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Colonial Secretary's Office,
Auckland, 28th November, 1863.

HIS Excellency the Governor directs the publication of the following Despatches, with enclosures, from Lieutenant-General Cameron, C.B.

WM. FOX.

Lieut.-General Cameron to the Governor.

Head Quarters,
Camp, Rangariri, Nov. 24th, 1863.

SIR,—I have the honor to report to your Excellency that on the morning of the 20th instant I moved from Meremere with the force detailed in the margin, up the right bank of the Waikato river, with the intention of attacking the enemy's entrenched position at Rangariri, in which operation Commodore Sir William Wiseman, Bart., had arranged to co-operate with the "Pioneer" and "Avon," steamers, and the four gunboats.

The troops under my command and the steamers and gunboats arrived near Rangariri at the same hour—3 p.m.

The enemy's position consisted of a main line of entrenchment across the narrow isthmus which divides the Waikato river from Lake Waikare. This line had a double

ditch and high parapet, and was strengthened at the centre (its highest point) by a square redoubt of very formidable construction. Behind the left centre of the main line and at right angles to it there was an entrenched line of rifle-pits parallel to the Waikato river, and obstructing the advance of troops from that direction.

On a reconnaissance made on the 18th, I had determined on landing a force in rear of the position simultaneously with attacking it in front, with the view of turning and gaining possession of a ridge 500 yards behind the main entrenchment, and thus intercepting the retreat of the enemy.

With this object 300 men of the 40th Regiment were embarked in the "Pioneer" and "Avon," to land, on a preconcerted signal, at a point which I had selected.

Unfortunately the strength of the wind and current was such that the "Pioneer" and "Avon" were unable to reach this point, notwithstanding the persevering efforts of Sir William Wiseman and the officers and men under his command. The same cause deprived us of the assistance of two of the gunboats.

After shelling the position of the enemy for a considerable time from Captain Mercer's

Corps.	General Officers.	Field Officers.	Captains.	Subalterns.	Asst. Surgeons.	Staff.	Sergeants.	Drummers.	Rank and File.
General Staff	1	4		1			3		
Royal Artillery			1	1	1		2	1	45
Royal Engineers		1	1						12
1st Regiment			1	3			5	2	100
2nd Regiment		1	2	4		2	8	3	164
40th Regiment			1	3			4	2	75
65th Regiment		1	1	6	1	2	15	6	375
Total	1	7	7	18	2	4	37	14	771

R. CARRY, Lt.-Col.,
Dep.-Adjt.-General.

two 12-pounder Armstrong's, and the Naval 6-pounder, under Lieut. Alexander, R.N., in which the two gunboats joined, and it being now nearly five o'clock, I determined not to wait any longer for the landing of the 40th from the steamers, and gave the word for the assault. This was brilliantly executed by the troops, who had to pass over a distance of 600 yards in the face of a heavy fire, the 65th Regiment leading and escalading the enemy's entrenchment on the left.

After passing the main line of entrenchment, the troops wheeled to the left towards the enemy's centre, and came under fire of the line of rifle pits facing the Waikato River. This they at once stormed and carried, driving the enemy before them to the centre Redoubt, which they now defended with desperate resolution.

While the troops were forcing their way over the parapet of the main line, as already described, I was glad to perceive that the 40th were landing sufficiently near the point I had indicated to enable them to carry and occupy the ridge in rear, and to pour a heavy fire on a body of the enemy, who were driven by them from that part of the position, and fled by the Waikare Swamp. In this part of the attack, they were joined by a portion of the 65th Regiment detached from the main body after the latter had passed the main line of entrenchment.

The troops who carried the main line being still checked by the fire from the centre Redoubt, two separate assaults were made on this work—the first by 36 of the Royal Artillery, armed with revolvers, and led by Captain Mercer; the second by 90 seamen of the Royal Navy, armed in a similar manner, and led by Commander Mayne, under the personal direction of Sir William Wiseman.

Both attacks were unsuccessful on account of the formidable nature of the work, and the overwhelming fire which was brought to bear on the assailants. An attempt was also made by a party of seamen under Commander Phillimore to dislodge the enemy with hand grenades, thrown into the work.

