

every man, to carry in his haversack,—a very unmilitary arrangement, and thereby endangering the lives of the soldiers, and exposing the ammunition to be damaged and lost:—in this way, without a single tent or day's ration of liquor, a force commenced its march into the interior of New Zealand to crush a rebellion which had existed for many months. After a march of nine miles, the force halted for the night; at midnight it rained heavily, and in the morning it poured. As there was no shelter for the troops at Waka Nene's pah, I immediately marched to Kiri Kiri, and occupied the large store and other buildings at that place: the spare ammunition was inspected, and two-thirds of it found unfit for use, and the five day's biscuit which each man had received was unfit to be eaten.

The bad weather lasted until the morning of the 6th instant, but during its continuance Tamati Waka Nene sent instructions to his tribe to erect several warres for the accommodation of the Europeans. The march on the 6th instant was about seventeen miles, and the path heavy. When the force arrived at the pah I was pleased to see two large warres ready for the men, although not of sufficient capacity to contain all the force.

At noon on the 7th instant, I and several of the Officers went to a hill about a mile from Heke's pah, to reconnoitre it. From observation and enquiries I was soon convinced the pah was a strong fortification, trebly stockaded, with walls inside, traverses cut from side to side, a deep ditch, and each face loopholed—and to add to its strength, the phormium tenax, or New Zealand flax, was interwoven, which made the pah impregnable to musketry.

I now felt convinced that it was not practicable to take the pah with no other means than physical strength, and to attempt it with such means would cause an unnecessary sacrifice of human life—I subsequently made arrangements to take up a position near Heke's fortification, to fire the rockets and see their effect, and as the chances of war are many and uncertain, I formed half the force into three parties of assault, and pointed out to each commander his position, and there to wait for further orders—I was thus prepared to assault the fortification.

About nine o'clock on the morning of the 8th instant, I placed the reserve behind a ridge within three hundred yards of the pah, and ordered the three parties of assault, consisting of the small armed seamen of Her Majesty's Ships *North Star* and *Hazard*, under the command of acting Commander George Johnson; of the Light Company of the 58th Regiment, under the command of Captain Denny, and of the detachment of Royal Marines and of the 96th Regiment, under the command of Lieutenant and Adjutant McLerie, 58th Regiment, to advance to their respective posts—in doing so they were exposed to a heavy and galling fire from two faces of the pah, but the parties moved on with unflinching steadiness, and crowned a height within two hundred yards of

the fortification. As I was now so close to the pah I saw its real strength, and my former opinion was fully confirmed that it was not to be taken without the aid of artillery.

The rocket party, under the direction of Lieutenant Egerton, of the *North Star*, now fired twelve rockets, but the result was not so favourable as I had anticipated: a few of the rebels were observed to leave the pah on the two first being fired, but the alarm was only momentary. About this time the parties on the height advanced their right flank, and opened a heavy fire—this movement arose from a loyal native having discovered a large body of rebels under Kawiti lying in ambush, for the purpose, I have since ascertained, of attacking the parties in rear, if they should assault the pah,—the rebels were charged and dispersed, with loss.

I was about to order the parties to retire and rejoin the reserve, when the British ensign was unexpectedly hoisted by Heki, and on another flag-staff a small red flag was hoisted, (Thomas Walker Nene called it Heki's fighting flag); this flag was hoisted up and pulled down several successive times—its meaning was soon explained, being immediately followed by a combined attack on the three parties by the rebels under Kawiti, and about one hundred and fifty of those under Heki, who rushed from the fortification. The reserve fired on the latter, and although the distance was great it checked their advance; a few reached the height and were there killed. Kawiti's attack was repulsed at the point of the bayonet, with a severe loss.

As many of the soldiers had been wounded I ordered the parties to retire, and they were descending from the height when they were a third time attacked by Kawiti, who was not this time supported by Heki—skirmishers were sent out, and the rebels were again repulsed. This was the last effort of the rebels to defeat a brave body of seamen and soldiers; the parties afterwards retired, and brought off *all* the wounded men.

I have thus, your Excellency, briefly detailed the movements of the force under my command to the 8th instant, inclusive; and it now becomes my duty to express how much I feel indebted to the parties of assault for their gallant conduct in taking up their positions under a heavy fire of musketry early in the morning of the 8th instant, and for three times repulsing, at the point of the bayonet, during that day, a large body of rebels under Kawiti.

My thanks are due to Lieutenant Egerton, and the Rocket party under his direction, for their assistance.

The reserve under the command of Major Bridge, 58th Regiment, only wanted the opportunity to distinguish themselves.

To Major Bridge, commanding the 58th Regiment, and to Ensign O'Connell, 51st Regiment, (aide-de-camp to the Lieutenant-General commanding the troops in Australia,) my