



# The New Zealand Gazette.

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Colonial Defence Office,  
Auckland, 8th April, 1864.

**H**IS Excellency the Governor directs the publication of the following Despatch with its enclosures from Lieut.-General Cameron, C.B., for general information.

T. RUSSELL.

*Lieut.-General to the Governor.*

Head-Quarters,  
Pukerimu, April 7, 1864.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward to your Excellency a report from Brigadier-General Carey, commanding at Te Awamutu, of an attack made by the troops under his command on the entrenched position of the rebels at the village of Orakau, which he took after a siege of two days, inflicting a very heavy loss upon them in their retreat. They had probably not less than 150 men killed, out of a garrison not exceeding 300.

This success is to be attributed to the skilful movements by which General Carey suddenly surrounded the position, and to the able manner in which he conducted all the operations.

Our loss has been severe; and it is with the deepest regret that I announce the death of that brave officer, Captain Ring, 2nd Batt. 18th Regt., who was mortally wounded whilst gallantly leading his men to the assault. Captain Ring had already distinguished himself by his gallant conduct on two former occasions, and his early death has deprived his regiment, and the service, of a most promising officer.

Brigadier-General Carey speaks highly of the conduct and gallantry of all the officers and men engaged, both of the regular and colonial forces, who appear to have vied with each other in the zealous discharge of their duty.

I beg to invite your Excellency's attention to the gallantry displayed by Captain Herford and Lieutenant Harrison, of the Waikato Militia; and I recommend them and the other

officers specially mentioned by General Carey to your Excellency's favourable consideration.

I have already had the pleasure of bringing to the favourable notice of the Secretary of State for War the conduct of all the officers and men of Her Majesty's troops engaged on this occasion, particularly of those who are reported to have distinguished themselves.

It is impossible not to admire the heroic courage and devotion of the natives in defending themselves so long against overwhelming numbers. Surrounded closely on all sides, cut off from their supply of water, and deprived of all hope of succour, they resolutely held their ground for more than two days, and did not abandon their position until the sap had reached the ditch of their last entrenchment.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your most obedient, humble servant,

D. A. CAMERON,  
Lieut.-General.

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

Camp Te Awamutu, April 3, 1864.

SIR,—I have the honour to state, for the information of the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces, that about mid-day on the 30th ultimo it was reported to me by Lieutenant-Colonel Haultain, commanding at Kihikihi Redoubt, that natives were seen in force at the village of Orakau, about 2½ to 3 miles distant from his post.

I immediately rode over and made a reconnaissance, found that the natives were engaged building a pa, and as it was then too late in the day to attack at once, I returned to this camp, and made arrangements to march on the enemy's position during the night.

Captain Baker, 18th Royal Irish, Deputy-Assistant-Adjutant-General, fortunately found two men in the camp (Messrs. Gage and W. Astle) whom, from their local knowledge, I at

once engaged as guides, which circumstance enabled me to determine on a combined movement.

My plan of attack was to advance with the main body along the dray road to Orakau; to detach a force of 250 men under Major Blythe, 40th Regiment, who would take a circuitous route through a somewhat difficult country, crossing and recrossing the Punia River, and marching on my right flank to take the enemy's position in reverse; and, thirdly, to draw a force of 100 men from Rangiawhia and Hasirini, under Captain Blewitt, 65th Regiment, who would march across to the enemy's position on my left, the three bodies of troops arriving, if possible, simultaneously before the enemy's stronghold shortly before daylight.

At midnight, Major Blythe, 40th Regt., marched with 250 men, as enumerated in the margin,\* with directions to take the road to the right, to cross and recross the Punia River, and to gain the rear of the enemy's position before daylight, halting there until he should hear my attack, and then to dispose of his force so as to cut off the retreat of the enemy.