It being now nearly dark, I resolved to wait the return of daylight before undertaking further operations, the troops remaining in the several positions they had gained, in which they almost completely enveloped the enemy.

Shortly after daylight on the 21st, the white flag was hoisted by the enemy, of whom 183 surrendered unconditionally, gave up their arms, and became prisoners of war.

The exact strength and loss of the enemy I have been unable to ascertain, but he must have suffered severely. We buried 36 bodies, and there is no doubt a large number were shot or drowned in attempting to escape across the swamp of Waikare Lake.

Their wounded must have been removed during the night, as there were none among the prisoners.

Our loss, necessarily severe in carrying so formidable a position, testifies to the gallantry of the troops I have the honor to command, and also, I am bound to say, to the bravery and determination of its defenders. I enclose a list of casualties. Your Excellency will observe that it includes a large proportion of officers, most of those who led in the different attacks being severely wounded.

It will afford me the highest gratification to report to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for War, and to His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, the admirable conduct of the troops engaged on this occasion, and to bring to their special notice the names of those officers and men who more particularly distinguished themselves.

I have, &c.,

D. A. CAMERON,

Lieut.-General.

His Excellency Sir George, K.C.B.

Lieut.-General Cameron to the Governor.

Head Quarters,

Camp, Rangariri, 26th Nov., 1863.

SIR,—Since I closed my Despatch of the 24th instant, I have received intelligence of the death of Captain Mercer, commanding Royal Artillery on this station, from the effect of wounds received in the action of the 20th instant, whilst gallantly leading his men to an assault on the enemy's strongest work.

I regard the loss of this able, zealous, and energetic officer at the present moment as a serious misfortune.

Your Excellency having been intimately acquainted with Captain Mercer, and appreciating his noble character and many sterling qualities, will, I am confident, participate in the grief felt by myself and by the whole force, for the death of this invaluable officer.

I have also to deplore the loss of another brave and excellent officer, Captain Phelps, 2nd Battalion 14th Regiment, who died in consequence of a wound received in the action of 20th instant.—I have, &c.,

D. A. CAMERON,

Lieut.-General.

His Excellency Sir G. Grey, K.C.B.

His Excellency the Governor to Lieutenant-Cameron, C.B.

Government House,

Auckland, 28th November, 1863.

SIR,—I have directed that your Despatch of the 26th instant, which I received in the night, should be published for general information, at the same time as your despatch of the 24th instant.

I entirely enter into your feelings of grief for the loss of the brave Officers and men who have fallen in obtaining a victory, from which may be anticipated such great advantages for this country. I can assure you that very deep sorrow for the heavy loss sustained, and for the sufferings of the wounded, is felt throughout the entire community, who will, I am aware, in a fitting manner, express their debt of gratitude to yourself and the forces under your command.

You must permit me, whilst expressing my own sorrow for the loss of Captain Mercer, Captain Phelps, Lieutenant Murphy, Mr. Watkin, and so many gallant men, to add that my intimate acquaintance with Captain Mercer, has caused me in his case to feel very keenly the loss of an officer whose many excellent qualities I regarded with admiration and esteem.

I have, &c.,

G. GREY.

The Hon. Lieut.-General Cameron, C.B.

NOMINAL RETURN OF KILLED AND WOUNDED AT RANGARIRI, 20TH NOVEMBER, 1863.

