



NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

Published by Authority.

WELLINGTON, MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 1846.

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR has much pleasure in directing the publication of the following Despatches from Major Last 99th regt., commanding the troops Southern District, detailing the nature of the recent operations against the rebels, by which they have been driven from all the strongholds they previously occupied in this portion of New Zealand, and have been compelled to retreat after losing some, and leaving in captivity several, of the disaffected chiefs.

He will take care to represent, in the strong terms which they merit, the gallantry which has been evinced by Major Last, and the officers and men of the combined naval and military force which was engaged in these operations; the privations and fatigues necessarily attendant upon the conduct of which, in so unfavourable a season of the year, were supported by all in a manner which deserves the warmest expression of the Lieutenant Governor's gratitude and approbation.

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR avails himself of the same opportunity of stating his entire satisfaction at the manner in which the officers and men of the Militia of this district have acquitted themselves. The settlers have shown that they can use their arms well, that they are a most useful body of men in military operations in this country, and that they are ready cheerfully to encounter any dangers or difficulties. They may take an honest pride in feeling that they have fully shown that they possess those qualities so essential to the men who entered upon the task of colonising New Zealand.

When the inhabitants of a country can thus rely upon their own efficiency and courage, no

fear need be entertained for the safety of their homes and families.

Nothing could have been more gratifying than the kind and friendly feeling evinced for each other by the settlers and large force of native allies when serving side by side, a feeling which clearly showed that they are mutually attached to each other, that they felt they were one people, bound together by common interests, and were willing and able jointly to defend themselves against any enemy who should attempt to injure either race. The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR felt, in witnessing this most gratifying sight, that it constituted in itself a complete guarantee for the ultimate tranquillity and prosperity of this part of New Zealand.

To the numerous native chiefs who so nobly came forward on this occasion, the LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR returns his thanks for their services. The intercourse he has had with many of them will make him take a lasting interest in their welfare—and for the future he will watch over, and endeavour to promote, the progress of themselves and their families in prosperity and the conveniences of civilized life, not only as Governor of the Colony, but as one who is personally interested in the welfare of men who have established such just and strong claims upon his esteem.

By command of

His Excellency

The Lieutenant Governor,

M. RICHMOND,

Superintendent.

Wellington, 16th August, 1846.

9 P. M.

Porirua,

4th August, 1846.

SIR,—After frequent consultations with your Excellency since your arrival from Auckland relative to the movements of the Force under my command, particularly after the receipt of intelligence by the Government that a number of disaffected natives had left Wangarei, and were moving down the coast with a view of forming a junction with Rangihaeata, and the rebels at his pa of Pauhataui, in the northern branch of the Porirua river; and that this movement was being made with the sanction and connivance of Te Rauparaha, and some disaffected chiefs of the Ngatitooa tribe residing in the immediate neighbourhood of our position, it was determined that an effort should be made to destroy this party, or to induce the friendly natives on the coast to prevent their progress; also, that an attempt should be made to arrest Te Rauparaha, and the disaffected chiefs with him, in the event of obtaining further evidence against them; and, should these movements be attended with success, it would enable us to make an attack upon Rangihaeata and his followers, without the apprehension of Te Rauparaha, or any evil disposed Ngatitooas aiding him; and then the pa at Pauhataui could be regularly invested, and the rebels destroyed.

To effect these objects, a combined naval and military force was embarked on board Her Majesty's Steamer *Driver*, under my command. We found it, however, impracticable to attack the Wangarei natives as they proceeded down the coast, as gales of wind and excessive bad weather prevented the landing of the troops; but the rebels were precluded making a further progress down the coast, as the friendly natives opposed them.

The next movement, I am happy to inform your Excellency, was completely successful, as, on the morning of the 23rd inst., I disembarked before daylight, in boats of Her Majesty's Steamer *Driver*, with 1 officer and 30 men of the 58th Regt., 3 officers and 70 men of the 99th Regt., 4 officers and 30 men of Her Majesty's Ship *Calliope*, accompanied by Captain Stanley, together with the Inspector (Capt. Durie of the Militia), and some Armed Police, surrounded the pa, and accomplished our object without any collision, from the admirable steadiness of the whole party, hanging with us Te Rauparaha, Kanoe, Hoapu, and some others, who are now prisoners on board Her Majesty's Ship *Calliope*, as well as disarmed the disaffected part of the tribe.

