

With this view the head quarters 40th Regiment, 300 strong, under Colonel Leslie, C.B., were embarked on the 20th instant, on board the Colonial Steamers, "Pioneer" and "Avon," which, with four gunboats, proceeded up the Waikato, under command of Commodore Sir W. Wiseman, whilst with the force named in the margin\* I moved towards Rangiriri, by the right bank of the river.

Both arrived near Rangiriri at the same time, 3 P.M.

I halted the troops under the brow of a hill 600 yards from the enemy's position, and formed them for the attack in the following order.

200 men of the 65th Regiment, under Colonel Wyatt, C.B., on the right, one half in extended order, and the rest in support.

Between them, a detachment of the 72 men of the 65th Regiment, under Lieutenant Toker, with scaling ladders and planks; Captain Brooke, with ten men of the Royal Engineers was attached to this part.

The detachment of the 1st Battalion, 12th Regiment, under Captain Cole, and 2nd Battalion 14th Regiment, under Lieutenant Austen, prolonged the line of skirmishers and supports to the left of the 65th Regiment.

Captain Mercer's two Armstrong Guns and the naval six-pounder Armstrong, under Lieutenant Alexander, of Her Majesty's Ship, "Curacoa," in the centre of the line of skirmishers. The detachment of the 40th Regiment, under Captain Cooke, and the remainder of the 65th Regiment in reserve.

The enemy's works consisted of a line of high parapet and double ditch, extending, as I have before stated, between the Waikato and Lake Waikare, the centre of this line being strengthened by a square redoubt of very formidable construction, its ditch being 12 feet wide, and the height from the bottom of the ditch to the top of the parapet 18 feet. The strength of this work was not known before the attack as its profile could not be seen either from the river or from the ground in front.

Behind the left centre of this main line and at right angles to it, there was a strong entrenched line of rifle pits facing the river and obstructing the advance of troops from that direction.

About 500 yards behind this front position was a high ridge, the summit of which was fortified with rifle pits.

As the left of the line of entrenchment could be enfiladed and taken in reverse by the fire from the steamers and gunboats, I selected that part of the enemy's works for the attack.

The skirmishers of the 65th Regiment were to cover the advance of the ladder party, and when the latter had succeeded in escalading the entrenchment, were to follow with the support. The whole

\* General Staff—4 Field Officers, 1 Subaltern, 3 Serjeants; Royal Artillery—1 Captain, 1 Subaltern, 1 Assistant-Surgeon, 2 Serjeants, 1 Drummer, 45 Rank and File; Royal Engineers—1 Field Officer, 1 Captain, 12 Rank and File; 1st Battalion 12th Regiment—1 Captain, 3 Subalterns; 5 Serjeants, 2 Drummers, 100 Rank and File; 2nd Battalion 14th Regiment—1 Field Officer, 2 Captains, 4 Subalterns, 2 Staff, 8 Serjeants, 3 Drummers, 164 Rank and File; 40th Regiment—1 Captain, 3 Subalterns, 4 Serjeants, 2 Drummers, 75 Rank and File; 65th Regiment—1 Field Officer, 1 Captain, 6 Subalterns, 1 Assistant-Surgeon, 2 Staff, 15 Serjeants, 6 Drummers, 375 Rank and File. Total—7 Field Officers, 7 Captains, 18 Subalterns, 2 Assistant-Surgeons, 4 Staff, 37 Serjeants, 14 Drummers, 771 Rank and File.

then bringing their right shoulders forward were to attack the line of rifle pits facing the river, and having driven the enemy out of it, were to storm the centre redoubt.

The 12th Regiment were to join in the attack on the centre redoubt, and the 2nd Battalion 14th Regiment, to keep the enemy in their front in check until the 65th and 1st Battalion 12th Regiment were in the redoubt.

The troops were hardly in position when the enemy opened a heavy fire of musketry on every part of his line, but without effect, the troops being under cover of the brow of the hill.

I had arranged with Commodore Sir William Wiseman that the guns attached to the force under my command and those of the gunboats should, on a pre-concerted signal, open fire at the same moment when the "Pioneer" and "Avon" should also land the 40th Regiment. But the strength of the wind and current rendered the steamers and gunboats almost unmanageable, and at half-past 3 o'clock, when I gave the signal, only one of the gunboats was ready to open fire, and the steamers were still far from the landing place.

After shelling the enemy's works for an hour and a half—the day being now far advanced, and there being little prospect of the remainder of the gunboats getting into position, or of the steamers reaching the landing place—I gave the orders for the assault.

The whole line of skirmishers and supports rushed eagerly down the slope of the hill, and advanced towards the entrenchment at as rapid a pace as the rugged and uneven nature of the intervening ground would admit, exposed the whole time to a destructive fire from the enemy. The skirmishers of the 65th Regiment having approached to within 50 yards of the entrenchment and the scaling ladders having been quickly planted under cover of their fire, the skirmishers and the ladder party followed by the support, mounted the parapet, and forced their way over the enemy's first line, then wheeling to the left and charging up the hill, they carried the second line of rifle pits and continued to drive the enemy before them until their progress was checked by a deadly fire opened upon them from the centre redoubt, which the enemy appeared determined to defend to the last.

The remainder of the troops on the left, finding it impossible to penetrate the enemy's position on that side, joined the attack on the right, and with the 65th Regiment occupied positions round the central redoubt, almost completely enveloping the enemy.

Soon after the 65th had passed the main line of entrenchment, I had the satisfaction of seeing the 40th Regiment landing from the "Pioneer" and "Avon," not far from the spot I had selected. Colonel Leslie, without waiting for the companies to form, directed Captain Clarke to take the first 50 men who were landed, and attack the ridge in rear of the enemy's position, whilst he moved with 100 men round its base, for the purpose of intercepting the enemy. The ridge was carried at once, and a great number of the enemy were killed or drowned in endeavouring to escape across the swamp of Lake Waikare. A portion of the 65th Regiment, after passing the main line of entrenchment, joined the 40th in this attack.

Leaving a detachment to occupy the ridge, Colonel Leslie, with the remainder of his regiment, joined the force engaged at the central redoubt.