Corps.	Regtl. Nos.	Rank.	Names.	Age.	Service.	Date of Death.	Place of Death.	Nature of Injury.	Result.	Remarks.
				Yrs.	Yrs.					
R.A.	...	Bombadier	William Martin	...	...	20 Nov., 1863	Rangariri	Gunshot wound through head	Killed.	
"	...	Gunner	— Culverwell	...	...	"	"	do. left chest	"	
"	...	"	— Kevan	...	...	"	"	do. left leg and chest	"	
1B. 12th	...	Lieutenant	W. L. Murphy	...	...	"	"	.....	"
"	40	Private	Richard Needham	...	...	"	"	.....	"
"	187	"	Thomas Osborne	...	...	"	"	.....	"
"	425	"	Darby Shea	...	...	"	"	.....	"
"	248	"	George Smith	...	...	"	"	.....	"
2B. 14th	217	"	Thomas Bellew	...	...	"	"	Gunshot wound through head	"	
"	1040	Lance Corpl.	Charles Burrell	...	...	"	"	do. do.	"	
"	848	Private	Richard Nolan	...	...	"	"	do. do.	"	
"	934	"	Robert McCrory	...	...	"	"	do. do.	"	
"	1714	"	Henry Russell	...	...	"	"	do. through heart	"	
40th	609	"	Edward Loughlin	...	...	"	"	Wounded in head	"	
"	315	"	Benjamin Barber	...	...	"	"	do. neck	"	
"	430	"	Edward Hone	...	...	"	"	do. chest	"	
"	331	"	Edwin Goldsborough	...	...	"	"	do. head	"	
"	2215	"	William Usher	...	...	"	"	do. chest	"	
"	590	"	John Daley	...	...	"	"	do. abdomen	"	
"	124	"	John McNally	...	...	"	"	do. head	"	
"	3736	"	John Jones	...	...	"	"	do. head	"	
65th	...	"	William Johnstone	...	...	"	"	} Nature of injury not known	... "	
"	...	"	George Bell	...	...	"	"	
"	...	"	Alexander McClelland	...	...	"	"	
"	...	"	Thomas Blackham	...	...	"	"	
"	...	"	Robert Clarke	...	...	"	"	
"	...	"	Alexander Hepburn	"	"			
"	...	"	Jonathan Neat	"	"			
"	...	"	John Cavanagh	"	"			
"	...	"	Thomas Roberts	"	"			
"	...	"	Patrick King	"	"			
"	...	"	Peter Manley	"	"			

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Corps.	Regtl. Nos.	Rank.	Names.	Age.	Service.	Date of Death.	Place of Death.	Nature of Injury.	Result.	Remarks.
				Yrs.	Yrs.					
65th	...	Private	— Mooney	20 Nov., 1863	Rangariri	} Nature of Injury not known	Killed	
"	...	"	James McCosland	...	...	"	"	
R.N.	Curaçoa	Midshipman	— Watkins	...	...	"	"	
"	...	Qr.-Mr.	J. Woods	...	...	"	"	
"	...	A. B.	William Tidy	...	...	"	"	
"	Harrier	"	Frederick Osborne	...	...	"	"	
Marine	...	Private	Richard Downer	...	...	"	"	

W O U N D E D .

R.A.	...	Captain	H. Mercer	38	20	25 Nov. 1863.	Queen's Re doubt	Gunshot wound through face	Wounded	Dangerous (since dead)
"	...	Sergt.-Major	— Hamilton	33	14	...	...	" thro' right wrist and forearm	"	Amputated
"	...	Gunner	J. Bold	...	...	...	...	" of head	"	Slight
R.E.	...	Captain	— Brooks	...	...	...	...	" of fingers	"	Slight
1B. 12th	3240	Corporal	Richard Norgrove	28	10	...	...	Flesh wound right thigh, ball lodged	"	Severe
"	3393	Private	Hugh McReynolds	29	9	...	...	" right leg	"	Slight
"	184	"	Joseph Malloy	23	4	...	...	Gunshot wound right knee	"	Very severe
"	260	"	James Yates	22	4	...	...	" left shoulder and chest	"	Very severe
"	3260	"	James McCammon	28	10	...	...	Superficial wound right eyebrow	"	Slight
"	692	"	John Sayers	21	3	...	...	Two gunshot wounds of chest	"	Severe
"	3461	"	William Baxter	26	7	...	...	Gunshot wound, fracture right femur	"	Very severe
"	3308	"	John Douard	20	10	...	...	Gunshot wound right shoulder, ball lodged	"	Severe
"	22	"	James Granger	24	5	...	...	Flesh wound of thigh	"	Severe
"	213	Corporal	Henry Savage	31	4 7-12	...	...	Flesh wound below left knee	"	Severe
"	3483	Private	Charles Boucher	26	7	...	...	Gunshot wound of chest	"	Severe
"	3175	"	James Dornan	29	10	...	...	Gunshot wound of back	"	Severe
"	13	"	Edward Mead	23	6	...	...	Graze of abdomen	"	Slight
"	606	"	Paul Cain	24	3	...	...	Gunshot wound of left shoulder	"	Severe

NOMINAL RETURN OF KILLED AND WOUNDED AT RANGARIRI, 20TH NOVEMBER, 1863.