Annexed is a list of the arms and ammunition taken at the time.

Nothing now remained but to attack Rangihaeata and the rebels in the pa at Pauhataui; for this object, after leaving 100 men to reinforce the camp at Parramatta Point, the *Driver* returned to Wellington, in order that the portion of the *Calliope's* crew which had embarked in the *Driver* might return on board, and that both ships, with the detachment of the 65th Regt., just arrived from Sydney, might return to Porirua.

On the 29th ult., your Excellency received intelligence, which you did me the honor to communicate, that Rangihaeata, alarmed at the movements that were going on, had evacuated his pa, and fled; but where was uncertain: it was, however, supposed that himself and a few of his followers were remaining in the vicinity of his former position.

Conclusions being entertained that the greater number of Rangihaeata's followers might have returned to the hills in the neighbourhood of the Hutt, it was considered unsafe to detach, for any length of time, a large body of troops from Wellington, until the country between the Hutt district and Porirua harbour had been thoroughly reconnoitred. To accomplish this, a mixed force of Militia, Armed Police, and Friendly Natives, were therefore ordered to move from the Hutt in the direction of Pauhataui, sweeping the country as they went along, and either investing or taking possession of the pa on their arrival, as opportunity offered. A simultaneous movement was directed to be made by the troops under my command, which, I regret to say, was defeated, from Her Majesty's Ship *Calliope* being delayed from stress of weather; but on our arrival, on the 1st inst., we found the movement of the force from the Hutt had been successful, having found the pa evacuated, with the exception of some scouts, one of which (an influential chief) they captured, and another chief was captured in the course of the same evening by the friendly natives.

On the 2nd inst., I proceeded to the pa at daylight, in boats supplied by Captain Stanley of Her Majesty's Ship *Calliope*, with Major Arney 58th, 7 officers and 160 men of the 58th, 65th, and 99th Regts., which, on reaching, I found occupied by the Militia, Armed Police, and Native Allies.

On examining the pa, I found it to be built on a very strong position, having a double row of timber palisades, with trenches and traverses across, about 80 paces long, and 35 broad, in the shape of a parallelogram, with flanking defences.

There was also a bank of earth thrown up on the ~~convex~~ side of the trenches, which, owing to the heavy rain, were full of water. The position altogether is a very strong one, and would have been almost impregnable without artillery; but a hill about 500 yards distant opposite the front face commanded it completely. Therefore, had the enemy remained, we might soon have dislodged them with our guns, which were in readiness at Porirua, in command of Captain Henderson, R. A.

The pa stands on a very high ground fronting the harbour; at the foot of it runs a deep narrow creek fordable at low water; the ground about it is excessively swampy, which the troops had to pass over. On this side the pa stands rises a very steep bank, which, even without opposition, the men had difficulty in mounting. And on the proper left of the position is a very deep ravine, the side of which is thickly wooded. The right face is also thickly wooded, and the ground gradually slopes away into the valley.

The rear was the weakest part as to its defence, the ground covered with thick scrub; but from its locality, I do not consider a position could have been taken up by us on that side. The defences on the front face were of a stronger description than any other.

On the morning of the 3rd instant, a combined movement was made from the pa at Pauhataui and Porirua, consisting of 6 officers and 120 men of the 58th, 65th, and 99th Regts., and 30 Militia, followed by 150 Native Allies, from the former, and 4 officers, 100 men of the Royal Artillery, 58th, 65th, Regts., with 80 Native Allies, under command of Major Arney, from the latter place, for the purpose of attacking the rebel chief, and preventing his escape from the Horokiwi valley. We proceeded about four miles into the woods, covering our advance with the usual precautions. The enemy soon discovered our approach, and quickly retired; but from his fires being still alight, it was evident he had fled into the bush that morning.