The road from Rangiawhia to Orakau I found on inquiry to be very difficult, being intercepted by deep swamp and thick bush; however, having every confidence in Captain Blewitt's energy, I directed that officer—who commands at Rangiawhia—to march during the night and endeavour to form a junction with me before daylight on the proper right of the enemy's position, bringing with him one hundred men.†

At 3 o'clock on Thursday morning, the 31st ultimo, I marched with the main body as directed in the margin,‡ along the dray road to Kihikihi, taking on Lieutenant-Colonel Haultain and 150 men from that post, and then proceeded by the same road to the village of Orakau, which I reached without opposition as the day dawned.

The enemy, evidently taken by surprise, opened fire on the advanced guard, composed of 120 of the Royal Irish and 20 of the Forest Rangers, gallantly led by Captain Ring, 18th Royal Irish (and supported by 100 of the 40th Regiment), who immediately rushed forward to the attack in skirmishing order.

The position being found very strong—an earthwork with strong flank defences, deep ditches, with posts and rails outside, and nearly

covered from view with flax bushes, peach trees, and high fern. This party were forced to retire, but it at once reformed, and being reinforced by another company of the 40th Regiment, again tried to take the place by assault, but with no better success. Here Captain Ring, 18th Royal Irish, fell mortally wounded, and Captain Fischer, 40th Regiment, severely so, besides four men killed, and several wounded.

On Captain Ring's falling, Captain Baker, 18th Royal Irish, D.A.A. General, most gallantly galloped up, dismounted, and calling for volunteers, again endeavoured to carry the place by assault. This also failed.

Finding that there was no chance of taking the pa in this manner from the immense strength, and other men having fallen, I determined to desist from this mode of attack, and having heard that both Major Blythe, 40th Regt., and Capt. Blewitt, 65th Regt., were at their appointed posts, I decided on surrounding the place, and adopting the more slow but sure method of approaching the position by sap, which was shortly after commenced under the very able directions of Lieutenant Hurst, 12th Regt., attached to the Royal Engineers Department.

At this time Lieut. Carre, Royal Artillery, endeavoured to effect a breach in the enemy's works, but could make no impression on it.

A further supply of entrenching tools and gabions (which latter had most fortunately been prepared at the neighbouring posts for service of head-quarters on the Horatui), were immediately ordered up with the men's blankets, food, &c., and every possible precaution taken by the proper disposition of the force, to prevent the escape of the enemy.

During the afternoon, a reinforcement of some 150 or 200 of the enemy from the direction of Mangatautari appeared in sight, evidently determined on relieving the place. They advanced to a bush situated about 900 yards in rear of our outposts, but, seeing that it was scarcely possible to break through the line formed by our troops, they halted and commenced firing volleys, at the same time exciting the men in the pa to increased energy, by dancing the war dance, shouting, &c.

The wounded were sent on to Te Awamutu and Kihikihi. The sap was pushed forward vigorously, and the troops so posted as to prevent any possibility of escape by the natives during the night.

Heavy firing was kept up by the enemy on the troops, both in the sap and around the place during the day and night, causing but few casualties, the men contriving to cover themselves in temporary rifle pits, dug out with their bayonets and hands.

A reinforcement of 200 men, as detailed in the margin,\* under the command of Captain Inman, 18th Royal Irish, reached me from head-quarters during the afternoon.

Having reported my proceeding to the Commander of the Forces in the morning, I was glad to receive a reinforcement, as detailed in the margin† sent by him, and guided by

\* 12th Regt.—1 captain, 1 subaltern, 3 sergeants, 1 drummer, 92 rank and file. Forest Rangers—1 captain, 1 subaltern, 4 sergeants, 44 rank and file. Total:—2 captains, 2 subalterns, 7 sergeants, 1 drummer, 136 rank and file.

† 18th Royal Irish—1 captain, 2 subalterns, 3 sergeants, 2 drummers, 110 rank and file. 70th Regiment—1 captain, 2 subalterns, 4 sergeants, 1 drummer, 89 rank and file. Total—2 captains, 4 subalterns, 12 sergeants, 3 drummers, 199 rank and file.

