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War Office, August 19, 1864.

THE Secretary of State for War has received a Despatch, with its enclosures, from Lieutenant-General Sir Duncan Cameron, K.C.B., Commanding Her Majesty's Forces in New Zealand, of which the following are copies:—

*Head Quarters, Auckland,
June 7, 1864.*

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to report that the rebel natives after abandoning their entrenchment at Tauranga, as reported in my last despatch, retired to two strong paha which they had previously constructed in the ranges, about ten miles from their former position.

The season was so far advanced that I did not consider it advisable to penetrate further into the country, particularly as I had been informed by his Excellency the Governor of New Zealand that Whanganui was in imminent danger of being attacked, that the Superintendent of Napier had made an urgent application for more troops, and that it would be necessary to send reinforcements to both those settlements.

Leaving Colonel Greer, 69th Regiment, in command at Tauranga, I transferred my head quarters to Auckland, where I arrived on the 19th May, and received instructions from the Governor to send a reinforcement of 300 men to Whanganui with as little delay as possible. There being no regular troops within three days march of Auckland, and the Waikato Militia not being available for service out of the province, the colonial steamer Prince Alfred, then in the Manukau harbour, was at once despatched with orders from me to Colonel Warre, Commanding at New Plymouth, to detach 300 men of the force under his command to Whanganui.

Intelligence was afterwards received that previous to the arrival of this reinforcement at Whanganui, a party of rebel natives, 119 strong, in attempting to descend the river to attack the town, had been met and defeated with great loss by

a body of about 300 friendly natives. I have received a report from Colonel Logan, Commanding at Whanganui, from which it appears that no apprehension need be entertained for the safety of that settlement.

On 28th May 300 of the 70th Regiment, withdrawn from the posts on the Waikato, embarked in the steamer Otago, for New Plymouth, to replace the detachment sent to Whanganui.

Having received instructions from the Governor to send a reinforcement of 300 men to Napier, 200 of the 2nd Battalion 14th Regiment embarked for that place on the 28th ultimo, and will be followed by the remainder in a few days.

I am withdrawing all the troops not required for the defence of Tauranga to Auckland, ready to be moved to any point that may be threatened.

The only collision between the troops and the rebels since my last despatch occurred at New Plymouth, on 30th April, when the latter attacked one of our redoubts north of the town, and were repulsed with great loss, with only one casualty on our side.

Colonel Warre's report of this attack, together with one from Major Butler, of an expedition to the south of New Plymouth, for the purpose of destroying rebel cultivations, are herewith enclosed.

The natives have not shewn themselves in the neighbourhood of any of our posts on the Waikato

During the next three months active operations will hardly be practicable in any part of New Zealand, and the greater part of the troops have huddled themselves for the winter.

I have, &c.,

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

*The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for War,
War Office, London.*