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Source: NLNZ ALMA 9910259313502836

History of the 58th regiment
(The Rutlandshire regiment of Foot) which served
in New Zealand bewteen [i.e. between] 1845 and 1858

Russell GURNEY

1935

Typescript extract from:

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History of the Northamptonshire regiment, 1742-1934.

Aldershot : Gale and Polden

In November, 1841, they moved to Chatham preparatory to embarking for New South Wales in relief of the 80th, who were ordered to India. They remained at Chatham for nearly two years before sailing.

Being required for duty as convict guards on board ship, the Regiment sailed in small detachments as ship-loads of convicts were accumulated for deportation. This resulted in an interval of about eighteen months between the departure of the first and last contingents, and altogether the move to Australia was performed in fifteen different ships. The first detachment sailed from Deptford on 13th July 1843, in the Orator; they were followed by Headquarters on 14th May, 1844, who embarked at Gravesend on the Pestongee Bomangee; the move of the remainder continued at intervals until January, 1845, when the last detachment left England.

On first arrival in Australia the 58th had its headquarters at Sydney, New South Wales. While there a mounted detachment was formed, in accordance with custom, to deal with bushrangers.

Their stay in Australia was very brief, as in March 1845, a rising of the Maoris in New Zealand reached alarming proportions, and the 58th were sent to Auckland as reinforcements.

Though New Zealand had been known since 1642, it was not until the latter part of the eighteenth century that England had any connection with the country.

Captain Cook was the first Englishman to visit the country in 1769, which was then inhabited entirely by the native Maoris.

"The Maoris were a strange mixture of civilization and savagery ... They were cannibals, yet they were essentially an agricultural people, and more scrupulous in

sanitary matters than many Europeans. Dark skinned though often not more so than the Portuguese, straight hared [sic], tall and athletic, with singular dignity of bearing, they were proud and bloodthirsty, as befits a race which lives only for warfare; but they had also remarkable power of oratory, and they passed from mouth to mouth a great body of heroic poems celebrating the great deeds of their ancestors. Withal they observed a certain sense of chivalry [sic]. They would supply an enemy with food to enable him to continue in the field, and would fix time and place, which were faithfully observed, for a hostile meeting. They possessed a singular gift for the choice of strong positions, and very remarkable skill in fortifying them with ditches, embankments and palisades."

Late in the eighteenth century roving Englishmen, mainly whalers and traders, found their way to New Zealand and began to traffic with the Maoris, selling them fire-arms. Frantic competition arose among the chiefs for the New weapons, for on them depended strength for their tribes - or extinction.

Missionaries and more reputable traders settled in the country and undoubtedly did much good. For personal protection each man relied on some neighbouring chief, occupying a grant of land from the natives, and in return allowing himself to be plundered to almost any extent by his protector.

Unfortunately, a less reputable type of settler came and squatted on the land without due agreement with the chiefs. Out of this, considerable trouble arose; the land belonged not only to the chief, but to the whole tribe, so if one member of the tribe refused agreement a wily chief could always plead that the contract was invalid, even if the squatter had paid for his land in arms and ammunition. Naturally, before long the Maoris and English come to blows.

Conditions became so bad that, in 1840, a detachment of one hundred soldiers from New South Wales were transferred to New Zealand as a permanent garrison, and a governor was sent out from England.

He endeavoured to get a concession of the sovereignty of the islands to the Queen by fair means, and the Treaty of Waitangi was signed, though it must be admitted that most of the chiefs only appended their signature after considerable bribery.

Besides the continual argument about the possession of land, the native chiefs were upset by the cessation of the demand for timber from Australia, the establishment of Customs duties, and also by the removal of the seat of government from Kororaraka (now Russell) to Auckland. Consequently a strong feeling against the British sprang up in the minds of the natives, which was constantly fostered by French and American settlers. Chief Heki seemed to attach some mysterious importance to the flagstaff at Russell, and in July, 1844 he cut it down. He was persuaded to apologise to the Government and a new one was erected; but Heki's superstitions were too strong for him, and he cut it down a second time. After that an iron-shod flagstaff was put up and a detachment of troops and a party of seamen were stationed near it.

A climax was reached on 11th March, 1845 when Heki once more revolted and Russell, which is situated on the north coast in the Bay of Islands, was captured and burnt.

