50th REGIMENT
(Queen’s Own)
REGIMENT
IN NEW ZEALAND
1834 & 1863 – 1867

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MNZM RDP FRPSL FRPSNZ
AUGUST 2017
50th (QUEEN’S OWN) REGIMENT
The Gallant 50th
Or otherwise known as the “Dirty Half Hundred”

Short History
The Regiment was originally raised by Colonel James Abercrombie as the 52nd Regiment of Foot in 1755 for service in the Seven Year War. It was re-numbered as the 50th Regiment of Foot, following the disbandment of the 50th & 51st Regiments in 1756.
The 50th Regiment was involved in actions in Germany, Jamaica, New York, Gibraltar, France, and Egypt during 1757 – 1801.
A second battalion was raised in 1804, and saw action at the Battle of Copenhagen, Portugal, France, and the West Indies.

In 1831, it was renamed the 50th the Queen’s Own, in honour of the King’s wife Queen Adelaide. The Regiment travelled to Australia in Detachments as escorts to prisoners in 1833, the first arrivals were on the Neva, which arrived at Sydney on 21 December 1833. In 1841, the Regiment moved to India, and in 1854 saw action in the Crimean War.

Whilst the Regiment was in Australia 1833-1841, two companies left Sydney on 30 August 1834 to rescue a woman and nine seamen who had been captured by the New Zealand Maoris. They successfully accomplished their mission, returning to Sydney 11/13 November 1834.

New Zealand
In 1863 the Regiment was in Ceylon, when they received instructions to proceed at once to New Zealand.
New Zealand
The Regiment under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel R. Waddy, C.B. embarked on HMSS Himalaya which left Colombo on 9 October 1863, arriving at Auckland on 15 November 1863.

ARRIVALS.
H.M. s.s. Himalaya, 3,500 tons, 700 horse-power
Captain Edward Facee, R.N., from Colombo, via Melbourne, with her Majesty’s 50th regt on board.
Charlotte Andrews, barque, from Sydney.
Wild Wave, ketch, from Kilpana.
Kangaroo, s.s., from Sydney.

Daily Southern Cross

Further reinforcements, left Gravesend on board the Light Brigade on 23 September 1864, arrived at Auckland on 22 December 1864.

ARRIVAL OF THE CLIPPER SHIP LIGHT BRIGADE, WITH TROOPS.

The fine clipper ship Light Brigade, in command of Captain N. Evans, anchored in the harbour at dusk last evening, after a splendid passage from London of eighty-four days. She took her departure from the Downs on the 20th September, and sailed from Start Point on the 28th. Passed outside Cape de Verde Islands, and experienced very light N.E. trades. The equator was crossed on 27th October, and the island of Trinidad was made on the 3rd November. Sighted Tristan d’Acunha on the 10th November, and Keppel Island on the 20th November. From the Cape of Good Hope to Tasmania fine weather was experienced, and she ran down her sailing to 45 south, passing Tasmania on the 12th December. From thence light and variable weather has prevailed. The Three Kings were made on Wednesday last.

The Light Brigade is so well and favourably known here that it would be superfluous for us to mention anything about her excellent sailing capabilities. On this occasion she has made the passage in the same number of days as the British Tucut, and when we take into consideration the light wands she met with before passing the meridian of the Cape, and the lengthy passages made by most other vessels sailing about the same time, she has made an extraordinary quick passage.

Captain Evans and his officers have, as on former occasions, won the esteem and good wishes of all on board, as the very flattering testimonial given below fully testifies. The Light Brigade brings a large cargo of general merchandise, and 435 troops, composed of all ranks. There are on board 33 Royal Engineers, 74 of the 12th Regiment, 43 of the 3rd Regiment, 84 of the 70th Regiment, 171 of the 50th Regiment, 15 of the Military Train, 10 of the Army Hospital Corps, and the following officers. (The names as extracted from an English paper will be found elsewhere, but as there are many inaccuracies in them, we publish below the correct list):—Lieutenant Malloy, Royal Engineers, Ensign Hobson, Ensign Bolton, 12th Foot; Major Holmes (in command), Ensign Brett, Ensign Miltie, Ensign Rowan, Ensign Lyons, 43rd Foot. Lieutenant Roger, 70th Regiment, Lieutenant Young, Lieutenant MacGiegon, 50th Regiment, Assistant-Surgeon Wallace, M.D. On the 21st November one of the Royal Engineers, named Logan, was washed overboard and drowned, and on the 20th December a private of the 5th Regiment, named Chappell, died of fever.

