

1846 Apr 9

David Stark Durie was appointed Inspector of Armed Police at a salary of £200 plus rations and forage. Governor Grey instructed Durie to sign men up for a year on terms of strictest discipline, with pay forfeiture and solitary confinement included in the punishments for breaches of regulations. Within two days the names of more than two dozen men passed as medically fit had been submitted to Governor Grey for approval. They included five constables in the Police Magistrate's Force and 27-year-old Richard Burgess Sayer, the recent Chief Constable of Wellington. Sayer was given the position of Sergeant.¹

Letter from A. Chetham Strode: For the appointment of Sub Inspector of Police Force.²

1846 Apr 9 – Governor Grey's Draft Estimate – sent to Major Richmond

Write to Major Durie offering him the appointment of Inspector of Police for the Port Nicholson District. Authorise Major Durie immediately to raise a force of the strength shewn in the accompanying Draft Estimate.

Estimate of expenditure for Port Nicholson Police Force

One Inspector £200pa; one Sub-Inspector £150pa; four Sergeants at 30s per week - £312; four Corporals at 27s per week - £280 16s; 42 Constables at 25s per week £2780 – total £3672 16s – plus Miscellaneous: Repairs of arms &c £100; Rent of office £50 – total £3822 16s. Many items of expenditure have necessarily been omitted in this first rough estimate, but I think that the annual cost of a thoroughly efficient Police force for this District, may be fairly estimated at £4,500 per annum.³

1846 Apr 12 – David Stark Durie to His Honor the Superintendent

Sir, I have the honor to transmit the enclosed list of applicants for the Armed Police Force and beg to recommend your approval of the same.⁴

No.	Name	Age	Trade or Occupation	Abode	Remarks
1	John Gill	28	Labourer	Thorndon Flat	Married
2	Henry Bentley	27	Labourer	Karori	Married
3	John Bannister	22	Carter	Murphy Street	Married
4	Joseph Grunaldi	28	Horsebreaker	Te Aro	Married
5	William Weeks	26	Labourer	Wellington Terrace	Married
6	Thomas Brightwell	29	Butcher	Mulgrave Street	Married
7	Nicholas Oxenham	32	Constable	Lambton Quay	Bachelor
8	Benjamin Eglinton	38	Constable	Dobson Street	Married
9	Denis Corkery	40	Constable	Thorndon Flat	Married
10	Jas Lessington	32	Constable	Thorndon Flat	Married
11	Peter Cameron	34	Engineer	Pipitea	Married
12	William Salt	28	Constable	Wellington Terrace	Bachelor
13	John McHardy	23	Baker	Thorndon Quay	Bachelor
14	William Speedy	31	Labourer	Karori Road	Married
15	Burgess Sayer	27	Chief Constable	Wellington Terrace	Married
16	John D. Benge	21	Labourer	Te Aro	Bachelor
17	Richard Robinson	23	Labourer	Karori	Bachelor
18	Charles F. Webb	27	Bricklayer	Guildford Terrace	Bachelor
19	Alex Grant	36	Mason	Kaiwarra	Married
20	William Steward	23	Labourer	Kaiwarra	Bachelor
21	William Simpson	35	Labourer	Willis Street	Married
22	Samuel Madden	26	Labourer	Near Peter Hall	Bachelor
23	Js Bell	27	Labourer	Thistle Inn	Bachelor
24	Thomas Coleman	27	Labourer	Near Mr Coles	Married
25	John Pawson	36	Labourer	Near Dr Evans	Married
26	Jas Gerrard	32	Brewer	Parkers house	Married

¹ Policing the Colonial Frontier Part 1 by Richard S. Hill (1986) page 242

² Archives NZ Collections Search: R24445632 NM8 1846/154 For appointment of Sub-Inspector of Police Force 9 Apr 1846

³ Archives NZ R15419212 T1 W46/122 Treasury correspondence - Andrew Sinclair, Colonial Secretary 4 Nov 1846 Transmitting copy of minutes by Governor Grey to the Superintendent of the Southern Division during the early part of the year 1846. Also included are cost estimates for the Porirua Road, Native Hospital, Wellington and Barracks at Wellington.

⁴ Archives NZ R24445629 NM8 1846/150 David Stark Durie forwarding list of applicants for approval

1846 Apr 14

Durie submits a second list to Governor Grey including two recruits from Kumutoto pa, the first Maori armed constables, with more Maoris expected to join later.⁵

List of Applicants for the Armed Police force 14 April 1846.⁶

No	Name	Age	Trade	Abode	Remarks
27	William Holmes	23	Carpenter	Stockade	Bachelor
28	John Frazier	22	Smith	Kaiwarre	Bachelor
29	Thomas Scott	29	Labourer	Makara	Married
30	William Smith	26	Carpenter	Kaiwarre	Bachelor
31	Henry Wintringham	29	Groom	Thorndon	Married
32	Joseph Zillwood	40	Constable	Thorndon	Widower
33	Richard Barrow	28	Constable	-	Bachelor
34	George Curtis	40	Engineer	Tinakori Road	Married
35	John Hicks	23	Sergeant	Hutt	Married
36	William Hazlett	28	Watchmaker	Hutt	Married
37	William Mills	35	Carpenter	Te Aro	Married
37	Te Paratene	22	Native	Kumutoto	Bachelor
38	Te Paora	26	Native	Kumutoto	Bachelor

1846 Apr 16

The strength of the Armed Police Force is 46.⁷

1846 Apr 16

Durie submits a third list of men recommended for the Armed Police Force.⁸

No	Name	Age	Trade	Abode	Remarks
37	Charles Mills	35	Carpenter	Te Aro	Married
38	Lach. McInnes	32	Labourer	Kaiwarra	Bachelor
39	Charles Stent	26	Labourer	Thorndon	Married
40	Dugald Cameron	23	Labourer	Kaiwarra	Bachelor
41	J. Saunders	34	Labourer	Tinakore?	Bachelor
42	R. McGregor	25	Labourer	Kaiwarra	Bachelor
43	William Corbett	22	Labourer	Hutt	Bachelor

