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Colonial Defence Office,
Auckland, 6th May, 1864.

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

T. RUSSELL.

Head Quarters,
Tauranga, May 5, 1864.

SIR,—It having been decided by your Excellency and myself, in consequence of information received from Colonel Greer, commanding at Tauranga, that reinforcements should be sent to that Station, detachments were embarked without delay in H.M. Ships 'Esk' and 'Falcon,' placed at my disposal by Commodore Sir Wm. Wiseman, and by the 26th April were all landed at the Mission Station of Tauranga, to which place I had transferred my Head Quarters on the 21st April.

On the 27th April I moved the 68th Regiment, under Colonel Greer, and a mixed detachment of 170 men under Major Ryan, 70th Regiment, towards the rebel entrenchment, of which I made a close reconnaissance.

It was constructed on a neck of land about 500 yards wide, the slopes of which fell off into a swamp on either side. On the highest point of this neck they had constructed an oblong redoubt, well palisaded and surrounded by a post and rail fence—a formidable obstacle to an assaulting column, and difficult to destroy with artillery. The intervals between the side faces of the redoubt and the swamps were defended by an entrenched line of rifle-pits.

I encamped the 68th Regiment, and Major Ryan's detachment about 1200 yards from the enemy's position on the 27th, and on

that and the following day the guns and mortars intended to breach the position were brought up to the camp, which was joined by a large force of seamen and marines, landed at my request from the ships of the squadron by Commodore Sir Wm. Wiseman. The composition and strength of the force, assembled in front of the enemy's position on the evening of the 28th, are shown in the margin.*

Having received information that, by moving along the beach of one of the branches of Tauranga harbour at low water, it was possible for a body of troops to pass outside the swamp on the enemy's right, and gain the rear of his position, I ordered Col

- *General Staff—4 field officers, 1 subaltern.
- Medical Staff—2 field officers, 1 subaltern.
- Naval Brigade—4 field officers, 6 captains, 7 subalterns, 36 sergeants, 5 drummers, 371 rank and file.
- Royal Artillery—1 field officer, 1 captain, 3 subalterns, 1 staff, 1 sergeant, 43 rank and file.
- Royal Engineers—2 rank and file.
- Moveable Column—1 field officer, 2 captains, 3 subalterns, 1 staff, 6 sergeants, 4 drummers, 164 rank and file.
- 43rd Regiment—1 field officer, 5 captains, 5 subalterns, 3 staff, 17 sergeants, 12 drummers, 250 rank and file.
- 68th Regiment—3 field officers, 6 captains, 15 subalterns, 3 staff, 34 sergeants, 21 drummers, 650 rank and file.
- Total—16 Field officers.
- 20 Captains.
- 35 Subalterns.
- 8 Staff.
- 94 Sergeants.
- 42 Drummers.
- 1480 Rank and file.
- Detail of Artillery employed—
- 1 110-pounder Armstrongs
- 2 40-pounder Armstrongs
- 2 6-pounder Armstrongs
- 2 24-pounder howitzers
- 2 8-inch mortars
- 6 cohorn mortars.

Greer to make the attempt with the 68th Regiment, after dark on the evening of the 28th, and in order to divert the attention of the enemy from that side, I ordered a feigned attack to be made in his front.

Colonel Greer's movement succeeded perfectly, and on the morning of the 29th he had taken up a position in rear of the enemy, which cut off his supply of water, and made his retreat in daylight impossible, but was necessarily too extended to prevent his escape by night.

I enclose Colonel Greer's report of his proceedings.

During the same night the guns and mortars were placed in position, and opened fire soon after daybreak on the morning of the 29th. I gave directions that their fire should be directed principally against the left angle of the centre work, which, from the nature of the ground, I considered the most favorable part to attack.

Their practice was excellent, particularly that of the howitzers, and reflects great credit on the officers in command of batteries.

About 12 o'clock, the swamp on the enemy's left having been reported by Capt. Greaves, Deputy Assistant Quarter-Master-General, practicable for the passage of a gun, a six-pounder Armstrong gun was taken across to the high ground on the opposite side, from which its fire completely enfiladed the left of the enemy's position, which he was thus compelled to abandon. The fire of the guns, howitzers, and mortars was continued with short intermissions until 4 p.m., when a large portion of the fence and palisading having been destroyed, and a practicable breach made in the parapet, I ordered the assault.

