

Pah, situated on the Kaitakara River, four miles above the rebel position, so successfully attacked by the Lieutenant-General on the 4th June, 1863, starting at three o'clock, A.M., I hoped to gain the bush in which the pah is situated by day-break, and to take it in reverse by a bush track which I had explored last year; but on arrival in sight of the pah at the extreme boundary of the Tataraimaka Block, the position appeared deserted; so I detached Captain Atkinson, Rifle Volunteers, supported by 50 of the 57th Regiment, under Captain Lloyd, to feel their way by the track, while the guns remained within easy range (about 1,200 yards) outside the bush. The pah was unoccupied, or occupied only by a few women and children, who ran away as soon as the troops appeared.

The stockade was pulled down and burnt, as also were several whares, not only near the pah, but at some distance from it. Some cattle were taken and driven in, and many acres of cultivation destroyed.

As we observed, on our advance, that the chapel on the Tataraimaka Block had been pulled down and packed ready for carrying away, many of the side-boards being found lying on the road leading to Tutu Pah, I thought it would distract the attention of the natives from my further operations if I sent to bring away the remaining portions of the chapel, which, making eight carts' load, were successfully brought to Oakura by Captain Russell, 57th Regiment, with 100 of the 57th and Militia, on Wednesday, 23rd instant.

On Thursday, the 24th instant, I again organized a force, as shown in the margin,\* to attack the rebel position at Au-Au, and explore the road on the north side of the Timaru River, to ascertain where the native track crossed by which the natives on the Ranges obtain their supplies and keep up communications with the south, which track we failed to find on Tuesday.

The guns at Kaitake, and the constant movement of troops, had apparently lulled the natives at Au-Au into security, as they allowed the troops to approach within about half a mile of the foot of the Ranges (where the track coming from the south crosses the river) before any apparent notice was taken of our advance; when, by the hurried discharge of muskets at different points, it became evident that only a few natives occupied this very formidable position, which crowns the top of a spur about twice the height of that upon which Kaitake is situated. Dividing the 57th into two parties, I sent one, under Captain Russell, up a very steep incline (covered with rifle pits) to the left, and the other, under Captain Schomberg, to the right, by the road which leads round the spur on which the stockade is situated, supported by the Militia, under Captains Carthew and McKellar, T.M.; the guns, under a covering party, being left on a small knoll, from which they could have shelled the pah and kept down the fire of the rifle pits, had it been necessary.

The twenty or thirty Maories by whom this place was very gallantly held gave way on the advance of the men of the 57th, who, without any cover, pushed up the very steep hill; the Maories retiring in front of them until the two parties of the 57th joined.

The Maories for a short time made a determined stand, firing very sharply from a small

bush-covered hillock on the right from the pah; but although only a few feet distant from their opponents, only two men were wounded, and Captain Mace's horse shot, while the troops were tearing down the stockade and forcing a passage into the interior, from whence the Maories made a rapid retreat up the steep hill, densely covered with bush on the rear, through which the men could not follow them. The pah was ours, with great quantities of vegetable produce of every description, all of which, including several acres of growing crops of Indian corn, tobacco, tara, &c., were destroyed, after filling two empty carts which I had brought with the column for the purpose.

Having burnt and destroyed everything we could, we returned by the same route to Oakura.

Thinking it very probable that many of the rebels from Kaitake would go to Au-Au to ascertain their loss; and as Mr. Parris had informed me that Tamatione, the Kaitake Chief, had gone south to seek reinforcements from the Ngatiruanuis, who were hourly expected, I decided to attack the former position the next day. Having arranged that Captain Atkinson, with 150 Taranaki Rifle Volunteers, should proceed by the bush track which leads to the rear of Kaitake, and that Captain Corbett, T.M., with 60 of his men, should advance up an intermediate spur of the ranges from the left, I so divided the remainder of my force, that Captain Schomberg, 57th Regiment, and Captain Page, T.M., with 50 men each, should threaten the right, Captain Russell, 57th, with 80 men, should threaten the centre, while Captain Lloyd, 57th, with 50 men, and Captains Wright, 70th, and McKellar, T.M., with 25 men each, in support of Captain Lloyd, should proceed up the several small spurs on our left to take in reverse the rifle pits, which are constructed half way up the steep incline towards the two pahas, which crown the crest of the hill.

To enable the bush parties to accomplish their long and fatiguing marches, and to arrive simultaneously at a given time. I had arranged that the guns should continue firing until ten o'clock. The three Armstrongs, under Captain Martin, R.A., were placed on the right bank of the Oakura River to breach the upper pahas, and the 24 lbs. howitzer and rocket tube, which, owing to Mr. Larcom's recent wound, and a severe accident which disabled Serjeant-Major Arthur, I entrusted to a junior Non-commissioned officer, were placed within about 800 yards of the front of the lower stockade, which they were to endeavour to knock down.

The beautiful practice of the Armstrong guns, under Captain Martin, set fire to a whare within the stockade of the lower of the two upper pahas, at the very hour I had named (ten o'clock A.M.) for the simultaneous advance of all the parties; and of this fortunate accident immediate advantage was taken by Captain Corbett's party, who rushed at once upon the pah, and under cover of the smoke, climbed over the stockades and got into it by a zig-zag entrance between the two lines of palisades, followed very closely by the assaulting parties under Captain Lloyd, who climbed the spurs and rushed the rifle pits, from which a heavy fire had been kept up on the centre and right parties, who with a tremendous cheer for the "Queen", pushed rapidly forward; the party under Captain Schomberg, 57th, led by Major Butler, mounted the high ground to the right, also taking the rifle pits on that side in reverse, and

\* See Return B.