

Hutt Valley Stockades

Old Redoubts, Blockhouses, and Stockades of the Wellington District by Elsdon Best, F.N.Z.Inst.
Read before the Wellington Philosophical Society 21 Sep 1920

Transactions and Proceedings of the Royal Society of New Zealand
http://rsnz.natlib.govt.nz/volume/rsnz_53/rsnz_53_00_000200.html

Appendix to the Journal of the House of Representatives 1860 Session I Section A7 pages 3-4

Papers relative to the Pay and Expenses of Militia and Volunteers Item No.3 Letter from Mr Stafford to Major Trafford, Commanding Wellington Militia, dated 28th April 1860. Sir, Referring to communications which I have previously had with you on the subject of the Wellington Militia Force under your command, I have the honor to transmit for your information copy of a Letter which I have addressed to the Assistant Commissary General at this post, relative to the supplies and payments to be issued, until further instructions are received, to that portion of the above Force which is called out for actual service. With a view alike to economy, to prevent an interruption of industrial pursuits, and to mitigate the inconvenience and hardship sustained by those who would otherwise be compelled to attend from considerable distances, it is desirable that leave of absence be granted periodically to those members of the Militia residing in the Upper Hutt, and at other places distant from the Guard-room in that district, and that the number of men retained for duty there, should be such as to require that each man was on duty every four or at most, five days. The same considerations should regulate the number of men retained for actual service in the City of Wellington. I have, &c., (Signed) E. W. Stafford.

Wellington Independent 25 May 1860 Local Intelligence – Stockade at the Hutt

At a meeting of the magistrates held on the 19th inst., Mr Ferard, R.M., in the chair, a resolution was passed expressive of the expediency of erecting a Stockade at the Hutt Bridge, for the protection of the Arms and Ammunition in that district, and the Major Commanding the Militia was requested to supply to the Sub-Treasurer of the General Government for the requisite funds.

Wellington Independent 22 Jun 1860 Local Intelligence – The Hutt Stockade

The Hutt Militia has been disbanded, and steps are now being taken for the erection of a stockade, &c near the Bridge. Corporal Tapp of the Royal Engineers has arrived from Auckland with plans and specifications drawn out by Colonel Mould, and will superintend the erection. The execution of the work will be opened, we believe, to public tender.

Wellington Independent 22 Jun 1860 Militia Office, Wellington, 21st June 1860

Sealed tenders, in duplicate, will be received at the Militia Office, Lower Mount Cook, until Monday at noon, 2nd July, for the erection of a Stockade and Blockhouse, at the Hutt. For Plans and Specifications apply to Corporal Tapp, Royal Engineers, at the old Police Barracks, Hutt. Persons tendering may tender for a whole or part of the said erection. The lowest tender not necessarily taken. Signed W. Rawson Trafford, Major Com. W. Militia.

Wellington Independent 06 Jul 1860 – To the Editor of the Wellington Independent

Wellington, July 5, 1860. Sir, Tenders having been invited for the erection of a stockade at the Hutt, I presented my tender in conjunction with my brother, on the 2nd inst., for the completion of the whole of the work for the sum of £530. The advertisement stating that the lowest tender would not necessarily be accepted; then how is it Mr Editor, (if you can inform me) that there being another tender for £500, and one for £725, that the Board should decide in favour of the £725, running the colony to an unnecessary expenditure of £195. Did the Board think that I was incapable of doing the work, or that I could not find securities for the amount required by them. The gentlemen who were to become my securities, were Mr T. Mullins, storekeeper, Hutt and Mr J. E. Watkins, ironmonger, Wellington, both of whom, I think, the Board could not have reasonably objected to. For my own abilities, I can refer to Mr C. R. Carter, builder, Wellington, in whose employ I was for six years. With these remarks I leave it to the public to decide whether justice has been done to me or not. H. B. & E. J. Ellerm.

Wellington Independent 20 Jul 1860

...It was also voted at the same meeting that application should be made for the erection of a Stockade, and the committee for the Volunteer Rifle Corps were elected, with instructions to take such steps as they may think necessary for its accomplishment.

Wellington Independent 21 Aug 1860

Engineer's Office, Lower Hutt, 18th August, 1860. Sealed tenders in duplicate will be received at this office, until Wednesday, at noon, of the 5th September next, for the erection of a stockade and blockhouse at the Upper Hutt, on McHardy's Clearing, according to plans and specifications, No.1 and 2. Further particulars may be obtained upon application to Corporal Tapp, Royal Engineers, at this office. Persons may tender for either plan, No.1 or No.2 or both. The lowest tender will not necessarily be accepted. W. Rawson Trafford, Major Commanding Wellington Militia and Volunteers.

