

OIA-2015-2270

OIA-2015-2274

19 August 2015

Marcus Boomen

marcus.boomen@pg.canterbury.ac.nz

Dear Mr Boomen

I refer to your emails of 3 July and 8 July 2015 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), documents relating to Defence Force operations in Bougainville between 1988 and 1998. This letter addresses your request for access to files held at Archives New Zealand and your request for information held by the Defence Force on wartime atrocities committed in Bougainville.

Defence Force documents relating to the Bougainville civil war have been transferred to Archives New Zealand. This information has been largely declassified, but permission is required from the New Zealand Defence Force to obtain access.

The files you identified in your request of 3 July contain all relevant Defence Force information regarding Bougainville between 1988 and 1998. The teams that produced the files must review each batch before granting access. There are a total of 46 files, containing approximately 250 documents each. The time that would be required to complete the task of reviewing these files is more than 60 person-hours. I must therefore decline this request in its current form under section 18(f) of the OIA: your request cannot be met without substantial collation or research.

I encourage you to narrow the scope of your request, as this will enable the collation and assessment of some of the information you initially requested. You may wish to reduce the number of files you seek, or focus your request on a particular file.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request.

Yours sincerely



G.R. SMITH

Commodore, RNZN
Chief of Staff HQNZDF