Daily Southern Cross
Otahuhu
On 16 November 1863, the day after the 50th Regiment arrived, they marched to Otahuhu, with Headquarters and three Companies proceeding to Drury, and two Companies stationed at the Queen’s Redoubt. Further individual Companies were stationed at the four Redoubts at Shepherd's Bush, Martin’s Farm, Williamson’s Clearing and the Razor Back.

Raglan Expedition
On 29 December 1863, orders were issued for the Regiment to concentrate at Otahuhu, in order to march to Onehunga, where five Companies embarked on board the ss Alexandra on 4 January 1864 for Raglan, together with members of the Waikato Militia with animals for food for the troops. The rest of the 50th Regiment following on the 6 January 1864.

Whilst stationed at Raglan, they were engaged on forming a road through to the Waipa River to join up with General Cameron at Tuhikaramea (Hamilton).

Pateranga
On the 11 February 1864, a party of 50 men of the force under Captain R. H. P. Doran were, proceeding to bathe in the river at a point some 500 yards to the right rear of the Camp, when they were fired upon by a large party of Maoris. The covering party of 20 men under an Officer of the 40th Regiment returned the fire, and a further 50 men were sent from the Camp to assist. After the Maoris had retired, Colonel Waddy recalled the troops, as soon as all the killed men were carried off the field. The 40th Regiment lost four Privates killed and six wounded. The 50th lost two Privates killed; 4545 Private James Cussen (24) and 596 Private William Bane (22). Captain Charles Heaphy Auckland Volunteer Rifles was also wounded.
The Pāterangi Memorial Site

This memorial obelisk is located on farmland on Bird Road, halfway between Pāterangi and Pirongia, west of Te Awamutu. The memorial marks the graves of six privates of the 40th and 50th regiments who were killed in action at Waiari on 11 February 1864.
**Rangiaohia**

On 20 February 1864 Lt. General Cameron, marched a force of 4 Field Officers, 15 Captains, 27 Subalterns, 9 Staff, 54 Drummers and 1097 Rank & File, from Te Rore towards Te Awamutu, arriving there at daybreak on 21 February 1864, and immediately proceeded to Rangiaohia. Although the Pa was nearly deserted the few remaining Maoris opened fire. The British losses were two killed and six wounded.

On 21 February 1864 a large convoy, escorted by the 50th Regiment, under Colonel Weare, left Te Rori, at 4.30 am, arriving at Te Awamutu at 2 pm.

On the 22 February 1864, the Maoris were fortifying themselves at an old Pa called Haeirini, blocking the road between Te Awamutu and Rangiaohia. General Cameron decided to immediately attack this new position, leaving Te Awamutu with a combined Force of 6 Field Officers 23 Captains, 47 Subalterns, 12 Staff, 88 Sergeants, 43 Drummers and 1665 Rank & File.

The 50th Regiment which consisted of 2 Field Officers 8 Captains, 18 Subalterns, 3 Staff, 29 Sergeants, 18 Drummers and 536 Rank & File, were exposed to very heavy fire in advancing towards the position, Lieutenant W. R. White went forward with 20 men to draw off the enemy's fire, whilst Captain C. R. Johnson (No. 1 Company) and Captain J. Thompson (No. 10 Company), took ground to the left. The 50th Regiment losses were one Sergeant Killed and nine wounded.

- **Killed**
  - Sergeant William Hawkins (26)

- **Wounded**
  - Ensign C. A. Doveton (21) classified as Dangerous.
  - Sergeant Joseph Payne (24)
  - Private Thomas Burke (28)
  - Private Richard Beech (25)
  - Private Walter Brett (21)
  - Private Cornelius Walsh (21)
  - Private William Mathews (25)
  - Private William Kennedy (28)
  - Private Elias Warburton (25)
  - Five of the injuries were classified as severe.
  - Captains C. R. Johnson and J. Thompson, and Lieutenant W. R. White were mentioned in despatches.
**Pukenuru**
On 22 March 1864, Lt. General Cameron left Te Awamutu and set up Headquarters at Pukerumu, together with the Royal Artillery, 50th, 70th Regiments and Forest Rangers.
The Battle of Orakau took place 31 March 1864 to 2 April 1864, but the 50th Regiment, took no part in the action, after which the Field Force was broken up, however the 50th Regiment remained in the area until 15 August 1864, when Headquarters proceed to Otahuhu, leaving one Detachment at Pukerumu, which did not re-join the Regiment until October 1864.