After the sacking of the town "the redoubtable Hone Heki placed a white blind, which he had wrenched from a window, on a girl's shoulders to represent a flag of truce. The warrior then ordered her to accompany the remainder of her party down to the beach, her mantle of white affording a protection from the rifles of the Maoris who had surrounded the place." The girl was the daughter of one of the signalmen at Russell, and

later married a soldier in the 58th.

Two companies of the 58th were at once rushed across from Australia in H.M.S. North Star, and reached Auckland on 25th March, 1845. On 22nd April they were joined by the headquarters of the Regiment under Major Cyprian Bridge, half a company going to Wellington; other companies followed on 27th April.

On 27th April an expedition consisting of two hundred and fifty men of the 58th and detachments of the 96th Regiment, seamen and marines, under Colonel Hulme of the 96th, sailed [sic] from Auckland to the Bay of Islands. They were landed on 30th April at Onewero, on the Kiri-kiri River, and on the 3rd May, 1845, the campaign opened and continued with short interruptions for the next two years. We were not opposed by one composite army which could be brought to battle and defeated, but rather by a number of independent chiefs who maintained a form of guerrilla warfare. One tribe would cause trouble and then retire to their pah. Here they would remain while a punitive column was prepared and moved against them, a slow and difficult [sic] business; then when all preparations were complete for an assault, they would slip away with their superior mobility to another pah, and the whole procedure had to be repeated. All this time operations were complicated by the necessity of finding detachments for the protection of isolated settlers and friendly natives.

The first objective was a pah, or fortified post, at Okaihu, about ten miles from the sea, which was occupied by Heki. The force, four hundred strong, could obtain no transport of any kind, so Hulme loaded his men with five days' ration of biscuit, two days' cooked meat and extra ammunition. They were entirely dependent on natives for information and guidance, and had to force their way through dense forest; twice they

were compelled to retire by heavy rain which ruined their supplies and ammunition. Finally, on 7th May they neared their objective and encamped in the pah of a friendly Maori.

Heki's pah was reported to be of great strength, consisting of three rows of stockades, each of trees a foot in diameter, with traverses and deep holes dug for shelter. Artillery was obviously necessary, but Hulme had none. He had, however, a few rockets, and hoped with these to set the stronghold on fire. The attempt failed as the huts had been thatched with green flax, so he prepared to retire. As he did so, the Maoris attacked and were only repulsed at the point of the bayonet. Hulme's casualties amounted to 53, of which the 58th lost 8 men killed and 14 wounded.

After the action the wounded were carried by their comrades for eighteen miles over saturated country, but the column suffered no further molestation and reached their base at Onewero. The troops had been living on half rations, the difficulties had been great, and the possibility of future success seemed remote.

In the meantime, farther south, a minor success attended the troops near Auckland, as on 15th May, Major Bridge, with two hundred men of the 58th, had captured and burnt the pah at Waikadi, afterwards returning to Auckland.

Early in June the troops in New Zealand were reinforced by a detachment of the 99th Regiment from Australia, and Colonel Despard, of that regiment, assumed command of the troops in New Zealand. A fresh expedition against Heki, who had moved to a stronger pah at Ohaiawai, was at once organised.

The force assembled under Colonel Despard consisted of detachments of the 58th, 96th and 99th Regiments, some sappers and artillerymen, with six guns, a party of

seamen and marines and some Colonial volunteers. They landed at Waimate on the Bay of Islands on 17th June, having been badly delayed by the grounding of one of the transports on a dangerous reef, all stores and troops on board having to be transferred to another ship.

The wet season was far advanced, rendering the tracks almost impassable; the country was difficult, covered in some parts with brushwood seven or eight feet high. Gigantic creepers hanging in festoons from tree to tree made a network through which the pioneers had to hack a way for the troops. Transport was insufficient, and consequently rations were short, and only a small supply of gun ammunition could be carried.

Starting early on 23rd June, the force marched six miles to within a mile of Heki's pah at Ohaiawai, ten hours being taken to cover the distance. It was then too late to attack, and the British encamped three hundred and fifty yards from the enemy's stockade. The pah was very strong, the defences consisting of ditches and a double stockade, each stockade being loop-holed near the ground.

On the night of the 23rd a battery was erected to breach the face opposite the British camp. Fire was opened on the 24th, but produced little effect, and though the battery was moved up to within two hundred and fifty yards the following night, the results were still disappointing.

