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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1863.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Auckland, 10th September, 1863.

HIS Excellency the Governor directs the publication of the accompanying despatch, with its enclosure, from Lieutenant-General Cameron, C.B.

ALFRED DOMETT.

Head Quarters,
Queen's Redoubt,
8th September, 1863.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward for your Excellency's information, the accompanying Report from Lieutenant Talbot, 65th Regiment, in command of the Post at Razor-back, on the Great South road.

I have, &c.,
D. A. CAMERON,
Lieut.-General.

His Excellency
Sir George Grey, K.C.B.,
&c., &c., &c.

Razor-back Stockade,
8th September, 1863.

SIR,—

I have the honor to report for the information of the Lieut.-General commanding that this morning about ten o'clock, one of my sentries, who was posted about sixty yards from the Stockade, discovered a Maori stealing upon him through the bush. The sentry at once gave the alarm by firing at him, when the fire was returned by a number of natives, who had taken up a position on a partly cleared hill, about one hundred yards from the Stockade.

On the first alarm, the men of the detachment under my command were quickly at their posts, and kept up a steady fire upon the ground occupied by the Maoris, who found excellent cover behind the stumps and felled timber.

About a quarter of an hour after the first shot was fired Ensign Ducrow, with forty men of the 40th Regiment, joined me from Rhodes' Clearing, and dividing his force into two parties they occupied commanding positions on the road.

I then, having left Lieut. Pagan, 65th Regiment, in command of the Stockade, took half of my detachment and advanced on the natives, who after firing a few shots retired in haste. Owing to the nature of the ground I was unable to overtake them, and after having followed their track for about half-a-mile through the bush I returned to the Stockade, where I found Lieut. Toker, 65th Regiment, who had arrived with half of his detachment from Williamson's Clearing.

Throughout the attack I received the greatest assistance from Lieut. Pagan, 65th Regiment, and Ensign Ducrow, 40th Regiment, and I beg to bring the conduct of these officers to the favourable notice of the Lieut.-General commanding.

During the firing Sergeant Anderson, and six men of the Mounted Defence Force, who were proceeding to Papakura, joined me, and, having picketed their horses by the Stockade, accompanied me as volunteers into the bush.

Lieut. Toker, with his reinforcement, arrived most opportunely, and was prepared to give me any assistance I might require.

I am happy to be able to state that owing to the cover afforded by the Stockade I have no

casualties to report. The Maoris, as usual, fired high, their bullets passing through several of the tents.

I have, &c.,
J. S. TALBOT, Lt.,
Commanding Detachment 65th Regt.,
Razor-back.
Lt.-Col. Carey, C.B.,
D.A.G.,
Queen's Redoubt.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Auckland, 11th September, 1863.

IT is with very great regret that His Excellency the Governor directs it to be notified that he has received from Lieut.-General Cameron, C.B., the following despatch respecting the death of Capt. Swift, of the 65th Regt., who was regarded by the Lieut.-General as a very gallant and promising officer, and whose loss the Governor feels assured will be deeply lamented by the inhabitants of this Colony, in whose defence he was engaged when he so nobly fell in the discharge of his duty.

ALFRED DOMETT.

Head Quarters,

Queen's Redoubt, 9th Sept., 1863.

Sir, I have the honor to inform your Excellency that about 4 o'clock p.m. on the 7th inst., I received intelligence from Captain Swift, 65th regiment, commanding the redoubt at Tuakau, that the pah at Cameron Town, in which a quantity of commissariat supplies had been stored prior to their conveyance in canoes to the Bluff by the friendly natives, had been attacked, and the stores captured and destroyed by the insurgents. Captain Swift stated also that he had started with a party of 50 men to scour the bush in the direction of Cameron Town.

As I foresaw the probability of this small party being beset in the bush by superior numbers, I arranged with Captain Sullivan, R.N., that a force of 150 men, under the command of Colonel Murray, 65th regiment, should be embarked without delay in boats at the Mangatawhiri, and proceed to Tuakau, with instructions to move in support of Captain Swift's party.

I herewith enclose an account of the engagement, given me by Lieutenant Butler, 65th regiment, who is now in the Queen's redoubt, having been severely wounded at the commencement of the action.

No report has yet been received from Color-sergeant MacKenna, on whom the command of Captain Swift's party devolved when both officers were disabled, as that non-commissioned officer is still at Tuakau. He appears to have acted with great judgment and courage, and to have secured the confidence of the men at once by his admirable conduct.

