

BRITISH REGIMENTS IN NEW ZEALAND

80th – 96th – 99th

1840 – 1847



Reconstruction of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. ca 1950

King, Marcus, 1891-1983. [King, Marcus] 1891-1977:

Ref: NON-ATL-0173. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.

<http://natlib.govt.nz/records/23054085>

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AUGUST 2017

80th Regiment (Staffordshire Volunteers)

Short History

The 80th Regiment, was first raised in 1793 during the French Revolutionary War by Lord Henry Paget, the first Marquis of Anglesey. The Regiment was swiftly put into action in Flanders and Holland (1794-95) and then participated in an expedition to the Cape of Good Hope and then it was part of a force to expel Napoleon from Egypt in 1801.

Australia

In 1836 the regiment was given the duty of escorting convicts to Australia; small detachments of the 80th Regiment undertook the journey over several months. The regiment spent seven years in New South Wales with detachments on Norfolk Island and in New Zealand.

The Regiment then went to India to serve the Honourable East India Company during the First Sikh War, and then went on to serve during the second Burmese War (1852-53), the Zulu Wars (1879) fighting at The Battle of Isandlwala.

In 1881 as part of the Childers Reforms it was merged with the 38th Regiment of Foot to become "The South Staffordshire Regiment".

New Zealand

The 80th Regiment was in New Zealand, from April 1840, when Major Bunbury, Ensign Best and 30 Rank & File, arrived on board HMS *Buffalo* and in August 1840, a further detachment arrived on board *Victoria*.

Major Thomas Bunbury was made the representative of the Governor of New Zealand to arrange the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi at various locations in the South Island during May and June 1840, establishing British sovereignty over both islands of New Zealand.

After the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, British troops were stationed in New Zealand in varying numbers from 1840 to 1870 and, until the middle sixties, provided the chief protection for the colonists and bore the brunt of the fighting against the Maoris.

The 80th Regiment was in New Zealand until 1844, when they returned to Sydney on board the ships *Waterlily* and *Marion Watson*. Only four men were discharged in New Zealand.

AUCKLAND - 80th REGIMENT - 1842

The 80th Regiment initially came out to New South Wales as convict guards during 1836 - 1838. The Headquarters stayed in Sydney area, but in April 1840 a detachment consisting of four officers and 83 rank & file sailed to New Zealand, followed by further reinforcements in August. Members of the 80th Regiment continued to serve in the Bay of Islands, Auckland, and Wellington areas until April 1844 when they returned to Sydney on the ships *WATERLILLY* and *MARION WATSON*.

Nº 1543 Private John Thompson - 80th Regiment

30 JANUARY 1842 ENTIRE LETTER FROM AUCKLAND



PH770

AUCKLAND 30 JANUARY 1842 - LONDON 11 AUGUST 1842

Postal Markings	Handstruck circular SOLDIERS & SEAMANS LETTER BY SHIP 4 Manuscript figure 1 (red) indicating One Penny paid
Postal Rate	1840 to 1 March 1842 Soldiers Concession Rate Letters - to be prepaid Half Ounce (Maximum) - One Penny - One Penny paid. 12 July 1837 to 1 April 1851 UK Incoming Letters - Fourpence to pay [Threepence Sea Postage and One Penny Inland Rate]



SOLDIERS & SEAMANS LETTER BY SHIP 4 - This Marking is known used between 1841 and 1852. It is also known used on unpaid letters by Private ship from India and elsewhere. [There are only 4 known covers from New Zealand]

Private John Thompson 80th Regiment - Auckland 30 January 1842

The Albert Barracks were constructed by men of the 80th Regiment during their stay in Auckland



Auckland 1852 showing the Albert Barracks

Remains of the wall of the Albert Barracks, are still visible today.



Remaining parts of the Albert Barracks wall

The first signs of trouble with the Maoris, occurred on the 8 July 1844 when the British Flagstaff at the Bay of Islands was cut down. This act prompted Governor Fitzroy to immediately send an urgent appeal to Headquarters in Sydney, New South Wales.

There was only one company (90 men) of the 80th Regiment at Auckland and none in the Bay of Islands. It was not until the second week of August that the baque *Sydney* arrived at the Bay of Islands with 160 Officers and men of the 99th Regiment. On the 24 August 1844 the brig *Victoria* brought a detachment of the 96th Regiment under Lieuetenant- Colonel Hulme.

Following a meeting between the Governor and the Maoris, it was decided to send the 80th back to Auckland and the 99th to Sydney.

The flagstaff was felled for a second time, and arrangements were made for reinforcements from Sydney, and two companies of the 58th Regiment, arrived on the 28 April 1845, by which time the Flagstaff had been cut down again, Kororarika was in ashes and War had begun, with the opening shots taking place on 3 March 1845.