On 30th June a 32-pounder gun from H.M.S. HAZARD arrived and at 10 a.m. on 1st July opened fire from Waka's Hill. While this gun was firing the Maoris, led by Chief Kawiti, made a counter-attack from a thick wood in the rear of the battery, driving off the escort of friendly natives. They would have overpowered the detachments with the

guns but for a timely and spirited charge of a party of the 58th under Major Bridge, which restored the position and drove back the enemy with loss.

Ever since the force set out rain had been falling heavily and continuously, and in those wretched conditions Colonel Despard decided he must attack at once or withdraw. It had only been possible to bring up twenty-six rounds for the 32-pounder, and at 3 p.m., when this ammunition had been expended, the order to assault was given. The main attack was led by two sergeants and twenty men who volunteered from each of the three regiments. The parties of the attack had been able to advance to within about sixty yards of the stockade, and there remained unperceived. The "Advance" was sounded by bugle, and at once they dashed forward with a cheer in the most daring manner, and every endeavour was made to pull down the stockade. The first was successfully negotiated, but the inner one resisted all efforts and was lined with men firing through loopholes. The men were falling so fast that, notwithstanding the most daring acts of gallantry, they had to retire. This could not be effected without additional loss in the endeavours to bring off the wounded men, which, in spite of difficulties, were generally successful.

The casualties of the force were 40 killed and 71 wounded, of which the 58th lost Captain Grant and 16 men killed and 33 wounded.

Nothing further could be done until more ammunition was available, and Colonel Despard was therefore compelled to delay any further action until 10th July, when he once more commenced a bombardment of the pah. No assault was made, however, as it was discovered the following morning that Heki had withdrawn. The pah, together with another about six miles inland, was razed to the ground, but, at the same time, no real

damage had been inflicted on the Maoris.

The situation in New Zealand was now so unsatisfactory that the force was increased by reinforcements from Australia, which included the remainder of the 58th, under Lieutenant-Colonel R.H. Wynyard, who arrived in the British Sovereign on 4th October, 1845.

In September, 1845, Heki wrote to the Governor suing for peace. The Governor replied stating his terms, which were very lenient, but no answer was received from Heki. There is little doubt that this cunning chief was playing for time in which to strengthen his pah at Ruapekapeka.

At the end of 1845 it was decided that a stronger force must be sent to subdue Heki, who had established himself in a large pah at Ruapekapeka (the Bat's Nest). For this expedition Colonel Despard, collected a force of 33 officers and 1,036 men, also 450 friendly natives, by far the largest detachment being 510 men from the 58th. Lieutenant-Colonel Wynyard led the way with the 58th, and after the usual tiresome march through the forest, which occupied nineteen days, a camp was pitched within a mile of the stronghold. On 1st January it was possible to throw occasional shells and rockets into the pah; by 10th January the outer stockade had been well breached.

The following day it was observed that all was quiet in the pah. A seaman crept up to the nearest breach and, finding very few natives inside, reported to Captain Denny and Ensign G. J. R. Wynyard of the 58th, who immediately led one hundred men of the 58th and some seamen through the breach. But now the natives were thoroughly aroused and began to swarm round the small detachment like bees. They had been taking shelter from the fire in their excavations, and thought that, as it was Sunday, no

attack would be made. Captain George Wynyard of the 58th arrived in support with three companies and routed the enemy completely.

Success was complete, and the casualties were slight, those of the 58th being two killed and ten wounded.

Heki at once sued for peace, and all the Maoris concerned were granted a free pardon. A model of the pah was made by Captain Balneavis of the 58th and later presented to the Royal United Service Institution.

It is recorded that, for many years after, it was the custom for a ball to be held in the Sergeants' Mess on the anniversary of Ruapekapeka.

Leaving a detachment at the Bay of Islands, the 58th returned to Auckland where they were warmly welcomed by the inhabitants.

In the meantime disturbances with the natives had occurred in the southern part of the North Island, near Wellington, which was garrisoned by one hundred and eighty men of the 58th and 96th Regiments.