Wellington Independent 24 Aug 1860 Upper Hutt Stockade

On Saturday the 18th inst., the Government official staff visited the above neighbourhood for the selection of a suitable site for the erection of a Stockade, as a place of refuge for the settlers of the district, in case a necessity should arise, and, after carefully viewing the line from the Gorges to the Mungarooa, their decision was the centre, or as near the centre as could be obtained, of the Upper Hutt, would be most suitable for the purpose; but before deciding upon any spot the officials had an interview with Mr Isaac Plimmer and Mr Player, and enquired if the inhabitants had fixed upon any place which they thought suitable for its erection. A spot was pointed out and visited, but it being considered too near the bush, which was close to the road on the opposite side, and a better clearing being observed a few chains in its read, that was decided upon as suitable, and the most central that could be chosen, being as near as possible midway between the Gorges and the Mungarooa. The owner of the land being sent for, the price for an acre was named, and meeting with approval of the officials, it was at once decided upon, and will be surveyed the early part of next week and no doubt the stockade will be in the course of erection with very little delay. The site chosen has been entirely for the consideration of the inhabitants, and as far as military positions, &c., are concerned, has all been waived for the convenience of the settlers in the district. Major W. Rawson Trafford, who was one of the officials, trusts there will be no difficulty (after the Government had provided a stockade for the defence and safety of the women and children) in getting volunteers from those who have a stake in the district for its defence, and as soon as he was armed with authority to swear in Volunteers, he would take care the inhabitants should be made aware of it.

Wellington Independent 28 Aug 1860 The Hutt Stockade

On Saturday last, at the request of several gentlemen of the Hutt, the contractor supplied them with a target, made the exact thickness of the sides of the stockades, and filled with screened gravel, which being carted to a suitable place, under the superintendence of Captain Carlyon, Lieut. Ludlam, and Corporal Tapp, of the Royal Engineers. The firing commenced at 120 yards, shortening the distances until within five paces, when several rounds were fired from three different descriptions of rifles, likewise from one of the percussion muskets. On examination of the target, the result proved very satisfactory, 16 having struck the centre, but not one had passed through, the balls flattening as soon as they came in contact with the gravel thus proving the efficiency of the present works. Mr W. Taylor, the contractor, is deserving of credit for the manner in which the whole of the works are being carried on, and for the energy and vigour displayed, notwithstanding the unfavourable weather he has had to contend with, since the commencement of the works.

Wellington Independent 04 Sep 1860 Wellington and the War

A stockade is about to be erected at the Upper Hutt, and the one now erecting in the Lower Hutt is rapidly progressing. Recently, at the request of several gentlemen of the Hutt, the contractor supplied them with a target, made the exact thickness of the sides of the stockades, and filled with screened gravel, which being carted to a suitable place, under the superintendence of Captain Carlyon, Lieut. Ludlam, and Corporal Tapp, of the Royal Engineers. The firing commenced at 120 yards, shortening the distances until within 5 paces, when several rounds were fired from three different descriptions of rifles, likewise from one of the percussion muskets. On examination of the target, the result proved very satisfactory, 16 having struck the centre, but not one had passed through, the balls flattening as soon as they came in contact with the gravel, thus proving the efficiency of the present works.

Wellington Independent 05 Oct 1860

The Upper Hutt Stockade is also progressing and the Lower Hutt Stockade is rapidly completing. The Rifle Corps in these Districts are becoming efficient.

Deed of sale of section in Hutt Valley – Alexander Turnbull Library reference MSI-Papers-2459

Dated 20 Nov 1860. Sale to the Crown of Section No.24 in the Lower Hutt district of the Province of Wellington by William Bowler and William George Plowman for the purpose of erecting a stockade.

Wellington Independent 04 Dec 1860

We are told that the reason why the Militia in Wellington receive a shilling a day, is because the authorities say they are doing the work of soldiers and are paid as such by the Imperial Government – they are simply defending H.M. barracks and not on Colonial duty. The Militia in charge of the Hutt Stockade, are said to be doing Colonial duty, and that is why their pay is an increased one. Whatever may be the reason why the Wellington Militia only get a shilling a day, our members have done all they could in the matter. The resolution authorising the payment of half-a-crown has been passed – to actually pay it or withhold it rests with the authorities, Civil or Military.

Wellington Independent 21 May 1861 Hutt Stockade

A correspondent informs us, that the party at the Hutt Stockade was to be broken up on Saturday the 18th inst. He also states, that, “contrary to their agreement, their rations have been stopped since the 14th (Tuesday), and that they have been compelled to serve for half-a-crown a day, since that date, and find themselves. One shilling a day per man was also stopped from last month’s wages,” and the party consider “that they have been unjustly dealt with.”