\* 40th Regiment—1 field officer, 1 captain, 1 subal., 1 staff, 3 sergeants, 2 drummers, 100 rank and file. 65th Regiment—1 captain, 3 subalterns, 6 sergeants, 3 drummers, 125 rank and file. Forest Rangers—1 captain, 2 sergeants, 25 rank and file. Total—1 field officer, 3 captains, 4 subalterns, 1 staff, 11 sergeants, 5 drummers, 250 rank and file.

† 65th Regt.—2 captains, 1 lieut., 1 sergt., 1 drummer, 53 rank and file. 3rd Waikato Militia.—1 lieutenant, 1 sergeant, 1 drummer, 52 rank and file. Total.—2 captains, 2 lieutenants, 2 sergeants, 2 drummers, 106 rank and file.

‡ Royal Artillery—1 lieut., 2 sergeants, 1 drummer, 31 rank and file. 3 guns, Mounted Royal Artillery—1 lieutenant, 1 staff, 1 sergeant, 1 drummer, 23 rank and file. Royal Engineers—6 rank and file. 12th Regt.—1 lieut. 18th Regt.—1 captain, 3 lieuts., 1 staff, 5 sergeants, 3 drummers, 140 rank and file. 40th Regt.—1 field officer, 4 captains, 2 lieutenants, 1 staff, 14 sergeants, 5 drummers, 258 rank and file. 65th Regt.—1 lieutenant, 2 sergeants, 1 drummer, 33 rank and file. Militia—1 field officer, 3 lieuts., 8 sergeants, 3 drummers, 137 rank and file. Forest Rangers—1 lieutenant, 2 sergeants, 1 drummer, 22 rank and file. Total.—2 field officers, 5 captains, 13 lieutenants, 3 staff, 34 sergeants, 15 drummers, 660 rank and file.

Captain Greaves, Deputy-Assistant-Quarter-Master-General, which arrived about daylight on the morning of April 1, and which enabled me to relieve the men in the sap more constantly, and therefore to carry on the work more quickly. Captain Greaves also afforded me material assistance in the duties of his department. This day was spent in working at the sap, and making rifle pits around the pa, few casualties occurring.

Captain Betty, Royal Artillery, arrived during the day, and assumed command of the Royal Artillery, which enabled Lieut. Carre to render some assistance to Lieut. Hurst in constructing the sap, he having been at it without intermission.

During the night a few of the enemy were perceived trying to effect an escape from the pa, but being immediately fired upon, returned to their earthwork.

I omitted to mention that Captain Betty, Royal Artillery, threw some well-directed shells at the Maori reinforcement in the bush and on the hills, which evidently disconcerted them considerably.

At an early hour on the morning of the 2nd April, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Havelock, Bart., Deputy-Assistant Quarter-Master-General, arrived with the hand grenades, which were at once thrown into the enemy's position with great effect by Sergeant McKay, Royal Artillery, who thus rendered good and gallant service at great personal risk under a galling fire.

About noon, I ordered Captain Betty, Royal Artillery, to have a six-pounder Armstrong gun carried into the sap; an entrance having been made, it opened fire on the enemy's work, destroying the palisading, making a considerable breach, and silencing in a great measure the fire of the enemy on the men engaged at the head of the sap.

The Commander of the Forces, with his staff, &c., arrived on the ground at this time, and witnessed the remainder of the operations.

Colonel Mould, C.B., Royal Engineers, coming up with General Cameron, gave his able assistance towards the completion of the sap into the enemy's work.

As it was known that women and children were in the pa, the enemy was called upon to surrender, previous to the concentrated fire of the Armstrong gun and hand grenades on their work; they were told that their lives would be spared, and if they declined, they were requested at least to have compassion on their women and children, and send them out. They replied that they would not do so, but would fight to the last. The pa was then carried; the enemy effecting his escape from the opposite side of the work, dashed through a space from which the troops had been thrown back under cover, to enable the gun to open. They were however speedily followed up, and suffered a severe loss during a pursuit of nearly six miles. Lieutenant Rait, Royal Artillery, with his troopers, and Captain Pye, Colonial Defence Force, with a small detachment, having headed them and kept them back until the infantry came up.