At the close of the Ruapekapeka campaign the Governor proceeded to Wellington with a force of five hundred men of the 58th, 96th and 99th Regiments, together with a detachment of Royal Artillery and two guns. This large force overawed the natives to such an extent that the more influential chiefs, Ruaparaha and Rangihaeata, wrote to the Governor in cordial tones, throwing the blame on others and undertaking to evacuate the Hutt Valley, where they were concentrated. This apparent submission completely deceived the Governor, so that he imagined he could frighten the natives into complete submission by a demonstration in the Hutt Valley. Accordingly the troops marched from Wellington with no camp equipage, greatcoats or provisions.

One detachment occupied Boulcott's farm on 24th February, 1846. Several palavers were held without any useful result, so the Maoris continued to annoy the settlers and destroy their crops, in spite of promises of good behaviour.

Martial law was proclaimed, and when next the natives approached Boulcott's Farm they were fired upon by order of the Governor.

In April detachments of the 58th and 99th, under Major Last (99th), were sent round by sea to Porirua, where they landed and encamped in order to cut off supplies from the Hutt valley. For some weeks they were employed stockading their position, and the Maori Chief Rangihaeata took advantage of their inactivity to construct a formidable pah. It was only four miles from the military post at Paramete, and one morning a daring reconnaissance of it was made by Captain Laye of the 58th and two other officers, who went up in a small boat to the head of the harbour and managed to get up to the palisades before they were discovered and forced to retreat under close fire.

During this time the troops under Captain Russell of the 58th were employed on the construction of a military road from Wellington to Poirirua. They were divided into subaltern's parties of fifty men each, placed two or three miles apart, and always worked with their arms beside them, living in a stockaded camp at night. Great difficulties were encountered in clearing the gigantic trees from the line of the road.

All remained quiet until May, when the natives had collected their crops and, returning to the Hutt valley, worked up sufficient courage to attack the post at Boulcott's Farm. This post consisted of two wooden houses about one hundred yards apart with a tent between, on a clearing on the river bank, and was held by fifty men of the 58th under Lieutenant G. H. Page. Half an hour before daybreak on 16th May a war

party of about seventy natives, under Chief Mamuka, stole across the river, fired upon the tent and rushed in. On the first surprise the soldiers fell back upon the principal wooden building, which had some sort of a stockade round it; from this they subsequently made a sortie, driving the enemy back and holding them in check until the timely arrival of reinforcements compelled them to draw off altogether. The loss of the detachment amounted to four killed and five wounded.

It was on this occasion that an act of singular bravery and devotion was performed by Boy Allen of the 58th. The natives had managed to creep up to the tent in which he and seven other soldiers were asleep. At a given signal the ropes of the tent were cut, and as the soldiers struggled from beneath the folds they were set upon by the Maoris. Drummer Allen seized his bugle and managed to sound half the alarm when his right arm was almost severed by the blow of a tomahawk. He seized the bugle with his left hand and bravely completed the call and continued sounding until hacked to pieces. Corporal Dockerill and three privates - Beale, McFadden and Seon - were also killed, but the other three privates, though wounded, managed to escape.

There was subsequently considerable discussion as to what had happened to Drummer Allen's bugle. There seems little doubt that it was taken away by the Maoris, but later recaptured by the 65th Regiment in the Horokiwi valley on 9th August and for a time used by Drummer Henn of that regiment, who stated that he believed it had been returned to the 58th detachment at Porirua in 1848. Anyhow, all traces of it have now been lost, though details of the deed have been engraved on a silver bugle which is now in possession of the Drums of the 58th.

After the action of Boulcott's Farm, Chief Rangihaeata retreated up the valley of the

Horokiwi to his pah at Porirua. It was immensely strong, and as the Governor was convinced that Rangihaeata would evacuate it the moment it was seriously damaged by artillery fire, it was decided to leave it for the time.

On the morning of 21st July a detachment of troops seized Ruaparaha by surprise, and took him on board the Caliope, whereupon Rangihaeata evacuated his pah and retired to the forest.

Major Last of the 99th, with a detachment of the 65th (who had just arrived from Sydney) and small parties of the 58th and 99th, followed him up the valley. On 6th August, 1846, he came in sight of a new and very strong pah, built on an inaccessible hill; but before he could approach it he was attacked by Rangihaeata. The Maoris were driven back with loss. Last, deciding that an assault on the pah would not be worth its cost, brought up three small mortars and threw shells into it. Within a week Rangihaeata took to the forest again, and the question of the disputed land was settled amicably.

