

Reports to General Chute by Captains Harris & Livesay 43rd Light Infantry

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Letter dated 14 Feb 1866 Major General Chute, Wellington to His Excellency Sir George Grey KCB

Sir, With reference to my letter of the 12th instant I have the honor to forward for your Excellency's information the accompanying copies of reports received yesterday from Captain... A. E. Harris, 43rd Light Infantry commanding at Warea and Captain Livesay, 43rd Light Infantry commanding at Opunaki.

Report to the Deputy Adjutant General written 06 Feb 1866 Captain Arthur E. Harris, 43rd L.I., Camp Tipoka

Sir, I have the honor to report for the information of the Major General Commanding in compliance with your letter of the 5th instant. I marched from the Camp at 9.15 p.m. the 5th instant with a force as per margin, and arrived in the vicinity of Piripiri at 3.30 a.m. the 6th instant.

[Margin: 43rd L.I., Capt (3), Sub (5), Cp (5), D.R. (6), I (164); Bushrangers Capt (1), Sub (1), Sgt (1), D.R. (1), & M (65) & Interpreter; Medical staff – 2 assistant surgeons; Deputy Purveyor]

The distance, as well as I can judge is about 8 miles and in an inland direction from Ngatoto. The ground we traversed was principally bush and from the gradual ascent I should judge the place to be situated in one of the spurs of Mount Egmont. Piripiri consisted of a number of underground whares close to the edge of the bush on the top of a steep hill with a light palisading in front. As soon as day broke having reconnoitered the position and found it impossible to surround it, I gave orders for the assault. Captain Livesay 43rd Light Infantry, with his Company, attacked on the left and Captain Corbett on the right. They succeeded in taking the Maoris by surprise, but owing to the bush being so close, a number made their escape. I have no accurate knowledge of the rebel loss, but five bodies were found. Of the force under my command two Bushrangers were wounded, but not dangerously. I destroyed the whares and surrounding cultivations, and immediately followed them up to Ngariki, where I had reason to believe they had fled to. Ngariki was a very strong pah situated on the edge of the bush, the palisading was very strong and thick, and there was a number of whares inside. On our approaching the place we were fired upon from the pah. Having examined the position, I ordered Captain Talbot, 43rd L.I., to take his Company, and extend them in a field of maize within about 80 yards of the place. I then advanced, Captain Livesay in the centre, Captain Talbot on the left and Captain Corbett on the right, entered the pah together. The natives at once fled to the bush from which they fired heavily, but without doing any harm. I have not been able to ascertain their loss. I destroyed the pah and cultivations of which there were a great quantity. I would further beg to bring to the notice of the Major General that this pah was situated about a mile and a half from Manahi, a place belonging to Jeremiah, a friendly Chief.

I beg to enclose a map, for the information of the Major General by which he will have some idea of the different places. I enclose a list of the wounded. I beg to bring to the notice of the Major General the excellent conduct of all engaged, more especially Captains Livesay and Talbot, 43rd L.I., who led their companies on to my entire satisfaction. I trust the Major General will bring to the notice of the Colonial Government the valuable assistance rendered to me by Captain Corbett and Lieutenant Messenger of the Bushrangers. Staff Assistant Surgeons Tomlinson and Will afforded every assistance, and my best thanks are due to Deputy Purveyor Hemingway, who accompanied the force.

Report of Wounded of Field Force under Captain Harris, 43 L. Infantry acting against Maoris near Tipoka
Pte C. Crawford, Corbett's Bushrangers, aged 21yrs, served 18 months, "flesh wound of leg, bullet not lodged, severe"
Pte W. Kelly, Corbett's Bushrangers, aged 22yrs, served 2yrs 7 months, "flesh wound of buttock, bullet not lodged, severe"

Note: the mentioned map is not enclosed in this file

Report to the Deputy Adjutant General written 07 Feb 1866 by Captain Arthur E. Harris, 43rd L.I., Camp Tipoka
Sir, I have the honor to report for the information of the Major General Commanding that I marched from this post at 6 a.m. today, and destroyed the cultivations surrounding Ngatoto. I also burned several whares. Two shots were fired by some rebels but I could see nothing of them, and I believe they are now in small parties hiding in the bush without any fixed residence. I propose marching to Warea tomorrow morning, and also to send the Opunaki Detachment under Captain Livesay back. Captain Corbett's Bushrangers remaining here.

Report to the Deputy Adjutant General written 09 Feb 1866 by Captain W. Livesay, 43rd L.I., Camp Opunake
Sir, I have the honor to report for the information of the Major General Commanding that the two friendly Chiefs William King and Jeremiah have during last night gone over to the rebels taking with them all their tribes with the exception of one old man, and four women. All these men took the Oath of allegiance during the time the General was here. I can assign no reason for their taking this step, except that the troops were fired upon from the pah at Ngariki – a place that Jeremiah declared no rebels lived at. The natives here are of opinion that William King was led over by the representations of Jeremiah. From what I can ascertain I believe they have taken up a position three miles inland of the bush at Omorua, in a strong pah, built some time ago. I intend taking immediate steps to destroy William King's villages and crops. I have reported the matter to Colonel Warre, C.B., Commanding the District.
