THE 68th (DURHAM) LIGHT INFANTRY
“THE FAITHFULL DURHAM’S”

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MNZM RDP FRPSL FRPSNZ

OCTOBER 2017
The 68th Regiment

Short History
The 68th (Durham) Regiment of Foot (Light Infantry) was raised in 1758. Under the Childers Reforms it amalgamated with the 106th Bombay Light Infantry to form the Durham Light Infantry in 1881, the 68th Regiment becoming the 1st Battalion, and the 106th Regiment becoming the 2nd Battalion in the regular Army. The Regiment saw action during the Seven Years War before being converted to Light Infantry in 1808, fighting with distinction in the Peninsular Army under Arthur Wellesley. The Regiment was involved with some distinction during the Crimean War, and was present during the Indian Mutiny.

New Zealand
The Regiment was serving in Burma in 1863, when they were urgently ordered to go to New Zealand. The Regiment left Rangoon in the Armenian leaving on 29 October 1863 and the Australian, leaving on 21 November 1863, and the Light Brigade on 29 November 1863. The Armenian had a dreadful passage, arriving more than two weeks after the Australian, which had left more the three weeks after the Armenian, as well as three weeks after the Light Brigade. The Australian arrived at Auckland on the 8 January 1864, the Light Brigade on 17 January 1864 and the Armenian arrived at Auckland on 23 January 1864.

The Australian 8 January 1864

Arrival of the Australian, Capt. Dando, from Rangoon, with troops.
At half-past six o'clock yesterday morning, the s.s. Australian dropped anchor in the harbour. She left Rangoon on the 21st November last, having on board the head quarters of the 68th Regiment. She arrived at Melbourne on the 26th December, and left again for this port on the 31st. On the passage across the weather was fine, with light breezes from the N.W. She passed a large ship during the night, but did not make out her name; this was the Charles of Fame, which arrived during the afternoon.
The Australian is a screw steamer of 1,500 tons gross, 660 tons burthen, commanded by Captain A. C. Dando, R.N. Reserve, and has excellent accommodation for the conveyance of troops. She belongs to the British India S.S. Navigation Company, and comes into harbour in first-rate condition. The men of the 68th are a fine, healthy-looking body of men, and the fact of only one death having occurred during the passage speaks not only for the state of health of the men, but also for the capabilities of the vessel for conveying so large a number, and also for the order and cleanliness preserved on board during the passage through the tropics. The crew, except officers, is composed of lascars, whose novel dress and appearance contrasted strangely with the groups of soldiers that filled the decks. The following is a list of the officers Lieutenant-Colonel Morant, Captains Oakley and Seymour, Lieutenant and Adjutant Marshall, Lieutenants Rolston and Turner, Ensigns Banks, Surgeon Major Best, Quaestor, Slaithwaite, with 277 rank and file, 7 women, and 10 children.—Passengers in cabin. Mrs. Best and Mrs. Shabon.

Daily Southern Cross
ARRIVAL OF THE SHIP LIGHT BRIGADE, FROM RANGOON, WITH TROOPS.

On Saturday afternoon, signal was made at the flag-staff for a ship outside Tin-Tri, and there being a good breeze from the N., she rounded the North Heads just at dark, and shortly afterwards dropped anchor at the Estuery. She proved to be one of the expected arrivals, the Light Brigade, Capt. Henry Evans, with detachments of the 43rd and 68th Regiments on board, besides a large number of women and children.

We are kindly furnished by Capt. Evans with the following particulars of the passage, &c. — The Light Brigade, with a detachment of the 43rd Regiment on board, sailed from Calcutta on the 7th November, for Rangoon, where she embarked a detachment of the 68th Regiment, and sailed for Auckland on the 1st December. Fine weather was experienced during the whole passage. After passing Tasmania, it was the captain's intention to come round by the South, but a strong blow coming on from the S., he stood away for the North Cape, sighting the Three Kings on the 13th instant. Off the Poor Knights lay for two days, becalmed. On the 20th December, the barque Venetia, of the White Star line, from London to Sydney, 46 days out, ran aground at 42° 17' S., 116° 54' E. Off the Poor Knights, saw a barque (supposed to be the Alice Cameron) steading to the N.

The Light Brigade was built at Boston in 1853, and belongs to the Black Ball line of clippers. She is a handsome vessel of 1,204 tons, and has made a capital run of 40 days from Rangoon.

The following is the list of officers — 43rd Regiment, — Major C. W. Shuttleworth, Commanding; Captain Pratt, Lieutenant, C. E. Tew, B. H. Burke, C. C. Hood, and Assistant surgeon O Collington.


Passengers in the saloon, Mrs. Tew and child.

68th Regiment, — 215 non-commissioned officers and privates, 3 women and 73 children, 43rd Regiment, — 47 non-commissioned officers and privates, 10 women, and 21 children.

One man, a deserter from the 60th Rifle, was discovered to be on board after the ship had sailed.

The casualties during the voyage were, — deceased, 1 woman and 3 children of the 43rd Regiment, — 5 births are recorded. The general state of health was throughout very good. The late hour at which our reporter was enabled to get on board prevented him from going over the ship, or seeing any more than the cabin, but the absence of all disease and death amongst the men during the voyage, speaks well for the care taken to preserve cleanliness and order.

Her agents are Messrs. Stephenson and Wardell.

Daily Southern Cross 18 January 1864

The Light Brigade arrived 17 January 1864
The steamer signalled yesterday morning, instead of being, as was expected, the mail boat from Sydney, was the Armenian, from Rangoon, having on board the remainder of H.M.'s 68th Regiment. Although signalled at half past 7 o'clock in the morning, it was not until 3 that she dropped anchor in the harbour. Our reporter boarded her on arrival, and the following particulars were furnished to him by the mate of her passage from Adelaide into which port she had to put for repairs. Sailed from Adelaide on the 4th, and sighted the Three Kings on the night of Wednesday last. Strong breezes all the way, signalled the barque John Lumby. Captain Mitchell, who command the Armenian, left the vessel for the shore the moment she dropped anchor, so we have only given what we were able to pick up from the mate and officers of the ship. By the courtesy of the Major in command of the troops, we are able to furnish the names of the officers of the 68th, and the strength of the detachment on board.

