

THE TASK FORCE AND VIOLENCE IN AUCKLAND

- CAUSE OR EFFECT ?

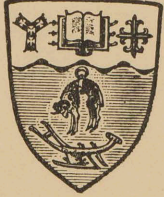
A Collation of Statistics.

Extracted from official and other sources by the  
AUCKLAND COMMITTEE ON RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION

June 1975.

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# MAORIS, ISLANDERS FORM BULK OF T-FORCE ARRESTS

'Herald' 1-10-74

Most people arrested by the Task Force have been Maoris or Islanders.

The head of the Auckland police district, Assistant Commissioner Gideon Tait, said yesterday that the two groups consisted of 72 per cent of those arrested by the Task Force between June 16 and August 23.

Mr Tait said 37 per cent were Maoris, 35 per cent Islanders and 28 per cent Europeans.

## Assertion Repeated

On Friday, an Auckland City Council delegation visited police headquarters in Wellington and the Deputy Mayor, Dr R. H. L. Ferguson, said on his return that they had been told the Task Force had arrested more Europeans than Polynesians.

"Polynesian problems in Auckland all stem back to boozing. The Maori and Island people cannot handle alcohol. Like the Aborigines and the Eskimos, they go crazy on white men's fire water."

It's 59-year-old Olga Tait talking—wife of Auckland police chief Assistant Commissioner Gideon Tait.

# CONNELLY REBUKES CRITICS

The police had been ridding the streets of criminal elements, but it seemed some critics interpreted "rights and freedoms" as a licence to: Rape a seven-year-old child, club an old man senseless in the street, peddle drugs, or to intimidate or disturb decent citizens in a dozen ugly ways . . . .

"We talk a lot about freedom," he said. Some were fearful of their safety in the streets of Auckland.

'Herald' 23-8

The inability of thousands of Islanders and Maoris in Auckland to cope with city life and their ready access to liquor formed an explosive mixture, the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Muldoon, said yesterday.

'Herald' 21-8-74

"The explosive mixture, as every Aucklander knows, can be dealt with only by the police."

"There is no other way."

# Task Force Work Not Ended

Staff Reporter Wellington

The Minister of Police, Mr Connelly, yesterday dismissed suggestions that the Auckland police task force might be disbanded and emphasized that it was part of the regular police.

"The task force was set up to deal with the rise in brawlings, group violence and muggings, which was alarming the public in Auckland," he said.

'Herald' 26-8-74

# Bias Allegations Called 'Baloney'

'Herald' 22-8-74

Comments that the Auckland police task force was discriminating against Maoris and Pacific Islanders were dismissed as "baloney" by the commander of the force, Inspector R. P. Dallow last night.

On a "routine visit to the Ponsonby Club Hotel" the Task Force arrested five people for using obscene language. There were four Polynesian men and one European woman. One of the Polynesian men was asked a question by police, which he answered. He was asked the same question again by the police and gave the same answer. They asked a third time, and again were given the same answer. On the fourth time the man's patience was exhausted and he swore at the police officer. He was immediately arrested. In court the police did not deny this harassment, but the man was still convicted and fined \$40.

# Task force mops up violence

'Star' 22-8-74

Auckland's task force has arrested 555 people on street disorder charges in the last eight weeks.

