

line of rifle pits, and whose gallant conduct was so conspicuous. I have forwarded evidence, with a view to his being recommended for the Victoria Cross. He was wounded severely in two places.

Captain Casement, 68th Light Infantry, who was severely wounded in two places, in front of his company, when leading them into the rifle pits.

Captain Berners, 43rd Light Infantry, who was also severely wounded when leading in front of his company, close to the rifle pits.

Captain Seymour, 68th Light Infantry, who took Captain Trent's place when that officer fell, and led into the left of the rifle pits in the most gallant manner.

Lieutenant Stuart, 68th Light Infantry, who was one of the first into the left line of rifle pits, and had a personal conflict with a Maori, armed with an Enfield rifle and bayonet, and by whom he was slightly bayonet-wounded, but succeeded in cutting him down with his sword.

Captain the Honourable A. Harris, 43rd Light Infantry, who was detached to the right, in command of two companies of the 43rd, to enfilade the enemy's position, and afterwards brought the companies, at the critical moment, to assist in the assault.

Captain Moore, who commanded the 1st Waikato Militia, and led his men up to the rifle pits, and shared in the assault.

Lieutenant and Acting Adjutant Hammick, 43rd Light Infantry, who performed his duty with great coolness and courage under a heavy fire.

Lieutenant Grubb, R.A., whose coolness and excellent practice with the 6-pounder Armstrong under his command, when under fire during the action, and subsequently on the retreating Maories, when they had got beyond the reach of the Infantry, was admirable.

Surgeon-Major Best, 68th Light Infantry, Principal Medical Officer, who performed his duty assiduously under fire, paying the greatest attention and care to the wounded; I can say the same of Assistant-Surgeons Henry, 43rd, Applin, 68th, and O'Connell, Staff, the former was particularly brought to my notice by Major Synge, commanding 43rd Light Infantry; Lieutenant and Adjutant Coory, 68th Light Infantry, Field Adjutant and Ensign Palmer, 68th Light Infantry, acting as my orderly officer, who performed their duty coolly and gallantly, affording me valuable assistance; Lieutenant Covey having been sent a message by me to Major Shuttleworth, when he was on the point of attacking, went with the supports, and was dragged into a rifle pit by a Maori, who thrust his spear through his clothes; Ensign Palmer was struck in the neck by a musket bullet, and knocked from his horse insensible when riding beside me, when he recovered and had his wound dressed, he performed his duty during the rest of the day.

Serjeant-Major Tudor, 68th Light Infantry, who went in front, and distinguished himself in several personal conflicts with the enemy in the rifle pits.

Serjeant-Major Daniels, 43rd Light Infantry, and Acting Serjeant-Major Lilley (70th Regiment), of the 1st Waikato Militia, who also distinguished themselves by their coolness and courage.

No. 2918. Serjeant Murray, 68th Light Infantry, whose gallantry and prowess were so distinguished, I have thought him worthy of being recommended for the Victoria Cross, and have with that view forwarded evidence.

No. 2832. Corporal J. Byrne, V.C., 68th Light Infantry, who, when the order to charge was

given, was the first man of his company into the rifle pits. A Maori, whom he transfixed with his bayonet, seized his rifle with one hand, and holding it firm with the bayonet through him, endeavoured to cut him down with his tomahawk; his life was saved by Serjeant Murray.

No. 3641. Private Thomas Smith (severely wounded), and No. 518, Private Daniel Caffrey, 68th Light Infantry, both distinguished themselves by their gallant conduct in the field, and their prowess in the rifle pits.

I beg to add that during the engagement several reports were forwarded to me, stating that a large body of natives were coming down by the Wairoa to attack the Camp Te Papa at low water; the information having been given by friendly natives. Low water on that day was at half-past three o'clock. I was back in camp about half-past two o'clock, and Artillery, Mounted Defence Force, and reinforcements of Infantry were following me. I however found that every necessary arrangement had been made by Lieutenant-Colonel Harrington (1st Waikato Militia), who was in command of the camp during my absence.

I beg to bring to the notice of the Lieutenant-General Commanding, the readiness with which Captain Phillimore, H.M.S. "Esk," senior naval officer at this station, and Commander Swann, H.M.S. "Harrier," responded to my request (which I sent immediately on finding the Maories) that they would land all their available force for the protection of the camp.

I have since ascertained that the report of the natives coming down to attack Te Papa was true, but that the result of the affair at Te Ranga disarranged their plans.

For nearly an hour previous to the assault I had seen Maori reinforcements coming down from the woods, yelling and firing their guns, and, when the advance was sounded, they were not more than 500 yards from the rifle pits.

I beg further to add that, while in command here, I have only endeavoured to carry out the instructions given me by the Lieutenant-General Commanding, and, if I have had any success, it is to the foresight of those instructions and to the good discipline and courage of the troops under my command it is to be attributed.

On Wednesday morning last (22nd inst.) I sent a strong patrol, under Major Colville, 43rd Light Infantry, to bury the dead, and fill in the rifle pits; 108 Maories were buried in the rifle pits, which they had themselves dug the morning before. The patrol returned the same afternoon, without having seen anything further of the hostile natives, nor have any been observed since in the neighbourhood.

In addition to the number buried in the rifle pits, 15 of the wounded prisoners have died since they were brought in. I am sending up 8 wounded and 11 unwounded prisoners by the "Alexandra," and 9 are detained for further treatment in the hospital at this station, making a total of 151 Maories accounted for. Enclosed are lists of the arms captured from the enemy, and handed over to the Military Store Department, and returns of the killed and wounded of the force under my command.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) H. H. GREER, Colonel,  
Commanding Taurangra District.

*The Deputy Adjutant-General, &c., &c., &c.,  
Head Quarters, New Zealand.*