Major Kirby (in command), Captain H. W. J. Trent and F. Casement; Lieutenant T. R. Clark; Surgeon W. E. Powall; Ensign W. H. P. Palmer; Assistant Surgeon A. V. Appin.

Passengers in cabin—Mrs. Kirby and Mrs. Clarkson.

Total strength of detachment, 7 officers and 348 non-commissioned officers and men, 3 women, and 3 children. One man died and one child was born on the passage.

The Armenian is too ill to register, with no horse power, but in the bad state of her boiler, this was reduced to 26. She is 85 days from Rangoon, and 17 days from Adelaide.

After gathering what particulars we could of the passage, &c., we took the customary look round the ship, and must certainly say that without exception the dirtiest vessel, both externally and internally, that we ever recollect boarding in this harbour. As far as her capabilities for a troop ship go, she appears to be totally unfitted for such a service, nor does it appear that the comfort and convenience of the troops have been properly looked after by those whose duty it is to see that the ship is properly fitted for her reception. The men were crowded between decks in a space much too small for so large a number, which makes it a matter of surprise that the general health has been so good during the passage through the tropics. The cause may doubtless be attributed to the fact of most of the men being inured to the heat of India. The sleeping of hammocks at night must have been a matter of much difficulty, and from the way in which the staples were fastened, we should imagine that the deck was much the safest place to spend the night upon, provided that no one was rash enough to take up his quarters overhead. In the cabin the officers appear to have suffered from the bad management of those in authority, and had they not been provided with private resources, would have fared but badly. Again, the stores called medical comforts, which every troop ship is supposed to have on board, seem to have been quite overlooked. Perhaps, as it happened, there was not much call for them, but still that is no excuse for their not being available, when wanted. The vessel however, has now terminated her voyage, and we can only congratulate the officers and men of the 68th on having arrived safely, and regret that in connection with New Zealand they should have to undertake so long and unpleasant a passage as that from Rangoon to Auckland.

Daily Southern Cross 24 January 1865

"...without exception the dirtiest vessel, both externally and internally, that we ever recollect boarding in this harbour..."
There were three more arrivals, the Silver Eagle & Golden City in 1864, and the Nelson in 1865.

The Silver Eagle 3 March 1864

The Silver Eagle is a vessel of 903 tons, and is commanded by Captain Longman. She has made the passage from Torbay to Auckland in 82 days, including four days’ detention at Pernambuco. The last passage made by this vessel was accomplished in 92 days from Gravesend. During the present voyage there has not occurred a single death or sickness of any kind. The vessel came into port, as on a former occasion, in a very clean and healthy condition, and the passengers all in good health. The officers who have arrived by the Silver Eagle speak in the highest terms of the conduct of the captain and officers. The Silver Eagle is consigned to Messrs. Cruickshank, Smart, and Co., and the following is a list of the passengers and cargo:

Passengers.—Captain Surgeon, Captain Hamilton, Captain Harris, Lieutenant Hogarth, Ensign Nicholls, Ensign Gaunt, and Surgeon Turner, 3rd Regiment; Lieut.-Colonel H. H. Green, Brigadier Major Fitzgerald, Captain Light, Captain Tucker, Lieutenant Cox, Lieutenant Kay, Ensigns Clifford Green, Forster, Pace, and Woodward, 68th Regiment; Rev. P. Beaton (Presbyterian Chaplain) J. O. Bailey, and W. J. Callan, Church of England Chaplains; Assistant Surgeon Hemphill; Mr. Green, Mr. and Mrs. Green, and two servants, Mrs. Bailey, Miss and Master Bailey; Mrs. Mitchell and three children; Mrs. Butts and two children; 326 rank and file, and 9 women and children.

Daily Southern Cross 3 March 1864

The Silver Eagle out of London arrived 3 March 1864

Complimentary Address to W. H. Longman, Esq., R.N.R., Commanding Ship Silver Eagle

We have much pleasure in offering the following:


Dear Sir,—We, the undersigned passengers on board the Silver Eagle, feel that we cannot leave this vessel without expressing our grateful remembrance of the kindness and courtesy we have received from you and your officers during our very pleasant voyage from London to Auckland.

We had already heard the highest report of your abilities as a seaman, and of the sea-going capacities of the noble vessel under your command. These reports have been fully confirmed by our own experience. You and the vessel have proved yourselves worthy of the high reputation you have hitherto enjoyed. Our passage to Auckland has been remarkably short, and on every occasion you have conducted the convenience and comfort of your passengers. It is to you professional skill, and the protection of Divine Providence, that we owe our safe arrival in this distant part of the world.

W. H. Green,

"Lieut. Col., 68th L.I.

W. H. Fitzgerald,

"Capt. and B Maj., 68th L.I.

(Here follow the names of 21 officers)

"Auckland, 3rd March, 1864."

Daily Southern Cross 7 March 1864
The Golden City 4 March 1864

The Golden City is a vessel of nearly 800 tons, and was built by Vesterbuilt of New York in 1856. During the present voyage she has experienced some very adverse weather, which has no doubt prevented her from making a quicker passage. Her average run, for one month after leaving the Cape of Good Hope, was over 200 knots per day, thus showing that with a moderate wind she is a good sailing craft. Two vessels were sighted bound to India. There was one death on board, a child ten years of age, namedMage Beaumont, who died from epileptic convulsions with effusion into brain. There were also two births, on the 20th of January, Mrs. Outridge was confined of a son, and on the 19th of February Mrs. D. Kennedy of a son. The passengers who have arrived by this vessel we all in good health. The passengers and cargo.

