



NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

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By His Excellency's Command,

ANDREW SINCLAIR, Colonial Secretary.

VOL. V.]

AUCKLAND, MONDAY, JULY 7, 1845.

[No. 18.]

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Auckland, 7th July, 1845.

HIS Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct the publication of the following Despatches for general information.

By Command,

ANDREW SINCLAIR,
Colonial Secretary.

Camp before Heke's Pah,
2d July 1845.

SIR,—It is with much more regret than I can express, that I have to acquaint your Excellency that an attempt was yesterday made by the Troops, under my command, in the afternoon, to carry the fortified position or pah of Heke, without success—and we were repulsed with heavy loss. The particulars shall be forwarded to you with as little delay as possible.

I enclose herewith a list of killed and wounded. Many of the latter, I am sorry to say, are severe and dangerous.

It is impossible to say too much in praise of the bravery and good conduct of both Officers and Men.

I have the honor to be,
Your Excellency's most obedient,
humble Servant,

H. DESPARD,
Colonel Commanding the Troops.

His Excellency
Governor FITZ ROY,
&c., &c., &c.
Auckland.

Return of killed and wounded of the Force under command of Colonel Despard, 99th Regiment, from the 30th June to 1st July, 1845.

Her Majesty's Ship Hazard.

Lieutenant Phillpotts killed.

1 Seaman killed.

2 Seamen wounded.

1 Private of the Royal Marines killed.

Her Majesty's 58th Regiment.

Captain Grant killed.

3 Serjeants and 11 Rank and File killed.

2 Serjeants and 33 Rank and File wounded.

2 Privates since dead.

Her Majesty's 96th Regiment.

3 Rank and File killed.

3 Rank and File wounded.

Her Majesty's 99th Regiment.

1 Serjeant and 14 Rank and File killed.

Bt. Major Macpherson severely wounded.

Lieutenant Beatty ditto.

Lieutenant Johnston slightly wounded.

Ensign O'Reilly severely wounded.

1 Serjeant and 21 Rank and File wounded.

2 Privates since dead.

Volunteers (Pioneers.)

4 Rank and File wounded.

Mr. Henry Clarke, Interpreter to the Force, severely wounded.

*Camp before Heke's Pah,
July 2nd, 1845.*

SIR,—Annexed is a detailed account of the action that took place between the troops under my command, and the Rebels, in the early part of the forenoon of yesterday—as also of the assault on the Pah, and our repulse which took place in the afternoon afterwards.

Finding the guns which I had brought with me from Auckland quite ineffective for breaching, from their very defective carriages, as they frequently upset from their own firing, I requested Captain Johnson, of H. M. S. *Hazard*, to send me one of his heavy guns, which was accordingly brought up to camp, a distance of fifteen miles land carriage, over most execrable roads, with great labor and difficulty, on the 30th; and during that day, a platform was erected on the side of a hill on the right of our position—the top of which hill was occupied by our ally, Waka Nene, and his tribe. A serjeant's guard of the 58th Regt. was also there, to protect a six-pounder that had been placed there with a view of raking the enemy's position. The *Hazard's* gun opened its fire about 10 o'clock, A. M., and while the attention of every one was occupied in observing its effect, a sudden attack was made on the position from a very thick wood close in its rear, and Waka's people were driven from it. I was in the battery half way down the hill when this attack was made, when I instantly ordered up a party of the 58th Regt., under Major Bridge, who gallantly charged up the hill so as to turn the enemy's left flank, and regained the position with the loss of only one man.

This attack shewed me the necessity of coming to an immediate decision, and I accordingly determined on attacking the Pah, by assault, in the afternoon, as soon as the few shot brought up from the *Hazard*, (26 in number,) were expended; which I expected would so loosen the stockades as to enable the men attacking them to cut and pull them down. In pursuance of this resolution, a storming party was ordered to parade at 3 o'clock, P. M., for this purpose, and I issued instructions for its guidance, as detailed in the accompanying memorandum. The parties for the attack were enabled to advance to within from 60 to 100 yards of the point of attack, and there remain unperceived by the enemy, in a ravine under cover. When the advance was sounded, they rushed forward in the most gallant and daring manner, and every endeavor was made to pull the stockade down. They partially succeeded in opening the outward one, but the inward one resisted all their efforts, and being lined with men firing through loop-holes on a level with the ground, and from others half way up,—our men were falling so fast, that notwithstanding the most daring acts of bravery, and the greatest perseverance, they were obliged to retire. This could not be effected without additional loss in the endeavor to bring off the wounded men, in which they were generally successful. The retreat was covered by the party under Lieuten-

ant-Colonel Hulme, of the 96th Regiment; and too much praise cannot be given to that Officer for the coolness and steadiness with which he conducted it under a very heavy fire.

I must here remark that the hatchets and axes, as well as the ropes for pulling down the stockade, and the ladders, were all thrown away or left behind by those appointed to carry them; and to this circumstance I attribute the main cause of the failure.

