

Head-Quarters, Queen's Redoubt,

My LORD, July 31, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to forward copy of a report (17th July 1863,) from Captain Ring, 2d Battalion, 18th Regiment, of an attack upon a convoy under his charge by an ambuscade of natives, on the 17th instant, on the road between the Queen's Redoubt and Drury.

I have since ascertained that the ambuscade consisted of not less than 140 natives, and considering the very superior numbers by which Captain Ring's small detachment was attacked, I feel sure that your Lordship will concur with me that no troops could have acquitted themselves better under such trying circumstances.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) D. A. CAMERON,
Lieutenant-General.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for War,
War-Office, London.

Camp, Drury,
July 17, 1863.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your information, that on my march from the Queen's Redoubt to Drury this day, my escort, &c., as per margin,* were fired upon by the natives at Stone Depôt, near Baird's Farm. The fire was opened on my advance-guard, on both flanks; and my right flank and rear was immediately fired upon. The fire took effect upon the centre of the convoy. One driver, and two horses of his cart, fell, which, dividing the convoy, &c., was taken advantage of by the natives, who, rushing in force across the road, opened fire in the left flank, thus exposing my rear-guard, consisting of prisoner and escort, to a severe fire from the bush on each flank and right rear. I immediately retired with as many men as I could concentrate, and, firing, kept the enemy from surrounding my very small party, though in skirmishing order. During the contest the fire of the enemy was well returned, and I personally saw five or six natives fall. They came out in the open, but a charge quickly drove them into the bush. Finally, their attempting to surround my party obliged me to retire to Mr Martin's house, which I occupied until reinforced. I beg to annex the following list of killed and wounded :—

Killed.

Private A. Jamieson.
Private F. McGrath.
Private T. Scott.

Wounded.

Serjeant Lawson.
Corporal Glinn.
Corporal Kee.
Lance-Corporal Kavanagh.
Private Keene.
Private Gibbons.
Private H. Hurst.
Private H. Ryan.
Private A. M. Cague.
Private T. Connors.

Missing.

F. Byrnes, supposed to have returned to Queen's Redoubt. This man was a prisoner and unarmed at the time.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JAMES RING, Captain,
2d Battalion, 18th Regiment.

P.S.—I beg to state that the conduct of my Subaltern Ensign Bicknell and the men was admirable, and particularly that of Ensign Bicknell.

(Signed) J. RING, Captain, R.I.

Head-Quarters, Queen's Redoubt,

MY LORD, July 31, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of reports (July 23d 1863,) from Captain Ring, 2d Battalion, 18th, and Colonel Wyatt, 65th Regiment, of a skirmish which took place between detachments under their command, and a body of rebels, in the bush near Drury.

Both Colonel Wyatt and Captain Ring appear to have acted with great judgment on this occasion, and the officers and men under their command deserve great credit for their conduct; those under Captain Ring for the firmness with which they held their ground a long time against superior numbers; and those of Colonel Wyatt's detachment (including a small detachment of volunteers, who were for the first time under fire), for their prompt support of the former, and the gallantry with which they attacked and beat off the enemy.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) D. A. CAMERON,
Lieutenant-General.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for War,
War-Office, London.

Camp, near Keri Keri, Wairoa Road,
July 23, 1863.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to state, for your information, that at noon the 22d instant, I received information that two settlers had been fired upon by a body of natives, and that one of the settlers was killed; and hearing firing in the vicinity of Pukekewereke, about two miles from my camp, I immediately proceeded with 100 men of the detachment under my command, and close to the above named place I fell in with natives, who were engaged with 16 volunteers; I opened fire, and the natives retreated to my former entrenchment above the wharé, at Keri Keri, the firing of the skirmishers drove them down the side of the hill into the brushwood, the leading skirmishers on the right, under Lieutenant Wray, took possession of the hill and kept up fire on them, I, with another body of skirmishers, proceeded to take that on the right flank, but found that the natives who mustered a strong force nearly surrounded me, here I lost one man killed, whose rifle and bayonet was taken possession of by the natives, though not without serious loss to them. I then concentrated my men on the entrenchment, and having heard from an Artillery Officer who rode up to my position that the 65th Regiment was in my immediate vicinity, I requested that he would inform the Officer Commanding 65th Regiment that there was a track in the enemy's rear, and if an attack were made in that direction it would be of great service. As

* 1 Subaltern, 2 Serjeants, 47 Rank and File.