Your Excellency will, I feel sure, share in my admiration of the conduct of the whole of the detachment, animated as they were by the noble example of their commander; and that you will join me in lamenting the loss which

the service has sustained by the death of so gallant and promising an officer as Captain Swift.

Colonel Murray, whose report is enclosed, returned with his detachment this morning; and as four men were still missing when he left Tuakau, I ordered a detachment of 100 men of the 40th regiment, under the command of Major Blyth, to march there this morning and occupy the post during the temporary absence of an equal number of its garrison, who were to proceed in search of the missing men.

I forward herewith a copy of the return of the casualties on this occasion.

I have, &c.,
D. A. CAMERON,
Lt. Gen.

To His Excellency Sir George Grey,
K.C.B., &c., &c., &c.,
Governor of New Zealand,
Auckland.

STATEMENT MADE BY LIEUT.
BUTLER, 65TH REGIMENT.

The firing at Camerontown was heard at Tuakau a little before 11 a.m. on the 7th, and the friendly pah could be plainly seen in flames. Not long after 5 friendly natives of Kukutai's people arrived in a canoe, who said they were on the beach near Camerontown when the rebels attacked the pah. Captain Swift then determined to proceed in the direction of Camerontown with a party of 50 men. We left Tuakau about half-past 12, and after a march of two hours over a very difficult track, a distance probably of 7 miles, we reached a clearing and passed through it to the top of a hill, where we got a view of a few detached whares. Here the track led through some bush. After penetrating this for about 200 yards, we heard the Maoris talking. We fancied they were approaching by the track on which we were, and prepared an ambuscade for them, by extending on both sides of the track. Finding the Maoris did not come on as we had expected, Captain Swift ordered the men to fix bayonets. We pushed on from 12 to 20 yards, led by Captain Swift, when at a turn of the track they opened fire on us. They were evidently ready for us, and must have seen us from the pah a long time before we reached them. Captain Swift fell at the first volley. I asked if we should charge. He said—Yes; and when I was doing so about 10 yards in advance of the men, I was brought to the ground. I drew my revolver, and they say that I shot two men with it. Color-Sergt, McKenna, who was very cool and collected throughout, then took charge of the party, and a skirmish ensued which lasted about twenty minutes, during which he stated that he saw 7 Maoris fall. The enemy was driven back 200 or 300 yards. The men remained all night on the ground from which the natives had been driven, excepting the advance guard, which had become separated from us before the engagement. It appears to have shared in the attack, and rejoined the main body shortly before we arrived at the Tuakau

redoubt. I am not able to form an opinion of the numbers of the enemy. I scarcely think there could have been 300. Captain Swift died about 6 o'clock that evening. He was shot through one lung and in the side. No one could have behaved better than he did; and the conduct of the men too was admirable. The party started on their return to Tuakau about 5 next morning, when we were met shortly after by that under the command of Colonel Murray, who had come to support us. He passed on with the view of searching for men who were missing.

Camp, Queen's Redoubt,
9th September, 1863.

SIR,—I have the honor to report for the information of the Lieutenant General Commanding, that, in compliance with his orders, I marched to Mangatawhiri on Monday evening in command of the force as per margin* and there embarked in six boats to proceed to Tuakau, which I did not reach until midnight. On my arrival at Tuakau, I found that Captain Swift had not yet returned from "Cameron Town" with his party and it was supposed he had remained at the pah.

The night was too dark to find the track through the difficult country between Tuakau and "Cameron Town," and I consequently deferred further proceedings until daylight. Accordingly, I fell in the men at 4 a.m., and directing Captain Ord to proceed with 30 men by water to "Cameron Town," with instructions to co-operate with me, I proceeded by land to the same place. On the way I met Corporal Ryan, who first gave me information that Captain Swift had been killed and Lieutenant Butler badly wounded. I accordingly pushed on as fast as I could, and after proceeding about two miles I met Sergeant McKenna with about 30 men, who gave me the first information that Captain Swift had fallen into an ambuscade and a fire had been opened on him on all sides from the bush at a distance of about 8 or 10 yards, and the two officers becoming non-effective, the command devolved on him. He then called on the men to stand by him, which he states they obeyed with the utmost alacrity, and under his directions they kept up a steady fire for, as far as I can learn, about an hour.

The firing having ceased by that time, Sergeant McKenna retired with his little force into the bush, and lay down, keeping perfectly quiet till daylight enabled him to see where he was, and thus make his way to the Redoubt. Sergeant McKenna and his

*2nd Battalion 18th Regiment.—1 Subaltern, 3 Sergeants, 50 Rank and File.