Colonial Secretary's Inwards Correspondence Register – Archives NZ Wellington reference IA 3/1/16

1861/2200 Oct 15 Respecting disallowance of accounts connected with building of Hutt Stockade (Sub Treasurer, Wellington)
- forward to 1862/523

1861/2311 Oct 18 Wishes to rent stockade at Upper Hutt (Bishop, Wellington)
- previous 1861/2189, forward to 1861/2703

1861/2189 Oct 23 Enclosing letter from Bishop of Wellington offering to rent stockade in Upper Hutt
(Superintendent, Wellington)
- forward to 1861/2311

*Letter Sub Treasury Wellington 15 Oct 1861 to Colonial Secretary Auckland
Archives NZ Wellington Reference IA 1 (Colonial Secretary) 1862/523*

Sir, I do myself the honour to inform you that the Auditor of Public Accounts in raising queries on my Accounts for the Quarter ended 30th June last, states that the following Payments have been disallowed by the Colonial Secretary for want of the proper authority; I beg leave therefore to request that you will be good enough to authorise the same upon the explanation which I herewith furnish upon each Voucher.

Voucher No.353 James A'Court, May 16th, carting stockade stores from the Lower to the Upper Hutt and returning 10s; May 18th three carts from Lower Hutt to Wellington and returning £1 10s; May 21st two carts from Lower Hutt to Wellington and returning £1. Total amount of voucher £3 and ... certifies that the services were satisfactorily performed for the Hutt Militia.

Voucher No.398 30th January 1861. Charles White carting Bedsteads and other Barrack Furniture from Lower to Upper Hutt Stockade 10s and E. Jones, Blacksmith repairing one of the Bedsteads on the same day 8s – total amount of Voucher 18s.

Voucher No.399 J. Cuddy Horse hire 15s. This horse was hired by myself as a member of the Stockade Board for the purpose of accompanying Mr Fitzherbert to the Upper Hutt to take over the stockade erected there from the Contractor.

Voucher No.400 D. Bengé horse hire 12s 6d. 2nd October 1860. Horse supplied to Interpreter to proceed to the Hutt on service certified as correct by the Resident Magistrate Mr Ferard.

Voucher No.401 H. Death Carriage £2 7s 6d. This expense is entirely composed of Fares for Corporal Tapp of the Royal Engineers from the 26th June 1860 to the 2nd February 1861 between the Town of Wellington and the Lower & Upper Hutt stockades during the time he was superintending their erection. This account is certified by the Chairman of the Board for the erection of Stockades.

...

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most Obedient Humble Servant, S. Carkeek, Sub Treasurer.

Wellington Independent 29 Oct 1861 Local Intelligence – Signs of the Times

No better illustration of the difference of the feeling existing between the two races now and this time last year, can perhaps be given than in the fact, that the Bishop of Wellington has recently applied to the Auckland authorities to rent, temporarily, the Upper Hutt Stockade for the purpose of a School and place of Divine Worship.

Wellington Independent 08 Nov 1861

... We have had no intelligence from Auckland for a month, and locally the most significant “sign of the times” is the reported application of the Bishop of Wellington, for the hire of the Upper Hutt Stockade for temporary church and school purposes, his Lordship expecting a clergyman shortly from England to supply that locality. The stockade was, it will be remembered, built last year as a protection to the settlers, should they have to abandon their homes.

*Letter Resident Magistrate’s Court, Wellington dated 31 Dec 1861 to S. Carkeek Esq., Sub Treasurer, Wellington
Archives NZ Wellington Reference IA 1 (Colonial Secretary) 1862/523*

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th instant (No.61) informing me that the expense of sending the interpreter of this Court to the Hutt on the 2nd October 1860 last had been disallowed. In reply I beg to state that the allowance made to the Interpreter for horse hire is to the best of my belief calculated with reference to the probable number of times he will have to attend the regular sittings of the Court held at a distance from Wellington, and is not intended to cover his expenses when dispatched on special service. In the early part of October 1860 great alarm prevailed as to the intentions of the Natives in this District. Information was given to me which it was my absolute duty as a Magistrate to take steps to ascertain the truth of without a moments delay. With that view I dispatched the Interpreter to this Court to Mr Ludlam a Magistrate long resident at the Hutt who accompanied him to see Puni. The information so obtained was thought by a numerously attended meeting of Magistrates held at Wellington shortly afterwards sufficiently important to justify them in requesting me to call the attention of the Colonial Secretary to it. I did so in a letter dated Oct. 10th 1860, in which a copy of the resolutions unanimously agreed to by the Bench of Magistrates was enclosed. I have the honor to be Sir, Your most obedient Servant, B. A. Ferard, Resident Magistrate.

Colonial Secretary's Inwards Correspondence Register – Archives NZ Wellington reference IA 3/1/16

1861/2703 Dec 31: For use of Lower Hutt Stockade (A. Ludlam, Chairman School Committee, Hutt)

- previous 1861/2311, forward to 1862/284

1862/284 Jan 08 As to explanation made by Church Committee for use of stockade for school (F. L. Philip, Hutt)

- previous 1861/2743, forward to 1862/423

1862/423 Feb 07 Recommending Mr Ludlams application to be allowed for use of Lower Hutt stockade as a school (Superintendent, Wellington)

- previous 1862/284, forward to DAG [Deputy Adjutant General] 1862/157

Otago Daily Times 03 Mar 1862

A few months since the use of the stockade, erected during the Taranaki troubles at the Upper Hutt, was granted for church and school purposes; now the Lower Hutt Stockade has been applied for the use of the common school there, and will no doubt be granted. This is literally turning swords into ploughshares.

