



Media Release

31 August 2011

MAN APPEARS IN COURT ON MEDAL THEFT CHARGES

Following an extensive Police investigation a man has been charged in Wellington in relation to the alleged theft of medals from the Waiouru Army Museum between 1995 and 2002.

The man, a resident of Australia, returned to New Zealand today and was arrested on arrival back in the country.

“The NZ Army would like to thank New Zealand Police and their Australian counterparts for their work in seeking to recover these medals. Their work on this issue has been outstanding and we are grateful for the efforts they’ve made”, says Deputy Chief of Army Brigadier Charles Lott.

“For legal reasons we are unable comment further on the investigation or the charges as they relate to this case; nor are we able to give out any information that might prejudice his right to a fair trial.

“What I can say is that we discovered the missing medals as part of improvements we were making to our systems and processes. We notified Police and have been working closely with them.

“This is an historic event which happened up to sixteen years ago and prior to the theft of the VC medals. While we acknowledge there have been issues in the past, I can assure the public that all possible measures have been taken since then to guard against this happening again.

The charges do not relate to any other incidents of theft at the Museum and do not involve anyone currently employed there”.

Members of the public concerned about any medals donated to the museum can visit the Museum website www.armymuseum.co.nz where they will be able to submit their enquiry.

ENDS

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