

Bill Wiggins served for a while as a guard on Motuihe Island. He tried to join up for the Expeditionary Force in 1914, aged 15 - but his mother intervened. Instead, he was sent to guard ammunition works in Mt Eden, and then the prisoners on Motuihe Island. He recalls:

"I was sent to Motuihe Island to guard the German internees and prisoners of war. They were such fine people. To me they were a different, educated kind of people. We had the Governor of Samoa there, Dr Schultz, and a couple of doctors....They had their own cookhouse. They could have visitors. We were a happy little camp. Colonel Turner used his launch, the Pearl, to come up to Auckland and would take two prisoners of war – Snowy Paulsen and Mr Freund. One was a deckhand, one looked after the engine. Frankie Wainwright, my mate, was Colonel Turner's orderly. He had to go with the Colonel up to Auckland, and he'd be in charge of the prisoners. They went into Queen Street and done all their shopping. We thought nothing of it. Just as well people didn't know how they were treated. If you told them prisoners of war were up in Queen Street shopping, that would be the end of it, wouldn't it?"

(Quoted in *An Awfully Big Adventure: New Zealand World War One veterans tell their stories*. Edited by Jane Tolerton, 2013.)