I regret to say that in the pa and in the pursuit some three or four women were killed unavoidably, probably owing to the similarity of dress of both men and women, and their hair being cut equally short, rendering it impossible to distinguish one from the other at any distance.

The troops were recalled about sundown, and bivouacked round the enemy's late position.

At an early hour this morning I caused diligent search to be made for the killed and wounded of the enemy. Their loss was considerable, amounting to 101 killed, besides 18 to 20 reported by native prisoners as buried in the pa, 26 wounded and taken prisoners, 7 taken prisoners.

In addition to this number the natives were seen to be engaged carrying off dead and wounded early in the morning at the most distant point of pursuit, and fresh tracks showed that they had been similarly occupied during the night.

I beg to bring to the special notice of the Lieutenant-General commanding the forces the gallant bearing of Captain Baker, 18th Royal Irish, Deputy-Assistant Adjutant-General, during the whole of the operations, but more especially on the occasion, already mentioned, of the fall of that brave and lamented soldier Captain Ring.

Also the determined bravery of Captain Herford, Waikato Militia, who was very severely wounded (loss of eye), and the gallantry of Lieutenant Harrison, Waikato Militia, both of whom remained at the head of the sap nearly the whole time, keeping down the fire of the enemy by the well-directed balls of their own rifles. Likewise of Sergeant McKay, Royal Artillery, who, as before mentioned, under a galling fire, threw, with the greatest precision and coolness, hand grenades from the sap and from the lodgment made in the outer work of the enemy into his stronghold.

The wounded received the greatest possible attention on the field, from the senior medical officer, Dr. White, 65th Regiment; ably seconded by Assistant-Surgeons Spenser, 18th Royal Irish; Stiles, 40th Regiment; and Hilston, R.N.; until the arrival of Dr. Mouat, C.B., N.C., the P.M.O., who left nothing undone in providing for their comfort, &c.

I trust the conduct of the officers and men under my command during this long operation of three days and three nights, without cover, and constantly under fire, may meet with the approval of the Commander of the Forces.

The casualties on our side—16 killed and 52 wounded—of which I enclose a return, are, I regret to say, severe.

I beg to recommend to the favourable notice of the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces, the able services rendered by the following officers, who so cordially assisted me in carrying out my operations, viz.:

Colonel Leslie, C.B., commanding 40th Regiment.

Major Blyth, 40th Regiment, commanding detached force on right flank.

Captain Blewitt, 65th Regt., commanding detached force on left flank.

Captain Vereker, commanding detachment 12th Regt.

Captain Inman, commanding detachment 18th Royal Irish.

Captain Cay, commanding detachment 70th Regt.

Captain Betty, R.A., commanding Royal Artillery.

Lieutenant Rait, R.A., commanding mounted Royal Artillery troopers.

Lieutenant Hurst, 12th Regt., acting as engineer.

Lieutenant-Colonel Haultain, commanding Waikato Militia, and Captains Jackson and Von Tempsky of the Forest Rangers.

Dr. White, 65th Regt., senior medical officer in charge of Field Force.

I have further to claim the kind consideration

of the Commander of the Forces, for the officers of my Staff, viz.,—

Captain Baker, 18th Royal Irish, D.A.A.G., and Captain the Hon. F. le P. Trench, 40th Regiment, A.D.C., all afforded me the greatest help both day and night by their untiring zeal and energy in carrying out my orders.

I beg to enclose a sketch of the enemy's work, and our approaches to it, made by Lieutenant Hurst, 12th Regt, also a rough sketch of the country between this and the enemy's position, showing the combined movement of the Force on the night of the 30th ultimo.—I have, &c.,

GEORGE J. CAREY,  
Brig.-General.

The Assistant Military Secretary,  
Head Quarters.

NOMINAL RETURN OF KILLED AND WOUNDED  
OF THE TROOPS AT ORAKAU, FROM MARCH  
31ST TO APRIL 2ND, 1864.

Driver William Buckingham, Royal Artillery, wound in the neck, slightly.