Deputy Adjutant General's Inwards Correspondence Register – Archives NZ Wellington reference AD 51/2

1862/157 Mar 19 Acknowledging receipt of letter No.131 of 7th March relative to the Hutt Stockade

(Major Dwyer, Wellington)

- forward to 1863/929

1863/929 Mar 10 Relative to the Hutt Stockade (Captain Kirwan, Wellington)

Wellington Independent 01 Aug 1863 Militia Notice

Hutt Battalion. No.1 Company, Captain Ludlam's, Friday's and Saturday's, from 2 to 4 o'clock p.m., at Lower Hutt Stockade. No.2 Company, Captain Beetham's, Monday's and Tuesday's from 2 to 4 o'clock p.m., at Renall's Mill. No.3 Company, Captain Crookshank [sic], Wednesday's and Thursday's, from 2 to 4 o'clock p.m., at Upper Hutt Stockade. By order, John S. Kirwan, Captain and Adjutant, Wellington Militia. Militia Office, Wellington, 31st July 1863.

Evening Post 16 Feb 1865

Some time ago information was given to the authorities that the Hutt Stockade was in a very bad state of repair, and as yet no steps have been taken to put it in good order. The building itself, in use as a school, is solid, and sufficiently strong to last any length of time, but the river, by constant dashing against the piles, is gradually undermining it, and washing the foundation away. Unless the authorities take some precautions very shortly, the building will soon fall in altogether. The General Government have leased the stockade, and on them the onus of keeping it in tenatable repair rests. We understand four or five hands could, in a couple of days, perform all the labor necessary to rendering it all that it should be.

Wellington Independent 20 Apr 1865 Election Notice – Electoral District of the Hutt

The following are polling places... The Stockade, Upper Hutt.

Evening Post 25 Apr 1866

A boy, named Sanson, met his death by accidental drowning, having fallen into the river, near the Lower Hutt Stockade, on Monday last.

Wellington Independent 25 Jul 1867 Stewart Menzies, Hutt

This correspondent, who seems to have a very old head on young shoulders, being, as he says, aged 13 years, sends us a long account of his schools and schoolmasters, and deplores his hard fate in being prevented from getting on with his education in the Hutt School at the Stockade. His case is not however of sufficient importance to warrant the insertion of his letter.

Wellington Independent 30 Jul 1867 Fatal Accident

A sad accident occurred at the Hutt, about eight o'clock, on Saturday evening, by which two persons lost their lives. A young woman, named Mudgway, was looking at the "merry-go-round," now performing there, when her nose suddenly began to bleed, and she was led away by her father towards the river, in the vicinity of the Stockade. By some accident, she fell into the river, which is very deep at the spot. The accident was witnessed by a young man named Gustavus Johnson, who immediately stripped, and plunged in. He was seen to grasp the drowning girl, but directly afterwards both disappeared. As Johnson was an excellent swimmer, it is supposed that the girl must have caught hold of him in such a way as to prevent him striking out. The body of the girl was found the next morning, but although a very strict search has been made, Johnson's body was not recovered till yesterday afternoon, when an inquest was held, the particulars of which have not yet reached us. Both parties were well known at the Hutt, where much sorrow is felt at their untimely end.

Wellington Independent 07 Dec 1867 Hutt Volunteers No.1 Company

The above company met for inspection and drill on the 16th ult., and before the parade was dismissed, the company was drawn up in square for the purpose of presenting the cup to Private George Collis. Lieutenant Fitzherbert, addressing the lucky winner, said: "Mr George Collis – I have much pleasure in presenting you with this cup, and hope it may not be the last prize you will win, but that it may stimulate you and the rest of the company to increased practice, so that we may not let the Volunteers from other provinces run away with all the prizes at the next competition." Mr Collis very briefly returned thanks, and three cheers having been given for him and three for Lieutenant Fitzherbert, the company were marched off the ground to the Stockade, where they were dismissed, and afterwards the members held a meeting to discuss the rules; Captain Mills in the chair. The Chairman read the model rules, which, after considerable discussion, were adopted by the members with two trifling alterations. The members of the Committee for the ensuing year were elected, matters connected with the clothing were settled, and other company business arranged, and the meeting adjourned.

Dangerous condition of Wainuiomata Stockade - Archives New Zealand Reference AD1 61 1868/500

Letter from George Wood to the Minister of Defence dated 11 February 1868. Sir, I have the honor to call your attention to the dangerous condition of the Stockade in the Wai Nui O Mata. The late storm of wind has thrown it over to one side and it now leans towards the Schoolroom and threatens to fall upon it; should this happen during School hours serious injury to the scholars might be caused, besides the destruction of the building. The School Committee will, if your grant authority, take the dangerous part down, and secure the remainder. Granting that from the emergency of the case, you will grant authority without delay. I am Sir, Your Respectfully, George Wood, Chairman of the School Committee, Wai Nui O Mata District.