The Nelson 20 January 1865

The Nelson brings 292 rank and file of the different regiments, viz. 14th Regiment, 18th, 60th, 76th, 80th, 92nd, 10th, 15th, 52nd, 57th, 59th, 65th, 66th, 68th, 40th, and the following officers — Captain Bryce, 2nd battalion 14th Regiment, in command; Lieut. Cornish, 2nd battalion 18th Regiment; Lieut. Lloyd, 49th Regiment; Ensign De la Poer and Ensign Swindley, 63rd Regiment; Ensign Tiedemann, 67th Regiment; Lieutenant Caldecott, 48th Regiment; and Staff-Assistant-Surgeon Johnson, M.D. The following are also passengers by her — Captain and Miss Hamilton, three children, and servant, James Pictor, W. Le Page, B. Charlotte, Martha, Charlotte, and William H. Johnson; Capt. H. C. Elizabeth, and Elizabeth Andrews; Elizabeth Arthur; Sydney, Phillips, and Louisa Lodge; Mary Pinders, James Hogue, Alexander Agnew, William Robinson, Joseph Thompson, Elliott and Allen Maunder, Thomas Lowry, Frederick H. Ogilvie, William T. Willet, Adam Hillhouse, Charles Ogilvie, Alfred Pembroke, Luke H. Holloway, Allan J. Viner, James and Mary Smith; Eliza, James, and Ernest Smith; Sarah, Ann, Hatty, and Russell Smith; William Malone, John G. Chisholm, Isaac Cailey, John Venning, John Southgate, F. G. Calver, William and George Gardener, D. M. Ramsey, Fred E. and Hannah Phripps, James McGreggor, James Fernoo, Charles Wallace, George Knott, Thomas Mills, Edward Edmonds, John Horseman, J. Scott, T. Connemara, Adolphus, and Annie Browning, Emily Dunn and child, Wm., Sarah, Victor, Victorine, Robert, Lucy, Mutilda, James, and Jefferson Edwards; Frances, Frederick, Elizabeth, Alfred, John W., and Emma Smith; George Bishop, Ann Hilton, William O'Brien, John, Margaret, Isabella, Elizabeth, James, and David Hanley; John McKee, H. McMillan; Total...81

Daily Southern Cross 5 March 1864
The Golden City out of Queenstown, Ireland on 6 October 1864
arrived Auckland 20 January 1865

There were 40 Rank & File under the command of Lieutenant G. F. Caldecott, which disembarked at Auckland.
Details of the 68th Regiment Headquarters and Detachments which had arrived from Rangoon are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>ship</th>
<th>Field Officer</th>
<th>Captains</th>
<th>Subalterns</th>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Sergeants</th>
<th>Drummers</th>
<th>R &amp; F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 8</td>
<td>Australian</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 18</td>
<td>Light Brigade</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 22</td>
<td>Armenian</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>847</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On the 18 January 1864, Lieutenant-General Cameron, having received reports that the East Coast natives had joined the enemy, he decided to send an expedition to Tauranga.

The force which was to be conveyed by HMS *Miranda* and the steamer *Corio*, consisted of 1 Officer and 6 Rank & File Royal Engineers. 23 Rank & File Royal Artillery, 18 Officers and 120 Rank & File 43rd Regiment, 4 Officers and 101 Rank & File Waikato Militia. The 68th Regiment consisted of 2 Field Captains, 3 Captains, 6 Subalterns, 3 Staff, 24 Sergeants, 6 Drummers and 377 Rank & File.

On 21 January 1864, the force embarked on the *Miranda* and the *Corio*, from Auckland, arriving at Tauranga on 22 January 1864, Colonel Carey, in command confirmed that he had occupied the Mission Station at Te Papa, Tauranga.

It would appear that the troops which arrived on the *Armenian*, disembarked and marched to the Main Camp at Otahuhu. In which case, they would then have stayed there until April, when HMS *Falcon* left Auckland on 20 April 1864, bound for Tauranga with 18 Officers and 291 Rank & File. HMS *Esk*, left the same day with Commissariat Stores, and on the 25 April 1864, HMS *Harrier* took a Detachment of the 43rd Regiment to Tauranga.

**Gate Pa**

The two main regiments involved in the Battle at Gate Pa, were the 43rd and 68th Regiments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regiment</th>
<th>Field Officer</th>
<th>Captains</th>
<th>Subalterns</th>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Sergeants</th>
<th>Drummers</th>
<th>R &amp; F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>43rd</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68th</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Total Force, including the General Staff, Medical Staff, Naval Brigade, RA, RE, Moveable Column, was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field Officer</th>
<th>Captains</th>
<th>Subalterns</th>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Sergeants</th>
<th>Drummers</th>
<th>R &amp; F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This Battle was less than successful, and certainly not as planned or expected with the high numbers of Officers, either killed or wounded, especially those suffered by the Naval Brigade which far exceeded the losses suffered by the rest of the force.

Lieutenant-General Cameron, having received information that it was possible at low tide, to gain the rear position of the Maori position, he ordered Colonel Greer to make the attempt with the 68th Regiment after dark on the evening of the 28 March 1864, in order to divert the attention of the Maoris, he also arranged for a feigned attack to be made in the front.

Colonel Greer's report, brought to the attention of the Lieutenant-General, the following Officers of the 68th Regiment; Major Kirby, Lieutenant Cox, Major Shuttleworth, Captain Trent and Lieutenant and Adjutant Covey – Field Adjutant.