Private Joseph Clarkson, 1st battalion 12th Regiment, left elbow, severely.

Private James Bevell, 1st battalion 12th Regiment, right shoulder, slightly.

Captain James T. Ring, 2nd battalion 18th, penetrating gun-shot wound of abdomen, mortally, since dead.

Sergeant William Lawson, 2nd battalion 18th Regiment, shot through the liver, dead.

Private John Carroll, 2nd battalion 18th Regiment, upper part of chest, dead.

Private Michael Bellaine, 2nd battalion 18th Regiment, shot through the head, dead.

Private Thomas Traynor, 2nd battalion 18th Regiment, shot through the back, dead.

Private Hugh Cassidy, 2nd battalion 18th Regiment, shot through the head, dead.

Corporal Johnson, 2nd battalion 18th Regiment, through the arm and chest, very severely.

Drummer James Lyon, 2nd battalion 18th Regiment, left side of chest, severely.

Lance-Corporal George Carroll, 2nd battalion 18th Regiment, right arm, severely.

Private John Close, 2nd battalion 18th Regiment, right arm, slightly.

Private George Thomas, 2nd battalion 18th Regiment, right thigh and face, severely.

Private Patrick Fay, 2nd battalion, 18th Regiment, face (ball lodged), dangerously.

Private John O'Donnell, 2nd battalion 18th Regiment, in the neck, dangerously.

Private John Carlyle, 2nd battalion 18th Regiment, left side of chest, severely.

Private James Stanton, 2nd battalion 18th Regiment, in the back (ball lodged), dangerously.

Private George Gallagher, 2nd battalion 18th Regiment, right side of the back (ball lodged), dangerously.

Private Thomas Hannon, 2nd battalion 18th Regiment, in the chest, severely.

Private Thomas Jenkins, 2nd battalion 18th Regiment, through the mouth, very severely.

Captain L. W. Fisher, 40th Regiment, in the back, severely.

Sergeant Hugh Duncan, 40th Regiment, through the head, dead.

Private William Love, 40th Regiment, through the chest, dead.

Sergeant William Gould, 40th Regiment, right shoulder, slightly.

Corporal William Wilson, 40th Regiment left thigh, severely.

Private Charles Gibby, 40th Regiment, through left fore arm, severely.

Private Alfred Whitty, 40th Regiment, left arm, slightly.

Private Thomas Brennan, 40th Regiment, right thigh, severely.

Private Samuel Johnson, 40th Regiment, left thigh, ball lodged, severely.

Private Martin O'Farrell, 40th Regiment, right shoulder, severely.

Private George Williams, 40th Regiment, right shoulder, severely.

Private George Palmer, 40th Regiment, left arm fractured, severely.

Private John Ollington, 40th Regiment, right thigh, severely.

Private George Hoare, 40th Regiment, right shoulder, slightly.

Private James Sturgeon, 40th Regiment, through the parietes of chest and abdomen, severely.

Private John Sidley, 40th Regiment, head, slightly.

Private James Shattock, 40th Regiment, lung, severely.

Private Richard Graham, 40th Regiment, left thigh fractured, severely.

Private James Cox, 40th Regiment, left shoulder, severely.

Private Herbert Blake, 40th Regiment, right hand, severely.

Private Patrick Connell, 40th Regiment, right hand severely.

Ensign Alfred Chayter, 65th Regiment, right side, severely.

Lance Corporal John Barnett, 65th Regiment, through the chest, dead.

Drummer Robert Gilligan, 65th Regiment, through the chest, dead.

Private James Ford, 65th Regiment, back (ball lodged), dangerously.

Private William Mechan, 65th Regiment, back, severely.

Private George Whitfield, 65th Regiment, back (two bullets), severely.

Private Edward Mally, 65th Regiment, groin, slightly.

Private William Dwyer, 65th Regiment, right arm, slightly.

Private Denis M'Grath, 65th Regiment, left shoulder, slightly.

Private Thomas Kennedy, 65th Regiment, forehead, slightly.

Private Thomas Maskell, 70th Regiment, left side of chest, dead.