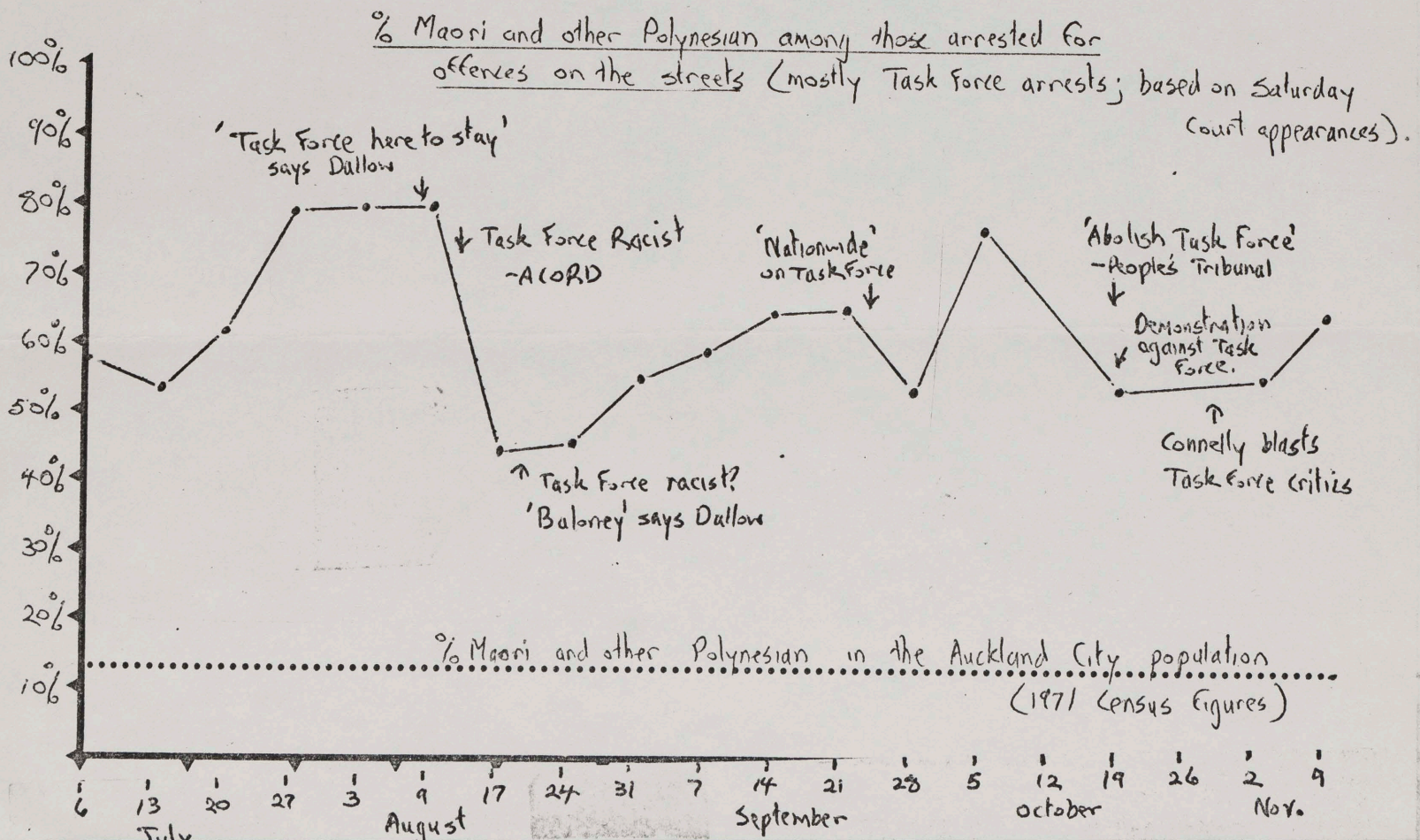
The majority — estimated by the police at more than 80% — were Maoris or other Polynesians.

Task Force was achieving what it set out to do, according to its commander, Inspector Ross Dallow.

Most — more than 200 — were arrested for drunkenness.