**Wanganui**
In December 1864, the 50th Regiment embarked at Onehunga for Wanganui.

General Cameron, was scheduled to leave Auckland for Wanganui on 4 January 1865.

**Nukumaru**
On 24 January 1865, General Cameron with a total Force with about 2000 British Troops and two Field Guns, which included men of the 18th & 50th Regiments and a Detachment of the 57th Regiment, under Lt. Colonel Waddy C.B. marched from Wanganui, pitching his first camp at Nukumaru. The position on a practically open plain, dotted with small lakes, was fifteen miles from Wanganui to the north-west was the Weraroa Pa.

On 25 January 1864, at daybreak a strong force of Hau Hau Maoris attacked the camp, the fighting went on all day and into the next day 26 January 1865, killing 16 men and wounding 32. 80 men of the 50th Regiment were involved with 11 Privates killed and Lieutenant W. H. Wilson, and Ensign D. L. Grant, and 18 Privates, wounded.

General Cameron shifted camp to a more secure position close to the sandhills on the coast, remaining there until the night of 2 February 1865.
Nukumaru
Tablet

SACRED
TO THE MEMORY OF

Jonathan Fisher / Smith Hargraves
Joseph Gould / William Erwin
George F. Poole / William Vine
William Land / Michael Murphy
John Renny / Henry Paris / Robert Ridyard

of the 50th (Queen’s Own) Regiment

who were killed in action at Nukumaru / on the 25th January 1865,

This stone is erected by the / officers, / non-commissioned officers / and
privates of the / 50th (Queen’s Own) Regiment.

50th Regiment Nukumara memorial, Queen’s Park Wanganui
Waitotara River
General Cameron’s Force had now been augmented to 2300 of all arms, and on 3 February 1865, 1104 Officers and men under Lt. Colonel R. Waddy crossed the Waitotara River, leaving Major H. E. Weare in command at Nukumaru.

A Redoubt for 150 men was built on a cliff on the left bank, and two field guns were mounted on it.

On the 15 February, the force under Lt. Colonel R. Waddy marched to the mouth of the Patea River. The Force left at Nukumaru under Major H. E. Weare, replaced the troops which had left the Waitotara River.

Patea
A Redoubt for 200 men was constructed on the left bank, the main body then crossed to the right bank where on the high ground another more sophisticated Redoubt was constructed. The entrenchment enclosed a large area of ground, on which buildings were erected some time later for a large depot of provisions as well as huts for 600 men.

On 9 March 1865, Major H. E. Weare, with the troops which had left the Waitotara River, re-joined the main force at Patea.

Kakaramea
On 15 March 1865, General Cameron, with 1273 Officers and men moved out from Patea, towards Kakaramea. At about two miles out of Patea, the advance guard of the 57th under Major Butler, supported by the 68th under Lt. Colonel Morant and a company of the 50th Regiment Captain C. R. Johnson, were fired upon by about two hundred Hau Hau Maoris. The Hau Hau Maoris suffered one of their greatest defeat, with 80 being killed, the British losses were one killed and three wounded.
(The remainder of the 50th Regiment being held in reserve under Major Loch). Captain E. Leach 50th Regt. who acted as Deputy Assistant Adjutant General, received the thanks of General Cameron.

A Redoubt holding 150 men was constructed at Kakaramea.
**Manutahi**
On 16 March 1865, the column reached Manutahi, where they camped at the Maori village, detachments were sent to Manawapou on the sea coast.

On the 29 March 1865, the Force with Headquarters, moved out from Manutahi, stopping the next day a few miles from Manawapou, and on 31 March 1865 marched through Hawera, and pitched on the high banks above Waingongoro.

**Waingongoro**
A large camp was formed here, and Redoubts were erected on both banks of the Waingongoro River to protect the landing and storage of supplies. Getting supplies proved very difficult by sea with several capsizes and fatalities. General Cameron, decided, that due to problems associated with supplies and the fact that the road north to New Plymouth was in any case difficult, that he had no alternative than to retrace his steps, back to Patea. 150 men of the 57th Regiment were left at each of the Redoubts and a force was left at Manawapou.

**Patea**
On the 29 April 1865, General Cameron left for Auckland to confer with the Governor on future operations. A force of 750 men was left for the winter.

Headquarters and 400 men of the 50th Regiment were formed into a moveable column, under Major H. E. Weare, leaving Patea on 2 June to meet up with Colonel Warre 57th Regt. force marching from Taranaki, returning on 13 June 1865, having encountered no problems. Lieutenant W. H. Barker 50th Regt. who acted as Deputy Assistant Quarter-Master General was thanked by the General.