I trust that it will not be thought that the character of the British has been tarnished on this occasion. One third of the men actually engaged fell in the attack, and during the eight days that we have been engaged in carrying on operations against this place, one-fourth of the whole strength of British soldiers under my command, (originally not exceeding 490,) have been either killed or wounded.

From Lieutenant-Colonel Hulme I have received every assistance during the whole time of these operations, independent of his gallant conduct in covering the retreat. Major Macpherson, of the 99th Regt., who led the principal attack, and was severely wounded, also deserves every praise for the daring manner in which he led his men to the assault—and though slightly struck on the left breast at the commencement, he gallantly persevered till struck down by a serious wound. Equal praise is also due to Major Bridge, of the 58th Regt., for the coolness and steadiness with which he led his men to the attack, and his perseverance till called off. Where every individual has behaved equally well, it seems invidious to particularize names—but I cannot avoid mentioning the unwearied toil, zeal, and energy displayed by Lieutenant Wilmott, of the Royal Artillery, in conducting that department with the most inefficient means. Captain Marlow, Royal Engineers, and his department, gave me every assistance in their power, while labouring under the same inefficiency of means as the Artillery. I must not either omit to mention the able assistance and the active zeal that has been displayed by Lieutenant and Adjutant Deering, of the 99th Regt., (acting as Major of Brigade), whether under fire of the enemy, or conducting the necessary details. The three Officers with Major Macpherson's party, were all either killed or wounded—Captain Grant, Lieutenant Beatty, (who volunteered the former hope), and Ensign O'Reilly. The Volunteers from the New Zealand Militia, acting as pioneers under Lieutenant Figg, deserve to be mentioned—and that officer himself has undergone unceasing toil of the most harassing nature with zeal and energy. Lieutenant Wood, and the Militia Volunteers for the Artillery, deserve to be included in this commendation.

Captain Johnson, of H. M. Ship *Hazard*, has given me the most unwearied assistance, in every possible way, from the commencement of our operations, by sending up supplies of all sorts, even from his own ship, when our public stores were deficient. The Seamen and Marines of H. M. Navy have always borne the same

character for bravery and intrepidity wherever they have been employed—and the few, 18 in number, that joined this expedition from H. M. Ship *Hazard*, have nobly supported the same character. Lieutenant Phillpotts, Royal Navy, fell when endeavoring to force his way through the stockade. I enclose herewith a corrected list of killed and wounded.

I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient,
humble Servant,

H. DESPARD,

Lieut.-Colonel 99th Regiment, and
Colonel on the Staff in N. Z.

His Excellency

Governor FITZ ROY,
&c., &c., &c.
Auckland.

P. S.—The wounded are doing well under the able care and constant attention bestowed on them by Dr. Pine, of the 58th, and Dr. Galbraith, of the 99th Regiments.

H. D.

—
Camp, 1st July, 1845.

The following are the directions, and the distribution of the troops, for the attack on the pah, at 3 o'clock this evening.

The principal attack will be made on or near the right angle on the front face, (that face being considered the front one that is opposite the camp), and the whole column for this attack will be formed as follows:—2 serjeants and 20 volunteers from the three corps will form the advance, and proceed with the most perfect silence till they reach the stockade.

This party will be followed closely by the assaulting body, under Major Macpherson, composed of 40 grenadiers from the 58th, and 40 grenadiers from the 99th Regiments, and will be accompanied by a small party of seamen, and

by 30 pioneers from the Volunteer Militia. The seamen and as many of the pioneers as there are sufficient tools for, will be supplied with axes or hatchets for the purpose of cutting down the stockade. Those pioneers that cannot be supplied with axes or hatchets are to carry the ladders, as well as strong ropes, which will be supplied by the Artillery department, for pulling down the stockade.

Major M'Pherson's party will be closely followed by Major Bridge, of the 58th Regiment, having under him the remainder of the Grenadiers of the 58th, to be made up to 60 rank and file from the Battalion of the same Regiment, and 40 rank and file from the Light Company of the 99th Regiment. In all amounting to 100 rank and file.

A strong supporting party will be formed under Lieutenant-Colonel Hulme, 96th Regiment, consisting of the whole of the detachment of the 96th Regiment, completed to 100 rank and file by the Battalion men of the 58th Regiment.

The moment an entrance is made into the pah, this party will instantly follow the preceding parties. The remainder of the force will be under the personal command of Colonel Despard, for the purpose of directing assistance wherever necessary, with the exception of 40 rank and file of the 58th Regiment, under command of Captain Thompson, of that corps, who will occupy the hill overlooking the pah and the camp; it being considered necessary to do so from the attempt made by the natives in the morning to get possession of it.

By order,

R. B. DEERING,

Lieutenant 99th Regiment,
Acting Brigade-Major.