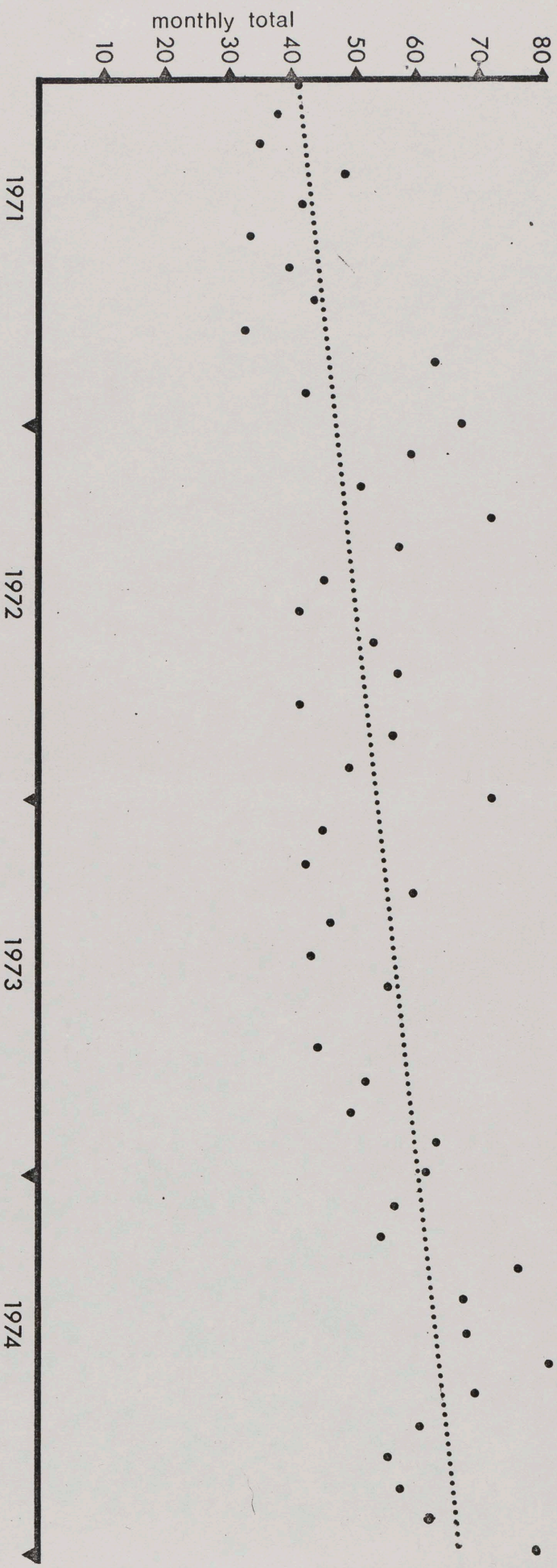
Other common charges were fighting, assault, theft, threatening, insulting, and obscene language, breaking bottles, threatening behaviour and interfering with cars.

Thirty-three were charged with assaulting, obstructing or resisting task force members.



Assault cases treated at Auckland Hospital

Task Force begins ↗



BEFORE AND AFTER THE TASK FORCE:

PETTY STREET OFFENCES AND VIOLENT CRIME REPORTED IN AUCKLAND

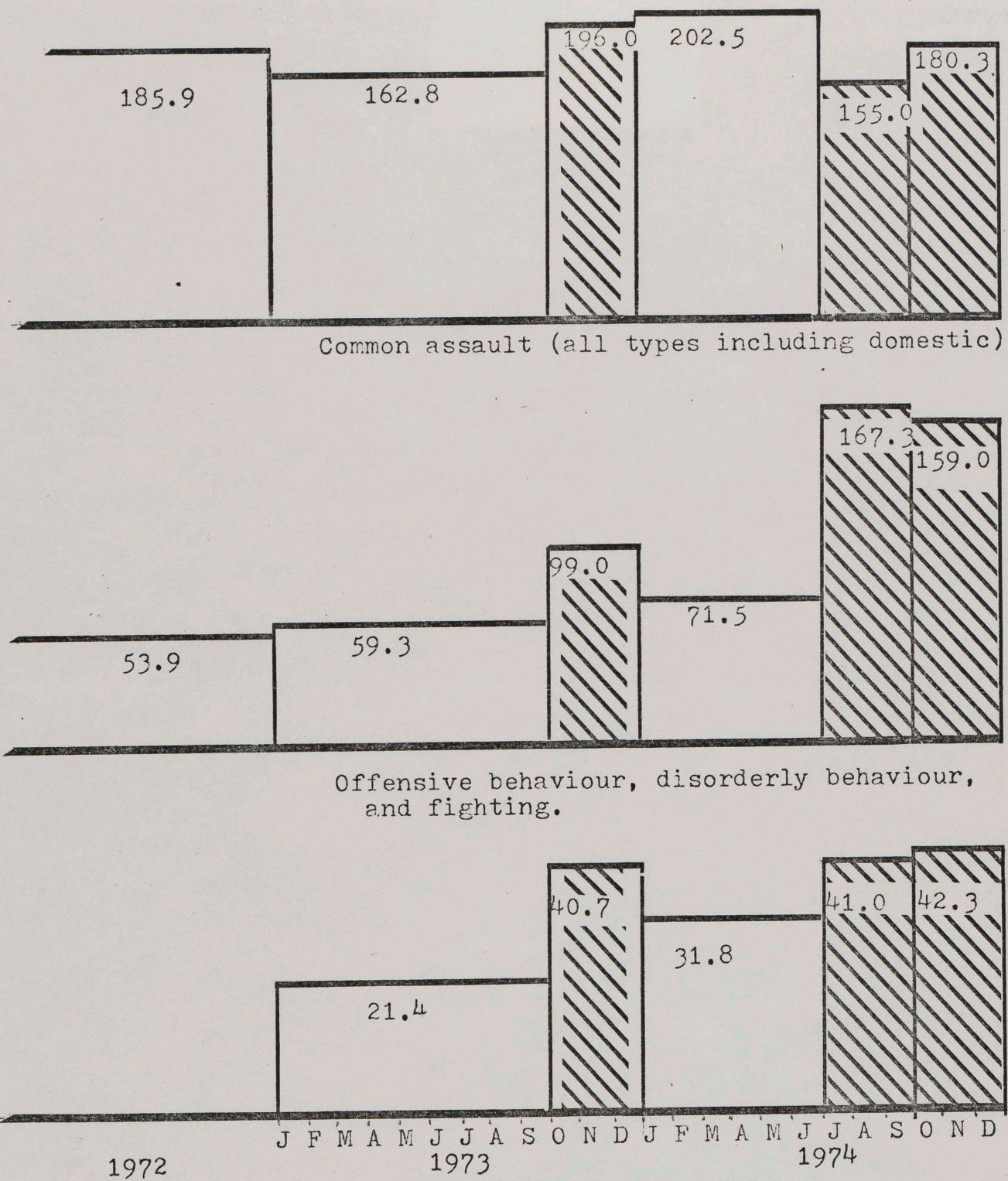
Monthly rates -from Police records for 1.1.74 to 30.9.74

	Before / After Task Force	
	Before	After
Petty street offences: fighting, offensive and disorderly behaviour	71.5	167.3 up 134%
Common assault (all types including domestic)	202.5	155.0 down 23%
Resisting or obstructing Police	31.8	41.0 up 29%
Serious street violence; (wounding, injuring, aggravated assault, assault with intent to rob, aggravated robbery with weapon other than gun)	3.67	3.67 no change

TASK FORCE ARRESTS June 26-Sept. 14

Drunk in public place	279	39%
Obscene language	160	22%
Offensive behaviour	118	16%
Disorderly behaviour	55	7.6%
Obstruction	26	3.6%
Fighting	26	3.6%
Depositing dangerous litter	14	1.9%
Assault	14	1.9%
Wilful damage	14	1.9%
Carrying offensive weapon	2	0.3%
Other	2	0.3%
Pakeha	16	
Maori	16	
Other Polynesian	712	

Some Crime rates in Auckland. Police figures for reported offences per month.



More serious crimes of violence occur at a much lower rate:  
 (again rates per month for periods corresponding to above)

Crime Category	1972	1973	1974
Assault with intent to rob ('mugging'):	0.56	0	0
Aggravated robbery causing greivous bodily harm with weapon other than firearm:	1.1	0	1.8
Disabling, stupefying, wounding and injuring with intent ('bashing'):	0.44	0.67	0.83
Aggravated assault and aggravated assault with weapon ('bashing'):	0.56	0	1.0

Sources: (1) Statement of the Minister of Police, published in 'N.Z. Herald' 28/5/75.  
 (2) Figures supplied to the 'Auckland Star' by Police Headquarters, Wellington, and published 26/11/74  
 (3) Figures supplied by Police Headquarters to the National Council of Churches 'Church and Society Commission' for their Consultation on Urban Violence, 9/11/74.