards using buildings and materials from the demolition of Albert Barracks.⁴ The first vessel to be quarantined was the *Dorrette* which arrived in April 1874, and the first burial interred in the cemetery was a girl named Mary Long who arrived on the *Hydaspes* later that same year. After the Department of Agriculture was formed in 1892, the mainland portion of Motuihe became and animal quarantine station.

From 1914 the headland barracks were used as a POW internment camp mostly for Samoan prisoners. Notable other prisoners included the German Q-ship Captain Count Felix Von Luckner, who managed an escape as far as the



Kermadec Islands before being recaptured in 1917. The POW camp was closed down in December 1918, with the remaining prisoners transferred to Narrow Neck Camp.

The quarantine operation was resumed shortly afterwards and the 1918 influenza epidemic accounts for several gravestones in the cemetery. From 1929 to 1931 the Community Sunshine Association ran children's health camps on the island. All animal quarantine had been diverted to Matui/ Somes Island by 1930, and the human quarantine operation eventually closed in 1941 when the Navy took permanent control of the island.

The HMNZS *Tamaki* naval training base was commissioned on 20 January 1941 and the quarantine station refitted with new buildings and equipment. The HMNZS *Tamaki* closed in 1963 when naval training operations combined with army training and were relocated to Narrow Neck.

3. FABRIC DESCRIPTION

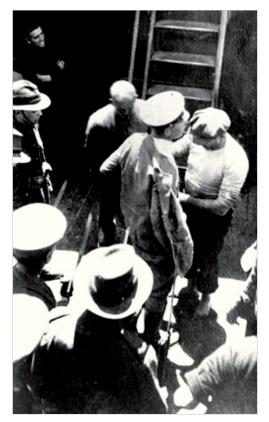
The two pa constructed on the headland were known as Mangoparerua and Te Tumurae. Little is known about the latter, but Mangoparerua was a small refuge pa covering approximately 20×30 m with a single transverse ditch and bank.⁵ With the exception of this pa, construction of the quarantine station and naval training base has removed almost all traces of Maori occupation on the headland.

Initial construction of the quarantine station in 1870 used relocated buildings from the Albert Barracks, and eventually included several other accommodation buildings along with hospital wards, stables, a caretaker's house, and a fumigation building, mostly limited around the central avenue.⁶ By 1941 the facility contained 22 buildings, and was able to accommodate up to 287 internees.

The olive grove was likely planted at some time in the 1870s, and while never formally gazetted the cemetery received its first burial in 1874, although most of the markers relate to victims of the 1918 influenza epidemic. Other relict features from the quarantine station include various pathways, archaeological deposits and numerous exotic trees and shrubs.

The quarantine station was established as the HMNZS *Tamaki* Naval Training Base in 1941, at a cost of \pounds 53,350. The conversion required 15 new buildings almost doubling its accommodation capacity to 517. In 1942, two four inch Mk IX guns were mounted, one at Cemetery Point on the headland and the other on the isthmus. The emplacements were circular concrete pads with ammunition recesses to the rear. The gun on the headland was dismantled in 1942; the gun on the isthmus was retained until 1963 for training purposes.

After abandoning the headland the navy stripped the buildings rendering them unusable and they were subsequently demolished by the Auckland City Council. Remaining are the water tower and nearby Ministry of Works workshop, the sea cadets cottage, wharf shed and the concrete foundations for the wharf. Other relict features include rifle trenches to the east of the parade ground and concrete foundations for assembly point flagstaff.



Count von Luckner being searched onboard the

Iris in 1917. Special Collections, Auckland City

Libraries, ref 227-7

Bottom: Water tower

4. CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

Iwi maintain an ongoing interest in former Maori occupation sites on Motuihe, and while the signs have long since fallen into disrepair, Mangoparerua has been the focus of historic interpretation. The olive plantings are reputed to be associated with John Logan Campbell, although it is likely that the grove dates from the quarantine station period. It wasn't until 1877 that Campbell began experimenting with olive strains in Cornwall Park, and many of the exotic trees around the island were donated as seedlings during this time both to beautify the island and provide the internees with opportunities for fresh air and exercise. Because of its historic significance, the Olive Growers Association have been involved in sporadic maintenance of the olive grove.