150 Seamen and Marines under Commander Hay, of H.M.S. 'Harrier,' and an equal number of the 43rd Regiment, under Lieut.-Colonel Booth, formed the assaulting column.

Major Ryan's detachment was extended as close to the work as possible, to keep down the fire from the rifle-pits, with orders to follow the assaulting column into the work.

The remainder of the Seamen and Marines, and of the 43rd Regiment, amounting together to 300 men, followed as a reserve.

The assaulting column, protected by the nature of the ground, gained the breach with little loss, and effected an entrance into the main body of the work, when a fierce conflict ensued, in which the natives fought with the greatest desperation. Lieutenant-Colonel Booth and Commander Hay, who led into the work, fell mortally wounded. Captain Hamilton was shot dead on the top of the parapet while in the act of encouraging his men to advance, and in a few minutes almost every officer of the column was either killed or wounded. Up to this moment the men, so nobly led by their officers, fought gallantly, and appeared to have carried the position, when they suddenly gave way and fell back from the work to the nearest cover.

This repulse I am at a loss to explain, otherwise than by attributing it to the con-

fusion created among the men by the intricate nature of the interior defences, and the sudden fall of so many of their officers.

On my arrival at the spot I considered it unadvisable to renew the assault, and directed a line of entrenchment to be thrown up within one hundred yards of the work, so as to be able to maintain our advanced position, intending to resume operations the following morning.

The natives, availing themselves of the extreme darkness of the night, abandoned the work, leaving some of their killed and wounded behind.

On taking possession of the work in the morning Lieutenant-Colonel Booth and some men were found still living, and, to the credit of the natives, had not been maltreated; nor had any of the bodies of the killed been mutilated. I enclose a list of our casualties.

I deeply deplore the loss of the many brave and valuable officers who fell in the noble discharge of their duty on this occasion.

The 43rd Regiment and the service have sustained a serious loss in the death of Lieutenant-Colonel Booth, which took place on the night after the attack. I have already mentioned the brilliant example shown by this officer in the assault; and when I met him on the following morning, as he was being carried out of the work, his first words were an expression of regret that he had found it impossible to carry out my orders.

The heroism and devotion of Captain Hamilton and Commander Hay reflect the highest honour on the Naval Service.

The loss of the enemy must have been very heavy, although not more than twenty bodies and six wounded were found in and about their position. It is admitted by the prisoners that they carried off a large number of killed and wounded during the night, and they also suffered in attempting to make their escape, as described in Colonel Greer's report.

In my reports to His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief and the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for War, I have brought to their favourable notice the names of the officers who particularly distinguished themselves on this occasion.

Commodore Sir Wm. Wiseman on this, as on every other occasion, co-operated with me in the most cordial manner, and I am much indebted to him as well as to the whole of the officers and men of the Royal Navy and Marines who took part in these operations, for their valuable assistance.

I have, &c.,
D. A. CAMERON, Lieut.-Genl.
His Excellency Sir G. Grey, K.C.B.,
&c., &c., &c.

Camp Puke Wharangi,
1st May, 1864,

SIR,—I have the honour to state for the information of the Lieutenant-General Commanding, that in compliance with his instructions I marched out of camp with the 68th Light Infantry (strength as per margin),

carrying one day's cooked rations, and a greatcoat each, on the 23th ultimo, at a quarter to 7 o'clock p.m., my object being to get in rear of the enemy's position by means of a flank march round their right. To accomplish this it was necessary to cross a mud flat, at the head of a bay, about three quarters of a mile long, only passable at low water, and then nearly knee deep, and within musketry range of the shore, in possession of the enemy—rough, high ground, covered with ti-tree and fern.

2. At the point at which I got off the mud flat, there is a swamp about 100 yards broad, covered with ti-tree about 5 feet high, on the opposite side of which the end of a spur—which runs down from the high ground in rear of the pa—rose abruptly. This was also covered with heavy fern and ti-tree.

