

IN THE WAITANGI TRIBUNAL **WAI 2500**
WAI 1344

IN THE MATTER OF The Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975

AND

IN THE MATTER OF The Military Veterans Kaupapa
Inquiry

AND

IN THE MATTER OF A claim by Turi Stone, Tamati
Pohatu, Most Reverend
Archbishop Brown Turei and
Nolan Raihania.

BRIEF OF EVIDENCE OF TAROI BLACK

DATED 21 MARCH 2016

Te Mata a Maui Law

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MAY IT PLEASE THE TRIBUNAL

- [1] My name is Taroï Black.
- [2] My father was Stewart Tai Paraki.
- [3] My father fought at Monte Cassino. I've been there. It was very emotional. My wife told me to stop crying. I couldn't. I struggled with it. I kept crying, not just for Dad but for everyone from home. The stories, the names on the headstone, I knew them and I made connections to the names with those living. The namesakes. I understood the connections and their meaning.
- [4] Going to these places is important. It is a good experience for anyone who can afford to go. I think all the mokopuna should go because it wakes you up: it makes you think about things in a much wider sense and challenges you to question yourself and your responsibilities. I think mokopuna who go to it will ask themselves what they can do for their whanau and hapu just like I did while I was there.
- [5] My father negotiated with Ngata. He was straight with him. He said to Ngata that if he wanted Maori to enlist he had to make sure that they were given guns, their own commanders, they had to be grouped the Maori way and they had to get better education, housing and to sort out the land. This korero was straight from Dad. Dad said to him if you want us to fight you have to give us these things.
- [6] They went to war to honour this agreement and to honour the Treaty. This is my father's korero and I'm repeating what I heard him say. He said that Ngata went off to negotiate this. That was the bargain, sealed with them fighting, made tapu through

the spilling of their blood. Ngata must have this korero somewhere. We want this researched.

TAROI BLACK