

# THE ROYAL NAVY IN NEW ZEALAND

## HMS ESK 1863 – 1866



GERALD J. ELLOTT  
MNZM RDP FRPSL FRPSNZ

AUGUST 2017

# HMS ESK



*HMS Esk*

Named after the river Esk, in North Yorkshire.

Wooden Screw Corvette 1169t., 250HP, 21 guns.

Built by Scott Russell at Millwall Dockyard, launched 12 June 1854, sold 1870.

In New Zealand 1863 – 1866

Complement 223

Captain;

Captain John F. C. Hamilton, (Killed at Gate Pah 29 April 1864)

Captain John P. Luce (September 1864)

1st Lieutenant Marines Robert B. Gardner. (26 May 1863)

Lieutenant William Mitchell (26 May 1863)

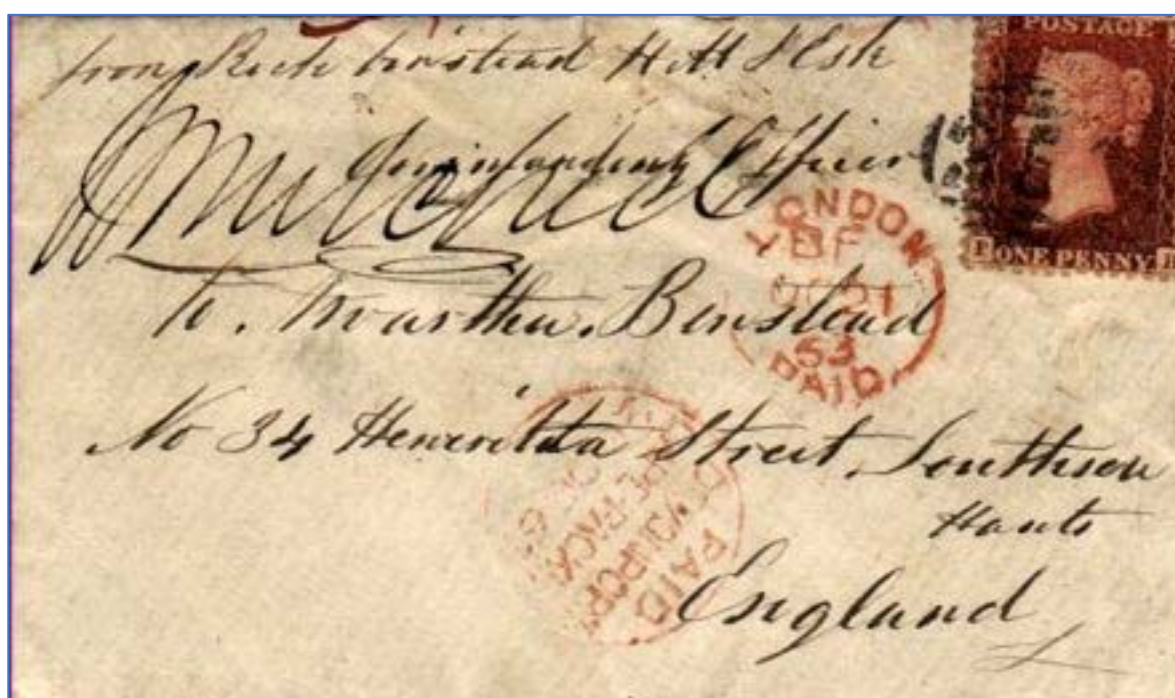
## New Zealand Bound- Cape Town

HMS *Esk* left Portsmouth 20 May 1863, for New Zealand, at the Cape of Good Hope, August 1863, where the following letter was posted.

Letter from Seaman Rick Birstead, HMS *Esk* at Simon's Bay, Cape Town, en-route for New Zealand.

Countersigned by Lieutenant William E. Mitchell to qualify for the 1d Concession Rate.

Seaman Rick Birstead died at the Military Hospital, Auckland on 25 August 1864



Cape Town 10 September 1863, Devonport 20 Oct. 1863,  
Portsmouth and London 21 October 1863.

Placed in the Navy Bag, at Simon's Bay, and carried on the Union Steam Ship Company's Packet *Saxon*, which left Cape Town on 10 September 1863, arriving at Plymouth on 19 October 1863.

The 1d. red, GB adhesive cancelled with the Numeral Obliterator No. 250 used at Devonport. Handstruck "PAID/DEVONPORT/CAPE PACKET/20 OC 63" within a circle (*AR type P5*) applied at the Admiralty Establishment Devonport.