3. It being of the first importance that this movement should be accomplished without attracting the attention of the enemy, my instructions were to gain the top of the spur alluded to during the darkness, and remain there until there should be sufficient light to move on.

4. The regiment was all across, lying down in line along the crest of the ridge, with picquets posted round them, at 10 o'clock, which was two hours before the moon rose. I beg here to state that to the well-timed feigned attack made by the Lieutenant-General commanding, on the front of the enemy's pa, I consider myself indebted for having been enabled to accomplish this, the most difficult part of the march, without being attacked at a great disadvantage, and exposing the movement to the enemy; for when we reached the top of the ridge, the picquets having no doubt retired to assist in the defence of the pa.

5. About half-past 1 o'clock a.m., I advanced, and at 3 o'clock I reached a position about 1000 yards directly in rear of the pa. I was guided in selecting this position by hearing the Maoris talking in their pa, and the sentries challenging in our Head Quarters Camp. It was dark and raining at the time.

6. I immediately sent Major Shuttleworth forward with three companies, to take a position on the left rear of the pa, and I placed picquets round the remainder of the rear, about 700 yards distance from it.

7. At daybreak I detached three companies to the right, under command of Major Kirby, and posted a chain of sentries, so that no one could come out of the pa without being seen. Up to this time the enemy did not appear to be aware that they were surrounded; they were singing and making speeches in their pa. Later in the morning, Lieut.-Colonel Gamble, C.B., Deputy-Quarter-Master-General, visited my post, having an escort with him of 30 men of the Naval Brigade under Lieutenant Hotham, R.N., and seeing that I wanted a reinforcement on my right, he left his escort with me, and I received valuable assistance from that excellent officer and his party. About the same

time Major Shuttleworth moved more to his left, and closer to the pa.

8. Those positions were not altered during the bombardment, except temporarily, when the Maoris showed a disposition to come out at one or other flank, or when it was necessary to move a little from a position getting more than its share of the splinters of shell which kept falling about all day during the bombardment.

9. When the bombardment ceased, and the signal of a rocket let me know that the assault was about being made, I moved up close round the rear of the pa in such a position that the Maoris could not come out without being met by a strong force.

10. About 5 o'clock, p.m., the Maoris made a determined rush from the right rear of their pa. I met them with three companies, and, after a skirmish, drove the main body back into the pa; about twenty got past my right, but they received a flank fire from Lieut. Cox's party (68th, 60 men,) and Lieut. Hotham's (30 men) Naval Brigade, and sixteen of the Maoris were remainder. A number of men pursued the remainder. By the time I had collected the men again and posted them, it was very dark. My force available on the right was quite inadequate to cover the ground in such a manner as to prevent the Maoris from escaping during the night; in fact I consider that on such a wet dark night as that was, nothing but a close chain of sentries strongly supported round the whole rear and flanks, could have kept the Maoris in, and to do that, a much stronger force than I had would have been necessary.

11. During the night the Maoris made their escape. I think that, taking advantage of the darkness, they crept away in small parties, for during the night every post either saw or heard some of them escaping, and fired volleys at them. The Maoris, careful not to expose themselves, never returned a shot during the night, but there were occasional shots fired from the pa, no doubt to deceive us as to their having left it.

12. I cannot speak too highly of the conduct of the 68th during the march on Thursday night; it was performed with the most complete stillness and regularity. I have also the greatest pleasure in being able to state that during the whole of their fatiguing duty they were always ready to obey cheerfully any order they received, and after dark it was most difficult to move about from the way in which the ground in rear was swept by the musketry in front.

13. I am much indebted to the officers and non-commissioned officers for the active intelligence and zeal with which they performed their duty. I beg to mention particularly Major Shuttleworth, 68th Light Infantry, who, with the guide and six men, went feeling the way to the front during the night march, and afterwards commanded on the left, repelling several attempts of the Maoris to get away in that direction.

Capt. Trent, 68th Light Infantry, who, with his company, formed the advanced

guard during the night march, and performed that duty with much intelligence, and was afterwards engaged on the left, where he enfiladed a rifle-pit, and in the front covering a working party.

Lieutenant Cox, 68th, who occupied with judgment and good effect an important position on my right, where he enfiladed a rifle pit and quite shut up what appeared the principal point of egress from the pa.