1846 Apr 18

Mr E. C. Strode has been appointed Sub-Inspector of the new police force. It is intended that the force shall be armed and divided into four companies, each company will be under the command of a sergeant, and will consist of ten Europeans and one Native, and small parties will be stationed at the outposts at Porirua, Ohariu, and the Hutt. This is the first experiment made by the Government of employing the natives with the settlers in their service, and if a sound discretion is exercised in the selection of the persons employed, it may be attended with a beneficial result. The chief advantage to be derived from the appointment of natives to this force may be expected in the discovery and apprehension of offenders, in cases where offences have been committed by any of their fellow countrymen. If this experiment should prove successful it may be presumed that it will be repeated in other instances.⁹

1846 Apr 20

Martial Law is proclaimed south of a line drawn from Wainui in Cook's Straits to Castle Point on the East Coast, excluding therefrom the Town of Wellington.¹⁰

⁵ Policing the Colonial Frontier Part 1 by Richard S. Hill (1986) page 242

⁶ Archives NZ R24445675 NM8 1846/210 David Stark Durie forwarding applicants for Armed Police Force 14 Apr 1846

⁷ Policing the Colonial Frontier Part 1 by Richard S. Hill (1986) page 243

⁸ Archives NZ R24445676 NM8 1846/212 Durie recommending men for Armed Police Force 16 Apr 1846

⁹ New Zealand Spectator and Cook's Strait Guardian 18 Apr 1846 New Police Force

¹⁰ New Zealand Spectator and Cook's Strait Guardian 25 Apr 1846

1846 Apr 23

At daybreak Major Durie went up the Hutt with a party of Police to scour the valley and co-operate with the Militia in the necessary measures for the protection of the settlers.¹¹

1846 May 4

Colonial Secretary's Office, Auckland. His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to appoint David Stark Durie, Esq., to be Inspector of Police and Alfred Chetham Strode, Esq., to be Sub-Inspector of Police, for the Southern District of New Ulster. These appointments to bear date from the 13th of April 1846.¹² Alfred Rowland Chetham Strode was a scion of a landed Somerset family and son of a Rear-Admiral.¹³

1846 May 26 – David Stark Durie to Colonial Secretary, Wellington

Sir, I have the honour to recommend for the approbation of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor William Martin to be private in the Armed Police force vice Paterei, a native discharged for bad conduct. Also, Frederick O'Donnell vice Crow discharged at his own request. The Colonial Secretary, Domett, replied: Approved, but let Major Durie be requested when next vacancies occur to fill them up with Maoris until the ordinary proportion of 12 is again completed in the New Munster Force.¹⁴

1846 May 28

Mr A. C. Strode with twelve of the armed police left the Camp in the Hutt and returned to Wellington.¹⁵

1846 Jul

Durie's force consisted of four seargents, four corporals and 50 men, of whom a quarter were Maoris. The officers' uniform was a blue jacket with red cuffs and collar, black trousers with red stripe, a sling belt and glazed cap. The men were armed with carbines and bayonets.¹⁶

1846 Aug

The force had nine Maori privates.¹⁷

1846 Aug 29 – Report on journey from Boulcott's Farm to Pa Pauatahanui – A Chetham Strode, Deputy Inspector of Police writing from Waikanae to Major Durie at Wellington – Sir, I have the honour to report for the information of His Excellency the Governor that on the 31st July ultimo I proceeded in accordance with your instructions with a detachment of Police, in company with the Hutt Militia and friendly Natives from the Camp at Boulcott's Farm on the River Hutt towards the Pa Pauatahanui for the purpose of ascertaining if the Rebel Chief Rangihaeata and his followers were in the neighbourhood, and if possible to capture them. We crossed the hills on the western side of the Hutt Valley some of which were most precipitous, the line in most places being wholly impracticable for Regular Troops. At about five o'clock p.m. we encamped on a small clearing about midway between the Hutt and the Rebels position at Porirua; the Friendly Natives refusing to proceed further until they ascertained whether the Pa was occupied or not, for which purpose Native Scouts were sent forward. The country through which we passed was mostly through a dense bush interspersed with deep Ravines. During the whole night it rained very heavily and the next morning at daylight we proceeded on our road, and after about an hour's march, met the Scouts returning with information that they had seen lights in Rangihaeata's Pa the previous night. Half of the natives then went in advance and the other half brought up the Rear; and on descending a steep hill near the Pa, two of them fell in with one of the Rebel Chiefs named Martin Luther; one of them presented his musket at him, it missed fire, and the Rebel wounded him in both hands with his Tomahawk – they at length succeeded in capturing him. We soon after ascended a steep hill and entered the Pa which is situated on the top of it. It was surrounded by two rows of palisades which made it a place of some strength. After staying there some time I proceeded with my detachment to the Horokiwi Valley in company with Captain MacDonogh and the Hutt Militia.¹⁸

¹¹ New Zealand Spectator and Cook's Strait Guardian 25 Apr 1846

¹² New Zealand Government Gazette 7 May 1846 p28

¹³ Policing the Colonial Frontier Part 1 by Richard S. Hill (1986) page 242

¹⁴ Archives NZ R24515008 NM8 1848/587 David Stark Durie to Colonial Secretary, Wellington 26 May 1846

¹⁵ New Zealand Spectator and Cook's Strait Guardian 30 May 1846

¹⁶ Shadow of the Land by Ian McLean Wards (1968) p255 – source Durie to McLean 29 Jul 1846 ATL MSS folio 205

¹⁷ Policing the Colonial Frontier Part 1 by Richard S. Hill (1986) page 245

¹⁸ Archives NZ R24445867 NM8 1846/439 A. Chetham Strode, Deputy Inspector of Police, Waikanae reporting an account of the march from the Camp, "Boulcott's Farm" to Pa Pauatahanui

1846 Sep 1 – Report of Matthew Richmond, Superintendent

... Our Native Allies followed in the pursuit from this position to Waikanae, continuing their route along the ridge of the mountains, supported by a force consisting of Captain Stanley RN with part of the crew of HMS *Calliope*, Captain McDonogh and his company of Militia, and the Inspector (Captain Durie of the Militia), with the Armed Police, which moved along the coast...¹⁹