The action at Kororareka commenced on 11 March 1845 between men from HMS *Hazard* together with 100 armed civilians & the Officers and men of the 96th Regiment. The British lost 15 killed and 21 wounded.

All the buildings at Kororareka were razed to the ground and the refugees left on 13 March 1845 in five vessels for Auckland.

Following the arrival of the 58th Regiment in March and April 1845 at Auckland, it was decided that a force should be sent to the Bay of Islands to restore the Queen's sovereignty at Kororareka.

On 27 April 1845, an expedition totalling 470 Officers and men under Lieutenant – Colonel Hulme, of the 96th Regiment, and Major Bridge sailed from Auckland in the *Slains Castle*, the *Velocity* and the schooner *Autora* to Kororareka. Besides the 58th and 96th there were on board 50 volunteers.

At the battle at Puketutu Lake Omapere, 8 May 1845, the British losses were 14 Killed and 40 wounded. There was understandably a great deal of criticism levelled against the policy of sending an imperfectly equipped force into the wilds against an enemy of unknown strength.

Early in June 1845, the baque *British Sovereign* arrived at Auckland with the Headquarters of the 99th Regiment, numbering 270 Officers and men, under Colonel Despard, and soon proceeded to go to Keri Keri, the objective being the Maori Pa at Ohaeawai.

The force consisted of 75 Volunteers from the Auckland Militia, 18 Seamen & Marines from HMS *Hazard*, and 560 Rank & File; 270 men of the 58th Regiment under Major Cyprian Bridge, Major Macpherson commanded two companies of the 99th Regiment and Lieutenant-Colonel Hulme, a company of the 96th Regiment.

The fighting at Ohaeawai, lasted over two days, 30 June & 1 July 1845 with the British losses 41 killed and 73 wounded, after the fighting, as was their custom, the Maoris abandoned the Pa, so when the troops entered the Pa on the 11 July 1845, it was deserted. For the defeat, Colonel Despard blamed the seamen of HMS *Hazard* under Lieutenant Phillipotts, and the army of volunteers!

The next engagement occurred on 11 January 1846 at Ruapekapeka, when the British losses were 12 killed and 30 wounded.

The following troops were engaged in the attack and capture of Ruapekapeka, under Lieutenant-Colonel Despard : -

Seamen of HMS *Castor*, *North Star*, *Racehorse* and HEIC *Elphinstone*, under Captain Graham and Commander Hay RN.

	33 Officers	280 men
Lieutenant Wilmot RN & Captain Marlow RN.	2	
Royal Marines Captain Langford	4	80
58 th Regiment Lieutenant- Colonel Wynyard	20	543
99 th Regiment Captain Reed	7	150
HEIC Artillery Lieutenant Leeds	1	15
Auckland Volunteers Captain Atkyns	<u>1</u>	<u>42</u>
	<u>68</u>	<u>1,100</u>
Friendly Maoris		450

British losses were 12 Killed and 30 wounded.
This success ended the Northern War.

The next stage was to transfer troops to Wellington, to reinforce the two companies there, and on 3 February 1846 a body of nearly 600 men under Lieutenant-Colonel Hulme embarked at Auckland for the south. Transported on HMS *Castor* and HMS *Calliope*, HMS *Driver*, the Government Brig *Victoria*, and the barque *Slains Castle*.

Inclusive of a detachment of the 99th Regiment, lately arrived from Sydney in the barque *Lloyds*, the following was the detail of the force: -

58 th Regiment	1 Field Officer, 2 Captains, 4 Subalterns, 202 Rank & File
99 th Regiment	1 Field Officer, 2 Captains, 6 Subalterns, 250 Rank & File
96 th Regiment	1 Captain, 4 Subalterns, 73 Rank & File

a Detachment of the Royal Artillery.

On 27 February 1846, some of the troops marched to the principal village occupied by the Maoris on the Hutt banks and destroyed it. In retaliation the Maoris destroyed the belongings of the residents in the area, but they did not burn any of the houses.

On 3 March 1846, a Proclamation was issued declaring the establishment of Martial Law in the Wellington district. The first shots were fired in the Hutt Valley on 3 March 1846 near Boulcotts Farm. Reinforcements from Wellington arrived at Petone on board HMS *Driver* consisting of a company of the 58th Regiment under Captain Russell, 21 men of the 99th Regiment and 30 men of the 96th Regiment under Lieutenant Barclay. A party of men from all three Regiments was also despatched to the Hutt Valley.

Boulcott's Farm

During the action at Boulcott's Farm (Hutt valley) on 16 May 1846, the British Losses were 8 killed and 3 wounded.

On the 12 July 1846, the *Calliope* landed at Paremata, Major Last and a small reinforcement of 20 men of the 58th and 42 men of the 99th Regiment under Lieutenants Page and De Winton and Ensign Blackburn. They were engaged in the operations at Porirua, but no losses were sustained.