65th Regiment.—1 Field Officer, 1 Captain, 2 Subalterns, 4 Sergeants, 2 Drummers, 100 Rank and File.

Total.—1 Field Officer, 1 Captain, 3 Subalterns, 7 Sergeants, 2 Drummers, 150 Rank and File.

men appearing very much exhausted after their night's exposure, I desired him to return to the redoubt, after receiving from him such description as he could give, of where I might be able to find the killed.

Of the wounded or missing (except such as had come in) he could give me no information. I had previously met Lieut. Butler, badly wounded, making his way, with the assistance of two men, to the redoubt, and having put him on a stretcher, I detached a party to convey him. I pushed on, and on arriving at the spot where the affair with Captain Swift's party had occurred, I searched the bush for his body, which by Corporal Ryan's description, was found after some time. (I beg here to mention that Corporal Ryan and Private Bulford remained with Capt. Swift for several hours after he died, and having concealed his body, made their way to the redoubt.) Not knowing in what direction to search for the missing men, I returned with the bodies found to the redoubt, which I reached about 2.30 p.m., and finding the steamer there, I sent a request to Capt. Sullivan, H.M.S. "Harrier" to take a portion of my force on board, which he having consented to I embarked 100 men, and directed Capt. Ord to follow in the boats with the remainder.

I have, &c.,

G. F. MURRAY,

Major 65th Regt., and Col.

The Military Secretary,
Head Quarters,
Queen's Redoubt.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Auckland, 11th September, 1863.

THE Governor directs it to be notified that it is with great regret he has received the following despatch acquainting him with the sad death of that useful and active public Officer Mr Armitage, the Resident Magistrate of the Lower Waikato—who was a sincere and faithful friend to the Native race, and whose loss is most especially to be deplored at this juncture of affairs.

ALFRED DOMETT.

Head Quarters, Queen's Redoubt,
10th Sept., 1863.

SIR,—With feelings of deep concern I have to announce to your Excellency the melancholy death of Mr. Armitage, Resident Magistrate of this district, who, with two other Europeans, was murdered by natives at Cameron Town on the 7th instant.

I herewith forward a letter I received this morning from Lieut. Burton, 40th regiment, commanding at the Bluff stockade, detailing the circumstances of this lamentable occurrence, as they were related to him by two friendly natives.

Mr. Armitage had for some time past been engaged in the troublesome and hazardous duty of superintending the transport of supplies for the troops, by the friendly natives, up the Waikato, and since the commencement of hostilities had always acted with me in the most cordial manner for the good of the public service.

The loss of so zealous and useful a public officer, is deeply to be regretted.

I have, &c,

D. A. CAMERON,
Lt. Gen.

His Excellency
Sir George Grey, K. C. B.,
&c., &c., &c.

Bluff Stockade,

Sept. 9th, 1863, (12 p.m.)

SIR,—I have the honor to report for the information of the Lieutenant General commanding, that at about ten o'clock this evening ten natives, of Wm. Te Wheoro's pa, accompanied by four others of Kukutai's tribe, arrived at the Akaramea pa, overland from Taupari, which latter place they left this morning at daylight. These, you will understand, are the natives who were of Mr. Armitage's party on Monday last, and who have, up to the present time, been missing. I regret to say that they confirm the tidings of Mr. Armitage's death, as also those of the two Europeans, known as Robert and William. The former of these was a blacksmith, who acted as clerk to Mr. Armitage; the latter was a carpenter, engaged in erecting a store at Cameron Town.

The circumstances attending their deaths are, as far as I can elicit from two of the most intelligent of the "friendly natives" who witnessed them, are these.

(The names of these two natives I here mention in the margin.) ["Hawira" and "Eru."]

Mr. Armitage started from the pa adjacent to this post—in a canoe with three natives—accompanied by two or three other canoes full of Te Wheoro's tribe, at about six o'clock on Monday morning last. On reaching Tuakau, or thereabouts, there was some delay on the part of these other canoes, so that Mr. Armitage got on ahead of them, and reached Cameron Town about half-an-hour before them, at about half-past eight o'clock, a.m. On arrival, Mr.

Armitage got out of his canoe, and went over to a house about two hundred yards from the bank of the river, where were the two Europeans I have before named. When he reached the house, one of the three natives he left behind with the canoe, "Eru," above mentioned in the margin, went off in the direction of the stockade erected at Cameron Town, and occupied by friendly Natives under their Chief Tokab. He was on his way thither, when the enemy opened fire from the bush on the road from, and near the river. Enclosed is a rough sketch of the ground, drawn out by the native "Hawira." Where the enemy fired from I have marked ✕.

