

Charles SHELFORD
1921 – 1984
Ngati Porou
28th Māori Battalion
Reg No. 39159

Charlie enlisted at the young Age of 18 years. From that time on he lead a colourful and at times outrageous life, forever in trouble with his superior officers, fearless and ever ready for a fight.



One time, during the Italian campaign, he was ordered to go and pick up some prisoners. When he did not return to base a search party was sent out. They found Charlie and all his prisoners enjoying the wine in an abandoned cellar. Another time he was charged with being improperly dressed. Charlie had come across a woman's evening dress and had been seen wearing it over his uniform.

Charlie was nominated for the VC for gallantry at Gazala, North Africa but, like Haane Manahi and others, he was not awarded this medal. He did receive the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

After his war service he went to live in Auckland where he helped found Te Unga Waka marae, with Whina Cooper. For the rest of their lives he and his wife Maisie worked to support the marae and the community it served.

Charlie's photo is on The Wall of Honour in the Tairāwhiti Museum, Gisborne.



A detailed biography of Charlie may be read in NZSG Family Historian Vol. 1 2004.

MĀORI
TELEVISION
mā rātou mā mātou mā koutou mā tātou

Māori TV will be showing a documentary about Charlie
At 8:30 pm, ANZAC Day 2012.

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