After the affair in the Horokiwi valley in August had been brought to a successful conclusion, attention was paid to Wanganui near Wellington. At this place there had been a good deal of trouble with the natives, and Captain Laye (58th) with four officers and one hundred and eighty men were despatched to deal with it. Here they constructed the "Rutland" stockade.

Some months later the natives attacked the farm of a settler and killed and mutilated his family. When the culprits were seized, the local chiefs, who were related to them, assembled a war party of seven hundred men for their rescue. The British force only numbered about one hundred and seventy all ranks; but seeing that delay or indecision

would be fatal, Captain Laye at once ordered a detachment court-martial of subalterns for their trial, and had the four principal offenders hanged without delay. The execution was immediately followed by an attack on the settlement on 19th May, 1847, which was repulsed with heavy loss.

In his dispatch to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Governor Grey represented that the "firmness and decision with which Captain Laye acted on this occasion, had saved the country from serious protracted rebellion." The Secretary of State, in reply, conveyed Her Majesty's gracious approval of his conduct in the following terms: "I have it especially in command to assure you of the sense which Her Majesty entertains of the firmness with which Captain Laye, 58th Regiment, acted on the occasion of the attack of the natives on the town of Wanganui, and of the gallant conduct of himself and the detachment under his orders on that occasion."

The attack on Wanganui was followed by some weeks of hostilities until July 1847, when the Maoris sued for peace, and the first New Zealand war came to an end. In 1870 approval was given for the Regiment to bear on its Colours the honour "New Zealand" in recognition of its services.

The next ten years were spent peacefully in New Zealand. For the greater part of these years the headquarters of the 58th were at Auckland, with which city the Regiment became closely connected. The Regiment assisted in the development of the country by making good roads, and in 1851 and again in 1858 saved the City of Auckland from being destroyed by fire.

The reports of the annual inspections show that throughout this period the Regiment always maintained an exceptionally high state of efficiency, was noted for its smart

appearance, drill and discipline; military crimes were few and trivial, civil crime was unknown.

In December, 1846, the headquarters and a large party of the 58th returned to Sydney for a few months, but were back again in New Zealand the following June. The object of this move cannot be ascertained. An extract from the diary of Major Bridge has been kept which shows that life in New Zealand was not without its lighter side. The extract is as follows:

"On 2nd December, 1846, a ball was given by the ladies of Auckland to the officers of the 58th Regiment on their departure from the colony. Dancing was kept up till the hour for embarking. When the 58th bugler sounded the 'Assembly' and 'Officers' Call' in the ballroom, the ladies pelted him out of the room with tartlets. Troops embarked and got under weigh on the 6th and arrived in Sydney, 18th December 1846."

The Regiment won the good will of the civil population in a remarkable manner and the records contain several letters from the civil authorities bearing testimony to the high esteem in which the 58th was held and expressing the gratitude of the inhabitants for its protection against fire and sword.

In 1855 peace was threatened by a dispute between some of the Maori tribes. Three companies of the 58th were despatched to New Plymouth under Major Nugent, whose firmness and good judgment saved the Colony from a serious war.

In 1857 news was received of the outbreak of the Indian Mutiny, and though the Regiment was then under orders to return to England, every officer and man volunteered for active service. The offer was, however, declined by the home

authorities.

Many officers of the Regiment were given important administrative posts in the Colony. Colonel R. H. Wynyard became Commander of the Forces in New Zealand in 1851, and succeeded Sir George Grey as Officer Administering the Government and exercised all the powers of a Governor from 1854 to 1855.

"Colonel Wynyard was very handsome and soldierlike. Six feet three in height, he was so perfectly proportioned, that standing alone he did not seem a man of abnormal stature and size, yet a big powerful man of five feet ten or five feet eleven beside him looked like a boy. He had a genial kindly manner to all, military or civilian, rich or poor which was not a mere ornament but a real engine of power. He had been in the Guards before the 58th, and was at one time A.D.C. to the Duke of Wellington. From 1854 to 1855 he introduced representative institutions into New Zealand. He was undoubtedly the most popular man who ever came to New Zealand, and yet he never laid himself out to seek anything of the kind. He left New Zealand with the 58th in November, 1858." - (New Zealand Journal) In 1851 he had the honour of presenting the municipal charter to the city of Auckland.

On 5th February, 1848, on the death of General Maitland, General G. C. D'Aguiar, C.B., was appointed Colonel of the 58th, and he, on 31st January, 1851 was replaced by Lieutenant-General Wynyard.