Referred to his Honor the Superintendent. Is there any reason why the stockade should not be removed? Signed: T.M. Haultain, 14 Feb 1868. Answer: None... Signed: I.E. Featherston, 14 Feb 1868. The Stockade may be removed and the material sold by auction or by tender. Signed: T. M. Haultain, 14 Feb 1868

Letter to George Wood Esq., 15 February 1868. In reply to your letter of the 10th inst. reporting the dangerous condition of the Wai nui o mata stockade I have the honor by direction of the Def.... to inform you that there is no objection on the part of the Government to the School Committee taking down and removing that part of the Stockade which is supposed to be insecure; and as His Honor the Superintendent does not consider there is any benefit for its being retained the materials will be at once offered for sale by tender notice of which will be published in the newspapers.

Wellington Independent 15 Feb 1868

Colonial Defence Office, Wellington, 15th Feb., 1868. Tenders will be received at this office until the end of the present month for the purchase of the materials of the Stockade in the Wai-nui-o-mata district. J. Holt, Under Secretary.

Archives NZ Wellington Reference AD 1 (Colonial Defence Office) Item 1869/614

Letter "Hutt Feb 29th, 1868" from Thomas A. Bowden, Esq., Inspector of Schools

Dear Sir, Will you please apply to the defence Minister (Colonel Haultain) on behalf of the Lower Hutt Public School Committee, and ask him if the Government will hand over to the above mentioned Committee for School purposes, the building erected at the Lower Hutt as a Stockade, but which has been used for the last four years as a school room. Our reason, for applying to the authorities for the building is the danger it is in of being carried away with a flood; the river is now not more than fifteen feet from the main building, and judging from the inroad the river has made during the last six months, it cannot stand more than three months longer. The major part of the yard has been pulled down, and the timber washed away with the flood, and most likely, the other part will share the same fate, unless it is carefully taken to pieces and removed to some proper place. The Committee would be prepared to give a nominal price for the building, say £5 or £10, and the Committee trusts, that as the object they have in view is a good one, the Hon. Gentleman at the head of the Government will be pleased to comply with their humble request by placing the building at the Committee's disposal. Hoping that you will use your influence in our favour. I remain, Dear Sir, yours respectfully, Henry Sanson, Honorary Secretary to the Committee.

Archives NZ Wellington Reference AD 1 (Colonial Defence Office) Item 1869/614

Letter dated 9 March 1868 Thomas A. Bowden, B.A., Education Office, Wellington to the Colonial Defence Office [Letter 1868/818]

Sir, I have the honor to address you at the request and on behalf of the Lower Hutt School Committee under the following circumstances. A building erected some years since for a Stockade has been for the last four years used as the Public Schoolroom of the district by permission from the General Government – but the encroachment of the Hutt river has lately destroyed a considerable portion of the enclosure and imperils the entire building, the river now flowing within 15 feet of its walls. The being no longer safe or fit for use the Committee are contemplating a new erection and their object will be much assisted by a grant of the material of the Stockade, which if not now carefully taken to pieces and removed will, I believe, be washed away by the river during the next winter floods. I accordingly request, on behalf of said Committee, the kind consideration of the Government to their request, and I shall be glad to add to that request any weight which you may attach to my Office as Inspector of the Provincial Schools, I have the honor to be, Sir, Your obedient servant, Thomas A. Bowden, B.A.

Wellington Independent 21 May 1868 No.1 Company Hutt Rifle Volunteers

The above Company will Parade at the Stockade, Lower Hutt, on Monday next, the 25th inst, at eleven o'clock a.m., to celebrate Her Majesty's Birthday by firing a *feu de joie*. Thos. Mills, Captain Commanding H.R.V., May 20, 1868.

Wellington Independent 28 May 1868 The Hutt and Taita Volunteers

On Monday, notwithstanding the unpromising look of the weather in the early part of the day, the members of No.1 Company Hutt Rifles, and the Taita Volunteers, mustered in force at the stockade at 11 o'clock, and after blank ammunition had been served out, the two companies, headed by the excellent band of the former, marched towards Petoni, and at noon fired a *feu de joie* in honor of her Majesty's birthday. The companies then expended some "blank" in file firing, and after having been put through battalion drill by Captain and Adjutant Cleland, they were marched back to the stockade and dismissed.

