

had not been maltreated, nor had any of the bodies of the killed been mutilated.

I enclose a list of our casualties. I deeply deplore the loss of the many brave and valuable officers who fell in the noble discharge of their duty on this occasion.

The 43rd Regiment, and the service, have sustained a serious loss in the death of Lieutenant-Colonel Booth, which took place on the night after the attack. I have already mentioned the brilliant example shewn by this officer in the assault; and when I met him on the following morning as he was being carried out of the work, his first words were an expression of regret that he had found it impossible to carry out my orders.

The heroism and devotion of Captain Hamilton and Commander Hay reflect the highest honour on the naval service.

The loss of the enemy must have been very heavy, although not more than 20 bodies and six wounded were found in and about their position. It is admitted by the prisoners that they carried off a large number of killed and wounded during the night; and they also suffered in attempting to make their escape, as described in Colonel Greer's report.

I beg to bring to your Lordship's favourable notice the important service rendered by Colonel Greer, who conducted the night march, and occupied the ground in rear of the enemy with so much skill.

The Officers and Men of the 68th Regiment deserve the greatest credit for the cheerfulness and zeal with which they performed a very harassing duty.

I must also specially mention the name of Major Ryan, 70th Regiment, who, after covering the advance of the assaulting column with his detachment, followed into the work, and with Captain Jenkins, H.M.S. "Miranda," was one of the last to leave it.

Lieutenant and Adjutant Garland, 43rd Regiment, has been particularly reported to me for his conspicuous conduct in the assault.

I am much indebted to all the Officers commanding and Heads of Department, for the zeal and activity with which they discharged their respective duties; and I must particularly mention the valuable services of Deputy Inspector-General Moutat, Surgeon McKinnon, 57th Regiment, and Assistant-Surgeon Manley, Royal Artillery, who fearlessly exposed themselves to fire in attending to the wounded, the greater part of whom fell close to the enemy's work.

Commodore Sir William Wiseman on this, as on every other occasion, co-operated with me in the most cordial manner; and I am much indebted to him, as well as to the whole of the Officers and Men of the Royal Navy and Marines, who took part in these operations, for their valuable assistance.

I have, &c.

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

A sketch of the enemy's position is enclosed.
The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for War,
War Office, London.

New Plymouth, New Zealand,

SIR,

April 8, 1864.

IT is with the deepest regret I have the honour to report, for the information of the Lieutenant-General Commanding, that a reconnoitring party, strength as per margin,* under the command of Captain Lloyd, 57th Regiment, fell into a strong native ambuscade on the morning of the 6th instant, and, being completely surprised, were attacked at great disadvantage by the rebels. Captain Lloyd and six of the 57th Regiment and Taranaki Militia (military settlers), were killed, and 12 of the same corps were wounded.

As soon as the report reached me from Lieutenant Clarke, Deputy-Assistant Quartermaster General, whom I had sent to Oakura to watch the proceedings of Captain Lloyd's party, I collected such men as were available (strength, as nearly as I can ascertain, shown in the margin),† and proceeding myself to Oakura, I left the troops under Major Butler, 57th Regiment, and the Volunteers under Captain Atkinson (Taranaki Rifle Volunteers), to follow as quickly as possible. On passing Omata, I requested Captain McKellar, the officer in charge, to give me as many of his men as he could spare (Militia),‡ and they followed me very rapidly with a force of nearly similar strength from the redoubts at Poutoko and Fort Robert. As soon as this party, of about 100 rank and file, had reached Oakura, I took forward the 24-pound howitzer, under Captain Martin, Royal Artillery, and leaving word for the Taranaki Rifle Volunteers to take a direct route through the fern to Ahu-Ahu, where the disaster occurred, I went on by the beach to Hauranga (Big Jack's pah), from whence there is a cart track leading directly on Ahu-Ahu, up which I proceeded with the Militia above noted, until within a few hundred yards of the ranges. I here directed Captain Martin to fire a few rounds to the right of the position, to ascertain whether any natives were in ambuscade; and Captain Mace, Taranaki Militia, and his mounted men volunteered to ride forward, scattering through the fern, to ascertain whether any Maoris were in possession of the rifle pits, by which the spur of the hill is surrounded. We then pushed forward, and being shortly joined by Captain Atkinson's Volunteers and the party of the 57th Regiment, under Major Butler, we recovered the mutilated remains of Captain Lloyd, and five other men, whose heads had been cut off by the infuriated Maoris.

Several men of the Militia, who had concealed themselves in the fern, were saved and brought in by the timely arrival of the reinforcements, and as no Maoris were visible in any direction, I returned to Oakura by eight o'clock P.M., where the troops remained for the night. The Volunteers and Militia preferring to return to town, I allowed them to do so, and they arrived at New Plymouth at twelve o'clock at night, having marched at least 24 miles since noon, with a cheerfulness and zeal for which they are now notorious, and for which I cannot accord them too high praise.

As regards the origin of this unfortunate affair, which I am unwilling to prejudice, I have ordered

* 57th Regiment—1 captain, 1 subalteru, 1 serjeant, 1 drummer, 53 rank and file; Militia—1 captain, 1 subalteru, 2 serjeants, 41 rank and file. Total—2 captains, 2 subalterns, 3 serjeants, 1 drummer, 94 rank and file.

† 1 captain, 1 subalteru, 1 serjeant, 35 rank and file.

‡ Taranaki Militia—1 captain, 1 subalteru, 6 serjeants, 80 rank and file.