Private George Courtney, 70th Regiment, left shoulder, slightly.

Private Peter Pettit, 70th Regiment, right leg, slightly.

Sergeant Richard Kendrick, Colonial Defence Corps, left knee, severely.

Private William Coady, Colonial Defence Corps, left temple, slightly.

Private James Tully, Colonial Defence Corps, right thigh, slightly.

Sergeant William Taylor, Forest Rangers, upper part of chest, dead.

Private Charles Coghlan, Forest Rangers, penetrating wound of abdomen, mortally, since dead.

Corporal Armstrong, Waikato Militia, chest, dead.

Private William Molloy, Waikato Militia, left side of neck, dangerously.

Private Joseph Worley, Waikato Militia, both thighs, severely.

Private John Lecky, Waikato Militia, head, dead.

Captain Herford, Militia, left side of forehead, and through left eye, dangerously.  
 Private John Lovett, Colonial Transport Corps, through the head, severely.  
 Private Daniel Callaghan, Colonial Transport Corps, right arm, severely.  
 Private Preston, Colonial Transport Corps, right hand, slightly.

Colonial Defence Office,  
 Auckland, 9th April, 1864.

THE names of the undermentioned Officers belonging to the Colonial Forces having been specially brought to the notice of the Governor for distinguished services in the field, during recent engagements with the enemy, His Excellency has been pleased to direct that they shall receive the following promotions, viz. :—

*In the Auckland Militia.*

Lieut.-Colonel Marmaduke George Nixon, of the Royal Cavalry Volunteers, and Commandant in the Colonial Defence Force, to be Colonel. Date of commission 21st February, 1864.

Lieutenant-Colonel Theodore Minet Haultain, 2nd Regiment Waikato Militia, to be

Colonel. Date of commission 2nd April, 1864.

Captain Charles Heaphy, Auckland Rifle Volunteers, to be Major unattached. Date of commission 11th February, 1864.

Captain Walter Vernon Herford, 3rd Regiment Waikato Militia, to be Major. Date of commission 2nd April, 1864.

Captain William Jackson, 2nd Regiment Waikato Militia, to be Major. Date of commission 3rd April, 1864.

Captain Gustavus Ferdinand Von Tempsky, 1st Regiment Waikato Militia, to be Major. Date of commission 4th April, 1864.

Ensign Harry Berkeley Rogers Harrison, Auckland Militia, to be Lieutenant. Date of commission 2nd April, 1864.

*In the Taranaki Militia.*

Captain Harry Albert Atkinson, R.V., to be Major. Date of commission 20th February, 1864.

T. RUSSELL.

A TRUE and PERFECT SCHEDULE of all Balances paid into the Treasury of the Colony of New Zealand, at Wellington, from the First day of March 1863, on account of Deceased Persons' Estates administered by Robert Rodger Strang, Esq., Registrar of the Supreme Court of New Zealand, as Official Administrator.

Names of Intestates.	Colonial Residence.	Supposed British Residence of Family.	Monies Received.			Payments Made.			Balance paid into Treasury.		
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
James Clarke.	Rangitikei.	Unknown.	33	0	0	27	14	8	5	5	4
James Foster.	Wellington.	Unknown.	27	5	0	21	11	2	5	13	10
			60	5	0	49	5	10	10	19	2

I, Robert Rodger Strang, Registrar of the Supreme Court of New Zealand, do solemnly and sincerely declare that the above is a true and faithful Return of all Balances paid by me into the Treasury of the Colony of New Zealand, at Wellington, from the First day of March, 1863, to the tenth day of March, 1864 (both days inclusive), on account of Deceased Persons' Estates officially administered by me.

ROBERT R. STRANG.

Made and declared at Wellington, this tenth }  
 day of March, 1864, before me, }

ALEXANDER J. JOHNSTON.

I certify that the sum of Ten Pounds Nineteen Shillings and Twopence has been paid into this Sub-Treasury this day.

S. CARKEEK, Sub-Treasurer.

Sub-Treasury, Wellington, 10th March, 1864.