Colonial Defence Office Inwards Correspondence Register – Archives NZ Wellington reference AD 3/5

1868/4196 Nov 23 Stockades Upper and Lower Hutt should be put in repair and garrisoned (Hon. E. W. Stafford, Wellington)
- previous 1868/818, in 1869/614 and in Colonial Secretary 1869/194

Archives NZ Wellington Reference AD (Colonial Defence Office) Series 1 Item 1869/614

Draft letter to Captain Ludlam from the District Office 24 Nov 1868 [Letter 1868/4196]

Sir, Under instructions from the Hon. J. C. Richmond (in the absence of the Defence Minister) I have the honor to request you will be good enough to undertake the arrangements for enrolling and arming the militia in the Upper and Lower Hutt. The times and places you may... you will communicate to Colonel Reader in order that they may be published. I am further instructed to ... to direct an examination of the Upper Hutt Stockade near Bartons, and arrange for it to be placed in efficient repair without delay. The Lower Hutt Stockade has, it appears, been disposed of to the School Committee and the old site is unavailable – will you therefore offer suggestions as to a site for a Blockhouse or Stockade in that place, as well as in any other portion of the District in which you may think it will be desirable to have one constructed. The Government would be glad to ascertain views as to the expediency of having a small Guard say of 10 men from the Militia and local Volunteer Companies in the Upper Hutt Stockade and in any others that may be constructed.

Report on Hutt Stockades – Letter 1868/4415 - Archives NZ Reference AD (Army Department) Series 1 Item 1868/4648

Hutt 28 November 1868 Letter to Captain Ludlam. Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 24 inst. requesting me to undertake the arrangements for enrolling and arming the Militia in this district and to report upon the state of the Stockades. In reply I have the honor to inform you that arrangements have been made for enrolling and arming the Militia during the ensuing week. With reference to the Stockades I think it better to report to you what is likely to be required in case of any disturbance in this district before taking steps as authorised by your letter. The Lower Hutt Stockade was sold to the School Committee and removed by them to a site a little more distant from the Hutt Bridge than where it stood, the Gravel in the walls was taken out thus rendering it not Bullet proof. I would recommend that it should be replaced at once so as to make it available as a Blockhouse it will be necessary that the windows, eight in number, should be protected by Iron shutters, there is no palisading to speak of round it, nor do I think looking to the large number of women and children requiring protection in case of danger palisading would be of much service. I would suggest that arrangements should be made so that in the event of a threatened attack the large buildings including Churches may be protected by earth works which could be thrown up in a short space of time. The Taita portion of the district is without any place of safety for the women and children in the event of an attack and without such they would be exposed to great danger nor are there any large buildings close together as is the case near the Bridge, the Government are in the best position to judge whether there is any present danger requiring a place of safety to be provided at once, at all events arrangements should be made for providing one when required. At the Upper Hutt there is a Blockhouse with palisaded yard capable of holding I should say the women and children of that part of the district, Captain Cruickshank informs me that so far as he knows it is in good repair. I shall be at the Upper Hutt on the 5th December when I will visit it and report as to its condition. At the Wainuiomata I believe the small Stockade erected there has tumbled down, it will be necessary that something should be done to afford a place of safety in case of danger, the number in the place is not large. In reply to that portion of your letter regarding the Upper Hutt and any other stockades being guarded by men from the Militia or Volunteers I would say that at present I do not see any necessity for such a step, at the Upper Hutt the Constable lives in the Stockade. I would however recommend that full powers should be given to the Officer in command of the district that in the event of its being desirable to do so he could call out men to guard them. I have the honor to be Sir, Your most obedient servant, A. Ludlam, Captain commanding Hutt Battalion Wellington Militia.

Captain Ludlam to be appointed Major and to command 2nd or Hutt Battalion of Wellington Militia. He is to be authorised to put in complete repair and make bullet proof the "School" Blockhouse and to erect a Blockhouse 16 feet square (similar to the one Tutainui) at Taitai on the understanding that the settlers in the District will construct an earthen Redoubt in connection with it. He is to be requested to recommend any other arrangements he may think desirable after visiting the District, and is to inform the settlers that the Government will be prepared to meet one half the expense of whatever may be determined on for the Defence of the Valley [signed] T. M. Haultain 4 Dec 1868.

Report on Hutt Stockades – Letter 1868/4506 - Archives NZ Reference AD (Army Department) Series 1 1868/4648

Colonial Defence Office 02 December 1868. His Excellency the Governor is respectfully advised to make the undermentioned appointment. In the 2nd (Hutt) Battalion Wellington Militia: Captain Alfred Ludlam to be Major. Date of Commission 2 Dec 1868 and to appoint Major Ludlam to command the 2nd (Hutt) Battalion Wellington Militia, and the Volunteer Corps at Taita and Lower Hutt [signed] T. M. Haultain.