The next operations were at Pauatahanui and Horokiri, meanwhile a company of the 65th Regiment had arrived on the barque *Levant*, from Sydney at Wellington on 22 July 1846.

The 65th Regiment from the *Levant*, consisted of Captain O'Connell, Captain Newenham, Lieutenant McKoy, and Turner, Assistant-Surgeon White, Ensign Barker (58th) 8 Sergeants, 7 Corporals, 7 162 Rank & File of the 58th & 65th.

On the 3 August 1846, a force consisting of 250 men from the 58th, 65th, and 99th, the Hutt Militia, and the Wellington armed police, together with 150 Friendlies, set out to attack Te Rangihaeata's position at Horokiri.

Horokiri

The first engagement took place on 6 August 1846 when Ensign E. M. Blackburn 99th Regiment was killed, and two Privates were also killed, and 8 Rank & File wounded, following this experience the action was halted, and the Maoris dispersed.

The 96th (Manchester) Regiment

The latest formation was raised in Manchester in 1824, having been raised and disbanded four times since 1761.

Throughout 1839 to 1841 the 96th Regiment acted as convict Guards at several locations in Australia. The Regimental Head Quarters of this Regiment was stationed in Windsor in 1841. In 1842 the Headquarters moved to Parramatta and then to Launceston in 1843. The Regiment remained in Tasmania until 1848 sailing to India in January 1849.

The 96th Regiment served under the East India Company and then moved to South Africa in 1863 before returning to India in 1868 for 5 years.

New Zealand

A detachment of the 96th Regiment first came to New Zealand in 1843. During the New Zealand Wars, most of the 2nd Battalion served here between 1845 and 1847 under the command of Lieutenant Colonel William Hulme.

On 11 March 1845, the 96th Regiment played a significant role in the defence of the Bay of Islands township of Russell, then known as Kororareka. Also saw action in the Wellington area.



*Memorial Plaque St. Pauls
Churchyard Paihia*

Inscription

96th Regiment / Near this church are buried / the following, killed in action / on 11th March 1845 / Privates Duross, Giddens / Ireson, Jackson / Miller

The 96th Regiment was in New Zealand from 1843 when the first Detachment arrived in Auckland from Sydney, on board the *City of Aberdeen* in February 1843, and in April 1843 when a further 114 Rank & File arrived on the *Waterlily* and *Marion Watson* at Auckland on 15 April 1844.

The Regiment returned to Van Diemen's Land towards the end of 1846.

99th Regiment (Lanarkshire)

The Regiment was raised in Edinburgh by Major-General Gage John Hall as the 99th Regiment of Foot, in response to the threat posed by the French intervention in Spain, in March 1824. It was a distinct unit, unrelated to earlier units designated as the 99th Regiment of the British Army. In 1832, the new 99th Regiment received its county title, becoming the 99th (Lanarkshire) Regiment of Foot

From 1842 the 99th Regiment supplied convict guards to Australia. In response to an urgent request from New Zealand, about 100 Rank & File were sent to Nelson on board the *Emerald Isle*, arriving on 24 October 1843, but their presence was no longer required, and they returned back to Australia without disembarking on New Zealand soil.

In August 1844, 150 men of the 99th Regiment arrived at the Bay of Islands from New South Wales on the *Sydney*, once again their stay was not long, returning back to Australia in September 1844.

In May 1845, two Flank Companies, left Sydney and arrived at the Bay of Islands via Auckland, early in June 1845. The 99th Regiment took part in the attack on the Ohaeawai Pa 1 July 1846 and in 1847 in the Wellington area.

In August 1847, the 99th Regiment returned to Australia, less 88 Rank & File who were discharged at various locations in New Zealand.

In January 1856, the 99th Regiment left for England from Australia, however 139 men transferred to the 65th Regiment with effect from the 1 January 1856, and they all sailed to New Zealand on board the *Southern Cross*.



7 August 1844, PENRITH POST PAID, PAID SHIP LETTER SYDNEY
99th Regiment New South Wales 1d Paid – David Feldman 26/5/2002

There are no recorded 96th & 99th Regiment Letters from New Zealand.



99th Regiment four old soldiers who fought
in the NZ Maori Wars 1845-1846

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

The 80th Regiment was the only regiment in New Zealand in 1840, and the 80th & 96th Regiments were the only two regiments during 1841 & 1844.

When the 99th Regiment arrived in June 1845, the 58th Regiment had also arrived earlier in March 1845, making a total of four regiments in 1845.

When the 80th Regiment left later in 1845, and the 65th Regiment arrived in 1846, there was still four regiments in New Zealand during 1846 & 1847.

During 1848 to 1859, the only regiment in New Zealand was the 65th Regiment.

I was unable to find very little contemporary information and have had to rely on secondary sources

I fully accept that any errors are mine. I look forward to receiving details of any corrections as well as new information, especially details of any entire letters.

Gerald J. Elliott MNZM

August 2017