Mr. Armitage and the two Europeans, it appears, had returned from the house (marked A) and were on the river bank at this time. The two latter were shot, and fell over the canoe, upsetting it as they fell. Mr. Armitage had got into the canoe, when he was shot, falling into the water through the canoe's overturning. The hostile Natives dragged his body out of the water, took a portion of the clothes from off it, together with his watch and chain, and ring. The bodies of the two other men did not rise to the surface of the water, and have not been heard of since.

The Natives who witnessed this then ran into the bush, but came out to meet those Natives who were detained in their canoes, and who had by this time arrived. The enemy having re-taken to the bush, the friendly Natives fired in the direction they were supposed to have gone; but there does not seem to have been any loss on either side with regard to them. They report that all the stores, consisting of maize, tarpaulings, &c., have been burnt, or otherwise destroyed. The number of hostile Maoris they believe to have been about two hundred. I should have mentioned that the enemy returned the fire of the friendly Natives, who continued to fire till they had exhausted all their ammunition, when they retired upon Taupari, which place they reached at about eight o'clock the same night. The four Natives who reached Te Wheoro's pa on Monday did not land at Cameron, but higher up, and were not engaged in the affair.

I have, &c.,

H. BURTON,

Lieut. 40th Regt.,

Commanding Bluff Stockade.

The Deputy Qr. Master General,

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

Head Quarters.

65TH REGIMENT.
NOMINAL RETURN OF CASUALTIES OF THE ABOVE CORPS AT CAMERON.

Rank and Name.	Corps.	Age, Years.	Service, Years.	Date of Death.	Place of Death.	Nature of Injury.	Remarks.
Richard Swift	65th	32	13	7th Sept., 1863	Cameron	Gunshot wound	
Robert Bellringer	do.	28	9	do.	do.	do.	Killed
Stephen Grace	do.	37	15	do.	do.	do.	do.
Villars Butler	do.	23	5	do.	do.	do.	Wounded
Francis Powell	do.	22	4	do.	do.	do.	do.
James McLean	do.	27	8	do.	do.	do.	do.
Michael Bryan	do.	30	10	do.	do.	do.	Missing
Thomas Whittle	do.	36	17	do.	do.	do.	Severely
							do.
							Severely

J. MOUAT,
Deputy Ins. General, Prin. Medical Officer.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Auckland, 11th September, 1863.

THE following letter from Mr. R. O. Stewart, reporting the death of Mr. Armitage and others, killed by the Rebel Natives, is published for general information.

ALFRED DOMETT.

Resident Magistrate's Office,
(Taupari, near Kohanga),
Lower Waikato, 7th Sept., 1863.
12 o'clock, noon.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward to you the following melancholy intelligence, which has been related to Archdeacon Maunsell and myself by Maoris of the Ngatiwhauroa tribe, just arrived here from the Government store at Iaroa (Camerontown.) These Maoris and two Europeans, William Strand, carpenter, and — Heughan, blacksmith, were on guard and in charge of the stores, which I have been informed, consisted wholly of horse forage to the amount of forty tons, part of the cargo of the "City of Melbourne," now lying within the Waikato Heads. Mr. Armitage, the Resident Magistrate on this station, had just arrived there this morning early, in a canoe from Te Ia, on his way hither. The Maoris in charge were engaged in loading canoes with the above mentioned stores, in order to convey them up the river, when suddenly an attack was made upon them by about one hundred hostile Maories, chiefly of the Ngatimaniapoto tribe, they say.

The result of this attack was that Mr. Armitage, Strand, Heughan, a half-caste named Wade, and a Ngatiwhauroa have been killed. They were shot in the canoes.

The Ngatiwhauroa, who numbered only about twenty, soon retreated, and arrived here by canoe on the left bank of the Waikato. Besides the above five killed, one of the friendly Maories is missing.

Four large canoes and the dead bodies have, in addition to the stores, been left in the hands of the rebels.

I send this letter express to Waiuku, Waata Kukutai having supplied that service.

I shall concert with Archdeacon Maunsell and Waata Kukutai as to the recovery of the bodies, if an effort can prudently be made.

I have, &c.,

R. O. STEWART,

Clerk to the Resident Magistracy.

The Honorable
the Colonial Secretary,
Auckland.

