

been discovered by the detached parties of Volunteers and Militia, the whole of the troops returned the same evening to their quarters.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) H. J. WARRE, C.B., Colonel,  
Commanding Troops, Taranaki.

P.S.—As I fear I shall for some time be deprived of the services of Lieutenant Larcom, Royal Artillery, whose wound is progressing favourably, the ball having been extracted, I trust the Lieutenant-General will be able to send me another Artillery Officer and a few more gunners, the 22 now here being mostly superannuated, and so detached at different outposts it is with difficulty I can man one gun.

(Signed) H. J. W., Colonel

*The Deputy Quartermaster-General,  
&c. &c. &c.  
Head Quarters.*

*New Plymouth, New Zealand,  
March 12, 1864.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report that in compliance with your instructions I proceeded to Oakura at about half-past eleven A.M. yesterday, and taking a force from that redoubt (strength as per margin\*) marched up the Wairau road towards Kaitake, for the purpose of ascertaining as far as possible the number of natives occupying the pahs, and the strength and nature of the position; having previously left 80 men of the Melbourne Volunteers under Lieutenant Jackson with Ensign Duncan, 57th Regiment, at the extremity of the road to guard the approach from the south.

I advanced to within about 800 yards of the upper palisading, upon which I opened fire from the 24lb. howitzer; extending Captain Lloyd's Company of the 57th Regiment on both flanks, and in front of the gun, with instructions to keep down, as much as possible, the fire of the enemy, which was now considerable both from the rifle pits on the spur to my left front and the gully connecting the pits with the lower palisading.

The fire from the former became so hot that I desired Lieutenant Larcom, R.A., to throw a shell into them, which he did with great precision, and silenced the fire from this part for some time.

As it appeared to me at this time that there were altogether not many rebels in the place, I advanced the gun about 150 yards, still keeping out skirmishers in front and on the flanks, where they did good service in keeping down the fire of the enemy.

I now had the gun between 300 and 400 yards from the lower palisading, but out of sight of it, a low ridge intervening, to the top of which I sent a party of skirmishers, whose fire from here besides keeping down that of the enemy from the lower palisading, enfiladed the rifle pits and gully on my left.

Shortly after I had placed my men in this position the natives appeared to be in much greater force than I had anticipated, and opened a very heavy cross fire from three different directions.

I should think that at this time there could not have been less than 200 natives in the place.

Finding myself thus opposed to an enemy in a strongly entrenched position, with a force in

\* Royal Artillery—Lieutenant Larcom, one serjeant, five rank and file; 57th Regiment—Captain Lloyd, Lieutenant Cox, Ensign Picot, 4 serjeants, 84 rank and file; Mounted Corps—Captain Mace, 6 rank and file.

number treble that of my own, I thought it prudent to retire.

It is impossible to estimate the loss on the enemy's side, as they remained the whole time under cover, but I feel confident that they must suffered considerably.

I regret to state that I lost one man (57th Regiment) killed, and Lieutenant Larcom, Royal Artillery, and five men (57th) wounded.

I cannot conclude my report without bringing to your notice the extremely gallant and steady conduct of the whole of the small force under my command.

I would more especially wish to mention Captain Lloyd, and Lieutenant Cox, 57th Regiments, and Lieutenant Larcom, Royal Artillery. The latter officer even after he was wounded refused to be taken to the rear, but remained by his gun until the whole force retired.

Staff Assistant-Surgeon Jones, was on the ground the whole time, and attended the wounded as they fell.

The mounted volunteers, who accompanied me, behaved throughout with their usual conspicuous courage and coolness. Of these I would beg to name Captain F. Mace, Taranaki Militia, and Antonio Rodriguez, the latter of whom again distinguished himself by conveying wounded men to the rear under a heavy fire.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) H. BUTLER, Major,  
Commanding 57th Regiment.

*Colonel H. J. Warre, C.B.,  
Commanding Troops, Taranaki.*

#### GARRISON ORDERS.

*New Plymouth, 12th March, 1864.*

(Extract.)

COLONEL WARRE desires to record his high appreciation of the gallant conduct of the whole of the small force shown in the margin,\* under the command of Major Butler, 57th Regiment, in reconnoitring the rebel position at Kaitake yesterday.

The object intended was fully accomplished, the strength of the rebel position, and the number occupying it ascertained—although unhappily with the loss of one brave man killed, and Lieutenant Larcom, R.A., and five men, 57th Regiment, wounded.

To Major Butler, Captain Lloyd, and the Officers of the 57th, Lieutenant Larcom, R.A., Lieutenant Ferguson, R.E., and to Captain Mace, Mounted Corps, the Colonel's best thanks are due, as also to Staff Assistant-Surgeon Morgan Jones, for the gallant and able manner in which, on the field, he attended the wounded; but it is not only to the Officers, it is to the Non-Commissioned Officers and men of the Royal Artillery, and 57th Regiment, who so fully deserve to have their gallant deeds recorded, and to the men of the Mounted Corps, and more especially to Antonio Rodriguez (who on this, as well as on the 2nd October last, bore off wounded men on his horse) that the Colonel would wish to convey his best and heartfelt thanks for their gallantry, under as heavy a fire from 2 or 300 Maoris as is usually met with in this description of warfare.

\* Royal Artillery—1 subaltern, 1 serjeant, 5 rifle and file; Royal Engineers—1 subaltern—57th Regiment—1 captain, 2 subalterns, 4 serjeants, 88 rank and file; Mounted Corps—1 captain, 5 rank and file; Militia—(under Ensign Duncan, 57th Regiment, Covering Party on the right flank), 1 subaltern, 1 serjeant, 30 rank and file. Total, 2 captains, 5 subalterns, 6 serjeants, 128 rank and file.