

I found the works of the enemy very strong and intricate. In the centre of the place is a deep well, and I found large stores of potatoes.

I have further to report, that I advanced to a place belonging to a man named McFarlane, about half way between the pas of Paterangi and Pikopiko; this man, McFarlane, reported to me that the enemy had evacuated Pikopiko during last night, and that they had proceeded towards Rangiaohia.

The pa of Paterangi was evacuated at about seven o'clock this morning.

I have, &c.

R. WADDY,

Colonel Commanding Forces near Paterangi.

To the

Assistant Military Secretary.

COL. WEARE, 50TH REGT., TO THE ASSISTANT MILITARY SECRETARY.

Rangiaohia, February 23, 1864.

SIR,—

I have the honour to report, for the information of the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces, that with reference to his instructions, conveyed to me personally, for storming the enemy's works on the 22nd instant, I proceeded to carry out his directions in the following manner :—

The enemy's works could only be approached by a narrow road, hemmed in on either side by high fern, through which it was impossible for the men to advance in line or skirmishing order, and necessitating the position being stormed with only a front of four deep, until within a few yards of the trench and rifle pits. This compelled me to advance the whole regiment in a column of four, at the double, over some 350 to 400 yards, under a very severe and concentrated fire from the enemy, most trying to troops in that formation. I ordered a small storming party of 20 men, under Lieut. White, 50th Regiment, to break cover, in the first instance, to endeavour to draw out the first fire of the enemy; this party was almost simultaneously followed up by the storming party, consisting of Nos. 1 and 10 companies, 50th Regiment, under command of Captain Johnson and Captain Thompson respectively, and these three officers entered the enemy's works at the head of their men, at the same time closely followed by the remainder of the regiment.

The nature of the ground and formation left little for the commanding officer to do, but to place the men in the first instance, and leave the officers commanding companies to fight their men; and I am proud to say that officers and men nobly did their duty, under very trying circumstances, and while exposed to a fire that must have caused a very large increase to the list of casualties had it not been for the dense dust raised by the men doubling, which partially concealed them.

I beg to bring to the notice of the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces the names of Captains Johnson and Thompson, and Lieut. White, 50th Regiment.

The Medical officers of the regiment, Drs. Davis and Dempster, accompanied the regiment into action, and shared their lot, attending to the wounded as they fell.

I much regret to say that Ensign Doveton, 50th Regiment, fell dangerously wounded by the side of Captain Thompson, while gallantly performing his duty.

I have, &c.

H. E. WEARE,

Colonel Commanding 50th Regiment.

To the Assistant Military Secretary.

NOMINAL RETURN OF KILLED AND WOUNDED OF THE TROOPS AT RANGIAOHIA, 21ST FEBRUARY, 1864.

Corps.	Regi- mental No.	Rank and Name.	Age.	Service.	Date of Death.	Place of Death.	Nature of Injury.	Result.
65th Regt.	3,658	Private Charles Askew	32	Yrs. 13	...	...	Bullet wound entering right eye, passing out behind left ear.	Mortally.
"	2,446	Private William Smith	38	18 Months	...	...	Wounded by slugs in the face.	Severe.
Colonial De- fence Force	...	Lieut.-Col. Nixon	50	7	...	...	Penetrating wound of chest; lungs injured.	Dangerous.
"	...	Corporal Alexander	24	7	Feb. 21, 1864	Rangiaohia	Gunshot wound of head.	Killed.
"	...	Private Alex. McHale	20	2	"	"	Gunshot wound of head.	Killed.
"	...	Private Brady	...	7	...	...	Gunshot wound of hand.	Slight.
"	...	Corporal Dunn	...	...	...	...	Gunshot wound of body.	Severe.
Forest Rangers.	...	Private John Bellender	...	...	...	...	Gunshot wound of abdomen.	Dangerous.

J. MOUTAT,

Deputy Inspector-General, P.M.O.

Captain Baker,

Assistant Military Secretary.