

Navy leaves Motuihe

The Navy finally left Motuihe in October 1963 and HMNZS Tamaki was re established at Fort Cautley on Auckland's North Shore. There has been various interpretations of what state the Navy left the buildings in.

The following is an extract from a letter written by Richard T Hale Commander RNZN to the Mayor of Auckland.

Your Worship, In confirmation of our discussion the following facts are forwarded for your information:

August 1961 A Government directive was given to the effect that only essential maintenance was to be undertaken at HMNZS Tamaki, Motuihe Island.

19 August 1963 Naval withdrawal from Motuihe Island commenced.

9th September 1963 All essential gear and equipment removed for the commencement of the spring term at Fort Cautley.

8 October 1963 Withdrawal completed. Ministry of Works caretaker installed. Water reticulation system handed over to the Auckland City Council as a going concern.

On Navy vacating Motuihe all serviceable equipment including stainless steel urinals, benches, ablution facilities and fluorescent lighting for which there was a known requirement was removed and has subsequently been used in making HMNZS Tamaki at Fort Cautley a going concern. All external doors were left in a fully lockable condition with matched keys transferred to the Ministry of Works caretaker. Yale locks were removed from internal doors for subsequent usage. The fixed installations, oil fired boiler, cool room and diesel generators were not required and were left intact.

To safeguard this property the Ministry of Works caretaker was installed and is still in residence on the Island. At the time of evacuation there were no known broken windows or doors.

Hundreds of persons must have visited Motuihe in the summer months and it appears evident that vandalism by some irresponsible element may have taken place.