## New Zealand

HMS *Esk*, arrived at Auckland on 4 November 1863 and was the last ship to join the Squadron of Royal Navy ships in New Zealand (*Miranda*, *Harrier*, *Eclipse* & *Curacoa*).

Lieutenant William E. Mitchell was killed aboard the Gunboat *Avon*, as part of the "Waikato Flotilla, in February 1864

One letter has been recorded from an Officer serving on HMS *Esk*. 1863 Letter from Lieutenant Robert B. Gardner, Royal Marines, posted at the Naval Officers' Concession Rate (1 June 1857 – 1 January 1870) of 6d per ½ ounce)

*Provenance ex Oliver Bowlby collection, Robson Lowe Auction 10.10.1956, Lot 269. and Robson Lowe Auction 2.6.1978, Lot 140.*



*Auckland 6 November 1863 Circular date stamp Bath 18 January 1864*

This cover is quite unique in as much as it has been posted in the New Zealand Postal System, rather than in the Navy Bag, especially as Great Britain adhesives have been used. Nevertheless, it has been date stamped on the reverse at the Auckland Post Office and placed in the Post Office Mail Bag without additional fee or held up in any way.

The New Zealand Mail from Auckland to England first had to be taken to Sydney, where it was picked up by the P&O *Madras* 22 November 1863 to Galle, P&O *Candia* from Galle 17 December 1863 to Suez 30 December 1863. Transferred at Alexandria 4 January 1864 to P&O *Euxine* direct to Marseilles via Malta, arriving at Marseilles on 11 January 1864.

The three GB Adhesives were cancelled on board the *Euxine* with the rare Mailboat obliterator "B 57"

Whilst the Naval Officers Rate was introduced 1 June 1857, the Army Officers' Rate did not start until 1 January 1868.

In recognition of the gallantry displayed by the Navy in New Zealand, and especially in the affair at Gate Pah the Admiralty confirmed that the name of Lieutenant (RMA) Robert B. Gardner was ordered to be favourably noted.

### **Thames Expedition**

HMS *Esk* was immediately in action as part of the Thames Expedition. In order to protect the main base camp at Pokeno (Queen's Redoubt) it was planned to construct a line of redoubts across the isthmus from the Queen's Redoubt across to the coast, North Eastwards.

On 16 November 1863 an expedition force of 44 officers and 922 men, commanded by Colonel George Jackson Carey, left Auckland, but on account of the weather took shelter at Opopo Bay, Waiheke Island.

There now is a bay Named "*Man of War Bay*" on Waiheke Island, so named on account of earlier Royal Navy Ships anchoring there whilst collecting both timber and water. However, the bay which now carries that name is the bay next to Opopo Bay, where the British Warships, actually anchored.

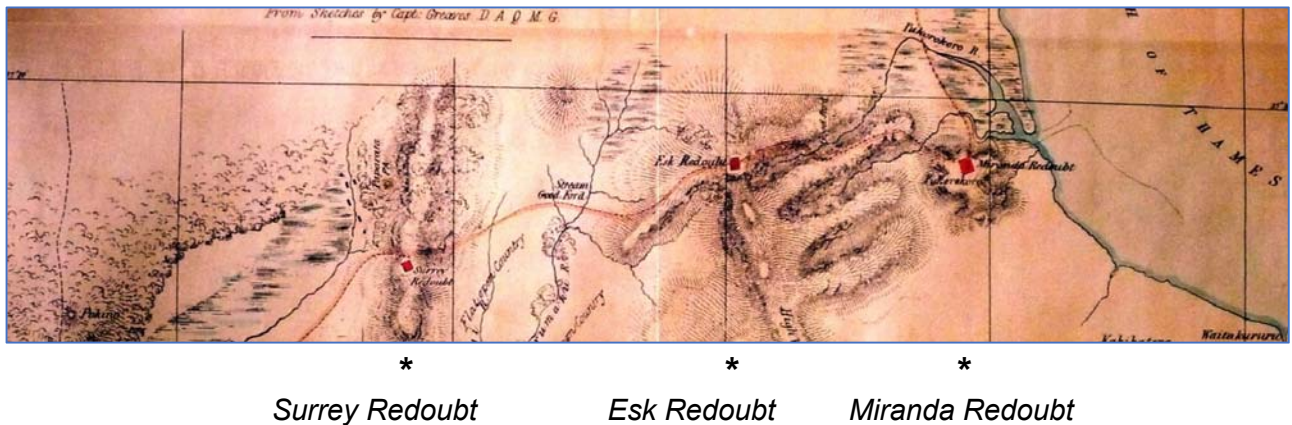
HMS *Esk*, carried the Militia and Naval volunteers, HMS *Miranda*, carried detachments of the 12th and 70th Regiments, the *Corio*, carried the Defence Forces and horses, and the *Sandfly* accompanied the brigantine *Jessie* and seven or eight cargo boats, which had three weeks supplies for the whole force.