Count Felix Von Luckner was accorded a hero's welcome when he returned to New Zealand and Motuihe in 1938, on account of his exploits during the WWI. He captured 14 ships without loss of life. While denied by Von Luckner himself, his visit was however, shadowed by an ulterior motive, that of a propaganda mission for the German

government. In more recent years, Edda Clark, the daughter of fellow escapee, Walter Von Zatorski, visited the island in March 1999.

Another WWI connection is the Allepo pines around the isthmus and headland, reputedly planted by Gallipoli veterans in 1918, following





Historic military graves from the 1918 influenza epidemic near Te Tumurae point. Rob Suisted



their return to New Zealand. Another notable planting is one of the pohutukawa trees on the avenue, planted by Admiral of the Fleet Lord Keyes to commemorate his visit to Motuihe in January 1945.⁷

The water tower is a well known maritime landmark in the Hauraki Gulf, and a 'save the water tower' campaign has just been initiated.

5. NATIONAL CONTEXT

The Motuihe quarantine station and HMNZS *Tamaki* training base have a wider national significance. Following the edict by Governor Grey in 1864 requiring Health Boards and Port Boards to establish quarantine facilities, stations were established at each of the four main centres.⁸ Similar facilities were established on Somes Island in Wellington Harbour, Quail and Ripapa Islands in Lyttleton Harbour, and Quarantine and Goat Islands in Otago Harbour, although by 1908 the primary animal quarantine facilities doubled as POW camps with Von Luckner being imprisoned on Ripapa Island for six months following his recapture, and his crew being imprisoned separately on Somes Island.

For the navy, HMNZS *Tamaki* was the primary training base in New Zealand. Over 6000 recruits were trained there between 1941-1945, representing approximately 60% of all New Zealand navy recruits who saw active service in WWII. With the RNZN still in its infancy,¹⁰ the majority of trainees were drafted to Britain to serve on Royal Navy ships. While the gun was never used offensively, Motuihe also played a minor role in the coastal defences of the Hauraki Gulf with the 4" guns protecting the channel between Waiheke and Motuihe not covered by the Motutapu battery.



The scow *Moa* (Alfred Schultz album, Tui Kronfeld Parr collection, reproduced in Bade 2006)

6. HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Auckland was the one of the last provinces to establish a quarantine station, and the first vessel to be quarantined on Motuihe, the *Dorette*, arrived two years after this in 1874. Quarantine stations played an important role in the containment of infectious diseases, and numerous vessels were detained at the Motuihe.¹¹ The cemetery contains many graves relating to the influenza epidemic in 1918, an event of international significance. By 1933 most had been abolished as such diseases could effectively be controlled by immunisation or contained in hospitals.¹²

The Motuihe headland facilities also played a significant role in both world wars, first as a POW camp, and later as New Zealand's primary naval training base. The POW internment camp contained men of international reputation such as Count Felix Von Luckner, and was to become the scene of much consternation following his successful escape in 1917. The HMNZS *Tamaki* played an important role in training naval troops for combat on both New Zealand and British ships.

7. FABRIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Olive grove contains some of the earliest olives planted in New Zealand, most likely from some of Logan Campbell's early introduction of the plant in the 1870s. While many of the graves in the cemetery remain unmarked, several bear witness to the influenza epidemic of 1918.

Little remains of the HMNZS *Tamaki* following its stripping by the navy and subsequent demolition by the Auckland City Council. The water tower was partly left as a historic feature, and is now a well recognised landmark feature used as a navigational aid by the Auckland boating public. The sea cadets cottage and wharf shed are also significant as remnant features of the HMNZS *Tamaki* base. The gun emplacement remains form a component part of a wider defence network for the Hauraki Gulf, and as such, contribute to the significance of the collective whole. The MOW shed located behind the water tower was built later, likely during the 1960s, and is not historically significant.

8. CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Archaeological sites, including the pa at Mangoparerua, are significant to iwi who maintain an interest in the island. Several of the plantings have cultural connections with historically significant people and events. These include the olives, Allepo pines, and other notable plantings which enhance the historic character of the place. The cemetery bears witness to former victims of infectious disease including those of the influenza epidemic of 1918, and most visitors to the headland still find their way there. The water tower is valued by the local community as a historic landmark.