**British Casualties at Gate Pah.**

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**NUMERICAL ABSTRACT of KILLED and WOUNDED at Gate Pah, near Tauranga, April 29, 1864.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regiments</th>
<th>Officers</th>
<th>Non-commissioned Officers and Men.</th>
<th>Since Dead.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Battalion 12th Foot</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Battalion, 14th Foot</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40th Foot</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43rd Foot</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65th Foot</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68th Foot</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ROYAL NAVAL BRIGADE.**

| "Carron"     | ... | 1 | 1 | 5 | ... | ... |
| "Miranda"    | ... | 1 | 1 | 8 | ... | ... |
| "Esk"        | ... | 1 | 3 | 10| ... | ... |
| "Harrier"    | ... | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1   | ... |
| "Eclipse"    | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Total        | 2   | 3 | 9 | 27| 1   | ... |
| Total of both services | 7   | 7 | 21 | 76| 3   | 4  |

J. MOUAT,
Dep. In. Gen., P. M. O.
The next action in which the 43rd & 68th Regiments were involved was at Te Ranga on 21 June 1864, this was far more decisive as the British losses were slight in comparison with the Maori losses, where the majority of the Maori chiefs were killed. This action, virtually brought about the end of the fighting in the Bay of Plenty area.

Colonel Greer’s report, brought to the attention of the Lieutenant-General, the following officers of the 68th Regiment; Major Shuttleworth, Captain Trent, Captain Casement, Captain Seymour, Captain Stuart, and Lieutenant and Adjutant Covey – Field Adjutant, Ensign Palmer who acted as Colonel Greer’s Orderly, Surgeon-Major Best, Principal Medical Officer, Sergeant-Major Tudor, No. 2918 Sergeant Murray, who was to be considered for the Victoria Cross, No. 2832 Corporal J. Byrne, V.C., Privates No. 3641 Thomas Smith, & No. 518 Daniel Coffery

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**68th Regiment Casualties**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corps.</th>
<th>Regd. No.</th>
<th>Rank and Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
<th>Place of Death</th>
<th>Nature of Injury</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>68th</td>
<td>3258</td>
<td>Sergeant James Harmer</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>April 29 Gate Puh</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Right knee joint</td>
<td></td>
<td>Killed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3269</td>
<td>Private John Motter</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Gate Puh</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Shell - Right foot</td>
<td></td>
<td>Severe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2771</td>
<td>William Sloan</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Gate Puh</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Gunshot wound left thigh</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dangerous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68th</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>Edward O'Neil</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Gate Puh</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Shell - Right knee</td>
<td></td>
<td>Severe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68th</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>Daniel Sweeney</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Gate Puh</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Shell - Right hand</td>
<td></td>
<td>Slight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4940</td>
<td>William Watson</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Gate Puh</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Gunshot wound right thigh and hand</td>
<td></td>
<td>Very severe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2963</td>
<td>John Logan</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Gate Puh</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Clavicle and left arm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Severe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4315</td>
<td>Patrick McDonald</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Gate Puh</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mouth and neck</td>
<td></td>
<td>Very severe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>73</td>
<td>William Johnston</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Gate Puh</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Severe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corps.</th>
<th>Regd. No.</th>
<th>Rank and Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
<th>Place of Death</th>
<th>Nature of Injury</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>68th</td>
<td>3788</td>
<td>William Ashton</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>April 29 Gate Puh</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Left arm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Arm amputated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>333</td>
<td>Henry Black</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Gate Puh</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Right arm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Severe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>643</td>
<td>John Plut</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Gate Puh</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Chest</td>
<td></td>
<td>Slight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3390</td>
<td>James Brown</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Gate Puh</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Head</td>
<td></td>
<td>Slight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4047</td>
<td>Hugh Turner</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Gate Puh</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Chest</td>
<td></td>
<td>Slight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3434</td>
<td>Patrick Farnell</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Gate Puh</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Right chest</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dangerous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3186</td>
<td>John Baxter</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Gate Puh</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Left elbow and scapula</td>
<td></td>
<td>Slight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>69</td>
<td>Private John Gumble</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Gate Puh</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Gunshot wound in skull</td>
<td></td>
<td>Killed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>111</td>
<td>James Watson</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Gate Puh</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Fingers</td>
<td></td>
<td>Severe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2975</td>
<td>Sergeant William Adelen</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Gate Puh</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Leg</td>
<td></td>
<td>Slight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3944</td>
<td>Private Thomas McGough</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Gate Puh</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Neck and chest</td>
<td></td>
<td>Severe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Image of Victoria Cross]

Victoria Cross awarded to Sergeant J. Murray
Sergeant John Murray V. C.

Victoria Cross awarded to Sergeant Murray
TAURANGA - BATTLE OF TE RANGA

The Battle of TE RANGA took place on 21 June 1864. The main British troops were from the 43rd Regiment (Major Synge) and 60th Light Infantry (Major Shute Wynn). The Colonial Force, the 1st Wiakato (Captain Moore), together with the Royal Artillery, were all under the command of Colonel Greer. Captain J. H. Culme Seymour 68th L. I. took over from Captain Trent when he was severely wounded, subsequently, Captain J. H. Culme Seymour was mentioned in despatches and promoted to Brevet Major.

Captain J. H. Culme Seymour - 68th Regiment.

30 JULY 1864 LETTER - DESCRIBING THE BATTLE

My dear Father,

Y. letter dated May 19th arrived a few days ago by it. Since you had only received the first news of the 68th at Tauranga, letters certainly take a good time coming to the Antipodes. All the Maoris about here are coming over to sign the Treaty. More want to make peace about 150 have done so. I don’t think they shall fire another shot at Tauranga. The natives here had such a awful looking at Tauranga that they have no heart to fight any more. They say they...
Captain J. H. Culme Seymour Letter Page II
TAURANGA - BATTLE OF TE RANGA - CAPT. J.H. CULME SEYMOUR

Transcript of letter written on 30 July 1864 by Captain J.H. Culme Seymour, 68th Regiment, describing the Battle of TE RANGA, Pukehinahina, two miles south west of Geta Pa, Tauranga, which took place on 21 June 1864.