By an extraordinary coincidence there were, in 1857, five officers of the name of Wynyard serving in the 58th, each in a different rank. The Colonel was Lieutenant-General E. B. Wynyard; R. H. Wynyard was the Lieutenant-Colonel; George Henry Wynyard held rank as Captain; while G. J. R. Wynyard was Lieutenant and John Henry

Wynyard an Ensign.

On the 3rd June, 1851, the French corvette *Alcmene*, of thirty-six guns, was wrecked on the coast of New Zealand between Kaipara and Hokianga Heads. The vessel was completely lost, but the crew, with the exception of twelve men, were saved. A party of the 58th was at once sent to aid the crew with stores and clothing, and conducted them overland to Auckland. Here the officers and sailors were housed in the barracks for about six weeks, and most cordial friendship was established between the 58th and the Frenchmen. As a memento of the incident the officers of the 58th were presented with an oil painting representing the scene of the wreck, which now hangs in the Officers' Mess.

On 17th November, 1858, the 58th embarked for England. Colonel Wynyard remained in New Zealand as Governor [No! Member of Legislative Council.], and was succeeded by Lieutenant-Colonel Cyprian Bridge, who had served with the Regiment throughout the New Zealand War. Only 16 officers and 194 other ranks came home, over one thousand having settled as colonists in the country which, after fourteen years of service, they had come to regard as their own. This was then the longest period which had been spent by any regiment in the Australian Command. Before they left, over three hundred officers and non-commissioned officers and privates elected to settle in the Colony and were duly discharged, and there must be a large number of their descendants now living in the country. When the Regiment left New Zealand not less than one-eighth of the population of Auckland was composed of men who had served in the Regiment.

It was therefore altogether suitable when on 30th January, 1913, the 15th North Auckland Regiment was officially allied to the Northamptonshire Regiment. A short

account of the services of this regiment is contained in Appendix VIII.

The departure of the Regiment is described by an eye-witness as follows:--

"... As the corps formed up to the call of bugle and beat of drum, only 120 men gathered round the tattered and shot-riven Colours. The survivors of the wars had fallen into the ranks of civilian life, and were engaged in the heroic work of colonization, for peace has its victories as well as war, and the glory of saving life is greater than that of destroying it. The women and children had embarked in the transport, and all that remained was the last parade and roll-call, and final march to the wharf. Then I saw one of those unique incidents which no man could witness unmoved. On that parade ground were gathered grey-bearded and bronze-visaged men, whose well-knit and martial figures bespoke the old veteran, who had tramped, some of them, thirty and forty miles through wretched bullock tracks from the bush, to bid 'Good-bye' and 'God bless you' to old comrades who had been with them in the baptism of fire at Okaihau, at Ohaiawai, at Ruapekapeka, the Hutt and Wanganui. Some of those veterans, in their travel-stained clothing, went up and, reverently baring their heads, with tears coursing down their manly cheeks, kissed the old tattered Colours under which they had fought and bled and were prepared to die if need be."

On 11th January, 1902, a Hatchment was unveiled at Waimate North to the memory of those members of the 58th who fell in the war from 1845 to 1846. The Hatchment consists of a panel two feet square placed diamond-wise and framed with a polished black moulding. The principal features of the design, which is painted in oils, are the King's and Regimental Colours crossed, with the Royal Crown and "58" above, and the name "Rutlandshire Regiment" on a gilt scroll below, while at the intersection of the

staves is a representation of the badge and motto of the Regiment. The Primate of New Zealand performed the dedication ceremony, the actual unveiling being done by Mr. Michael Smith, an old veteran of the 58th.

A further memorial to all the regiments which took part in the Maori war was unveiled at Marsland Hill, New Plymouth, in 1909.

After a voyage of one hundred and five days the 58th landed at Portsmouth on 7th March, 1859, and after disembarkation moved for a time to Shorncliffe Camp, and later to Aldershot. Here Lieutenant-Colonel Cyprian Bridge handed over to Lieutenant-Colonel C. Hood, who remained in command for fourteen years. In his valedictory address Colonel Bridge remitted all regimental punishments, whether under sentence of court-martial or otherwise, "with the hope that the defaulters would conduct themselves better in the future."