9. SIGNIFICANT THEMES & SITE TYPES

DOC Historic Heritage web page topics: Defending New Zealand Farming - General

Maori

10. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATION

Although the remainder of the island is subject to ecological restoration the headland should continue to be managed for its historic values as it is associated with most of the historic activity on Motuihe. While most of the buildings associated with the Quarantine Station and HMNZS *Tamaki* were removed in 1963, there are still several features relating to these phases including the olive grove, other relict plantings, the water tower, sea cadets cottage, cemetery, gun emplacements and various avenues and paths.

An alternative use for the Sea Cadets cottage, such as an interpretative facility for historic heritage, should continue to be encouraged, and the wharf shed and water tower repaired and stabilised as historic features. On-going use of the parade ground as a campsite is appropriate as it retains open space. Liaison between the Department and the Motuihe Restoration Trust to develop a maintenance plan for the headland incorporating management of built structures, relict plantings, and maintenance of general appearance through mowing and dead wood removal, would ensure ongoing integrity of the remaining historic features.

At present the headland suffers from lack of historic interpretation, necessary to covey a sense of its former history including the quarantine station, POW camp, sunshine health camp, and HMNZS *Tamaki* naval base.

11. MANAGEMENT HISTORY

- 1837: Island reputed to have been purchased by a man named Butler
- 1839: Island purchased by William Fairburn from Maori owners
- 1840: Island sold to Henry Tayler
- 1843: Crown Grant issued to Tayler, and island sold to William Brown and John Logan Campbell
- 1848: Island managed as a farm by J W Fedarb
- 1858: Island sold to John Graham, farming on the island continues
- 1868: Island leased to Alex Alison and Thomas Duder following death of John Graham
- 1872: Island set aside as quarantine facility
- 1874: Cemetery established on the headland
- 1914: Quarantine facilities used to accommodate POWs
- 1918: Quarantine facilities resume former use
- 1928 Control of Motuihe vested in the Auckland City Council for development as a marine park
- 1929: Community Sunshine Association children's health camp established
- 1941: HMNZS *Tamaki* naval training base established, Motuihe declared prohibited place
- 1963: Limited site recording undertaken by Auckland University Archaeological Society
- 1963: HMNZS Tamaki base relocated to Narrow Neck, buildings demolished

- 1964: Motuihe offered back to Auckland City Council and gazetted as Recreation Reserve
- 1968: Control of island passes to Hauraki Maritime Park Board
- 1979: Further archaeological site recording undertaken by Auckland University Field Club
- 1987: Control of island passes to newly established Department of Conservation
- 1996: Additional archaeological sites recorded by Department of Conservation
- 2003: Archaeological site records updated by Department of Conservation
- 2004: Motuihe Restoration Plan completed for Island
- 2004: Inventory of heritage trees completed by Department of Conservation
- 2006: Archaeological site records updated by Auckland City Council
- 2006: Heritage Assessment completed for water tower
- 2006: Historic Inventory completed

12. WORK VISION STATEMENT

- Stabilise water tower and retain as historic feature
- · Retain sea cadets cottage and encourage use by a community group
- Repair and maintain wharf shed as historic feature
- Maintain cemetery and gun emplacements
- Maintain heritage trees
- Prepare ongoing maintenance plan for headland
- Prepare and install on-site interpretation

13. SOURCES & REPORTS

Archival sources

Department of Conservation:

DOC015-40 Motuihe Recreation Reserve - Historical/Archaeological sites.

HHA-02-01-06 - Historic Asset Management, Auckland, Auckland Area Office, Motuihe Island

Lands and Survey

NP 26 (formerly 3/860) Motuihe Island. 13/2/1918-2/4/1988.

Archives New Zealand

N10/10. New Zealand [Quarantine] Station Temporary Memoranda. Undated. Archives New Zealand, Wellington.

3/435/2. Motuihe Island General File. March 1919. Archives New Zealand Auckland.

25/1/9. Fixed Defences-Motuihi. Archives New Zealand Auckland.

