

Acting Lieutenant Musgrave, of "Esk," was struck down in the ditch of the work, and for a short time stunned by a severe blow on the head; he behaved extremely well.

Lieutenant Klintberg, of the Swedish Navy, who has been with the "Curaçoa's" men since they first landed, behaved with much gallantry.

Lieutenant Gardner, of the Royal Marine Artillery, led his men gallantly.

Lieutenant Hammick, of "Miranda," was wounded severely, close to me, while assisting to rally the men retreating from the work.

Lieutenant Hunt, of "Harrier," and indeed every officer and man, behaved to my entire satisfaction.

16. Amongst the seamen I would bring to their Lordships' special notice Samuel Mitchell, Captain of the fore-top of "Harrier," doing duty as Captain's Coxswain; he entered the pah with Commander Hay, and when that officer was wounded brought him out, although ordered by Commander Hay to leave him and seek his own safety. I would venture to suggest that this is a fair case for a Victoria Cross.

Richard Smith, Boatswain's Mate of "Harrier," was one of the first men in the work, and he is spoken most highly of by Lieutenant Hunt of that ship.

John Noakes, Boatswain's Mate of the "Miranda," assisted Mitchell in getting Commander Hay out of the work, and was badly wounded while endeavouring to rally the men and prevent their retreating.

John Wean, A.B., of Her Majesty's Ship "Esk," is highly spoken of for his good conduct in the assault.

James Harris, Ordinary Seaman, of "Curaçoa," chased a Maori through the work, down the opposite side of the hill toward the 68th position, and bayoneted him there, amidst the cheers of the Regiment; unfortunately, in attempting to rejoin his comrades in the pah, he was shot dead close to it.

William Fox, Ordinary Seaman, of "Curaçoa," who distinguished himself so much at Rangiriri, was severely wounded in the assault.

Gunner William Baker, Royal Marine Artillery, belonging to the "Curaçoa," carried a wounded man out of the pah under heavy fire.

17. Twenty-six dead bodies of Maoris have been found and buried; many more are supposed to be in the swamp they escaped through. From Lieutenant Hotham's report it will be seen that they were carrying numbers away with them when they retreated; it is likely there are more buried in the work. Six wounded were found in the pah and brought in here; three of them have since died.

18. I enclose, for their Lordships' information, a return of the Casualties of the Naval Brigade.

I have, &c.,

W. WISEMAN, Commodore.

The Secretary of the Admiralty,  
Whitehall, London, S.W.

Camp, Te Papa, Tauranga, New Zealand,  
SIR,  
April 30, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to report that I left Camp, in front of the enemy's position at Pukehinahina, yesterday morning, in command of the party detailed in the margin,\* to escort Colonel Gamble, D.Q.G., across the mud flats to the rear of the enemy's position, for the purpose of communicating with Colonel Greer, of Her Majesty's 68th

Light Infantry, and having done so, I was placed under Colonel Greer's orders.

Shortly afterwards, it being considered necessary to occupy a position for the purpose of preventing the escape of the enemy by the swamps and fords on the right of their position, I was ordered by Colonel Greer to reinforce a company of Her Majesty's 68th Light Infantry, under Lieutenant Cox, who was going out for that purpose, and proceeded under the direction of Mr Baker, Interpreter, and a native guide, to a place on the beach overlooking the fords.

Placing lines of sentries to command the outlets, and finding we had not force enough thoroughly to guard the line of escape, Lieutenant Cox thought it necessary to push forward along the fern ridge and across the swamp, taking possession of a hill commanding the line of rifle pits leading down from the right flank of the enemy's work to the swamp, distant about 250 yards, arriving there about 11 A.M.

Observing that there were none of the enemy in the trench, we took possession of it at about 12 o'clock, but found it untenable from the heavy fire of our artillery. We accordingly retired and occupied our former position, commanding the outlets and the rifle pits. On the advance of the assaulting column a number of the enemy attempted an escape by the rifle pits and swamp.

Leaving a party to guard the hill under Ensign Ilderton, of Her Majesty's 68th Light Infantry, we crossed the swamp, took possession of the trench, and succeeded in cutting off the retreat of about 60 natives, killing about 12, and driving the remainder back into their work.

Finding that, from the advance of the attacking column, we were beginning to be exposed to a heavy cross fire, and not being of sufficient strength to attack the work without a breach in the flank, we withdrew the party again under cover of the hill, where we found Ensign Ilderton had been fortunate enough to intercept the retreat of a small party of natives who had succeeded in gaining the swamp at the back of the hill.

Soon after dark we were reinforced by Lieutenant Covey, with 30 men of Her Majesty's 68th Light Infantry.

About 7 P.M. a large party of the enemy attempted to come over the hill immediately in our front, but being met by a heavy volley, retired apparently with loss, and, dividing into two parties, attempted the swamp, where they were again met by heavy volleys from the right and left; but owing to the nature of the ground and excessive darkness of the night it was impossible to prevent the escape of the greater number of them.

We continued in the position until daylight, constantly firing, as far as we could judge, in the direction of small parties retreating through the swamp, and apparently carrying off their dead and wounded.

As soon as day broke we advanced to the pah, and found it in the hands of the Naval Brigade and 43d Light Infantry, when we were directed by Colonel Greer, commanding the column, to return to our own lines.

I cannot conclude without bringing to your notice the steady and cheerful manner in which the men under my command performed their duty.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) CHAS. F. HOTHAM, Lieutenant,  
Her Majesty's Ship Curaçoa.

Commodore Sir Wm. Wiseman, Bart., C.B.,  
Commanding-in-Chief,  
&c., &c.

\* 4 petty officers, 30 seamen of No. 2 Company Naval Brigade.