Tauranga
Bay of Plenty

July 30th, 1864

My Dear Father,

Your letter dated May 19th arrived a few days ago, by it I see you have only received the first news of the 68th at Tauranga, letters certainly take a good time coming to the Antipodes. All the Maoris about here are coming in to Great Britain and laying down their arms and want to make peace about 150 have done so. I don’t think we shall have another shot at Tauranga, the Natives have had such an awful licking at Te Ranga that they have no heart to fight any more. They say themselves they lost 200 men there. William Thompson however, still holds out and it must be remembered there is yet all the East Coast of the Island. They have not as yet had any fighting with the tribes on the East Coast and they are reported to be building very strong pa’s which I imagine we shall have to turn them out of, if the War continues.

Some fellow think that I shall perhaps get a Brevet Majority for the Te Ranga action as when Trent fell I was the Senior Officer on the right, and Great has mentioned me in his dispatch.

Our wounded are doing pretty well, some of the men however, who were hit at Te Ranga have died of their wounds. Cameron is the worst wounded of the Officers. He was hit in three places, and the bone of one of his ribs which was broken gives him some trouble. I don’t suppose we shall ever have such a hard as hand fighting again, for I don’t believe after this they will be inclined to stand, the way in which some of the men escaped was wonderful, after we gained the place all that survived ran as hard as they could and got bugaboo tremendously but fought most desperately for their lives. One saw one Maori being chased by a man of ours who was close on my left, and the way the former warded off the rifle was beautiful. When the man got near him, he turned round and would have a regular stand up fight and then run on for a few yards, when the same thing would take place. I couldn’t step to see the end of it, but I saw our man’s bayonet warded off by this gallant Maori 3 or 4 times. I was besides at this time terribly blown, and in the Pits although the Maoris were not more than a yard from me I could hardly hold my revolver steady. When I fired the 6th barrel I was obliged to put it between the legs of one of our men so you may imagine what a skirmish there was.

I am now living in a wooden hut which has been built by the Government for us - each hut has 6 partitions (14 feet by 10) and one Officer in each. It is certainly a great blessing to get out of a Tent - I was introduced a day or two ago to a great Maori Chief who has fought in his time under the Chief ‘Nehe’. His name is Penetaka. He was the Engineer and designer of the ‘Geta Pa’ and fought there with considerable valour - he shook hands most cordially with me, and we walked together round the Hospital and inspected the wounded Maoris most of whom have had their legs off, and arms amputated, all having been seriously wounded at Te Ranga. He seemed to think you little of them ‘it doesn’t much matter’ he said ‘there legs and arms being off if they can open their mouths and eat plenty of food’. The Maoris don’t at all like having their limbs amputated and some of them took a long time before they would consent to it. A Maori came to see Creer this morning and showed his leg - one bullet had gone through it at the Geta Pa and another at Te Ranga (the same leg). ‘You see’ he said ‘all well I make, if I came to the Paketa they make cut off’. I see Blair Athol won the Derby - we had a lottery here about $1 a ticket - 1st Prize 52£, 2nd 15£, 3rd 5£. I sent a fellow to draw my ticket and he picked Blair Athol out of the hat. I have consequently had the rare luck to win 51£ clear. Our last accounts from England he was at 50 to 1 so I didn’t think there was much chance. Will you tell me in your next letter whether you received a N.Z. newspaper. I ordered one to be sent from Auckland some time back. With best love,

Your affectionate Son,
J.H. Culme Seymour

Penetaka
Who planned
The defence
Captain J. H. Culme Seymour
Two letters addressed to the Rev. G. T. Seymour, whilst the first letter dated 10 May 1864, could possibly have been sent by Captain J. H. Culme Seymour, there is no doubt that the September 1866 letter was not, although it was authenticated by Stanley Gibbons in 1982 (12/12/82 Lot 522)
68th Regiment Casualties – Te Ranga
Nominal Return of Killed and Wounded in the Action at Te Ranga, 21 June 1864

The Maori losses were recorded as 120 Killed, 27 Wounded and 10 Prisoners. According to James Cowan, the British losses were 13 Killed and 39 Wounded.
Corporal Christopher Simmonds

Posted at Brighton Boston USA 27 May 1864
Rate 33 cents, adhesives cancelled with single straight line PAID
LONDON cds (red) 22 May 1864, AUCKLAND Large cds 21 August 1864
Accountancy marking 28 (red) indicating Credit due to UK Post Office.
Redirected from Auckland to Tauranga Bay of Plenty (Durham Redoubt Te Papa)

Corporal Christopher Simmonds was awarded the New Zealand Medal
(Te Ranga 21 June 1864)

NZ Maori War Medal 1863-1864
Major J. H. Kirby 68th Regiment was in command of the erection of a Redoubt and Military stronghold at Maketu.
MAKETU - FORT COLVILE - 1865

1865 Two letters from Mrs. Emily Kirby wife of Major Kirby commanding Fort Colvile, Maketu. Postage paid Twopence and Unpaid.

Mrs. Emily Kirby - 68th Regiment

24. 1. 1866 - LETTER TO ARCHDEACON A. N. BROWN - TAURANGA

MAKETU 25 JANUARY 1865

UNPAID LETTER

MAKETU 31 MARCH 1865

Postal Markings

MAKATU datestamp manuscript 5 and 25 Jan [top cover]
MAKATU datestamp manuscript 5 and 31 March

Three barred obliterator
MAKETU - FORT COLVILE - 1865

Two letters from Mrs. J. H. Kirby wife of Major Kirby commanding Fort Colvile, Maketu. Both letters sent unpaid with no additional charges raised. The UNPAID Mail could possibly have been carried by Mounted Orderlies.

Mrs. Emily Kirby - 68th Regiment

UNPAID LETTER

MAKETU 10 MAY 1865

UNPAID LETTER

MAKETU 29 MAY 1865

Postal Markings

MAKATU datestamp manuscript 5 and May 10 [top cover]
MAKATU datestamp manuscript 9 and 29 May
There are no TAURANGA Postal Markings

Kirby Correspondence
MAKETU - FORT COLVILE - 1865

1865 This is the last recorded letter [five known] 24 January 1864 to November 1865 from Mrs. Emily Kirby wife of Major J. H. Kirby commanding Fort Colville, Maketu, addressed to Mrs. Christina Brown, Archdeacon Brown at Tauranga, sent postage UNPAID.