After the weather had improved landfall, HMS *Miranda*, on the 23 November 1863, anchored off the east coast of the mainland, near the Maori village of Pukorokoro. (*now named Miranda*)

A Redoubt was constructed, at Pukorokoro, and took the name of Miranda, after HMS *Miranda* Two inland redoubts were formed from the Miranda Redoubt, across to the Queen's Redoubt, the first named the *Esk*, after HMS *Esk*, and the second the Surrey Redoubt, so named after the 70th Regiment who were also known as the Surrey Regiment of Foot.

Whilst HMS *Miranda* stayed, anchored off Pukorokoro, both the *Corio* and HMS *Esk* returned to Auckland on 25 November 1863 The *Corio* to transport the horses and more supplies.

## Thames Expedition



\*

Queen' Redoubt is situated just below the Left-Hand bottom of the map

### Waikato Naval Brigade

On 6 December 1863, HMS *Esk*, landed six officers and 64 men to join the Waikato Naval Brigade, which now numbered 270 officers and men. HMS *Harrier* and HMS *Eclipse* were the guardians of the Manakau, (Onehunga) whilst the other ships were stationed at Auckland.

Immediately after the Battle at Orakau, the men from the Naval Brigade started to return to their ships, however, the East Coast Maoris had agreed to meet at Tauranga to join the Waikato Maoris, so once again the Royal Navy was called in and a combined Naval Brigade force sent to the Tauranga.

### Tauranga

General Cameron and his staff were aboard HMS *Esk*, and arrived at Tauranga on 21 April 1864.

A Naval Brigade, consisting of 429 officers, seamen and marines, from HMS *Esk*, *Calliope*, *Miranda*, and *Falcon*, commanded by Lieutenant Charles Hotham, plus a number of guns, including one 48 kg Armstrong, and two 17kg Armstrong from HMS *Esk*, took a leading part in the Battle at Gate Pah.

## **Gate Pah**

The Battle of Gate Pah, commenced on 29 April 1864, and after the Pah was attacked by the Navy guns, by 4pm. The assault took place, at first by 80 seamen and marines of the Naval Brigade led by Commander Edward Hay of HMS *Harrier*, together with an equal force from the 43<sup>rd</sup> Regiment. In a counterattack, Captain Hamilton of the *Esk*, rushed forward with the reserves but as he reached the parapets he was shot dead.

The British losses were 31 killed and 80 wounded, with a very large proportion of Officers killed. (see also HMS *Eclipse*) The strength of the Naval Brigade was 4 field officers, 6 Captains, 7 Subalterns, 36 Sergeants, 5 Drummers, 371 rank and file (*NZ Gazette 9 May 1864*).

## **Gate Pah Casualties**

The Gate Pa Naval Brigade casualties (*NZ Gazette 9 May 1864*).

HMS *Esk* 15 total 4 killed 11 wounded

### Killed

Captain Hamilton  
Quartermaster William Dalton  
Stoker W. Leigh  
Ordinary Seaman R. Fuller

### Wounded

Lieutenant Duff  
Ordinary Seaman F. Donnelly  
Able Seaman R. Jeffery  
Leading Seaman W Allison  
Capt. Forecastle, James Knight  
Able Seaman Edward Martin  
Able Seaman Thomas Roberts  
Able Seaman Alfred Bowden  
Able Seaman James Lawrence  
Royal Marine Bombardier. W. Foyer  
Royal Marine Gunner, Robert Ward



*Captain J. F. C. Hamilton*



*New Zealand Medal*

### **New Zealand Medal**

16 officers, 81 Seaman and one Royal Marine Officer (Robert B. Gardner), and 23 Marines, from HMS *Esk*, were awarded the New Zealand Medal (1863-64) for their services in the actions at Te Awamutu and Rangiawhia 21/22 February 1864, Gate Pa, Tauranga 29 April 1864.

There were only two Royal Marine Officers, which were awarded the Medal.



## **Tauranga**

On 16 May 1864 HMS *Esk* left Tauranga with General Cameron, for Auckland, arriving back at Tauranga on 12 June 1864.

## **Te Ranga**

On 21 June 1864 HMS *Esk* received the wounded officers and men returning from the fighting at Te Ranga, conveyed in the boats from HMS *Harrier* and took them to Auckland.