To augment the numbers depleted by the large proportion of men who had remained in New Zealand, recruiting parties were detailed for duty in the West of England and in Ireland, and it is recorded that in Ireland the recruiting was particularly brisk and that many drafts were received from Birr, King's County, where the depot was then stationed.

From Aldershot the Regiment moved in August, 1860, to the North of England, being stationed at Manchester, Burnley, Newcastle-on-Tyne [sic] and other places in the North of England for the next eighteen months."

On 23rd January, 1862, the Regiment moved from Newcastle-on-Tyne to Liverpool on their way to The Curragh. Two steamers, the WINDSOR and TRAFALGAR, were awaiting them. Hardly had they sailed before a violent gale sprang up which smashed the bulwarks of both ships, injured several men and caused the TRAFALGAR to put back into

Holyhead. The WINDSOR, however, succeeded in reaching Dublin on the 24th, the TRAFALGAR following on the next day. Two years were spent in Ireland at the Curragh, Dublin, Newry and Enniskillen.

Before leaving Aldershot new Colours were presented to the Regiment on 10th May, 1860, and these same Colours are still carried (1935). As these Colours were the last to be carried in action by any regiment of the British Army, and have seen service for almost three-quarters of a century, it is only fitting that we should describe the presentation, which was made by Lieutenant-General Knollys, in detail.

The Regiment was drawn up so as to form two sides of a square, the two side faces of two companies each being at an obtuse angle to the remainder. The new Colours, cased, and guarded by a Major at each side, rested against a gun in the centre of the square, while the old Colours occupied their usual place in the hands of the two senior Ensigns.

After the General had received the honour due to his rank, the two Majors, uncasing the Colours, leant them against the gun. The Regiment then shouldered arms and, after the Band and Drums had played their part, the centre section of the line advanced with the old Colours to within six paces of the gun trail. Arms were then ordered and the service of consecration was read over the new Colours. This being finished, two Ensigns, next in seniority to those carrying the old Colours, advanced and, taking the old Colours, bore them to the rear under the proper escort.

The Majors then took the new Colours and handed them to General Knollys, who had dismounted from his horse to receive them. By him they were handed to the two Ensigns, who received them kneeling. One of these Ensigns, C.E. Foster, became Colonel

of the Regiment and was present at the celebration of the jubilee of the Colours in 1910.

General Knollys then mounted his horse and addressed a stirring speech to the Regiment. After expressing his sense of the honour done him by being selected to present the Colours, and after paying a tribute to the Colonel of the Regiment and his old friend Colonel Wynyard, he proceeded to sum up the history of the Regiment.

He briefly touched on the various engagements in which the Regiment had taken part, and called on all ranks to show, by their behaviour both on the battlefield and in barracks, that they were not insensible of the honours gained by their predecessors, and were determined worthily to sustain the reputation of their corps.

Colonel Cyprian Bridge then returned thanks in a short speech for the favourable terms in which General Knollys had spoken of the Regiment.

After this, the Ensigns carrying the new Colours faced about and the Regiment presented arms, the Band playing "God Save the Queen."

Then the Colours were trooped from one end of the line to the other, the Colours, preceded and followed by a colour-sergeant, being carried down in front of the line of officers, the front rank of the escort passing between the ranks, and the rear rank passing between the rear rank of the line and the supernumerary rank.

As soon as this was completed and the escort had reached the right of the line, the old Colours were marched off to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne."

The ceremony then concluded with a march past General Knollys in slow and quick time at open order and quarter distance, in both of which movements the Regiment acquitted itself admirably, General Knollys frequently expressing his approbation of their

steadiness and smartness.

When the new Colours were presented to the 58th at Aldershot it was decided by Colonel Bridge that the old Colours, which had been presented in 1841 and had been carried throughout the New Zealand War, should be presented to the city of Auckland for safe custody. They were accordingly sent to Captain Balneavis of the 58th, who had remained in New Zealand, with the request that he would get them put in the Church of St. Paul at Auckland. The Regiment had worshipped at this church, and on departure had presented the church with a set of brass candelabra. For some months the Colours remained in the church, but Bishop Selwyn felt that the feelings of the Maoris would be hurt if the Colours of a regiment which fought against them were permanently in a place of peace, and ordered their removal, against the wishes of the parish authorities.