1846 Sep 3 – Report of Major Edward Last, 99th Regiment

I have just heard from Mr Strode, Deputy Inspector of Police, in charge of the party at Waikanae, that on Sunday, the 30th ultimo, some of the Rebels, had again made their appearance in the hills. That the next morning he proceeded with the Armed Police, in company with the friendly Natives of that place, in pursuit of them; and after going about five miles inland, they only discovered an encampment of the night before.²⁰

1846 Sep 18 – William Bertram White to Donald McLean

The Officers wore black trousers red stripe, blue jacket, red cuffs and collar, sling belt and glazed cap.²¹

1846 Oct

Seven new Maori members – including Chief Wi Tako – the total force numbered 70.²² By October 1846 Armed Police under Major Durie had reached the authorised strength of 78 men including men of the Ngatiawa.²³

1846 Oct 9 – Constabulary Act

An Ordinance to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a Constabulary Force.²⁴ The Governor was empowered “to cause a sufficient number of fit and able men to be embodied to serve as an Armed Force... to act as Constables in and throughout the Colony for preserving the peace and preventing robberies and other felonies, and apprehending offenders against the peace.” He was authorised to appoint or remove commissioners, inspectors, and officers, to regulate training and dress and to direct employment and distribution. He was also able to award money for extraordinary diligence or exertion, and compensation for wounds or for being “worn out by length of service.”²⁵

1847 Mar 15 – Wellington District – south of Wanganui to Wellington lifted from Martial Law by proclamation.²⁶

1847 Jun 30 – Resident Magistrate’s Court – Nicholas Oxenham, a private in the armed police corroborated the evidence of John Brown, butcher, against Benjamin Burkett and Richard Smith who were charged with having stolen meat from Brown.²⁷

¹⁹ New Zealand Government Gazette 11 Sep 1846 p57

²⁰ New Zealand Government Gazette 11 Sep 1846 p58

²¹ ATL MS-Papers-0032-0633 Donald McLean Papers: William Bertram White to Donald McLean 18 Sep 1846

²² Policing the Colonial Frontier Part 1 by Richard S. Hill (1986) page 245

²³ Archives NZ R20935245 A Walk along the Beach – that is 250 miles long! A history of the Overland Mail between Wellington and Wanganui 1841-1866 – See entry under date 15 Mar 1847

²⁴ NZLII Constabulary Act 1846 http://www.nzlii.org/nz/legis/hist_act/ca184610v1846n2280/ca184610v1846n2280.html

²⁵ Shadow of the Land by Ian McLean Wards (1968) p255

²⁶ Archives NZ R20935245 A Walk along the Beach – that is 250 miles long! A history of the Overland Mail between Wellington and Wanganui 1841-1866

²⁷ New Zealand Spectator and Cook’s Strait Guardian 30 Jun 1847 Resident Magistrate’s Court

1847 Aug 26 – Proceedings of Legislative Council

The Governor laid on the table the following returns having reference to the information required by Mr Brown, at the last meeting of Council, on the subject of the Police Force, viz:- (for the Armed Police force from its formation 4th May 1846 to 25th August 1847.

- [1] Return of all sums received from the late Police Force, and now Resident Magistrate's Court, as penalties
 - [2] Return of all sums received by the Armed Police Force under the Dog Nuisance Act
 - [3] Rewards received by Armed Police Force for the apprehension of deserters & stragglers from Her Majesty's Land and Sea Forces
 - [4] Total number of summonses and warrants executed, and prisoners apprehended 4 May to 1846 to 7 Feb 1847
 - [5] Total number of summonses and warrants executed, and prisoners apprehended from 7 Feb to 30 July 1847
 - [6] A return of total amount of sums received by the Armed Police
 - [7] Summonses served, warrants executed, and prisoners apprehended 1 December 1846 to 31 July 1847.
 - [8] A list of rewards
 - [9] A return of duties performed from 1 Dec 1846 to 31 July 1847.
- Ordered to be printed.²⁸

1847 Nov 22

Secretary's Office, Wellington: His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to approve the undermentioned changes in the Wellington Armed Police Force. E'Papa – a native of Uruhi – to be a Private vice Samuel E Tako – whose period of service expired on 19 October 1847. Isaac Wilson to be a Private vice William Mason discharged on the 23rd of October for being drunk on duty. Samuel Styles to be a Private vice William Hazlett dismissed on the 31st of October for disobedience of orders and disrespectful conduct.²⁹

1848 Jan 31

Secretary's Office, Wellington: His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to approve of the under-mentioned changes in the Wellington Armed Police Force. Matthew Wilkins to be a Private vice William Tomkins, discharged on the 24th November, at his own request, in consequence of continued ill health. Thomas George to be a Private vice Denis Corkery, discharged at his own request on the 30th November, his period of service having expired. Charles Redman to be a Private vice William Pawson, discharged on the 24th instant for drunkenness and absenting himself without leave. Henry Selwyn (a native) to be a Private vice Ketucket (a native) discharged this day for general neglect of duty. Henry Winteringham discharged this day, his period of service having expired.³⁰

1848 Jun 15

William Martin is appointed to be a private *vice* Patera (a native) discharged for bad conduct. Frederick O'Donnell to be a Private *vice* Peter Clow, discharged at his own request.³¹

1848 Nov 6

Arthur Edward MacDonogh, Esquire is appointed Sub-Inspector of Police for the Province of New Munster.³²

1848 Dec 26 – DS Durie to Colonial Secretary, Wellington

Sir, The recent earthquakes having so injured the chimneys attached to the Police Barracks Kumutoto, as to render it necessary that they should be in a great measure rebuilt. I have the honor to solicit authority to incur the necessary expenditure, which will amount to about £3 10s. ³³

1848 Dec 30 – Colonial Secretary Domett - Before this can be sanctioned it will be necessary to shew why the landlord should not be at the expence of repairing the chimnies at the barnacles. Major Durie is requested to explain.³⁴

²⁸ New Zealand Government Gazette 17 Sep 1847 p110

^{29,29} New Zealand Government Gazette (Southern Province) 23 Nov 1847 p18

³⁰ New Zealand Government Gazette (Province of New Munster) 2 Feb 1848 p38

³¹ New Zealand Government Gazette (Province of New Munster) 17 Jun 1848 p67

³² New Zealand Government Gazette (Province of New Munster) 9 Nov 1848 p107

³³ Archives NZ Collections Search R24515498 NM8 1849/27

³⁴ Archives NZ Collections Search R24515498 NM8 1849/27

1848 Dec 31

DS Durie stating that he has paid into the Treasury the balance of the "Good Conduct Fund."³⁵

1849 Blue Book – Civil Establishment of New Munster – Armed Police Force, Wellington³⁶

David Stark Durie (Inspector), Arthur Edward McDonogh (Sub-Inspector)

Sergeants: William Holmes, Henry Hopwood, William..., Edward...