**Sir George Grey**
Sir George Grey decided to take over command, with his main objective of capturing the Hau Hau stronghold at Wereroa

On 25 August 1865, Sir Duncan Cameron sailed for England, and the command was taken over by Sir Trevor Chute.

3 January 1866, Major H. E. Weare 50th Regiment was Commanding at Patea, and Captain A. C. C. K. Lock was commanding at Manawapou.
Putahi
On 7 January 1866, a British Force with detachments from the 14th (2 Battalions) & 18th (2 Battalions), together with four Companies of the 50th Regiment, and Colonial forces, advanced on the strong Hau Hau Maori Pa at Putahi. During the action which followed the British losses were two killed and 12 wounded.

Taranaki
On 22 February 1866, the 50th Regiment was moved from Patea to Taranaki (New Plymouth), occupying Redoubts at Opanaki, Warea (30 miles south) and Stony River (26 miles south of N.P.) where headquarters of the 50th Regiment was established.

Homeward Bound
On 26 August 1866 Headquarters and the Right Wing of the 50th Regiment received orders to proceed to Auckland for embarkation to New South Wales. Arrived at Auckland on 17 September 1866 and on 26 September 1866, one Company left for Brisbane.
On 3 October 1866, Headquarters and four companies of the 50th Regiment embarked for Sydney, arriving there on 9 October 1866.

On 3 June 1867, 2 Companies embarked for Sydney

On 11 July 1867, 3 Companies under, Lt. Colonel F. G. Hamley, sailed for Adelaide arriving there on 9 August 1867.

On 11 November 1868, Lt. Colonel Richard Waddy C.B. was promoted to the rank of Major-General.

The 50th Regiment finally left Australia in March 1869.
HAUHAU WAR - TARANAKI - 50th REGIMENT - 1866

1866 - SOLDIERS LETTER - The 50th Regiment, 1st Battalion [Queen's Own Royal West Kent] Regiment, known as the 'Gallant 50th', otherwise known as the 'Dirty Half-Hundred'. In 1863 the Regiment was in Ceylon when it was ordered to proceed at once to New Zealand. The Regiment arrived in New Zealand on 15 November 1863 and were actively engaged in most of the engagements which took place in the Waikato. In December 1864 the Regiment embarked at Onehunga for Wanganui.

Nº 542 Private Henry Sellers - 50th Regiment

21 JULY 1866 - NEW PLYMOUTH

LONDON - 12 & 13 SEPTEMBER 1866

Postal Rate
SOLDIERS Concession Rate Letter
Half Ounce (Maximum) - One Penny

Countersigned by Lt. Colonel F. G. Hamley.

[Major & Bravat Lt. Colonel Hamley was appointed Governor & Captain General of South Australia on 19 February 1868].

Postal Route
Via PANAMA -
Triom N° 2 RUAHINE left Wellington 24 July 1866
RMSPC ATRATO arrived Southampton 12.9.1866

On the 22 February 1866, the 50th Regiment moved from Wanganui to Taranaki and occupied the Redoubts at Opunake, Warea, and Stony River where Headquarters was established. On the 3 October 1866, Headquarters and five Companies left for New South Wales and Queensland. Whilst five Companies continued to hold the above Redoubts until June 1867, two Companies joined Headquarters in Sydney. The remaining three Companies under Major and Lt. Colonel F. G. Hamley, stayed in New Zealand until 11 July 1867, when they left for Adelaide.

This is the only recorded 1d Concession Rate Letter’
From the 50th Regiment in New Zealand
In April 1882, the 50th Regiment was brought up to a total strength of 1040 all ranks.

On 1 July 1881, the Regiment amalgamated with the 97th Regiment which at one time also bore the title of “The Queen’s Own” became the 2nd Battalion, and the 50th Regiment became “The Queen’s Own Royal West Kent Regiment”
We make a living by what we get.  
We make a life by what we give.  
Winston Churchill

" Believe nothing that you hear,  
    a quarter of what you read,  
    and only a half of what you see,  
    and check and recheck your facts"  
Percy de Worms

Whilst every care has been taken to ensure that all the facts are accurate, reliance has had to be made on secondary information. Where ever possible I have checked against contemporary information, but notwithstanding, I have not been able to confirm some information.

I look forward to receiving any comments and new information and especially details of any additional surviving letters

I accept that any errors are purely mine.

Gerald J. Elliott MNZM

August 2017