



Headquarters
New Zealand Defence Force
Defence House
Private Bag 39997
Wellington Mail Centre
Lower Hutt 5045
New Zealand

OIA-2023-4631

7 March 2023

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 7 February 2023 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

Can you please advise:

- 1. How many NZ servicepersons were eligible for medallic recognition for serving in WW2 ?*
- 2. In addition to the 500 veterans of the 28th Maori Battalion now identified (approx 15% of the total approximately 3600 deployed), how many other eligible NZ WW2 servicepersons (Air, Army, Navy, etc) did not claim their medals ?*
- 3. what efforts have been made / are still being made since the end of WW2 to rectify this situation ?*
- 4. what efforts have been made to encourage these recipients and/or family members to apply for these medals that the serviceperson/recipient or their relatives might be eligible for ?*

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) has been conducting in-depth research into the issuing of medallic recognition for New Zealand Servicepeople who served during the Second World War. A full report of the findings of this research will be publicly available on the NZDF website shortly.

The NZDF encourages families to enquire about whether medals have been issued. Information on access to Service records and medal applications is available under the "Medals and service records" tab on the NZDF website.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that responses to official information requests are proactively released where possible. This response to your request will be published shortly on the NZDF website, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

AJ WOODS
Air Commodore
Chief of Staff HQNZDF