Mrs. Emily Kirby - 68th Regiment

5 NOVEMBER 1865 ENTIRE LETTER SENT UNPAID - POSTAGE DUE

MAKETU 6 NOVEMBER 1865 - TAURANGA 6 NOVEMBER 1865

Postal Markings

MAKATU datstamp manuscript 5 and 6 Nov
Manuscript figure 4 indicating Fourpence to pay

Note

This is the only time that the TAURANGA cds has been struck on any of the six covers of this correspondence

It is rather ironic, that Mrs. Brown has been charged Fourpence for this letter as Mrs. Kirby writes in this letter as follows:

"There is no need to pay postage on your letters to me. I never do and they all seem to get through"

MAKATU Circular Datestamp

The circular datestamp known used November 1864 to February 1870 is completely different to any being used at that time in New Zealand, having very large Capitals and with the date numerals ‘186’ a fixture.

Kirby Correspondence
Tauranga 1864 & 1865

TAURANGA - 68th [DURHAM] LIGHT INFANTRY

INCOMING MAIL - Mail addressed to Soldiers could be sent at the same Concession Rate of One Penny, as was enjoyed by Soldiers when sending mail home. It was necessary to state the Regiment, Rank and No of the Soldier, together with the address.

Incoming Soldiers Letter - No 3631 Private Jonas Bell

LEEDS 3 OCTOBER 1864 - LONDON 4 OCTOBER 1864

AUCKLAND 22 DECEMBER 1864

LEEDS 28 JULY 1865

AUCKLAND 20 OCTOBER 1865

Mail addressed to Soldiers on active service, seldom survived and for New Zealand, these two covers are probably unique.

Private No. 3631 Jonas Bell Correspondence.
Tauranga 1866

TAURANGA - 68th LIGHT INFANTRY - 1866

The First Battalion of the 68th [Durham] Light Infantry, the ‘Faithful Durhams’ were serving in Burmah in 1863 when they were urgently ordered to go to New Zealand, the AUSTRALIAN was the first ship to arrive at Auckland on 8th January 1864. The Regiment suffered 39 casualties, including 7 deaths, in the actions at Gata Pa and Te Ranga in 1864. The Headquarters remained at Tauranga, but part of the Regiment later served in the Waingauri area until they all left from Auckland for England in March 1866.

Nº 3631 Private Jonas Bell 68th Light Infantry

TAURANGA 3 JANUARY 1866 - AUCKLAND 10 JANUARY 1866

LEEDS 18 APRIL 1866

Postal Markings

The Adhesive has been cancelled incorrectly with the TAURANGA Datestamp contrary to Regulations [see also Letters 26.10.1865 and 23.2.1866]

Postal Rate

SOLDIERS Concession Rate Letter
Half Ounce [maximum] - One Penny
In this case Two Pence has been paid for no apparent reason. The cover has been correctly drawn up and endorsed as prescribed, and signed by the Commanding Officer Colonel H. H. Greer.

Postal Regulations

1 April 1862 Clause 31 - Postmasters are carefully to stamp or mark as required Letters posted at, or passing through their Offices:
1. All Letters with the Daily Date Stamp
2. The label on every letter to be marked with the obliterator stamp

Private No. 3631 Jonas Bell Correspondence.
Wanganui 1865

Officers Mail – Wanganui
Captain H. J. R. Villiers Stewart and Captain H. S Grace.
Headquarters of the 68th Regiment remained at the Durham Redoubt, Te Papa, Tauranga. A detachment of 240 men left for Wanganui in February 1865.

**Cameron’s West Coast Campaign**

The Western side of the Island, from Wanganui to the White Cliffs in North Taranaki, was the spacious scene in 1865 of an indecisive campaign and a number of small expeditionary operations. Immediately after the New Year Lieutenant- General Cameron took the field in the Wanganui district, under instructions to take possession of the Waitotara Block. Cameron’s first camp was at Nukumaru, 15 miles from Wanganui, where his force of about 2000 Imperial troops, were suddenly attacked in daylight by a large force of Hau Hau Maoris, unfortunately the first volley of fire killed and wounded the unsuspecting troops. Whilst in the ensuing action far more Maoris were killed, the British Losses were 16 Killed and 32 wounded, the Maori lost 23 Killed.

At Te Ngaio (Kakaramea) on 15 March 1865, a far better result ensued with the British losses being 1 Killed and 3 Wounded, whereas the Hau Hau Maoris had 80 of their men Killed. Much of the work in Cameron’s march up the coast was done by the 57th Regiment, they led the advance on Kakaramea, followed by detachments of the 50th and 68th Regiments. The 50th & 68th Regiments manned the most advanced garrisons, and a strong force of the 68th Regiment was encamped at the Manawapou Redoubt. There was a good deal of skirmishing in mid-Taranaki in the later part of 1865, and on the 28 July 1865, Captain Close (43rd Regiment) and a private were mortally wounded.

Cameron, who had a difference of opinion with the Governor, had sent in his resignation earlier in the year, finally handed over the command of the army to Major-General Trevor Chute, who was officially appointed and in October 1865, he arrived in New Plymouth to confer with Colonel Warre on a plan of operation.

General Chute conducted a vigorous Taranaki campaign in 1866 with mixed forces, Imperial and colonial, but from that year until the close of the wars the Government relied solely on its own officers and men.

**Chute’s Taranaki Campaign**

General Chute, marched out of Wanganui on the 30 December 1865 for the Weraroa, at Otapawa on 14 January 1866, in the following action, the combined force lost 11 killed and 20 wounded, the Hau Hau losses were 30 killed. Chute decided to take his force to New Plymouth by going on the direct route, the almost unknown Maori track on the east side of Mount Egmont.
The British Post at Mataitawa, was garrisoned by detachments of the 43rd & 68th Regiments took provisions to the half-starved troops.