Corps.	Regtl. Nos.	Rank.	Names.	Age.		Date of Death.	Place of Death.	Nature of Injury.	Result.	Remarks.
				Yrs.	Yrs.					
1B. 12th	2309	Private	John Wood	...	...	...	...	Nature of injury not known	Wounded	Since dead
"	3210	"	John Bozen	29	10	...	...	Slight graze of foot	"	Slight
2B. 14th	...	Lieut.-Colonel	C. W. Austen	...	...	...	...	Wound of thigh, ball lodged	"	Very severe
"	...	Captain	J. S. Phelps	33	9	...	...	Penetrating wound of abdomen, ball lodged	"	Dangerous (since dead)
"	1549	Lance-Sergt.	Henry Mansbridge	26	4	...	...	Slight scalp wound	"	Slight
"	697	Private	John Hannigan	24	5	...	...	Gunshot wound shoulder	"	Very severe
"	693	"	James Carrole	28	5	...	...	Flesh wound right thigh	"	Severe
"	823	"	Charles Lewis	24	5	...	...	Flesh wound right leg	"	Severe
"	1149	"	Peter Murray	26	5	...	...	Flesh wound left nates	"	Severe
"	900	"	John Shenton	30	5	...	...	Shot through back of neck	"	Slight
"	621	"	Edward Swain	23	5	...	...	Not known (slight wound)	"	"
40th	...	Ensign	Andrew Ducrow	21	...	...	...	Gunshot wound left knee joint	"	Dangerous
"	3422	Private	Henry Brown	28	9	...	...	Flesh wound right shoulder	"	Severe
"	273	Corporal	Nicholas Holmberg	25	5	...	...	Over right shoulder joint	"	Severe
"	495	Private	Henry Mann	...	...	...	...	Flesh wound left shoulder and side	"	Severe
"	2402	"	William Jones	35	17	...	...	Flesh wound left arm	"	Slight
"	485	Private	James Healy	36	17	...	...	Wound of scalp	"	Slight
"	483	"	Francis Brotherton	24	3	...	...	Flesh wound of left haunch	"	Severe
"	3793	"	Thomas Grimes	23	8	...	...	Flesh wound left shoulder	"	Severe
"	...	"	George Roberts	26	3	...	...	Penetrating wound of back	"	Dangerous
"	636	"	Edmond Doran	21	3	...	...	Flesh wound left calf	"	Severe
"	231	"	Joseph Scales	22	5	...	...	Perforating wound of chest	"	Dangerous
65th	...	Captain	W. H. Gresson	32	12	...	...	Right arm broken by gunshot	"	"
"	...	Lieutenant	J. S. Talbott	26	8	...	...	Gunshot wound of face, left arm and side	"	"
"	...	"	A. H. Lewis	30	10	...	...	" left arm	"	"
"	...	"	G. R. Chevalier	32	8	...	...	" left leg	"	"
"	144	Private	Robert Morris	28	10	...	...	" left thigh	"	Severe
"	3419	"	John Halkin	27	8	...	...	" left shoulder	"	Slight
"	51	"	Francis Horne	30	5	...	...	" right hand and right and left knees	"	Severe
"	292	"	Charles Ellentree	35	5	...	...	" left thigh	"	Severe

NOMINAL RETURN OF KILLED AND WOUNDED AT RANGARIRI, 20TH NOVEMBER, 1863.