Corporals: James Mc..., George Scott

Privates: John Benge, Benjamin (Native), John Cail, William Cox, George Crocker, George Curtis, Andrew De..., Thomas Duncan, Benjamin Eglinton, Thomas Far..., Thomas Fle..., Henry Ford, Thomas Ge..., Herewini (Native), James Humphries, Kepa (Native), John Knox, Frederick Mc..., Peter Mc..sland, ... (Native), William..., William..., Nicholas O..., P... (Native), P...kete (Native), Pa... (Native), P... (Native), Duncan Robertson, George Richardson, Joseph Saunders, Thomas Scott, Samuel Styles, Tana (Native), W... (Native), Tome ... (Native), Henere ... (Native), Robert ... (Native), Isaac ..., Joseph ...

1849 Jan 5

DS Durie respecting Sergeant Barry's return from Otago.³⁷

1849 Jan 6 – DS Durie to Domett – I at first suggested that the landlord should bear the expence of repairing the chimnies; but His Excellency afterwards told Mr McDonogh that this expence should be defrayed by Government.³⁸

1849 Jan 8

DS Durie, Waikanae enclosing a return of all cases disposed of at this Court for the half year ending 31 Dec 1848. I also beg to enclose the usual states of the Armed Police Force from which it will appear that three men have been discharged the end of last month without the vacancies being filled up and as a further reduction will take place this month I beg to be informed to what strength the Force is to be reduced. Annotation: Mr Domett is asked to inform Major Durie that as some changes may shortly be introduced with regard to the Police Force generally I have not for the present any fresh instructions to give him with regard to any _ which may _ in the Force. The number of Natives will be kept up to the regular amount and the _ erected by Europeans quitting the force will for the present remain unfilled up.³⁹

1849 Jan 9

DS Durie relative to the treasurers declining to receive the balance of the good conduct fund.⁴⁰

1849 Jan 11 – Repairing of chimnes at Police Barracks – is approved by Alfred Domett.⁴¹

1849 Jan 13

DS Durie in relation to the salary of William Hamilton, Ferryman.⁴²

1849 Jan 19

George Watson, Wellington requests to be granted a licence for repairing fire arms. I am an Armourer by trade and lately from Otago and make this application upon the recommendation of Mr St Hill for whom I lately worked.⁴³

³⁵ Archives NZ Collections Search R24515476 NM8 1849/2

³⁶ Archives NZ R21502251 Blue Book New Munster 1849 and 1850

³⁷ Archives NZ Collections Search R24515495 NM8 1849/25

³⁸ Archives NZ Collections Search R24515498 NM8 1849/27

³⁹ Archives NZ R24515497 NM8 1849/26 D. S. Durie, Waikanae 8 Jan 1849

⁴⁰ Archives NZ Collections Search R24515502 NM8 1849/34

⁴¹ Archives NZ Collections Search R24515498 NM8 1849/27

⁴² Archives NZ Collections Search R24517790 NM8 1849/35 – with NM8 1851/1038

⁴³ Archives NZ R24515511 NM8 1849/45 George Watson, Wellington 19 Jan 1848

1849 Jan 25

DS Durie, Waikanae – Sir, In compliance with the instructions contained in your Circular No.48/4 respecting the duties of my Department, I have the honor to furnish for the information of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor my report for the quarter ending 31st December 1848.⁴⁴

The Force consisting of 55 men including non-commissioned officers is reduced since last Quarter to 44 and the probability is that greater reductions will take place, as I find that several of the most efficient men are anxious to avail themselves of the present high rate of wages offered to Mechanics and tradesmen of which class the Force is chiefly composed.

The duties of the police are principally the transmission of Overland Mails and Dispatches, escorting money to road parties, performing police duties in the different Towns and Settlements in the province, apprehending deserters, attending Resident Magistrate's Courts, guarding prisoners sentenced to hard labour, assessing damages in cases of Trespass, collecting Statistical information, affording the Government facilities of communication with the different European and Native Settlements on the Coast, and in addition various other incidental duties, which with the general disposal of the Force are more fully exhibited in the States and Returns furnished for His Excellency's inspection at the expiration of every month.

The Natives continue faithful in the discharge of their duties, and I discern that their desire for being connected with the service is increasing. Considering the state of Crime in Europe and other parts of the World I cannot but congratulate the Government on the comparative absence of any serious cases in this province which are not immediately detected by the vigilance of the police.

With reference to that portion of your letter in which I am instructed to report on the working of the Ordinances under which I act, I have only to observe that they have as yet been applicable in the adjudication of the several cases that have come before me, excepting however "The Cattle Trespass Ordinance" which in an Agricultural District where the cultivation of the soil and the protection to crops should be fully encouraged, it does not provide that the holder of Cattle should keep a responsible Stockman or herd to look after them. It is true that when Cattle are found trespassing a remedy is provided by the Ordinance but in some cases when damages are sustained and it cannot be proved how such damages occurred, and to whom the Cattle occasioning them actually belonged, the injured person without any fault on his part is obliged to abide by the loss. This is particularly felt by the Natives when their Toil and Industry of several months may be totally destroyed in one night.

The changes which I have had in contemplation to introduce for His Excellency's consideration as intimated in my last Quarterly Report have been already anticipated by His Excellency and I have reason to hope that the mounting of a portion of the Force which is now proposed by the Government, will be a means of ensuring greater efficiency and despatch in conducting the duties of this Department.