Letter from Captain Percival, Mataitawa to the Commissariat, New Plymouth,
Lieutenant H. G. Robley
Probably one of the best-known officers of the 68th Regiment, especially in New Zealand, on account of his sketches of the Maori life, and his mokomokai collection.

Horatio Gordon Robley was born at Madeira on 28 June 1840, his Father being a Captain in the Indian Army. In 1858, he purchased an ensigncy in the 68th Regiment. After returning home from New Zealand he purchased a Captaincy. In 1887, he retired from the Army with the rank of Major-General.
Lieutenant H. G. Robley – Letter 29 April 1907

LONDON 30 April 1907 UPU Rate 2½d addressed to George Calvert at Boston USA

29 April 1907 Entire Letter from Robley, complete with his sketch of a Maori Moko
29 April

Dearest Calvert,

Your friend of my travels in

Hindustan. I hope you are in good health,

for we met at an ideal.

I di as usual in a small hotel,

where I met a Mr. Cullen. He

is a powerful man, very kind.

I met a head from New Delhi,

where the weather has been bad all week.

It is not beautiful, just now.

Yours affectionately,

H. G. Robley
Lieutenant H. G. Robley - Letter 6 October 1927

6 October 1927 Entire Letter from Robley, complete with his sketch of a Maori Carving
“I enclose a tiki as a mascot --- not much light for colour drawing”

Until shortly before his death in England on 29 October 1930, Robley maintained a lively correspondence with distinguished New Zealanders. His interest in Tattoo and in preserved heads never diminished.
Departure
The Headquarters at Tauranga, and the several detachments of the Regiment re-joined in February 1866 at Auckland, in preparation to returning home. The 68th Regiment returned home to England, on the Percy and Ballarat on 15 March 1866. 195 Rank & File took their discharge in New Zealand.

Percy & Ballarat – 15 March 1866

On the 15th, the chartered troop transports Percy and Ballarat sailed for England with E.M. 68th Regiment on board. The ‘Percy’ left early on the morning of the 15th, with the left wing of the regiment on board. She had 400 men and the following officers:

—Col. Morant (in command), Dr. Mouatt, Major Kirby, Captain Grace, Captain Casement, Lieutenant and Adjutant Buller, Dr. Codrington, Lieutenants Beder, Robjley, Hood, Caldecut; Ensigns Clifford, Woodward, Paice; Quartermaster Sladden, Mrs. Mouatt, and two wounded officers.

The ‘Ballarat,’ with the head-quarters of the 68th, was towed out of the harbour about 6 o’clock on Thursday night by the paddle-steamer Waitemata. The band of the regiment, on board this vessel, struck up the usual parting airs as she slowly passed towards the Heads. On passing the only man-of-war in the harbour, H.M.s. Eclipse, the ensign was dipped, and three hearty cheers exchanged between the men of the army and the navy. The ‘Ballarat’ also fired her guns as she approached her Majesty’s ship. The following officers embarked for England in this vessel, which sails during the afternoon:

Colonel Greer, C.B. (in command); Dr. Best, surgeon-major (in medical charge); Captain J. H. C. Seymour, and Captain A. H. Tucker; Lieutenant and Adjutant C. Covey; Lieutenant L. Bolden, Lieutenant W. H. F. Palmer, Lieutenant W. A. Ray; Ensigns W. S. Greene, W. F. Woodward, and C. E. Ilderton; Mrs. Colonel Greer and Mrs. Best, families and servants; the band-master, wife, and four children; 3 sergeants, 8 naval invalids, 12 soldiers’ wives and 24 children, and 270 men, making a total of 348. Both vessels may be expected to reach Plymouth about the middle or latter end of June, and we wish them a pleasant passage.
After returning from New Zealand, the Regiment spent three years in England with a gradual reduction in establishment to 640 men. In September 1869, the Regiment was shipped to Ireland, in September 1871 the establishment was raised to 1032 all ranks prior to being sent to India in February 1872.

On 1 July 1881 as part of the Childers reforms the 68th Regiment became the 1st Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry while stationed at Meenut.

"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

To the best of my knowledge the history of the 68th Regiment now completes the history of all the British Regiments which served in New Zealand up until the departure of the 18th Regiment in 1870. Still to be carried out are the histories of those other units which also played an important role during the early period of colonization and the Maori Wars; the Royal Artillery, the Royal Engineers including the Miners & Sappers, the Army Hospital Corps, the Moveably Military Train, and the very important Commissariat Staff Corps & Transport Corps.

I freely admit, that I found this history one of the hardest, I was unable to locate very few primary information, especially relating to the detachments which were not with Headquarters at Tauranga. Consequently, I accept that there could be more errors than usual, all being as they say “carried out in my watch”
There is never an END

I came across the following article in the *Daily Southern Cross*
and it made me really think!

**WOMEN & CHILDREN**

Whilst I appreciated that many married Officers had their wives and children with them, I had never considered that Non-Commissioned Officers and Rank & File (the ordinary Soldier), would have had the pleasure of being with their immediate family.

With over 10,000 Imperial Troops in New Zealand at one stage during the Maori Wars, it now makes sense that why there are so few surviving Concession Rate Soldiers letters, and that there are no recorded Soldiers letters bearing the One Penny “London Print” New Zealand postage stamp, issued in 1855.

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**A MEETING of gentlemen interested in the movement for raising a fund for the relief of the wives and children of soldiers engaged at the Front, was held in the Chamber of Commerce yesterday.** The following were in attendance:--His Honor the Superintendent, Commander Mayne, R.N., H. de Burgh Adams, Esq., Purveyor to the Forces; J. A. Gilfillan, Esq., Chairman of Chamber of Commerce; Captain Butler, M.G.A.; Baron de Thierry, H. H. Turton, Esq., M.G.A.; Messrs. E. King, Salmon, Pearce, Stevenson, J. S. Macfarlane, Coolahan, Henry Gilfillan, John Robertson; Beveridge (Chairman City Board), &c.

