

*Camp, in front of Kawiti's Pah, New Zealand, 12th January, 1846.*

SIR,—I have the honor to acquaint you, for the information of His Excellency the Commander in Chief, that, in obedience to orders from Captain Sir Everard Home, of Her Majesty's ship North Star, whose orders you confirmed on your arrival, I landed with 130 seamen under my command, on the 13th ultimo, and placed myself in communication with Colonel Despard, commanding the land forces, at the head of the Kawakawa river, destined to march to attack the Pah of the rebel chief Kawiti, situated in a thick forest on a mountain, fourteen miles inland from the head of the river. Two thirty-two-pounders and one eighteen pounder gun were landed from Her Majesty's ship North Star, and a twelve-pounder howitzer from the Honourable East India Company's ship Elphinstone.

Our whole force advanced on the 22nd ultimo to a position about half way to the Pah; on the 23rd I received a reinforcement of 150 seamen from the Castor, under your command, with another twelve-pounder howitzer. On the 27th, the forces advanced, and the guns were brought forward, with astonishing exertion on the part of the officers and seamen, through a most difficult country, to a position to about 900 yards from the enemy's Pah; shells and rockets were thrown in occasionally until the 8th instant, when another thirty-two-pounder was brought up, and roads having been cut through the forest by the pioneers, two stockades were erected by them, assisted by the seamen and troops. Breaching batteries in the stockade were erected, the one distant 300 yards, and the other 140 yards from the Pah. On the 10th, at eleven A. M., fire was opened from the batteries, served by seamen, under the direction of Lieutenant Maxwell Falcon, of the Castor, Alleyne Bland, of the Racehorse, and Leeds, of the Honourable East India Company's ship Elphinstone, with the howitzer, and Mr. John Nops, Master of the Racehorse, with the eighteen pounder, Lieutenant Egerton, of the North Star, directing the rockets. The fire was continued with little intermission till nine A. M. on the 11th; when our friendly natives having ascertained that the two breaches were practicable, waved us on to advance; an assault was instantly made by the seamen under my command, in conjunction with the land forces and natives; we were scarcely in the Pah, when the enemy made a desperate attempt to regain it, when a severe action ensued, which lasted nearly four hours; they were finally repulsed in the most gallant manner, and retreated to the wood. I enclose a list of the seamen and marines killed and wounded, and regret much the loss of so many brave men. I beg to bring before the notice of his Excellency the Commander in Chief the following officers who accompanied me to the assault, with their respective divisions of small arm men, and made themselves otherwise extremely useful: Lieutenant Robert J. Otway, First of the Castor; Alfred J. Curtis, of the North Star; Arthur R. Henry, of the Racehorse; Eden and Ralph, of the Honourable East India Company's ship Elphinstone; and Mr. Lock, Mate of the Castor; Mr. Charles S. Fortes, Midshipman of the North Star, attached to the rocket party; and Mr. Grove, my Aide-de-Camp; also Assistant Surgeon Broughton, of the Elphinstone; and the following medical officers, who attended to the wounded in camp; viz. Mr. John Kidd, Surgeon of the Castor; Mr. William M'E. Sounders, Assistant Surgeon of the North Star; and Mr. Pritchard, Assistant Surgeon of the Castor.

I cannot conclude this dispatch without expressing my admiration of the conduct of every officer and seaman engaged, which is fully confirmed by the General Order of the Colonel Commanding, of this day's date, a copy of which I enclose.

Mr. George Don Murray, Midshipman of Her Majesty's ship North Star (the only officer struck), was severely wounded early in the action, when leading his subdivision of seamen.

The arrangements of the victualling of the naval portion of the force engaged was conducted by Mr. Kenneth L. Sutherland, Paymaster and Purser of Her Majesty's ship North Star, to my perfect satisfaction. I beg to add, that I have received the greatest assistance from Lieutenant Otway, of the Castor, and second in command of the naval brigade.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

(Signed) GEORGE JAS. HAY,  
Commander of H. M. S. Racehorse.

*List of Killed and Wounded at the Attack made on Kawiti's Pah, at Ruapekapeka, on the 10th and 11th of January, 1846.*

Her Majesty's ship Castor—7 seamen killed; 10 seamen, 2 marines, severely wounded.

Her Majesty's ship North Star, 1 marine killed; 2 seamen severely wounded; Mr. Murray, Midshipman, included.

Her Majesty's ship Calliope—1 marine killed; 1 marine severely wounded.

Her Majesty's sloop Racehorse—1 seaman severely wounded.

Honourable East India Company's sloop Elphinstone—1 seaman severely wounded.

*H.M.S. Castor, Kawa Kawa River, Bay of Islands, 13th January, 1846.*

SIR,—I have the honour to forward to your Excellency a copy of Commander Hay's letter to me, descriptive of the services of the naval and marine force under his command at the operations against the insurgent natives in this neighbourhood; and, in doing so, it is my pleasant duty further to report to your Excellency that, although I was not present myself in the Pah at the successful capture of it, but in one of the batteries, still, from having been in the camp during the last three weeks advancing, and having constantly witnessed the great exertions of the officers, seamen, and marines of the ships under my command, and those of the Honourable East India Company's ship Elphinstone, in assisting in getting up the guns through a very hilly country, and other heavy work in erecting batteries and conducting the firing from them in breaching, shelling, and rocketting the Pah, &c., and the weather having been very wet, causing the roads (which had to be cut through woods and over hills in a hitherto untraversed country) to be very difficult, also all hands having had to live under what shelter they could temporarily contrive out of the bush, I consider their conduct worthy of the warmest admiration.

The unwearied zeal, exertions, and attention to their respective departments exhibited by Captain Sir Everard Home, Bart., C. B., to whom I appointed the duty of defending a Pah, at our landing-place, six miles up the river and twelve from the Pah destroyed; also to keep up the communication with the ships, which the rebels were