Report on Hutt Stockades – Letter 1868/4647 - Archives NZ Reference AD (Army Department) Series 1 1868/4648

Hutt 07 December 1868 Letter to the Hon. Defence Minister, Wellington. Sir, I have the honor to report to you that I have enrolled all the Militiamen of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Classes who attended at the places named in the Notice calling them out for Service, I am glad to be able to say that the men responded cheerfully to the call made on them and with the exception of a small number the whole have turned out. I have enrolled 141 at the Lower Hutt, 98 at the Upper Hutt and 50 at the Taita, those that did not attend will be served with Notices for the first Drill day. I have been in communication with Captain Johnson relative to the appointment of a Drill Instructor for the Militia and Volunteers in this district, he is willing to accept the position and assures me that he is capable of performing the necessary duties. I would therefore recommend that he should be appointed. In reply to that portion of your letter of the 2nd inst. requesting me, after having visited the different portions of the district, to state what further arrangements I may think desirable, I would recommend as regards the Drill of the Militia and Volunteers that for the present the Militia should be drilled once a week, I do so because a large number of those enrolled consist of 3rd Class men who have never been drilled before, so soon as they have learnt a certain portion of their work, the Drills might be reduced to once a fortnight. The Rifle Volunteers should be drilled once a fortnight instead of once a month as at present, as a good many new men have just joined the two Companies, the Volunteer Cavalry Corps is just raised, I propose they should be drilled once a week at present the same as the Militia. There is one point in connexion with the drilling of the Militia and Volunteers that I am anxious to direct your attention to, viz that of allowing them when sufficiently advanced in their Drill some Ball and Blank Ammunition for practice, the former at the Target, the latter for Skirmishing. I believe this would do more to get the men on and give them an interest in their work than anything I could suggest. While I do not think it advisable to put a Guard at the Upper Hutt Stockade or any other that may be erected until such time as the district may be in danger I would recommend that I should be empowered to do so when the occasion calls for such a step, the same with regards to Patrols for the safety of the district. I am not in a position at present to say how many more Officers will be required for the different Militia Companies but will inform you as early as possible, I expect there will be 150 men in the Lower Hutt and that it will be necessary to form them into two Companies. I have the honor to be Sir, Your most obedient servant, A. Ludlam, Major commanding Hutt District.

Captain Johnson to be employed to drill the militia and will receive pay at 6s a day. Proposed arrangements for drill approved but Volunteers should be left to carry out their own drills the Officer commanding limiting his orders for Parades to once a month. Ball and blank ammunition for practice will be supplied. Major Ludlam authorised to mount a Guard or to employ Patrols should any sudden emergency arise. [Signed] T. M. Haultain 7 Dec 1868. These letters should be... to Colonel Reader and I have informed Major Ludlam that in future all correspondence must be transmitted through him, as Officer commanding the whole district.

Reply

Colonial Defence Office 08 December 1868. Letter to Major Ludlan, Commanding Hutt District. Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated December 7 inst. reporting the enrolment of the Hutt Battalion of Militia submitting certain proposed arrangements as to drill and requesting that Captain Johnson be placed upon pay as Drill Instructor. In reply I am instructed by the Defence Minister to inform you that the arrangements proposed for drilling the Militia are approved but Volunteer Companies should be left to carry out their own drill; the Officer commanding the District limiting his orders for Parade to once a month. Ball and blank ammunition will be supplied through the usual channel. I am further instructed to authorise you to mount guards at the Stockades and to employ patrols should any sudden emergency arise which would in your opinion render such steps necessary for the safety of the District. Your requisition as for copy... has been approved by the Defence Minister. I have the honor to be Sir,.... C. L.C. Haughton.

Report on Hutt Stockades – Letter 1868/4648 - Archives NZ Reference AD (Army Department) Series 1 1868/4648

Hutt 7 December 1868 Letter to the Hon. Defence Minister, Wellington. Sir, I have the honor to report to you that according to instructions, I communicated to the Militia Mess at the Taita the contents of your letter of the 2nd inst. relative to the erection of a Blockhouse by the Government in that district and required them to inform me on their first Drill day if they were willing to throw up an earthwork round it in case of necessity. I would suggest to you that instead of a Blockhouse being erected the Government should have the School house lined and made Bullet proof as a place of refuge. I examined the building and think it suitable, it would hold a large number of women and children. I also inspected the Block house and Stockade at the Upper Hutt and found it in good condition but requiring a certain amount of work to be done, for instance the Gravel in the walls of the stockade has shrunk down so much as to render it unsafe, it not being Bullet proof to a greater height than five feet six inches from the ground, which would make it unsafe for men to defend, it will require 18 inches more gravel put in. I have shown Captain Cruickshank what I think necessary and asked him to procure an estimate of its cost. I enclose you the particulars of the work required to be done. I have the honor to be Sir, Your most obedient servant, A. Ludlam, Major commanding Hutt District.

Work required to be done at the Upper Hutt Stockade

Ten dead trees outside of the Stockade to be cut down. Portions of fallen trees inside the Stockade to be removed. Ditch round the Stockade to be cleared and earth put round the foot of the Stockade Walls. A piece of ... blown off the Roof of the Blockhouse to be replaced. An Iron bolt to be put on top and bottom of Stockade Gate with new pile for lower bolt. Iron bar for inside of Stockade Gate. The Gravel in the Stockade walls to be filled 18 inches higher. A. Ludlam.