Deed of purchase Private Land Purchases [1839-40]:p.316 Deed No.354, 05/11/1839 W.T.Fairburn 21/03/1840 H. Tayler

Correspondence

- Chief of General Staff 1942. Letter to Chief of Naval Staff 11 March 1942. [DOC file]
- Latham, Andrew 1862. Transcript of letter to James Latham dated 1 July 1862. [L&S file]

Letter to G. Dean regarding Motuihe Island, dated 7 June 1967. [APL]

Photographic Collections

DOC Auckland Conservancy historic photograph collection Ronnie Harrison collection

Newspapers and Periodicals

New Zealand Herald

16/05/1873: Quarantine Station - Motuihi 16/04/1874: 2/- "Dorette" 07/11/1874: 2/2: "Hydaspes" 16/11/1874: 2/2: "Hydaspes" 05/03/1875: 3/1: A visit to the Quarantine Station at Motuihi 26/08/1875: 2/1, 2/5: "Dover Castle" 05/02/1880: "British Empire" 06/02/1880: "British Empire" 09/03/1880: 5/- "Earl Granville" 10/03/1880: "Earl Granville" 24/03/1880: "Earl Granville" 25/03/1880: "Earl Granville" 29/06/1881: 5/- "City of Auckland" 02/12/1918: 4/5 Makura Quarantined 02/12/1918: 4/3 Conditional Internment 06/12/1918: 6/4 Influenza on Makura 11/12/1918: 6/5 Deaths on Motuihe 20/12/1918: 6/8 Obituary

Auckland Provincial Gazette

16/07/1872 p.213

New Zealand Gazette

17/07/1873 p.429 07/09/1922 p.2401 03/07/1930 p.2074 18/09/1930 p.2800 09/01/1941 p.9

HAYWARD, B. (1980) 'Archaeological Sites on Motuihe Island', Tane 26:235

YARWOOD, V. (1997) 'Break-out: The saga of the German "Sea Devil"' New Zealand Geographic (No. 35, July-September 1997, p94)

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- KALAUGHER, J.P. (1925) Historical Chronicles of the Auckland Agricultural & Pastoral Association. Dawson Printing Company, Auckland.
- MACLEAN, F.S. (1964) Challenge for Health: A History of Public Health in New Zealand. Government Printer, Wellington
- Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society (1990) Somes Island (Matiu). Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, Lower Hutt.
- THOMAS, L. (1928) The Sea Devil: The Story of Count Felix Von Luckner, the German War Raider. William Heinemann Ltd, London
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- BRASSEY, R. (2000) *Motuibe assessment of bistorical and archaeological significance.* Unpublished internal report, Department of Conservation
- CAMPBELL, G. (1996) Motuibe Island. Unpublished MS
- DICKENS, J. and DICKENS M. (1982) Islands of the Hauraki Gulf cemetery transcripts. AIM Library reference file 662.
- DODD, A. (2003) *Motuibe Island Archaeological and Historic Assessment*. Unpublished internal report, DOC, Auckland Conservancy
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- GRAHAM, G. (n.d.) Two legends of Motu-ibe. Unpublished MS. AIM Library MS 120.

- GRATTAN, F.G. (1948). Official war bistory of the Public Works Department. Unpublished report. PWD, Wellington.
- HEIGHTON, G.C. (n.d.) Son of quarantine station keeper 1888-97. Record of interview undated. Department of Conservation.
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14. EVALUATION OF SOURCES

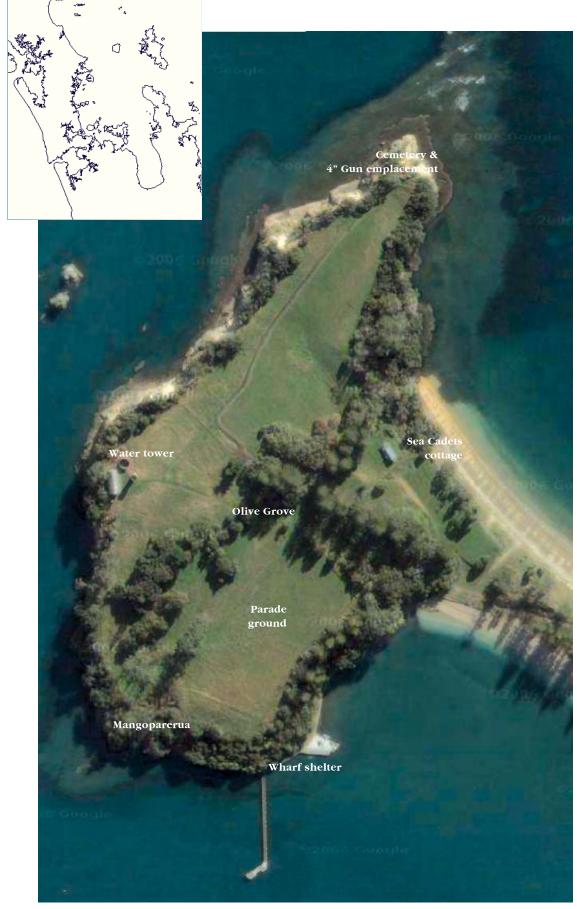
While there is a considerable amount of available resource material on Motuihe, much of it is contained in unreferenced secondary publications making it difficult to verify. Early farming activity on the island is reasonably well documented both from Fedarb's diaries, and Latham's letter to his brother describing life on the island.