Corps.	Regtl. Nos.	Rank.	Names.	Age.	Service.	Date of Death.	Place of Death.	Nature of Injury.	Result.	Remarks.
				Yrs.	Yrs.					
65th	2287	Private	John Carpenter	36	18	...	...	Gunshot wound left leg	Wounded	Severe
"	3010	"	Samuel McBurney	30	11	...	...	" right hand and right thigh	"	Severe
"	2237	"	Patrick Gorman	36	18	...	...	" penetrating back	"	Severe
"	154	"	Richard Colebrook	26	9	...	...	" left shoulder	"	Severe
"	3521	"	Thomas Hopwood	26	8	...	...	" right side of neck	"	Severe
"	72	"	Thomas Swift	30	5	..	...	" right shoulder	"	Severe
"	3407	"	John Cottam	33	9	...	...	" right thigh	"	Severe
"	3513	"	James Cornorey	26	8	..	...	" left thigh	"	Severe
"	3248	"	Robert Brunsley	26	9	...	..	" right knee	"	Slight
"	3332	"	John Cane	28	10	...	...	" left groin	"	Since dead
"	3275	"	William Bartlett	31	9	...	...	" arm and chest	"	Severe
"	3034	"	Thomas McConnell	31	11	...	...	" penetrating abdomen	"	Dangerous
"	2164	"	Andrew Law	37	19	...	...	" right shoulder	"	Severe (very)
"	183	"	John McAdam	33	15	...	...	" left leg	"	Severe
"	2246	"	Abraham Russell	37	18	...	...	" left breast and shoulder	"	Dangerous
"	3019	"	James Morris	30	11	...	...	" right side penetrating	"	Dangerous
"	3742	"	Alexander McClean	38	20	...	...	" right arm	"	Severe
"	3569	Sergeant	John Mangan	27	8	...	...	" left arm	"	Severe
"	3008	Private.	Anthony Mullins	29	11	...	...	" right arm	"	Severe
"	189	"	Arthur Waring	23	5	...	...	" of back	"	Severe
"	3717	"	Michael Griffia	34	14	...	...	" of nose	"	Slight
"	3774	"	Thomas Sheehan	36	17	...	...	" left arm	"	Severe
"	3292	"	Thomas Smith	28	9	...	...	" right knee	"	Slight
"	3106	"	John Cairns	29	10	...	...	" right side of mouth	"	Slight
"	2215	Corporal	Robert Howson	40	18	...	...	" right hand	"	Slight
"	268	Private	John Murrall	22	4	...	...	" right arm	"	Severe
"	3792	"	Richard Walsh	27	11	...	...	" of back	"	Slight
"	2284	Sergeant	Daniel Hughes	} not known.	...	...	...	" of left arm	"	Slight
"	2913	Drummer	John Crimmins		...	...	...	" side of head	"	Slight
"	3599	Private	Thomas Lockerby		...	...	...	" of back	"	Slight
"	3400	"	Edward Brown		...	...	...	" back of head	"	Since dead

NOMINAL RETURN OF KILLED AND WOUNDED AT RANGARIRI, 20TH NOVEMBER, 1863.

Corps.	Name of Ship.	Rank.	Names.	Age.	Service.	Date of Death.	Place of Death.	Nature of Injury.	Result.	Remarks.
				Yrs.	Yrs.					
R.N.	Eclipse	Captain	R. C. Mayne	...	...	...	...	Gunshot wound of hip	Wounded	Severe
"	Miranda	Lieutenant	E. Panter Downs	30	16	...	...	" of shoulder	"	Severe
"	Curaçoa	"	H. M. Alexander	29	15	...	...	" of shoulder	"	Very Severe
"	"	"	C. F. Hotham	20	8	...	...	" of leg	"	Severe
"	"	A. B.	Thomas Dooley	35	14	...	...	" of right shoulder	"	Severe
"	Miranda	L. B.	Thomas Gulling	30	9	...	...	Flesh wound of right leg	"	Severe
"	Curaçoa	O. B.	Solomon Hayes	21	4	...	...	" right thigh	"	Severe
"	Eclipse	A. B.	Henry Oldfield	23	8	...	...	Gunshot wound left arm and right leg	"	Very Severe
"	Curaçoa	A. B.	Walter Robinson	22	7	...	...	Flesh wound of right shoulder	"	Severe
"	Harrier	A. B.	Charles Stevenson	...	...	...	...	.....	"	Since dead

J. MOUAT,
Deputy Inspector General,
Principal Medical Officer.

