

*Bay of Islands,
17th May, 1845.*

SIR,—I have the honor to report, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, the successful issue of an expedition I had the honor to command against the Waikadi tribe—in accordance with instructions, and the discretionary power vested in me by Lieut.-Colonel Hulme, commanding the Forces in New Zealand, previous to his departure for Auckland. Having obtained, through the assistance of Mr. Clendon, Police Magistrate of Pahia, all the necessary information of the strength and position of the pah at Waikadi, I proceeded up the Waikadi river by night on the 15th instant, with 200 men of the 58th Regiment, 8 marines, and a 12-pounder carronade, with an armed seaman in each boat, belonging to *H. M. S. Hazard*, in order to reach our position before break of day, and thereby cut off the retreat of the natives from the pah; but owing to the intricate navigation of the channel, and the difficulty in finding the entrance to the proper creek in the dark, some of the boats lost their way, and as the tide went down they grounded—so that, by break of day, I found myself before the pah with only 50 men, and about 100 maories belonging to Tamati Walker and Rivers, under the Chiefs Rippa and Rivers; these I dispatched to the left of the pah, to flank it on that side, whilst a subaltern and 20 men of the 58th Regt. formed a flanking party to the right—I took up a position in front, under cover of a low bank and scrub. The inmates of the pah commenced firing on us as the day broke, having heard our approach, which was returned by the friendly natives, but I did not allow my men to fire a shot for fear of injuring some of them, until I had sufficient men landed to make an attack on the pah; however, in less than half an hour, the enemy was seen deserting the pah, and our allies rushing in, we immediately followed them

up and took possession of it, whilst Rippa's and Rivers' parties followed up the fugitives, who kept up a constant fire from the bush for six or seven hours after, during which time I had to support the friendly natives with a company of the 58th Regt.—they fought most gallantly, and I regret to say, had two killed and six wounded. The Waikadi tribe, it is said, were reinforced by a party of Kawiti's men. There were about 30 men in the pah, how many joined them afterwards could not be ascertained, nor could their loss, but from the heavy fire we kept up upon them for so many hours, it must have been considerable.

I found that all the property said to be in their possession, stolen from Kororareka and other places, had been removed into the bush in anticipation of our coming, and from the thickness of the bush it was impossible for Europeans to proceed in search of it. I, however, burned down the pah, and carried away all the canoes and other things of use, and have much satisfaction in reporting that as soon as the tide served, I returned to the ship without losing a man, notwithstanding the risk we ran of having our retreat cut off, and being fired at whilst in the boats, from the banks of the river, on our return. There were two boats captured by Lieutenant Phillpots, of the *Hazard*, and the canoes I allowed Tamati Waka's people to take.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

CYP. BRIDGE, Com. 58th Regt.,

Commanding Troops at the Bay of Islands.

The Colonial Secretary,

&c., &c., &c.,

Auckland.