Information with regards activities associated with the Quarantine Station and POW camp are somewhat more vague, but there is a considerable amount written in German especially of Von Luckner and his exploits. HMNZS *Tamaki* has been well documented photographically, and is mentioned briefly in most NZ military histories and inventories.

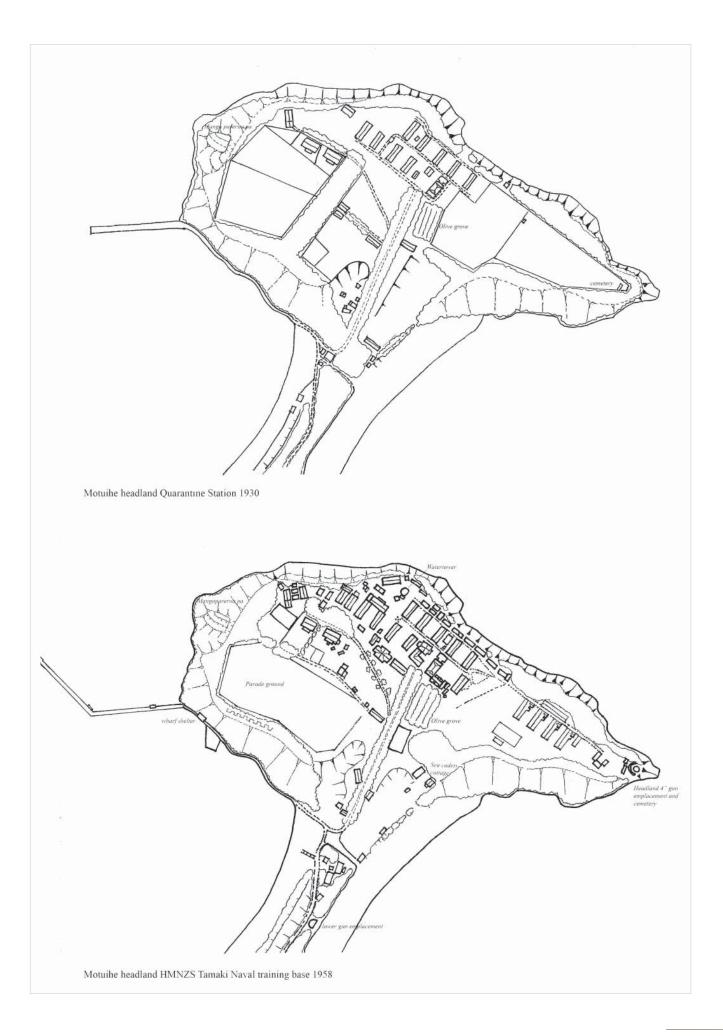
Endnotes

- ¹ Graham n.d.
- ² Fedarb diary 1848-52
- ³ Auckland Provincial Council Gazette 16/07/1872; New Zealand Gazette 1873:429
- ⁴ Maddock 1966:43
- ⁵ NZAA site record R11/148
- ⁶ Pt SO 3172A
- ⁷ Rev. R. Bullen to I. Bradley 02.05.1994; 18.08.1994
- ⁸ Auckland Provincial Council Gazette 12.01.1864
- ⁹ Stock Act 1908; Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society 1990:7. Smaller facilities were also established at Akaroa, Banks Peninsula, and a temporary quarantine station was built on Motutapu from 1945 when the navy announced that Motuihe would be retained as a permanent training facility.
- ¹⁰ The New Zealand naval forces were a division of the Royal Navy until 1941 when the Royal New Zealand Navy was formed.
- ¹¹ Brett 1925
- ¹² Maclean 1964:34-58

