

siderable quantity of blood was seen, so that they must have carried off their wounded.

As the rear-guard were within about 150 yards from camp, and approaching the picquet sentries, some shots were fired from a considerable distance inland.

I lose not a moment in communicating these circumstances.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) T. E. HOLMES, Major,
Commanding Warea.

The Garrison Adjutant, New Plymouth.

*Camp, Warea,
July 28, 1865.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your information, that I was the subaltern of the party (1 Captain, 1 Subaltern, 2 Serjeants, 1 Bugler, and 51 Rank and File) which went out under the command of Captain Close to patrol this morning, 28th July. The party marched along the track which runs inland to the north of the Warea, and, after pursuing it for about four miles, struck a slight track to the right over open country, and crossed the Warea, coming upon the road which runs inland immediately south of the stream, about half a mile above the point where the track along which Major Russell's ambuscade was posted on the occasion of the recent expedition to Te Puru, diverges from the main road.

On reaching the point where the track joins the road, Jim, the Maori, who was slightly in advance, came back, and pointed at some fresh tracks of natives who had come upon the road evidently by the path before mentioned.

We advanced with caution, and, turning a corner of the road, about 500 yards further on, saw a large body of Maoris, between fifty and sixty in number, on a slight hill on the left of the road, about 300 yards in front of us. On perceiving our party advancing, they commenced gesticulating and shouting Pai Marire. On the right of the road, and running parallel to it, was a hedge, and beyond, at right angles to the hedge, bush, which extended from the road to the river.

We advanced at the double, with directions to extend in skirmishing order under cover of the hedge, and were met on our way there across the open by a heavy volley from the natives, who crowned the crest of the hill without exposing themselves, and Captain Close and one private fell mortally wounded; they kept up a brisk and

sustained fire on us, which was returned by our party. Jim, the Maori, was severely wounded immediately afterwards. I took over twenty men and lined the bush with them in skirmishing order, to guard against any movement from that quarter, and had hardly placed the men, when a detached party of Maoris, consisting of some twenty-five men, were seen creeping through the bush, evidently with the intention of out-flanking us; a heavy fire was kept up from the front to distract attention, they gave our men a volley, and one man was wounded, the men closed and the volley was returned. I then fixed bayonets and charged, but the natives effected their escape by the rear of the bush, and rejoined the main body who now left the hill and crept under cover into a bush on the left of it, about 150 yards from us.

The approach to this bush from our side was devoid of cover of any kind, and their position there was strengthened by a small swamp in front of them. Under the circumstances, I did not feel justified, being the only officer left, and being obliged to leave nearly half my men in the bush, they had already attempted to force, with a view to outflank us, in attempting to rush it, but kept my men under cover, returning the fire the natives kept up continuously, until the reinforcement from camp arrived; on the approach of the reinforcement the firing ceased, and the natives must have retreated by the rear of the bush, across a swamp, and so on to the track to Te Puru, as, on joining one of the reinforcing companies and skirmishing over the ground recently held by the natives, we could find nothing but the tracks, which were soon lost in the swamp, we found no native bodies, but from the quantities of blood in different places, I presume they must have been removed; when our attention was engaged by volleys from the front.

I beg respectfully to bring to your notice the conduct of Serjeants Horley and Phelan, who carried out my orders with great coolness and judgment, and also to commend most highly the conduct of Bugler Croghan, who stayed by Captain Close's body under a heavy fire, until he received assistance to remove it under cover, and who behaved throughout most pluckily.

I annex a return of killed and wounded.

I have omitted to commend to your notice the conduct of "Jim," the Maori, which was most creditable throughout.

I have, &c.,

J. T. O'BRIEN, Ensign,
45rd Light Infantry.

DETACHMENT 43RD LIGHT INFANTRY.

*NOMINAL RETURN of Men Killed and Wounded in the Engagement with the Maoris,
28th July, 1865.*

Regiment.	Regimental Numbers.	Rank and Names.	Remarks.
43rd	...	Captain A. R. Close	... Gunshot wound through left eye; mortally wounded; since dead
"	694	Private John Holohan	... Gunshot wound through head; killed
"	8089	" Joseph Overall	... Slight wound, left hip (gunshot)
Maori	...	Te Waka, "Jim" Gunshot wound through right thigh; severe

(Signed)

Camp, Warea, 28th July, 1865.

R. A. P. GRANT, Assistant-Surgeon,
Medical Charge, Detachment 43rd Light Infantry.