Lieutenant Hotham, Royal Navy who was with a party of the Naval Brigade at the same post with Lieutenant Cox.

To Lieutenant and Adjutant Covey, 68th Light Infantry, Field Adjutant, I am on this occasion, as on every other where duty is concerned, much indebted for the zeal and intelligence with which he has assisted me in seeing my orders carried out. During the whole time, he was constantly on the alert, and active wherever he was required. To all I owe my best thanks.

14. I wish to bring to particular notice the admirable manner in which the regiment was guided by Mr. Purvis, who volunteered to act as guide on the occasion. He went to the front with Major Shuttleworth and six men, and without hesitating or making a mistake, brought me straight to the position I wished to occupy.

15. The whole of 68th Regiment was back in camp by 4 P.M. yesterday.

The casualties were as follows:—

Killed—1 Sergeant 68th Light Infantry.
Wounded—16 Privates do.

I have, &c.,

H. H. GREER,
Col. and Lieut.-Col., 68th L. I.,
Comdg. Field Force,
Camp Puke Wharangi.

The Deputy Adjutant General,
Camp Te Papa.

NUMERICAL ABSTRACT of KILLED and WOUNDED at Gate Pah, near Tauranga, April 29, 1864.

Regiments.	Officers.		Non-commissioned Officers and Men.		Since Dead.	
	Killed.	Wounded	Killed.	Wounded	Officers.	N. C. O. and Men.
1st Battalion 12th Foot ...	...	...	1	2	...	...
2nd Battalion, 14th Foot ...	...	...	...	4	...	...
40th Foot ...	...	...	...	1	...	...
43rd Foot ...	5	4	9	23	2	4
65th Foot ...	...	...	...	1	...	...
68th Foot ...	...	...	2	18	...	...
Total ..	5	4	12	49	2	4

ROYAL NAVAL BRIGADE.

"Curacoa" ...	1	...	1	5	...	...
"Miranda" ...	...	1	1	8	...	...
"Esk" ...	1	1	3	10	...	...
"Harrier" ...	...	1	3	4	1	...
"Eclipse" ...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Total...	2	3	9	27	1	...
Total of both services ...	7	7	21	76	3	4

J. MOUAT,
Dep. In. Gen., P. M. O.

NOMINAL RETURN OF KILLED AND WOUNDED AT GATE PAH, NEAR TAURANGA, NEW ZEALAND, ON 29TH APRIL, 1864.

Corps.	Regtl. No.	Rank and Name.	Age.	Service.	Date of Death.	Place of Death.	Nature of Injury.	Remarks.	Result.
12th	3479	Private William Brissington ...	...	...	1864 April 29	Gate Pah	Gunshot wound through chest	...	Killed.
"	619	" Patrick Monaghan ...	23	3	...	...	" right thigh	Severe	
"	268	" Andrew Mitchell ...	22	5	...	...	" right arm	Slight	
14th	390	Sergeant William Armstrong...	28	10	...	...	" right thigh	Very slight	
"	686	Private Thomas Burdett ...	23	5	...	...	" right shoulder	Slight	
"	574	" John Ruth ...	27	5	...	...	" left foot	Severe; ball extracted	
"	1244	" William Power ...	22	4	...	...	" both shoulders	Severe	
40th Foot	3233	Private James Hungless ...	30	10	...	...	" left hip	Severe	
43rd Foot	...	Lieut.-Colonel H. J. Booth ...	...	...	April 30	Tauranga	" spine and right arm	Dangerous	Since dead.
"	...	Captain Robert Coke Glover ...	...	...	April 29	Gate Pah	" head, tomahawk, right axilla	...	Killed.
"	...	" C. R. Mure ...	...	...	"	"	" through heart	...	"
"	...	" R. T. F. Hamilton ...	...	...	"	"	" head	...	"
"	...	" Edwin Utterton ...	...	...	"	"	" neck	...	"
"	...	Lieutenant T. G. E. Glover ...	...	...	May 1	Tauranga	" abdomen, penetrating	Dangerous	Since dead.
"	...	" Chas. J. Langlands...	...	...	April 29	Gate Pah	" chest	...	Killed.
"	...	Ensign Spencer P. T. Nicholl...	...	...	...	...	" scalp	Slight	
"	...	" William Clark ...	...	...	...	...	" right arm	Severe	
"	2220	Sergeant-Major John Vance ...	37	18	April 29	Gate Pah	" chest	...	Killed.
"	780	Private Philip Fitzgerald ...	29	12	"	"	" head	...	"
"	494	" James Lane ...	29	4	"	"	" left side chest	...	"
"	633	" George Bradbrook ...	24	6	"	"	" abdomen	...	"
"	3306	" Jacob Holdbrook ...	37	17	"	"	" chest and breast	...	"
"	227	" Henry Goff ...	25	5	"	"	" left chest	...	"
"	355	" Silvester Hornby ...	24	6	"	"	" left breast	...	"
"	92	" Frederick Tran ...	24	6	"	"	" Tomahawk, right shoulder and head	...	"
"	3474	Bugler James Blackwall ...	24	10	"	"	" Gunshot wound left breast	...	"
"	3047	Sergeant Edwin Young ...	30	11	...	...	" left jaw	Severe	
"	279	" John Hurley ...	29	12	...	...	" right forearm and shoulder	Very severe	
"	2211	" Thomas Collier ...	38	18	...	...	" left arm	"	
"	451	" John Cain ...	24	4	...	...	" right forearm	Very slight	