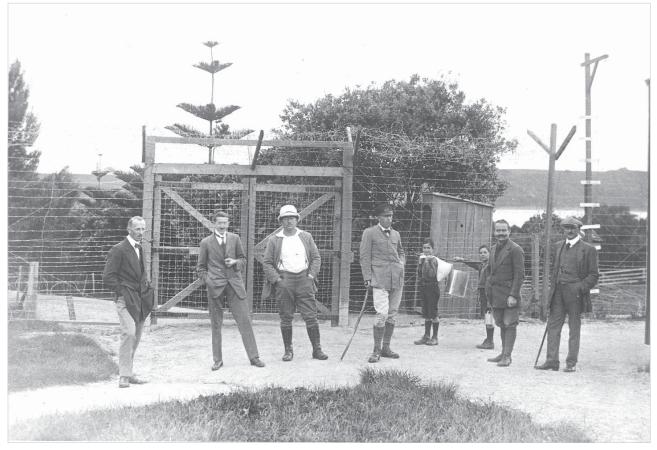
15. LOCATION AND SITE MAPS



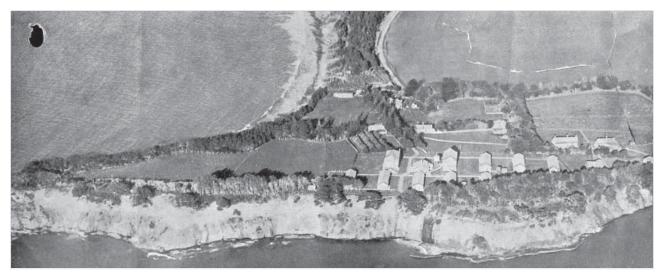
Google maps



16. DEFINITIVE PHOTOS



Captain Count Felix Von Luckner (4th from left) and crew at Motuihe. Auckland Museum Neg No M361 (3A)



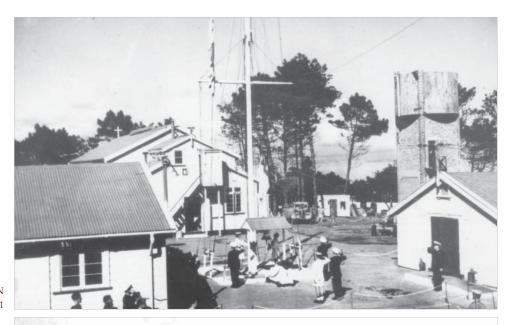
Quarantine Station in 1930. Newspaper photo on file: NP 26



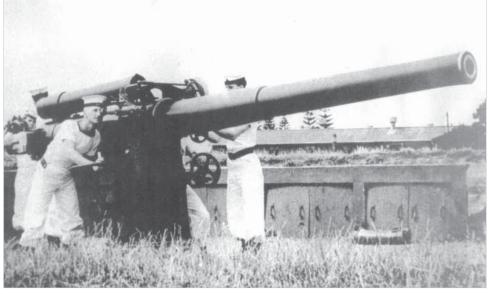
Quarantine Station. Auckland Museum M352 (40)



View from mainland looking across isthmus to headland 1917. Auckland Museum C19126



