

chief "Mahu," and one or two other influential natives, I was able, through Mr. Parris, to identify several of the principal chiefs killed, among whom, by the enclosed report, the Lieutenant-General will be glad to observe the names of "Parengi Kingi," "Manaihi," and some of the most troublesome and warlike of the neighbouring tribes.

On Captain Short hearing the Maoris in the adjoining bush, he without the slightest noise, or evidence of his watchfulness, fell in the men of his detachment at their appointed stations, and made them sit down on the Banquette, with strict orders not to show themselves, or to fire until they received the order to do so. The Maoris (reported by the prisoners as over 300 in number) advanced to within 300 yards of the redoubt, they hesitated, evidently startled by the unexpected silence, then approached a little nearer, and some more bold than the others, rushed forward. Captain Short called upon his men to stand to their arms, and a succession of volleys, with an occasional shell from the small 4½-inch cohorns, by which the redoubt was defended, stopt the Maoris in their advance, they hesitated, broke, and fled, leaving, as above stated, upwards of thirty killed, and several wounded, while numbers were seen to fall and to be dragged off by their comrades.

Major Butler, with the reinforcement from Mahohitahi, followed up the pursuit, but the bush offered facilities of escape, and the weakness of his force prevented his attempting to gain any further advantage.

It was too late to do so upon the arrival of the 200 men from town (nine miles distant), and I then determined that it would be better to await the reinforcements for which we have so anxiously looked, than to attack an enemy whose strength was unknown, and who had reached the cover of his entrenched position at Manutahi. In this decision Majors Butler and Atkinson cordially coincided, although I fear it must have greatly disappointed the eager but small force under my command, who, flushed with the morning's success, would have doubtless driven the enemy from both the positions at Mataitawa and Manutahi, but I should have been obliged immediately to withdraw, as I have neither men to garrison, nor transport to supply, any new outposts.

I need scarcely take the liberty of recommending to the Lieutenant-General's favourable consideration the excellent conduct of Captain Short, commanding the detachment, and of Lieutenant Waller, 57th Regiment (in the absence of Ensign Down, on temporary leave), the only two officers in the redoubt.

Captain Short the Lieutenant-General will kindly recollect recommending for the Victoria Cross, for his gallant conduct in storming the enemy's position on the Katikara River, on the 4th June, 1863, and Lieutenant W. Waller was brought to the Lieutenant-General's notice in May last, when having fallen alone into a native ambuscade, after his horse was shot, he beat off

seven natives, and with his revolver wounded Hori, who was afterwards taken prisoner and tried.

To the conduct of the above officers, and to the steadiness and strict attention to orders (as reported to me by Captain Short) of the non-commissioned officers and men in the redoubt, I must attribute the excellent result of this engagement, which has entirely restored the confidence for a moment shaken by the unfortunate disaster at Ahuahu; our vengeance has been at least five fold, and to show how we appreciate the desperate gallantry of the natives I sent to offer to return to them their dead, but they had not courage to send for them, and they were buried near the redoubt.

Major Butler and the officers and men placed in support at Mahohitahi promptly responded to Captain Short's application for assistance, but too late to render any effectual aid.

The men of the 57th Regiment, under Captains Stewart and Schomberg, and the Taranaki Rifle Volunteers and Militia, under Major Atkinson, from town, were equally zealous in marching rapidly to the scene of action.

Assistant-Surgeons Tomlinson (Staff) and Spence (T.M.) were in attendance on the wounded prisoners, two of whom died shortly after removal to Mahohitahi, the other Hoere Piriri (brother of Manaihi, the murderer of Mr. Ford and other settlers), a native of this town, is now in hospital, severely wounded in three places. He awaits, with the other prisoners now in gaol, the orders of Government as to their disposal.

I have, &c.,

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

May 3, 1864.

P.S.—I have, since writing the above report, ascertained that although only 300 rebel natives advanced to the attack of the redoubt, they had a support of 300 in the adjoining bush, on the Waiongana River, and that about 200 were left at Manutahi, ready as a reserve, in case we should have attacked them, as they expected, on the open ground, and driven them back upon their entrenched works.

(Signed) H. J. WARRE, Colonel.

*The Deputy Quartermaster-General,
Head Quarters.*

*Nominal Return of the Killed and Wounded of
the Troops at Sentry Hill on the 30th April,
1864.*

57TH REGIMENT OF FOOT.

506 Drummer Daniel Hurley, age 18, service 4 years; severe gunshot wound of left shoulder.

(Signed) J. E. YOUNG,
Staff Surgeon.