Corps.	Regtl. No.	Rank and Name.	Age.	Service.	Date of Death.	Place of Death.	Nature of Injury.	Remarks.	Result.	
43rd	3130	Corporal William Everett ...	29	9	...	...	Gunshot wound left shoulder	Severe	Right arm amputated.
"	635	Private William Bridgeman ...	36	16	...	...	" both arms	"	
"	612	" John Bryan ...	24	6	...	...	" right shoulder	"	
"	448	" John Noble ...	23	4	...	...	" left shoulder	Very slight	
"	2167	" James Warburton ...	37	19	...	...	" right side of face	Severe	
"	457	" George Clarke ...	22	4	...	...	" left shoulder	"	
"	2313	" John Simmonds ...	35	18	...	...	" left arm	"	
"	620	" John McFarlane ...	20	3	...	...	" upper lip	Slight	
"	646	" John Livesay ...	25	6	...	...	" right jaw and chin	Very severe	
"	637	" Bernard Conroy ...	20	4	...	...	Cutlass wound right thigh	Slight	
"	3560	" Michael Casey ...	32	14	...	...	Gunshot wound right temple	Severe	
"	257	" William Sergeant ...	35	18	...	...	" right thigh	"	
"	680	" James Audley ...	32	12	April 30	Tauranga	Tomahawked, head	Dangerous		Since dead
"	647	" Thomas Madder ...	29	9	"	"	Gunshot wound left chest	Severe		"
"	3431	" Robert Phelan ...	35	17	"	Tepapa	" head	Dangerous		"
"	3585	" James Clarke ...	26	6	" right shoulder	Slight		"
"	239	" George Robbins ...	23	5	May 1	Tauranga	" right lung and brain penetrated	Very severe		Since dead
"	2913	" Martin Walsh ...	30	12	" right shin	"		Right leg amputated.
"	35	Drummer Thomas Wright	20	5	...	...	" left leg	Severe	
65th	2217	Private Greenwood Halliwell...	38	19	...	...	" left nates	Severe	
68th	3158	Sergeant James Harmer ...	27	10	April 29	Gate Pah	" chest		Killed	
"	3592	Private John Moffitt ...	28	9	...	...	" right knee joint	Very severe	
"	3771	" William Sloane ...	30	9	...	...	Shell—right foot	Severe	
"	7	" Edward O'Neil ...	26	5	...	...	Gunshot wound left thigh	Dangerous	
68th	131	" Daniel Sweeney ...	25	6	...	...	Shell—right knee	Severe	
"	4040	" William Watson ...	30	9	...	...	Shell—right hand	Slight	
"	3905	" John Logan ...	28	9	...	...	Gunshot wound right thigh and hand	Very severe	
"	4215	" Patrick McDonald ...	25	6	...	...	" chest and left arm	Dangerous	
"	73	" William Johnston ...	24	6	...	...	" mouth and neck	Severe	