Night coming on, and being uncertain as to the direction of the enemy, or the route they had taken, I deemed it then inadvisable to proceed further.

Although our efforts have only led to the dispersion, and not to the total destruction, of the rebels, which was my anxious wish to have accomplished, yet, by gaining possession of the stronghold of the enemy, we are enabled to complete the line of outposts at Porirua, so as effectually to prevent any return of the rebels to the district of the Hutt.

I beg to assure your Excellency that all under my command have well earned from their superiors every credit and approbation for the zeal and cheerfulness they have exhibited under the severe trials and privations to which they have been subjected for a long time past.

Your Excellency having been present with the troops on this occasion, will, I trust, bear testimony to the efforts and exertions made by the officers and men of both services; but I must not omit to offer my best thanks for the ready assistance and co-operation rendered me by Captain Stanley of Her Majesty's Ship *Calliope*, Commander Hayes of Her Majesty's Steamer *Driver*, and my second in command Major Arney, commanding detachment 58th Regt. stationed in this district. I also beg to recommend Mr. M'Kellup of Her Majesty's Ship *Calliope* to your Excellency's notice, who has rendered me great service while in the command of the gun-boat stationed at Porirua.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient,

humble servant,

EDWARD LAST,

Major 99th Regt.,

Commanding the Troops
Southern District.

His Excellency

Governor Grey,
&c. &c.

LIST of Arms and Ammunition taken from the pa of Te Rauparaha and the disaffected natives at Taupo on the 23rd of July, 1846:—

Muskets, single barrel.....	30
Do. double do.	2
Axes	23
Powder-flasks	2
Pouches	26
Small iron gun and carriage ..	1
Casks of Powder	5
Haf do.....	3
Empty do.....	1

EDWARD LAST,

Major 99th Regt.,
Commanding the Troops
Southern District.

Porirua,

10th August, 1846.

SIR,—Soon after addressing your Excellency on the 4th inst., I received intelligence that the native allies who were left to watch the movements of the rebels had discovered that they were retreating; I therefore deemed it right to proceed to their support, knowing that such a movement would accord with your Excellency's wishes, and thinking it would be the means of destroying Rangihaeata and his followers.

At daylight on the morning of the 5th inst., I proceeded in boats of Her Majesty's Ships *Calliope* and *Driver* up the harbour of Porirua, landed about a mile and a half distant, and pressed forward into the Horokiwi valley five or six miles over a road almost impassable for troops, crossing numerous streams and deep rivulets, passing various encampments that the enemy had recently left, evidently retreating in the greatest confusion, leaving behind them the bugle taken from the troops in the attack which was so gallantly repulsed by the detachment of the 58th regt. in the valley of the Hutt on the 16th of May last, which had been retained by the rebels as a trophy, and was recovered by the Militia.

About half-past two o'clock p. m. we came up with our native allies and a party of Militia under the command of Captain M'Donogh, who were lying at the foot of a precipitous hill thickly covered with wood, near the summit of which I learned that the enemy were supposed to be posted.

The troops then commenced hutting themselves for the night.

On the following morning I gave orders for the advance, directing the native allies to proceed on to cover it.

The 1st division, consisting of 7 officers and 127 men of the force, made up of seamen, soldiers, militia, and armed police, was under the command of Major Arney 58th regt.

The 2nd division, of 5 officers and 117 men of similar detail, was under the command of Captain Armstrong 99th regt.

At about nine o'clock a. m. we ascended the hill, preceded by an officer and a party of men with tools to cut away the wood to facilitate our getting up—after ascending with great difficulty

about a mile, we suddenly discovered that the enemy had established himself in a stockade on the spur of a hill which was not only excessively steep and precipitous upon each side, but so narrow in places that only a few men could proceed abreast.

The stockade that was visible appeared evidently very strong, composed of heavy logs of timber placed horizontally one over another, with loop holes to fire through.

Some of the enemy having appeared in front, a heavy fire was opened on both sides—they made repeated attempts to turn our left flank, but were driven back with great loss to their position.