The Ferries that have been regularly licenced and established on the line of Coast from Porirua to Wanganui are found a convenience, not only to the police in the conveyance of Mails but to Travellers generally, who previously were often subjected to considerable delay and annoyance for want of such a necessary accommodation.

⁴⁴ Archives NZ Collections Search R24515525 NM8 1849/70

The unlicensed Ferries under the management of Natives are not so well attended particularly at Manawatu. In pursuance of instructions received from Government I endeavoured to purchase a small portion of land at the mouth of the Manawatu River, for the erection of a House and paddock where a licensed European might be stationed to secure greater regularity and attention to Travellers, but Taratoa the Chief of that River strongly opposed a European being placed there and objected to dispose of any land. To complete the Ferries on the line of Road where the police of this District are engaged carrying the mails, it will be found necessary to notice the Rivers of Tihoa and Patea beyond Wanganui as the men are frequently exposed to danger and the Mail delayed in crossing these Rivers. I should therefore take the liberty of suggesting that it would be desirable to make an arrangement with the chiefs of Tihoa and Patea to supply a native and canoe for their respective Rivers before the approaching winter sets in.

1849 Jan 31

DS Durie, Inspector of Police, Wellington enclosing vouchers for approval⁴⁵

1849 Mar 1

DS Durie recommending Peter McAuslend to be a private in Armed Police Force.⁴⁶

1849 Mar 1

A. E. MacDonogh, Wellington to DS Durie – Sir, Having learnt from you this morning that Mr Chetham Strode is forthwith to be recalled from his present Station to this place I have the honor to request you will be pleased to solicit His Excellency The Lieutenant Governor that I be permitted to relieve that Officer at Otago. I am the more earnest in my present application from a desire to obtain some settled and permanent Appointment which of course I cannot expect to be the case if Mr Chetham Strode returns to this Station, as I am now unfortunately that Officers' Junior in the Armed Police my having held at the formation of the said Corps the Commission of Adjutant of the Militia of this District, which precluded me from becoming a candidate for any other service. In conclusion I trust that your personal knowledge of me together with the manner I have endeavoured to perform my duties since I have been under your Command, will induce you to recommend me to the favorable consideration of His Excellency.⁴⁷

1849 Mar 1

A. E. MacDonogh, Sub-Inspector Police, Wellington enclosing return of Arms, Ammunition, Office Furniture &c to the close of the past year in compliance with your memoranda of 6th January last.⁴⁸

1849 Mar 2

DS Durie, Wellington – Sir, In acknowledging your letter of 1st instant authorizing the recall of Mr Strode from Otago, and leaving the Detachment under the charge of a Corporal. I have the honor to recommend that an Officer should take charge of that station, as I consider it a tract of too great importance to be left under the control of a non-commissioned officer. I have therefore much pleasure in enclosing Mr MacDonogh's application and hope it will _ the sanction of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, as I have always found that Gentleman both active and zealous in the discharge of his duties.⁴⁹

1849 Mar 8

DS Durie respecting authority to sell gunpowder to Natives.⁵⁰

⁴⁵ Archives NZ Collections Search R24515532 NM8 1849/80

⁴⁶ Archives NZ Collections Search R24515624 NM8 1849/199

⁴⁷ Archives NZ R24515621 NM8 1849/195 D. S. Durie, Wellington 1 Mar 1849

⁴⁸ Archives NZ R24515620 NM8 1849/194 A. E. MacDonogh, Wellington 1 Mar 1849

⁴⁹ Archives NZ R24515621 NM8 1849/195 D. S. Durie, Wellington 2 Mar 1849

⁵⁰ Archives NZ Collections Search R24515660 NM8 1849/242 – with NM8 1840/239

1849 Mar 22

Peter McAuslend is appointed as Private in the Police Force *vice* Sergeant Swallow, discharged at his own request.⁵¹

1849 Apr 25 – Thomas Scott to Colonial Secretary – With reference to my Tender for the conveyance of Wanganui Mail I have the honor to inform you that I carried the Mail upon the same road for about nine months in the years 1844 and 1845, for the manner in which I performed the duty at that time, I have the honour to refer to Mr John Hoggard postmaster, Wellington. In terms of a notification which appears in the Government Gazette of 16th instant inviting tenders for running the Mail between Wellington and Wanganui and Wanganui and Wellington, I have the honor to offer to perform the same for the sum of £225 per annum, for which I undertake to provide one man and horse at Wellington, and one man and a horse at Wanganui, to start on the appointed days from both stations, meeting at Ohau which is as near as possible half way between both places, the distance to be performed in time to deliver the Mail by Monday of the fourth from the date of starting, or in three days and a half from the time that the Bags are delivered to the Postman. For the due and proper performance of which engagement I have to propose for my securities, Mr Robert Waitt and Mr Johnston both of Wellington, Merchants, each for the whole amount required. – Source NM 49/665.⁵²

1849 May 3 – Alfred Domett, Colonial Secretary – This tender is recommended for rejection on the ground that the Police can still in the opinion of the Inspector convey the Mail. **Eyre to Domett** – I fully concur that it is on every account better and more useful that Police should carry the Mail and the tender had better therefore be declined.⁵³

1849 May 24

DS Durie relative to obstruction to Mr Scroggs met with whilst employed⁵⁴

1849 Jun 9

DS Durie recommending George Crocker to be a private in the Armed Police Force.⁵⁵

1849 Jun 22

DS Durie relative to native Mania, Private in Police Force⁵⁶

1849 Jun 23

[1] DS Durie, Waikanae transmitting Maori Census for Waikanae and Porirua⁵⁷

[2] DS Durie, Inspector of Police in relation to claim of Corporal Oxenham for share of £50 penalty in case Oxenham v Pierson and wife⁵⁸

1849 Jul 11

DS Durie re application for a Bush Licence in favour of Barnard McCullum.⁵⁹

1849 Jul 20

DS Durie requesting authority to pay £10 to Corporal Oxenham and £5 to Isaac McKain of Armed Police⁶⁰ and requesting authority for drawing lamp oil etc for Police Barracks Wellington⁶¹