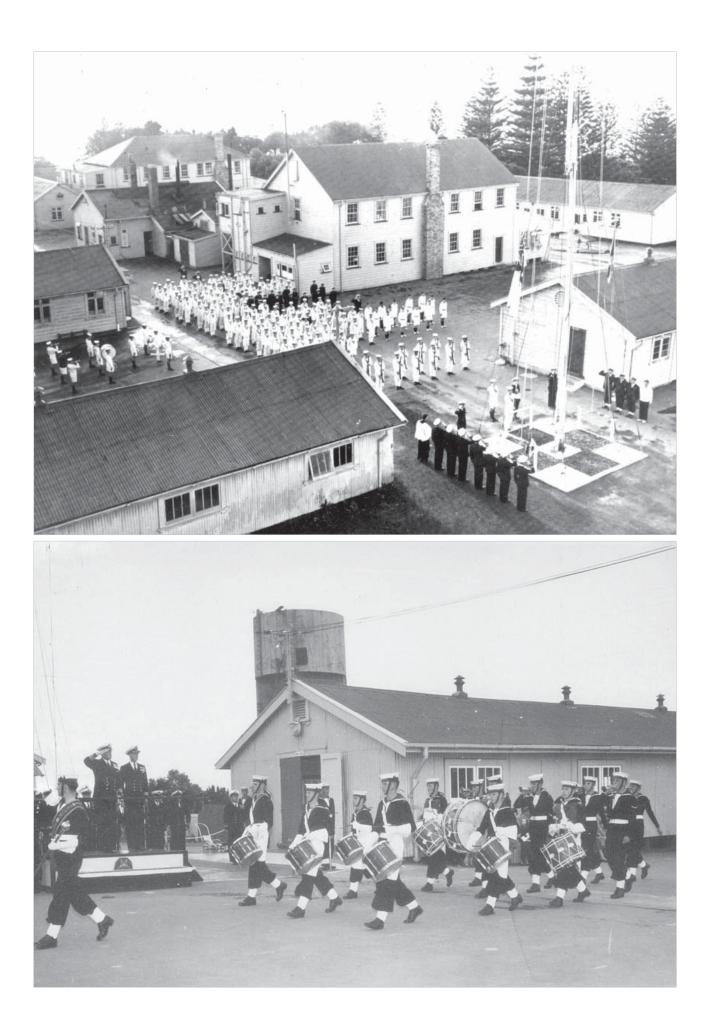
Morning call 1961. RNZN GN.2110 91



Headland gun on Motuihe 1941 RNZN Museum photograph



HMNZS Tamaki in 1958. Whites Aviation



17. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

1837		Motuihe known as Bulter's island on account of an early but unsubstantiated purchase	Fedarb diary
1839	5 Nov	William Fairburn purchases Motuihe from Maori chiefs	Turtons Deeds No 354
1840	21 Mar	Henry Tayler purchases Motuihe from Fairburn	Walsh 1937:9
1843	8 Sept	Henry Tayler obtains Crown grant to Motuihe	Walsh 1937:9
1843	13 Sept	Tayler sells island to William Brown and John Logan Campbell	Walsh 1937:9
1848		Fedarb employed as farm manager	Fedarb diary
1858	1 Feb	Island sold to John Graham	Walsh 1937:9-11
1872	16 Jul	Board of Health of the Port of Auckland sets aside Motuihe as a human quarantine station	APCG 16/07/1872 NZ Gaz 1873:429
1874	16 Apr	Dorette quarantined on Motuihe	<i>NZ Herald</i> 16/04/1874
1874	6 Nov	Hydaspes quarantined on Motuihe	<i>NZ Herald</i> 07/11/1874 2:2
1874	6 Nov	Mary Long of <i>Hydaspes</i> dies of scarlet fever and is buried on Motuihe	<i>NZ Herald</i> 07/11/1874 2:2
1875	26 Aug	Dover Castle quarantined on Motuihe	NZ Herald 26/08/1875 2:1,5
1880	5 Feb	British Empire quarantined on Motuihe	NZ Herald 05/02/1880
1880	9 Mar	Earl Granville quarantined on Motuihe	NZ Herald 09/03/1880 5
1881	29 Jun	City of Auckland quarantined on Motuihe	NZ Herald 29/06/1881 5
1914		Motuihe facilities used to contain Samoan prisoners during WWI	Walsh 1937:9-10
1917	Nov	Count Felix Von Luckner imprisoned on Motuihe	Walsh 1937:9-10
1917	13 Dec	Von Luckner escapes from Motuihe and captures Moa	Walsh 1937:9-10
1917	21 Dec	Von Luckner is recaptured after reaching the Kermadec Islands	Walsh 1937:9-10
1918	June	Von Luckner is returned to Motuihe after 6 months confinement on Ripapa Island in Lyttleton harbour	Yarwood :111
1918	2 Dec	Makura quarantined on Motuihe	NZ Herald 02/12/1918
1918	17 Dec	Motuihe is closed as a POW internment camp	NA 3/435/2
1929		Community Sunshine Association uses Motuihe for children's health camp	Maclean 1964

Photos page 23 Top: Motuihe Colours 1951-2. RNZN: GN211491

Bottom : Passing out parade 1958-9. RNZN Neg 00922

1931		Large numbers of children evacuated from Napier accommodated at Motuihe	Maclean 1964
1941	20 Jan	HMNZS Tamaki naval training base established	Grattan 1948
1951	19 Apr	HMNZS Tamaki site formally gazetted for defence purposes	NZ Gaz 1951:534
1963	Aug	HMNZS Tamaki naval training base relocated to Narrow Neck	
1964	22 Oct	Site gazetted as a recreation reserve	NZ Gaz 1964:1846
1968	1 Apr	Reserve vested in Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park	NP 26:633
1987		Control vested in newly formed Department of Conservation	