I regret to state that in the action our loss was severe, having two killed and nine wounded, as will be seen by the annexed return. I particularly lament the loss of a most promising young officer, Ensign Blackburn 99th regt., who was acting Brigade Major, and who evinced the greatest zeal and gallantry on the occasion. The firing lasted till dark, when finding my position unfavourable to occupy at night, I left 2 officers and 120 men to assist our native allies to watch the enemy, and again took up the post I had left in the morning.

The enemy admitted to have lost five killed and two wounded, among the number one chief named "Te Oro," and "Papuka," the murderer of Richard Rush at the Hutt.

On the 8th inst., having been reinforced by a captain, subaltern, and eleven of the Royal Artillery, with two small mortars under the direction of Captain Henderson of that corps, I again advanced towards the position, although I found great obstacles in using shells from the loftiness of the trees, which intercepted our view of the enemy. We, however, succeeded in throwing a number into the stockade, and so continued to harass them throughout the day.

The enemy kept up a fire upon us during the whole time. His position having been thus felt and ascertained to be defended by strong entrenchments thrown across the steep and narrow ridge of a lofty and densely wooded hill. The rebels being in retreat, there was every reason to believe that their intention was to pour a few destructive volleys into our men as they advanced, crowded as they must have been into so narrow a space along the steep ridge, and then to fly into the woods in the rear, thus abandoning without loss a position, which, from the want of supplies, it was impossible for them to retain for more than a few days. It did not appear expedient to incur so large a sacrifice of life to attain a post useless in itself, and which must soon have been ours without any loss; moreover the destruction of so many of her Majesty's troops without an equivalent proportion on the part of the enemy, would have been regarded by the natives as a great victory on the side of Rangihacata—might have produced a bad impression on the country generally—and have destroyed the effect of our previous successes. Taking into consideration also the great want of facilities for provisioning so large a force, I at last accepted the offers made by the friendly chiefs, to permit them to remain on the

ground and locate themselves in temporary pas whilst they cleared the scrub and erected round the enemy a palisade after the Maori system of warfare, so as to cut off his means of obtaining either water or provisions, and thus either capture him or force him to fly from his position. In addition to the before-mentioned obstacles opposed to me, the rear of my position was subjected to constant floods, I therefore deemed it right to make arrangements for withdrawing my force from the Horokiwi valley to the pa of Panhatani and Porirua Point, leaving the native allies to carry out their own plans, and reserving the troops for further operations when required.

Your Excellency having seen our position, and being well aware of all the difficulties and impediments, as well as hardships, to which the force under my command have been subjected, I need not dwell further in describing them.

I cannot close this report without expressing my particular obligations to Major Arney, 58th regiment, my second in command, for the advice and assistance he at all times rendered me. To Captain Armstrong, 99th regiment, commanding the 2nd division—Captain Henderson, commanding Royal Artillery—Lieut. Elliott, 99th regiment, acting Engineer—and to Ensign Servantes, 96th regiment, interpreter to the forces, my best thanks are due.

I must thank Captain Stanley of H. M. S. *Calliope*, for his assistance in forwarding the operations: I also received the best aid from the officers and seamen of H. M. S. *Calliope* and *Driver*; Lieutenants Thorpe and Connolly, and all under their command deserve the highest praise.

The wounded received the best attention from Dr. Galbraith, and the other medical officers under his direction.

I have every reason to be satisfied with the exertions of the Commissariat Department; and I must not omit to mention the meritorious conduct of Captain M'Donogh, and the militia under his command, as well as that of all the officers, non-commissioned officers, seamen, soldiers, and police force, employed on this occasion.

It further affords me pleasure and satisfaction to speak of the great service the native allies from Port Nicholson rendered me, as well as the friendly portion of the Ngatittoa tribe who joined us, and beg to thank the chiefs of the several parties for the zeal and exertion of themselves and followers.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient,

humble servant,

EDWARD LAST,

Major 99th Regt.,

Commanding the Troops
Southern Division.

His Excellency

Governor Grey,
&c., &c.