⁵¹ New Zealand Government Gazette (Province of New Munster) 23 Mar 1849 p30

⁵² Archives NZ R20935245 A Walk along the Beach – that is 250 miles long! A history of the Overland Mail between Wellington and Wanganui 1841-1866

⁵³ Archives NZ R20935245 A Walk along the Beach – that is 250 miles long! A history of the Overland Mail between Wellington and Wanganui 1841-1866 – entry dated 25 Apr 1849

⁵⁴ Archives NZ Collections Search R24515701 NM8 1849/531 – with NM8 1849/529

⁵⁵ Archives NZ Collections Search R24515725 NM8 1849/568

⁵⁶ Archives NZ Collections Search R24515765 NM8 1849/617

⁵⁷ Archives NZ Collections Search R24515851 NM8 1849/729

⁵⁸ Archives NZ Collections Search R24517994 NM8 1849/726 – with NM8 1851/1294

⁵⁹ Archives NZ Collections Search R24515901 NM8 1849/803

⁶⁰ Archives NZ Collections Search R24517993 NM8 1851/744 – with NM8 1851/1294

⁶¹ Archives NZ Collections Search R24515858 NM8 1849/741

1849 Jul 31

DS Durie transmitting returns of cases disposed of at Waikanae and Porirua for year ending 30 Jun.⁶²

1849 Aug 4

Lieut-Governor to write Major Durie relative to the remittal of half the fine imposed upon Sergeant S___⁶³

1849 Sep 12

Robert Smith is appointed Sergeant in the Armed Police Force.⁶⁴

1849 Sep 21

DS Durie requesting authority for the payment of eight shillings to four natives.⁶⁵

1849 Oct – Thomas Scott – said to have arrived at Rangitikei to establish ferry and accommodation house, located on north bank and later known as Scott's Ferry.⁶⁶

1849 Oct 1

Civil Secretary, Auckland relative to the pay of Armed Police sent from Wellington to Auckland.⁶⁷

1849 Nov 19

DS Durie – application from Paora te Awa Mate for mitigation of fine.⁶⁸

1849 Dec 8

DS Durie relative to a second Constable being stationed at the Hutt⁶⁹

1849 Dec 14

DS Durie recommending Thomas Florance to be a private in Armed Police.⁷⁰

1849 Dec 21

DS Durie relating to the ferry at Waikanae⁷¹

1850 Blue Book – Civil Establishment of New Munster – Armed Police Force, Wellington⁷²

Inspector: David Stark Durie; Sub-Inspector: Arthur Edward McDonogh

Sergeants: Henry Hopwood, Robert Smith

Corporals: Thomas Duncan, George Scott

Privates: Benjamin (Native), Thomas Berridge, John Bond, John Cail, John D...leary, Benjamin Eglinton, ... (Native), Thomas F..., Michael Finucane, Thomas F..., Henry F..., John ..., John Kells, Kepa (Native), John Knox, Koheta Kirinu (Native), David Maginnity, Andrew M...ally, Anthony M...kin, Nicholas ..., ... ore (Native), ... (Native), Samuel ..., James M. ..., George ..., Robert ... (Native)

1850 Jan 30

DS Durie transmitting Blue Book Returns⁷³

1850 May 1

DS Durie requesting sanction of repayment of expenses to Nicholas Oxenham, Armed Police.⁷⁴

⁶² Archives NZ Collections Search R24516001 NM8 1849/957

⁶³ Archives NZ Collections Search R24515903 NM8 1849/806 – with NM8 1851/807

⁶⁴ New Zealand Government Gazette (New Munster Province) 14 Sep 1849 p135

⁶⁵ Archives NZ Collections Search R24516036 NM8 1849/1023

⁶⁶ Archives NZ R20935245 A Walk along the Beach – that is 250 miles long! A history of the Overland Mail between Wellington and Wanganui 1841-1866

⁶⁷ Archives NZ Collections Search R24516055 NM8 1849/1052

⁶⁸ Archives NZ Collections Search R24516277 NM8 1849/1171 – with NM8 1850/92

⁶⁹ Archives NZ Collections Search R24516182 NM8 1849/1251 – with NM8 1851/1252

⁷⁰ Archives NZ Collections Search R24516205 NM8 1849/1283

⁷¹ Archives NZ Collections Search R24517787 NM8 1849/1300 – with NM8 1851/1038

⁷² Archives NZ R21502251 Blue Book New Munster 1849 and 1850

⁷³ Archives NZ Collections Search R24516284 NM8 1850/111

⁷⁴ Archives NZ Collections Search R24516400 NM8 1850/295

1850 Jun 18

DS Durie reporting proceedings of his journey up the coast.⁷⁵

1850 Jul 6

DS Durie requesting appointment of John Kells vice Mitchell.⁷⁶

1850 Jul 16

DS Durie relative to appointment of John Kells to the police force.⁷⁷

1850 Jul 20

DS Durie relative to paying the men with notes of Colonial Bank of Issue.⁷⁸

1850 Jul 22

DS Durie reporting weekly state of force.⁷⁹

1850 Aug 16

DS Durie reporting application of Private Selwyn and recommending Wiremu Kohita to replace him.⁸⁰

1850 Aug 24

DS Durie relative to the removal of the men and suggesting alterations to present system.⁸¹

1850 Sep 12

DS Durie relative to the dismissal of Selwyn from Police Force.⁸²

1850 Sep 30

DS Durie requesting sanction of payment of £2 10s for hire of a horse.⁸³

1850 Dec 2

DS Durie relative to payment of fines into Treasury.⁸⁴

1850 Dec 10

DS Durie requesting sanction to the appointment of John Dunbany and T. Burrige vice George Crocker and John Cail, discharged.⁸⁵

1852 – Appointment – of Major Richard Baker to be Sub-Inspector of Police for the District of Wellington.⁸⁶

1856 Jul 29 – Aftermath of Wellington Fire – after funds were raised to cover payment for services rendered regarding the fire – to Sergeant-Major Styles of the Wellington Armed Police, the sum of £5 5s.⁸⁷

1858 Feb 3 – Supreme Court – Mary Monaghan was indicted for stealing a silver watch, of the value of fifty shillings, from one Joseph Cornford... Augustus Yelverton, being sworn, stated – I am a Corporal in the Wellington Armed Police I know the prisoner at the bar. On the 17th December I received information that Cornford had lost a watch. Soon afterwards I heard that Mary Monahan had offered a watch for sale to Conrad Deihl...⁸⁸