The Colonel of the Regiment, on hearing this, asked for the return of the Colours that they might be placed in the church at Rutland. On receipt of this letter a meeting of the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the 58th who had settled in New Zealand was held at Auckland on 4th September, 1861. At this meeting a resolution was passed that Captain Balneavis (who was then Lieutenant-Colonel of the Auckland Militia and Sheriff of the Supreme Court) "do respectfully solicit the sanction of Lieutenant-Colonel Hood and the officers of the Regiment to allow the Colours to remain in charge of His Excellency the Governor until a suitable building can be erected wherein they may be safely deposited."

Colonel Hood's sanction being obtained, the Colours remained in Government House until 1865, when the seat of Government removed to Wellington. Lieutenant-Colonel Balneavis then took charge of them in his own house until 1868, when he arranged for

their transfer to the New Supreme Court at Auckland, which had been opened in February, 1868. Colonel Balneavis informed the Regiment of the action he had taken, saying that he had placed the following inscription under them: "FIRST REGIMENTAL COLOURS UNFURLED IN NEW ZEALAND IN 1845. PRESENTED TO AUCKLAND BY COLONEL BRIDGE AND OFFICERS OF 58TH REGIMENT." He also said they had been carried to the Court by himself and Captain Tighe, of the 58th, and were escorted by a large number of discharged non-commissioned officers and privates of the Regiment.

To this letter a long reply was sent on 13 May in which Colonel Hood wrote that he had communicated the contents of the letter above quoted to the officers, non-commissioned officers and men at a special parade. He went on to say that all ranks desired to express their appreciation of the honourable way in which the old Colours had been treated, and of the fine feeling which must have inspired all those who rallied to the ceremony.

He regretted the action of the Bishop of New Zealand in refusing a last resting-place to the Colours in that church, with which the Regiment was intimately connected and which by voluntary subscription it had helped to equip, seeing that not the least noble decoration in many an old abbey and cathedral in England were the past standards of regiments. He and all those serving therefore felt all the more grateful that at last the Colours had been carried to so fitting a home with so suitable an induction.

In 1901 the position of the Colours was again considered, and two applications were received by the Regiment, one from the vicar and churchwardens of St. Paul's that they should be returned to the church, and the other from Captain J. Mitchell, late of the 58th, that they should be transferred to the Public Library at Auckland.

The Regiment left the decision to a local committee, but expressed the opinion that the building selected should be one open to all denominations. Captain Mitchell reported at the time (1901):

"The Queen's Colour is a thing of shreds and patches, but the Regimental Colour is in a good state of preservation."

The Public Library was finally selected, and on 10th January, 1909, the Colours were transferred to their new resting-place. Ten old veterans of the 58th who had fought in the New Zealand War sixty years before, grey and venerable and bent with the weight of years, were present to receive the Colours when they were brought out of the Supreme Court, and to guard them until they were handed over to the Mayor. The old soldiers were Sergeants S. H. Mitchell and Jesse Sage, Privates H. Gillam, Murphy, R. Skinner, J. Halloran, T. Howell, J. Cutter, H. Scott and N. Scott. All the available local militia also paraded, together with the Garrison Artillery and civil organizations, and a procession formed which was led to the Public Library by the garrison bands. At the Library the Colours were received by Mr. A. Myers, the Mayor, who accepted them on behalf of the City of Auckland in the presence of a large gathering, including many descendants of the old Regiment.

On 13th November, 1933, the Colours were once more moved this time to the Auckland War Memorial Museum.

Over a thousand people, including four hundred descendants of members of the 58th and sixty descendants of Maori chiefs of the period, attended the ceremony, which commenced with the singing of two verses of the National Anthem. The Mayor, Mr. G. W. Hutchinson, then handed over the Colours to the custody of the Museum authorities,

making a short speech in which he gave an account of their history. After the Colours had been received by Sir James Parr on behalf of the Museum Council, Mr. P. Smith (Te Mete), a descendant of a Hokianga chieftainess, spoke in English and Maori, and Mr. M. H. Wynyard, a descendant of Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Wynyard, outlined the history of the Regiment. The Rev. Angus McDonald then spoke interestingly of the alliance of the Auckland Regiment and the old 58th, after which the official party entered the Museum, where the Colours were unveiled by Lieutenant-Colonel Sherm, grandson of Colonel Balneavis of the 58th. The ceremony concluded with three verses of the Recessional Hymn.

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