

Opunake Rifle Volunteers 1883

Archives NZ Reference ARM41 26 1883/3e

Opunake Rifles – Taranaki - Accepted 28 Sep 1881 – Disbanded 06 Jun 1883

1883 Jan 06 Lieut Wagstaff, Opunake Rifle Volunteers to

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of... the 5th containing voucher, attestations, forms... I have signed voucher as requested by you... With respect to debt to Government, we are unanimous in our decision not to accept service under the new regulations unless the debt be remitted and full capitation allowed. I need not explain to you the financial state of the corps, and what became of the clothes for which we are charged, and we think it very hard.

1883 Jan 14 Lieut Wagstaff, Opunake to the Hon Major Atkinson

Sir, On behalf of the Opunake Rifle Volunteers I take the liberty of asking you to intercede with the Hon Mr Bryce Defence Minister, to relieve us of the debt incurred by our being charged for serge suits, which every member before accepting was given to understand were issued free. In furtherance of our request I would beg of you to bear in mind the prompt manner in which the men of Opunake formed themselves into a Company and volunteered their services at the time of the Parihaka disturbance; and although their services were not accepted they went through a daily drill and formed a nightly guard over the town. Later a number of men leaving Opunake took with them their suits which they deemed their justly earned property, and this makes it doubly hard for those left to have to pay not only for their own, but for those which have thus been taken away. And I may add that those who have joined since that time have had to pay for their suits out of their own pockets and still are liable to a share in the debt. I would say in conclusion that the difficulty of this debt is the only hindrance to the formation of a good Company in Opunake. On behalf of the Company, W. Wagstaff, Lieut. Commanding Opunake Rifle Volunteers.

1883 Jan 15 From Major Stapp, commanding district, Militia & Volunteer Office

Sir, I have the honor to forward Capitation Return &c of Opunake Rifle Volunteers, also a letter from Lieut. Wagstaff stating that they won't accept service &c, the attendance during the year was not at all regular. I might state that it was principally through Captain Coffey being in a state of muddle the finance has been mismanaged in some way, Lieut. Wagstaff informed me that great dissatisfaction existed about the funds, subscriptions, but they could not make any definite charge ie. it would be difficult to prove as they did not elect a finance committee. Captain Coffey states that he is pounds out of pocket by the Corps, he was a good officer when he drank nothing, he is one of those unfortunates who ought not to touch one glass. Lieut. Wagstaff states that he has the names of 34 who would enrol under the new regulations if the Debt is struck off and the Capitation granted for 1882.

Nominal Roll of Persons serving in the Opunake Rifle Volunteers who are entitled to Capitation – 31 Dec 1882

Rank	Name	Enrolled	Inspections	Parades	Capitation
Lieutenant	W. Wagstaff	-	8	9	£2
Lieutenant	C.G. Sander	-	6	9	£2
Sergeant	D. McSweeney	-	8	9	£2
Sergeant	J. Higgins	-	6	7	£2
Sergeant	S. Clark	-	6	7	£2
Sergeant	F. Des Forges	-	6	8	£2
Sergeant	E. Lowe	-	6	8	£2
Corporal	M. Stevenson	-	7	6	£2
Corporal	J. Nobbs	-	3	9	£1
Corporal	W. Vincent	-	4	9	£1
Corporal	J. Wagstaff	-	8	7	£2
Volunteer	W. Aitkin	-	5	9	£1
Volunteer	A. J. Allen	-	5	9	£1
Volunteer	A. Anderson	-	8	8	£2
Volunteer	S. Ashton	-	7	9	£2
Volunteer	E. Brothers	-	7	9	£2
Volunteer	C. Collins	-	3	8	£1
Volunteer	E. Edmonds	-	7	7	£2
Volunteer	T. Fowler	-	7	9	£2
Volunteer	J. Haywood	-	7	8	£2
Volunteer	A. Hannett	-	4	6	£1
Volunteer	W. Hill	-	5	9	£1
Volunteer	J. Harrison	-	7	6	£2
Volunteer	B. Harrison	-	6	9	£2
Volunteer	W. Middleton	-	3	8	£1
Volunteer	W. McLeod	-	5	8	£1
Volunteer	J. Quine	-	7	6	£2
Volunteer	W. Reid	-	7	9	£2

Rank	Name	Enrolled	Inspections	Parades	Capitation
Volunteer	W. Reid	-	7	9	£2
Volunteer	M. Rona	-	7	8	£2
Volunteer	W. Rathbone	-	8	6	£2
Volunteer	R. Rundle	-	6	9	£2
Volunteer	W. Stait	-	5	8	£1
Volunteer	J. Stewart	-	5	8	£1
Volunteer	A. Stevenson	-	5	8	£1
Volunteer	L. Smith	-	3	6	£1
Volunteer	G. Saddler	-	8	9	£2
Volunteer	H. Taylor	-	4	6	£1
Volunteer	W. Williams	-	5	7	£1
Volunteer	T. Wakefield	-	3	9	£1

Non-efficient

Volunteer	G. Rundle	-	2	3	-
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Annotation

Two Rifles, accoutrements, and 80 rounds of ammunition taken out of the District by two men of the Corps. I have found their addresses and have written to them to deliver up or they will be proceeded against in Court. One I hear was lost when the Coach was washed down river horses drowned.