⁷⁵ Archives NZ Collections Search R24516485 NM8 1850/453

⁷⁶ Archives NZ Collections Search R24516557 NM8 1850/563 – with NM8 1850/562

⁷⁷ Archives NZ Collections Search R24516574 NM8 1850/609 – with NM8 1850/601

⁷⁸ Archives NZ Collections Search R24516579 NM8 1850/610

⁷⁹ Archives NZ Collections Search R24516603 NM8 1850/657

⁸⁰ Archives NZ Collections Search R24516715 NM8 1850/738 – with NM8 1850/848

⁸¹ Archives NZ Collections Search R24516678 NM8 1850/781

⁸² Archives NZ Collections Search R24516713 NM8 1850/849 – with NM8 1850/848

⁸³ Archives NZ Collections Search R24516747 NM8 1850/909

⁸⁴ Archives NZ Collections Search R24516872 NM8 1850/1084

⁸⁵ Archives NZ Collections Search R24516889 NM8 1850/1117

⁸⁶ New Zealand Government Gazette (New Munster Province) Index for 1852 – p164 (missing from GZTs online at Natlib)

⁸⁷ Daily Southern Cross 29 Jul 1856 Wellington

⁸⁸ Wellington Independent 3 Feb 1858 Supreme Court

1859 Mar 2 – Supreme Court – Mary Ann Pepper was indicted for having feloniously stolen a dressing case, a gold watch and several articles of Jewelry, the property of Mr Grant... Samuel Styles, being sworn, stated – I am Serjeant Major of the Wellington Armed Police; I know the prisoner at the bar...⁸⁹

1860 Nov 27 – Death and Funeral Notices - At his residence, Molesworth-street, Samuel Stafford Styles, Serjeant-Major of the Wellington Police, on the 24th November, aged 43 years, much regretted by numerous friends and relatives. The Friends of the late Sergeant-Major Styles are respectfully informed that his remains will leave his residence in Molesworth-street, at half-past three o'clock p.m. tomorrow, the 28th inst. J. W. Hall, Undertaker.⁹⁰

1860 Dec 6 – Letter to the Editor – from our own correspondent – Mr Sergeant-major Styles is dead; there are numerous applications for the situation, including several wild radicals, one of which is Mr Frederick Aitcheson.⁹¹

1861 Mar 12 – Provincial Secretary's Office – Wellington, 28 Feb 1861 – Mr Frederick Atchison to be Sergeant-Major of the Wellington Armed Police vice Mr Samuel Styles, deceased.⁹²

1872 May 30 – New Zealand Medal claim admitted – for Thomas Scott, constable in the Wellington Armed Police Force.⁹³

1872 Jul 18 – Claim of Thomas Scott – constable in the "Wellington Armed Police" to the New Zealand war medal has been admitted by the Commissioner. What new force is this?⁹⁴

⁸⁹ Wellington Independent 2 Mar 1859 Supreme Court

⁹⁰ Wellington Independent 27 Nov 1860 Death and Funeral Notices

⁹¹ Wanganui Chronicle 6 Dec 1860 Letters to the Editor

⁹² Wellington Independent 12 Mar 1861 Advertisement

⁹³ Wellington Independent 30 May 1872

⁹⁴ Evening Post 18 Jul 1872

New Zealand War Medal

John Frazer, Marton, Rangitikei⁹⁵

1870 Apr 18 – Date of application – was a Lance Sergeant with the Armed Police Wellington for 12 months – Horokiwi Valley, Pahautanui, Wainui & Waikanae throughout 1846 and 1847. Specific dates cannot be remembered. Immediate commanding officer was Major David Stark Durie. Officer commanding Field Force, Major Last 99th Regiment, Sub-Inspector A. C. Strode and Senior Sergeant Richard Barry and comrades Sergeant W. Holmes and W. Stewart. Left on completion of expired term 1847.

1870 Apr 28 – Application forwarded – to Under Secretary of Defence from Marton.⁹⁶

William Mills, Collector of Customs, Christchurch⁹⁷

1871 Sep 29 – Date of Application – had served as a Sergeant with the Armed Police Force for 2½ years. Spent about 18 months in the field – was under fire at the Tai Tai and Military Camp on 16 May 1846 when the camp was surprised by the natives, besides other service incumbent upon me as in charge of an armed body of men. The service of the applicant can be verified by Major Durie late Inspector of Armed Police now in Wanganui.

Henry Philps, Gollan's Valley, Hutt⁹⁸

1871 Sep 1 – Date of Application – served as a Private with the Armed Police for about one year. Was in the field about seven months – the attack on Taita Stockade in May 1846, operations in the Horokiwi Valley and attack on Rangihaeata's Pah.

Richard Robinson, Makara⁹⁹

1874 Feb 28 – Date of application – had served with the Wellington Armed Police as a Private for one year. Claimed to be under fire during the period 1st to 14th August 1846 and was at Horokiwi 6th August 1846.

Alfred Chetham Strode, Dunedin¹⁰⁰

1872 Apr 8 – Date of application – Was Sub-Inspector of the Armed Constabulary Force for four years. Commanding a detachment of Armed Police, served with Her Majesty's regular troops in all the operations against the Rebel Natives of New Zealand in 1846 and 1847, at Horokiwi, the Hutt, Porirua and Wanganui. Under sharp fire on several occasions at Horokiwi under Major Last 99th Regiment, and at Wanganui under Colonel McCleverty, on one occasion in 1847, at the latter place, for a whole day. I can refer confidently to Sir George Grey the then Governor of New Zealand, who was present at the operations at Horokiwi and elsewhere, for his opinion of my services, and of my conduct, on all the occasions referred to.

1872 May 6 – NZ War Medal Commission – Will Mr Hunter be good enough to sign the certificate of this application if he remembers Mr Strode having been under fire.