Corps.	Regtl. No.	Rank and Names.	Age.	Service.	Date of Death.	Place of Death.	Nature of Injury.	Remarks.	Result.
68th	3708	William Ashton	35	9	...	...	left arm	Severe	} Arm am- putated.
"	329	Henry Black	27	8	...	...	right arm	Slight	
"	642	John Plat	24	6	...	...	chest	Very severe	
"	3206	James Byewater	30	10	...	...	head	Slight	
"	4047	Hugh Toner	27	8	...	...	chest	Severe	
"	3434	Patrick Farrell	28	11	...	...	right chest	Slight	
"	3188	John Baxter	27	10	...	...	left nates and scrotum	Dangerous	
"	69	Private John Gamble	28	9	...	...	Gunshot wound forehead	Slight	
"	111	James Watson	25	6	...	...	face	"	
"	3575	Sergeant William Atheron	27	9	...	...	leg	"	
"	3944	Private Thomas McGough	29	8	April 29	Gate Pah	neck and chest	...	Killed.

NAVAL BRIGADE.

Curacoa	R.N.	Lieutenant Hill	...	...	April 29	Gate Pah		Killed	
"	"	Ordinary Thomas Tenam	...	...	...	...	Gunshot wound hip	Very severe	
"	"	William Fox	...	...	...	...	left jaw	Severe	
"	"	John Watson	...	...	...	...	left knee	Very severe	
"	"	Amos Smith	...	...	...	...	groin	Dangerous	
"	"	James Harris	...	...	...	Gate Pah			Killed.
"	R.M.	Gunner Charles Ween	...	...	...	...	lower jaw	Severe	
Miranda	R.N.	Lieutenant Hammick	...	...	...	...	Gunshot wound right shoulder	Very severe	
"	"	Gunner M. Watts	...	...	April 20	Gate Pah		Very severe	Killed.
"	"	Boatswain's Mate, John Nokes	...	...	...	...	Gunshot wound left shoulder	Severe	
"	"	Capt. Main Top, James English	...	...	...	...	left thigh	"	
"	"	A.B. M. Bryan	...	...	...	...	left leg	"	
"	"	Samuel Ruthven	...	...	...	...	left lung and fracture of left arm	Very dan- gerous	
"	"	George Charmbold	...	...	...	...	left leg	Very severe	
"	"	Alexander McAllister	...	...	...	...	arm	Severe	
"	"	P.M. Levi Keane	...	...	...	...	left thigh	Dangerous	
"	R.M.	Gunner George Alton	...	...	...	...		...

Ship.	Service.	Rank and Name.	Age.	Service.	Date of Death.	Place of Death.	Nature of Injury.	Remarks.	Result.
Esk	R.N.	Captain Hamilton ...			April 29	Gate Pah	Gunshot wound through the head	...	Killed.
"	"	Lieutenant Duff ...			...	...	" back, two places	Very severe	
"	"	Quarter Master William Dalton ...			April 29	Gate Pah		...	Killed.
"	"	Stoker, W. Leigh ...			"	"		...	"
"	"	O.S. R. Fuller ...			"	"		...	"
"	"	" F. Donnelly ...			...	...	Sprained leg	...	
"	"	A.B. R. Jeffery ...			...	...	"	...
"	"	Leadg. W. Allison ...			...	...	Gunshot wound of chest and thigh	Dangerous	
"	"	Capt. Forecastle, James Knight ...			...	...	" right shoulder	Very severe	
"	"	A.B. Edward Martin ...			...	...	" right hip and loins	"	
"	"	" Thomas Roberts ...			...	...	" abdomen	Dangerous	
"	"	" Alfred Bowden ...			...	...	" right heel	Severe	
"	"	" James Lawrance ...			...	...	" scalp wound	"	
"	R.M.	Bombr. W. Foyer ...			...	...	" left arm	"	
"	"	Gunner, Robert Ward ...			...	...	" right thigh	Very severe	
Harrier	R.N.	Commander Hay ...			April 30	Tauranga		Dangerous	Since dead.
"	"	Stoker, Andrew Greenhorn ...			April 29	Gate Pah		...	Killed.
"	"	A.B. George Young (2d) ...			"	"		...	"
"	"	Boy, Henry Clark ...			"	"	Gunshot wound through the throat	...	"
"	"	A.B. Alfred Lockie ...			...	...	" right elbow	Very severe	
"	"	" James Pullett ...			...	...	" finger	Slight	
"	"	Ordy. Charles Barrett ...			...	...	" left thigh	"	
"	"	" William Burchill ...			...	...	" right hip	Very severe	
Eclipse.	R.M.	Sergeant Harding ...			April 29	Gate Pah		...	Killed.