**On the motion of Mr. J. A. Gilfillan, the chair was taken by his Honor the Superintendent.**
His Honor (on taking the chair) said he need not tell them that they had met to take into consideration the misery that existed at present amongst the wives and children of the soldiers who had come to fight the battles of the colonists of New Zealand. It was well known that besides the large accession of troops that had recently taken place, a very large number of emigrants had come into the country, and that house-room was, consequently, hardly to be got in either the city or suburbs. It was not unlikely that such a state of things would continue for some time, and it was their duty to remedy the evil as far as they could. Although only a few of the community attended the meeting, he was sure that the citizens of Auckland had only the facts of the case to be placed before them to enlist their warm feelings on behalf of the suffering, and induce them to remedy the existing distress. From his knowledge of the inhabitants of Auckland, he had only to say that when the extent of the distress, which it was their purpose to relieve, had been made known, they would come forward and subscribe liberally to alleviate that distress. He was also sure that, when the facts were brought before the troops of Her Majesty and the Naval Force in the colony, both officers and men would contribute to the extent of their means, to assist the inhabitants of Auckland in the good work they had undertaken. He would now call upon Mr. H. Gilfillan to move the first resolution.
Mr. Henry Gilfillan moved the first resolution, as follows:—

“That the distress which exists amongst the wives and children of the soldiers now serving in this province is such as to call for public sympathy and aid.”

He said, that with one of his neighbours, he had been engaged collecting statistics, with the view of satisfying himself that a just cause for interference existed, before they took further steps in the matter. He would first call the attention of the meeting to the number of the women and children in Auckland, on the strength of the regiments of the line, as it appeared from the barrack returns. The total number of women on the strength of the army out of barracks was 318, and of children, 654. Besides these there were 58 women in barracks, and 94 children. To classify them still further, he found that 115 had families of three or more children; 109 women had two children each; 84 women had one child each; and 68 were without any children. Of course the condition of those women who had large families was greatly to be deplored. He would best explain that by referring to their means of sustenance. Their daily allowance was half-a-pound of bread and half-a-pound of meat, and a quarter of a pound of bread and a quarter of a pound of meat for each of their children up to seven years. By this it would appear that all a woman with five children could claim, as bread rations, was a 2lb loaf per day, which was much too small a quantity (Hear). Those

“The total number of women ... out of barracks was 318, and of children, 654. Besides these there were 58 women in barracks and 94 children...”
was much too small a quantity (Hear). Those who were known not to be on the strength of the regiments were 58 women and 46 children, but of course this was an approximate number. Their condition must be very bad indeed, but they must live somehow. They were not recognised as belonging to the regiment, and received neither lodging money nor rations. Those who lived out of the barracks received 3s. 6d per week to pay rent, buy clothing, and find extra rations. Considering the present state of Auckland, the dearness of living and scarcity of house-room, it would be seen that it was a most difficult thing for a woman to find lodging accommodation for herself and five children on so small a sum, and consequently the wives of soldiers depending upon their lodging money were forced to live in places which prevented them getting employment to supplement the pittance they received from the State. Many of these women had derived a portion of their support from washing for the unmarried soldiers, but now that the troops have been moved out of Auckland, in consequence of the war, that main support was taken from them. It was known to all of them that the class of houses in which these women were forced to live, and the localities, prevented families sending them washing; and even if washing were sent them, the places in which they lived prevented them undertaking it. He had talked over the matter with several of the women, and they said they wanted assistance from no one if they only got work, but they very forcibly put it that the places in which they lived prevented them getting work. Another

Mention is made of the high cost of rented accommodation, it is now even worse in 2017
lived prevented them getting work. Another thing against the wives of soldiers getting employment was, that they were strangers in a strange place, which was always against persons settling down into steady employment. They were not known. It was different when there was only one regiment in town. It was not possible for the men to save much from their pay. He had been told by one woman that £1 was all she had got since her husband left town; and from inquiries he had made, he believed the best conducted soldier could not save more than 12s. a month. He might mention one case that had come before himself and another gentleman, who had taken the trouble to inquire into the condition of the families of the military. They visited a house in a back street, and found four women and eleven children lying in it. The apartment in which they lived was tidy, and it was evident they had made the best they could of their poor lodgings. Everything was cleanly. When asked about employment, one of the women said that with a blacksmith's forge next door they could not take in clothes to wash, even if they were offered. Four women and eleven children were living there, and the women said that though they should fast on a meal in the day, still they must keep a candle lighted all night to keep away the rats from their children. Another thing he would mention with regard to bread rations, that it was insufficient for many. He

"...The best conducted soldier could not save more than 12 shilling a month."
rations, that it was insufficient for many. He had the authority of the bread contractor for saying that many exceeded their allowance, and having gone on for a certain time, his clerk refused to give any more. They then came to him, and he could not refuse them. Having stated these facts, he thought he had established the truth of the statement in the resolution, that distress existed, and that it was their duty to alleviate it. Now came the question, how was relief to be afforded? If the extra bread and grocery ration was supplemented for 190 women and 300 children (about half the number wanting it), the cost would be £3 3s. per day. It was manifest, therefore, that no fund could stand the pressure of such an amount for any lengthened period, and if it was resolved to supplement the rations the relief could only be temporary. He thought, however, if they could devise some form of relief which would enable the women to help themselves it would be best. One way of doing this would be to supply cheap and suitable lodgings; and the only building in Auckland available for the purpose was the old Immigration Barracks in Freeman’s Bay. If they could secure that, and let it at a nominal sum, the women would be able to take in washing. There was good water, and a green near it; and it contained 25 apartments, most of which had fireplaces. He hoped they would get the consent of the Government to build a number of huts in suitable places, on economical terms.

This must be a future research exercise – I hope it will be YOU

Gerald J. Elliott
MNZM RDP FRPSL FRPSNZ
October 2017