1872 May 10 – NZ War Medal – Lieutenant-Colonel Moule, Acting Under Secretary for Defence to Defence Office Wellington – Will Sir George Grey be so kind as to state, if he can, whether Mr Strode, who claims the New Zealand War Medal, was actually under fire, as the tenth of the applicant's statement requires to be confirmed before the distinction can be awarded him.

⁹⁵ Archives NZ R22350769 AD32/2834 John Frazer

⁹⁶ Archives NZ R22350769 AD32/3380 John Frazer

⁹⁷ Archives NZ R22350925 AD32/3543 William Mills

⁹⁸ Archives NZ R22351212 AD32/3865 Henry Philps

⁹⁹ Archives NZ R22349812 AD32/3991 Richard Robinson

¹⁰⁰ Archives NZ R22354462 AD32/4221 Alfred Chetham Strode

Obituaries

Henry Bentley (1819-1902)

Wairarapa Daily Times 10 Apr 1902

Another well known pioneer settler of Masterton, Mr Henry Bentley, has joined the majority. When he first made his acquaintance, some five and twenty years ago, he occupied a store in Queen-street, where Yee Chong's shop is now situated, but his commercial venture did not prove altogether a success. Subsequently he has filled a number of minor appointments, in which his well known integrity was always conspicuous. He was a prudent, careful man; and though in his later years his means were somewhat restricted, they sufficed for his modest wants, and he maintained throughout his career a spirit of honourable independence.

The late Mr Bentley was born in Scotland in 1819, and came to Wellington in 1841, as an A.B. on the ship *Lord William Bentinck*. Soon after his arrival in Wellington, he entered the Wellington Customhouse. He was employed on the Government brig *Victoria* but left that vessel after the Wairau massacre. [Subsequently he served in the Militia and in the Armed Constabulary, fighting against the celebrated Chiefs Rauparaha and Rangihaeata.](#) After a visit to the Australian goldfields, we find Mr Bentley bringing his wife and family over the Rimutaka to Masterton, in 1855. At that time the road over the hill was a bush track, and crossing the summit with pack horses was a severe ordeal. During the Maori Scare in Masterton, Mr Bentley served as a Lieutenant in the Volunteers. As a pioneer settler, he did his duty to the Colony quietly and unostentatiously, but faithfully.

It is not alone the successful settlers, the men who attain wealth and honour, who have made this Colony. In the ranks there have ever been fighting brave and honorable men, like the late Mr Henry Bentley; men with a clean record, who in the hour of trouble or danger have ever done their duty without seeking any great advancement or distinction. During the five and twenty years that we have known the late Mr Bentley we never heard a single word spoken against him as a man or as a citizen. He leaves, too, behind him a goodly array of children and grand-children, who will perpetuate his name in the annals of the Colony.

William Corbett (1823-1875)

Grey River Argus 26 May 1875

William Corbett was an old resident of the Grey gold fields, and lived for a long time at Totara Flat and Ahaura, working as a carpenter and sawyer. He was a well educated man; an old colonist, at one time in affluent circumstances, having formerly been, it is said, a member of the House of Representatives for some constituency in the Province of Wellington.

New Zealand Times 10 Jun 1875

We recently mentioned the death by accident at the Grey Valley, of Mr William Corbett, well-known in this province. From particulars to hand we find that Mr Corbett whilst walking along the tramway on the 20th May last, over No Town Creek, slipped, and fell a distance of some ten feet, receiving injuries which caused his instantaneous death. Mr Corbett was one of the older Wellington settlers, having come out here in 1851 and took a somewhat prominent part in public affairs, having been a member of the Provincial Council in 1858. He surveyed the small farm settlements in the Wairarapa, and left the province for Otago in 1860, where he was for some time employed in laying off roads. He had been from that time until he met his death, employed in the exercise of his profession at different places in almost every part of the South Island.

James Lessington (1815-1897)

Evening Post 20 Oct 1897

In the late Mr James Lessington, of Karori, one more of Wellington's sturdy band of pioneers has passed away. Mr Lessington arrived in this colony in the ship *Arab* in 1841. For some years he was an active member of the police force of his day. Afterwards he was for some time in the service of Lady and Sir George Grey, and many times has the old pioneer helped to convey Lady Grey to various balls in the city in a sedan chair. He was three times married, and leaves a large family, scattered about the colonies.

Nicholas Oxenham (1814-1903)

Manawatu Times 30 July 1903

There died at Te Aute (H.B.) on Friday last, Nicholas Oxenham, aged about 90 years, formerly of the Wellington police. It was Oxenham who arrested William Good for the murder of the young man Ellis on board the *General Palmer* in 1850. The *General Palmer* came into Wellington in a disabled state and her cargo was sent Home in the ship *Mariner*. Ellis was left on board the *General Palmer* as shipkeeper. Bethune and Hunter were the agents. Ellis was supposed to call at their office several times during the week. He missed calling for several days and the agents sent their head storeman, Mr Edward Rowe (brother of the late Mr George Rowe of Taonui-street) to make enquiries and search the ship if necessary. The result was the finding of his dead body in a cask. He had been shot and also stabbed. It was known at the time that the man Good was often on board spending his evenings with Ellis, but there were also two other men who used to visit Ellis on board the ship and all three of these men had cleared out. The police were set to work. One named Burgess Sayer was sent one way and Oxenham another, with instructions to arrest all three men if possible. Oxenham found out which way Good had passed and was soon on his track, which took him to a station in the Hawke's Bay district, travelling not being as easy as at present. It was night when he reached the spot, and so he remained outside until the break of day, then, seeing the smoke coming out of the chimney, he went in and saw his man preparing breakfast. He told him what his business was, and seized him at once before Good had time to realize what was up. "Where is your warrant?" he asked. "Don't want one for this job," remarked Oxenham. Oxenham was fortunate in securing the services of a deserter, probably one of the 65th Regiment, to take his man along. On returning to Wellington he got scent of the other two men, arrested them, and delivered all safe in Wellington. Probably there was not much to fear with the two last, as it was proved they were innocent, though they all underwent the trial. It was in Judge Chapman's time, and the man Good being found guilty was sentenced to death and hanged at Mount Cook. Father O'Reily said on the scaffold that Good confessed he was guilty and wished the people to know that he, and he alone committed the murder.