HENRY SLADE,
Surgeon, H.M.S. "Miranda."

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

Colonial Defence Office,
Auckland, 6th May, 1864.

HIS Excellency the Governor directs the publication of the following Despatch from Major Drummond Hay, A.M.

T. RUSSELL.

Maketu, 1st May, 1864.

SIR,—I have the honour to report for your information as follows :

On the morning of the 27th ult., the enemy had fired heavily at Fort Colville, commencing at 4 A.M. Subsequently, H.M.S. 'Falcon' and the 'Sandfly' having arrived, they were shelled out of their position and retreated across Waihi, the men of war following them up the coast for about twelve miles. I decided on pursuing them as far as Te Awa o te Atua, the Arawa boundary. I sent one hundred men across at once with orders to follow them up, but not to proceed beyond Otamarakau. In the afternoon I crossed the river with two hundred men, leaving one hundred and fifty in the pa. We camped for the night at Waiheke, about eleven miles from Maketu. At 4½ A.M. on the 28th we marched for Otamarakau, which settlement we found the enemy had deserted. A hundred men joining us here from Maketu, made the force up to four hundred strong. We marched on to Te Awa o te Atua; when within two miles we saw the enemy coming along the sand-hills. They took up their position across a narrow valley between the sand-hills and the cliffs, with a creek in their front, the sand-hills on the right being lined with their skirmishers. They were at once engaged by two hundred under Winiata and other chiefs. The firing only lasted twenty minutes; the creek was then carried with a rush, and the enemy retreated up the valley. The whole force was so fatigued with the forced march over very heavy ground that they were unable to follow them fast enough. They might have held Harema, Otamarora, Te Rangatapu, and Teano Tarere Hika, on the bank of the river, as, though not palisaded regularly, or rifle-pitted, the nature of the ground would have made it very difficult to dislodge them. They retreated

across the river; while doing so many were shot. The enemy mustered fully four hundred men; thirty-seven bodies were found on the 28th, and fifteen more on the morning of the 29th. Rangitukehu, the chief of the friendly natives at Rangitaiki, and who arrived at our camp on the 29th, told me that they had found dead bodies along the beach and in the swamp on the other side of the river.

The following leading chiefs were killed—belonging to Te Whakatohea, Te Aporo-tanga, Te Rangumatoru, Tipeno, Hira te Popo and Te Para; to Ngatiawa, Te Rangipai; to Ngaitawarere, Tatuaharakeke. Their loss must have been fully one hundred killed and wounded. They acknowledge to a loss of some five or six by the heavy guns while at Maketu, and from thirty to forty casualties while at Waihi on the 21st and 22nd. Three old men and six old women, taken prisoners, were released by me and handed over to Rangitukehu and Roharuhi. I regret to say that Winiata, who behaved most gallantly, died from the effects of his wound. The remaining six casualties on our side are doing well. We have taken over forty stand of arms, a considerable quantity of very coarse powder and other ammunition, and other booty as well. The Arawas behaved very well. The Taupo natives were up at the front when the firing first commenced, and charged with Tohourangi; but as it was an almost simultaneous advance of the whole force, I think it unnecessary to notice any one section in particular. The men of the Defence Force and Forest Rangers attached to the Native Contingent were so fatigued with the march, having far more than the natives to carry, that they were only able to join in the pursuit. I believe that the result will have a salutary effect on the East Coast natives. I am about to make arrangements for the better protection of the district, concerning which I shall report as soon as possible.

I have, &c.

GEORGE DRUMMOND HAY,

Major A.M., Comdg. N.C.

The Hon. Mr. Russell,

Colonial Defence Minister.