RETURN of killed and wounded of the force under Major Last, 99th regiment, commanding the troops in the Southern District, while engaged in action with the rebels in the Horokiwi valley on the 6th August, 1846.

KILLED.

Ensign H. M. Blackburn, 99th regiment.
Private Thomas Tuite, do.

WOUNDED.

SEAMEN.

W. Roberts, Captain of the mizen-top, H.M.S. *Calliope*, mortally, and since dead.

58TH REGIMENT.

Private John Corr, slightly.

65TH REGIMENT.

Private Robert Miller, severely.

99TH REGIMENT.

Private Patrick Darcey, severely.
— Thomas Woodfield, do.
— Francis O'Reilly, do.
— James Henchcliff, do.
— Joseph Booth, do.

MILITIA.

Private George Farmer, severely.

EDWARD LAST,
Major 99th Regt.,
Commanding the Troops
Southern District.

Porirua, 2 p. m.,
13th August, 1846.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward the enclosed, this instant received from Mr. Servantes our interpreter, at Puaha's camp, for your Excellency's information, by which you will learn that the rebels left their position this morning, and that our native ally Puaha, after sending back his women, will pursue them to-morrow.

I have sent information to Waikanee of the event, and hope our allies there will assist in cutting them off, should they attempt to pass that way.

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

EDWARD LAST,
Major 99th Regt.,
Commanding the Troops
Southern District.

His Excellency
Governor Grey,
&c., &c.

Puaha's Camp,
13th August, 1846.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that some of the rebel natives began to fire upon our

camp this morning. Puaha immediately rushed out to meet them with his followers, and finding them retire, proceeded up to the pa, which they entered as the others went out by the rear; the Ngatiawa natives followed immediately afterwards. It appears that they had sent the women to the rear sometime ago, together with their baggage; the men, it is the general opinion of the natives, only retired a short time before we entered. They had no stock of provisions, as they had been eating the *mamaku* (which is a species of tree fern). The place from whence they fired upon us the other day was only an entrenchment. The pa was about 100 yards in the rear, but had no regular stockade round it, simply a rail in some places, and in others nothing at all. Puaha sends back his women to-day, and intends to follow them up to-morrow morning.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

W. F. G. SERVANTES.

Major Last, 99th Regt.,
Commanding Troops,
Porirua.

Wellington,
16th August, 1846.

SIR,—I have the honor to state that since addressing your Excellency on the 13th inst., reporting the continuing retreat of the rebels, I have received intelligence that our native allies are making every preparation for a vigorous pursuit, and should they succeed in driving the enemy out into the open country upon the coast, I beg to assure your Excellency that in conjunction with the naval officer, I will not fail to assist in the pursuit, and use every exertion in my power to cut them off.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient,
humble servant,

EDWARD LAST,
Major 99th Regt.,
Commanding the Troops
Southern District.

His Excellency
Governor Grey,
&c. &c.

Wellington,
16th August, 1846.
8 p. m.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform your Excellency that I have this moment received intelligence that the Inspector of Police (Capt. Durie of the Militia), acting upon my letters informing him that the rebels had left their position in the Horokiwi valley, made the requisite

communication to the chiefs at Waikanae, who had previously occupied the position pointed out to them at the Pari Pari, and that our native ally, Wiremu Kingi, and his party were immediately on the alert, and were successful in capturing eight prisoners belonging to the band under Rangihaeata, who had come down from the hills for the purpose of obtaining food, and had sent to the police station for an escort to conduct them to Waikanae: a good deal of firing was heard in the direction of the Pari Pari, and on the hills above it, and Wiremu Kingi sent word that he would make an attack on the enemy to-morrow. On the other side is a list of the prisoners taken:—

Ko Mateu Tikiahi,
Ko Te Kumete,
Ko Hohepa Te Umuros,

Ko Te Weretiti,
Ko Te Rahui,
Ko Te Korohunga,
Ko Topi,
Ko Mataiumu.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient,
humble servant,

EDWARD LAST,
Major 99th Regt.,
Commanding the Troops
Southern District.

His Excellency
Governor Grey,
&c., &c.