Major Ludlam authorised to purchase a sufficient number of one inch boards to line the upper story of the Taita school house and the lower story to a height of six feet. These boards to be piled near the building in case it should be thought necessary to make it bullet proof. The block house at the Upper Hutt is to be repaired as suggested.

1869 Bill for work done at Lower Hutt Stockade - Archives NZ Reference AD (Army Department) Series 1 75 1869/45

Letter dated 02 Jan 1869 from Major A. Ludlam Esq. to the Defence Minister. Sir, I have the honour to forward you enclosed an account from William Tucker of the Hutt for work done at the Lower Hutt Stockade, also a voucher in duplicate for the amount. I have examined the work and find it done properly. I have the honour to be Sir, your most obedient servant, A. Ludlam, Major commanding Hutt District. Account £43 10s placed in ...260 schedule [06 Jan 1869] – approved T. M. Haultain

Colonial Defence Office Inwards Correspondence Register – Archives NZ Wellington reference AD 1 1869/614

S. Fagan, Chairman School Committee, Hutt to the Colonial Defence Office 14 January 1869.

Sir, I am instructed by the Lower Hutt School Committee to apply to the Government for a full discharge of the ten pounds for which they are liable as agreed, for the Purchase of the Stockade Building for a Public school as the Removal and refixing has already cost the committee one hundred and fifteen pounds and their funds are quite exhausted they cannot see by what means they can meet that particular. - Report to Major Ludlam who will state whether the request is reasonable.

Major A. Ludlam, Commanding Hutt District replies 27 January 1869

I think it reasonable that the School Committee should be relieved from the payment of the sum due for the Lower Hutt Stockade because I am aware that they have expended a much larger sum than they anticipated in removing it to its present site, it would be an act of liberality on the part of the Government to forego the claim. I would suggest that if they do so it should be on the understanding that the use of the Building could be obtained whenever the safety of the district required it without any payment.

1869 Bill for work done at Upper Hutt Stockade - Archives NZ Reference AD (Army Department) Series 1 1869/544

Letter dated 23 Jan 1869 from Major A. Ludlam Esq. to the Defence Minister. Sir, I have the honour to forward you enclosed an account from John N. W. Peterson for work done at the Upper Hutt Stockade, also a voucher in duplicate for the amount. I have examined the work and found it done properly. I have the honour to be Sir, your most obedient servant, A. Ludlam, Major commanding Hutt District. Account £30 placed in ...273 schedule [27 Jan 1869]

Evening Post 08 May 1869 Election of Superintendent of the Province of Wellington

... polling places... at the Hutt... Upper Hutt – The Stockade

Evening Post 14 Sep 1870

For some time past the formation of a Volunteer Company has been contemplated in the Upper Hutt, and it was generally understood that the last monthly drill-day of Militia – Tuesday, the 6th inst. – would have witnessed initiative measures, but the inclemency of the weather, postponed (according to understood usage) any meeting on the day in question. Since then, however, circulars, numerously posted, and bearing the signature of Jas. Cruickshank, Captain of Militia in this district, announced that members of that force were ordered to meet at the Highland Home Hotel at two o'clock on Tuesday last, to receive arrears of pay, after which those who intended to identify themselves with the volunteer movement would proceed to the stockade, and after delivering their arms and being sworn in, be enrolled, and receive new rifles. This was done on Tuesday last. The following officers, in addition to four sergeants, were eventually elected:- Captain, James Cruickshank; Lieut, Henry Burt; Ensign, Frank Smedley Searancke. The company bears the name of "The Fern Ground Volunteer Company."

Evening Post 26 Oct 1876 To Builders

Tenders for additions and alterations to the Lower Hutt Stockade, to be converted into dwelling-house, will be received at Mr Toxward's Office, where plans and specification may be seen, until noon of the 10th November. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted. W. H. Clayton, Pro. C. J. Toxward. 26th October.

Evening Post 12 Nov 1889

The monthly meeting of the Hutt County Council this morning was attended by Messrs Wakeham (Chairman), Darby, Brown, Death, Speedy, Taylor, Lancaster, Monaghan, Barton. A letter was read from the Minister of Lands stating that the Council would be allowed to sell the lease of the Upper Hutt stockade for a period not more than 14 years. Conditions of lease drawn up by the Inspector of Works were approved, and on the motion of Councillor Darby, seconded by Councillor Death, it was resolved to invite tenders for leasing the property for 14 years.

Upper Hutt City Library Archives Series 21/4 Heritage Collection – Closed files – Boxes 5-6

Item 21/4/9/15 'Old Redoubts, Blockhouses and Stockades of the Wellington District', by Elsdon Best reprint 1921. Includes Upper Hutt Blockhouse built 1860/1861.