## **Auckland & Wellington**

HMS *Esk*, before finally leaving New Zealand, was at Auckland from the 1 June 1866, having returned from Sydney and Norfolk Island (8 February 1866) and visited Wellington on 23 July 1866 before returning to Auckland on 13 August 1866.

Finally leaving New Zealand from Auckland on 11 October 1866, for Fiji and Sydney, arriving at Sydney on 7 April 1867. Eventually HMS *Esk* left Australia on 2 July 1867 reaching Spithead, Portsmouth on 4 October 1867, Officers and crew paid off 17 October 1867.

*Further information available*

*Journal 20.5.63-31.12.65 by Midshipman G. S. Parker held by Commander R.J. Bassett*

The following details were researched at the PRO Kew,  
by Margaret Frankcom.

### **HMS Esk Log**

ADM 53/8924	20 May 1863 – 11 June 1864
ADM 53/8925	12 June 1864 – 16 June 1865
ADM 53/8926	17 June 1865 – 2 June 1866
ADM 53/8927	3 June 1865 – 25 May 1867

## HMS ESK LOG

HMS *Esk* ADM 53/8924

20 May 1863 11 June 1864

18 June 1863 Left Portsmouth to Madeira  
1.7 To St. Vincent  
11.7 To Cape of Good Hope  
31.7 To Rio de Janeiro  
16.8 To Simon's Bay  
5.9 At Simon's Bay  
12.9 To Sydney  
22.10 At Sydney  
26.10 To Auckland  
**4.11.1863 At Auckland**  
6.11 Discharged Supernumeraries to HMS *Curacoa*  
13.11 To Thames Firth at anchor of **Opopo Bay Waiheke Island**  
22.11 Off Pukewhau (North of Pukorohoro - Miranda)  
25.11 To Auckland and at Auckland  
29.11 [Mail Steamer \*Lord Ashley\* arrived](#)  
5.12 *Sandfly* sailed (almost every few days back and forth)  
8.12.1863 NAVAL BRIGADE Left the ship to join the WAIKATO FLOTILLA  
Captain Hamilton, Lieutenants Clark and Manning (Assistant Surgeon),  
Messrs. Wood, Parker, Bell and Chewne; Mids and 60 Petty Officers  
and Seamen, under the command of Commodore Sir William Wiseman.  
9.12.1863 **Bombay** Immigrant ship from London arrived. Royal Salute in  
recognition of the Queen's Flag flying at Ngaruawahia, the Maori King's  
HQ.  
Sent Funeral Party to attend funeral of the late Lieut.-Colonel of  
the 14<sup>th</sup> Regt.  
10.12 Transporter *Lady Jocelyn* arrived with 43<sup>rd</sup> Regiment  
11.12 Sent boats to disembark boats from *Lady Jocelyn*.  
16.12 Sent the launch and cutter to disembark the troops from *Lady*  
*Jocelyn* to HMS *Curacoa*  
22.12 Lieutenant George Duff, returned with the cutter and pinnace,  
from the Waitemata Harbour  
[1.1.1864 Sailed the Inter-Colonial Mail Steamer "\*Auckland\*" with mail for England](#)  
3.1 Lieutenants Clark and party returned from the Front  
8.1 Steamer *Australian* arrived with the 68<sup>th</sup> Regt. Boats disembarked  
troops from the *Australian*  
*Note.* The *Australian* left Rangoon on 21 November 1863 arrived  
Auckland 8 January 1864

**HMS Esk ADM 53/8924 20 May 1863 11 June 1864**

- 9.1 Sent boats to disembark troops from the *Chariot of Fame*.  
*Note.* The *Chariot of Fame*. Left Gravesend 25 September 1863 with the 70<sup>th</sup> Regiment, arrived Auckland 8 January 1864.
- 15.1 Sir George Grey came on board at 2.15 left ship at 6pm. Proceeding under steam.
- 18.1 Cruising off the West coast of the Firth of Thames & at anchor.
- 20.1 At anchor in **Opopo Bay Waiheke** Target Practice
- 24.1 To Auckland
- 26.1 To Firth of Thames
- 27.1 at anchor of Pukewhau (North of Pukorohoro - Miranda) Sent Cutter to communicate with the Miranda Redoubt.  
(off & on basis)
- 1.2 From Coromandel to Firth of Thames
- 2.2.1864 To Auckland
- 3.2 Steaming and at anchor off **Opopo Bay Waiheke**
- 5.2 Cruising in the Firth of Thames & at anchor
- 6.2 Cutter returned with the news that Lieutenant William E. Mitchell had died on the 3rd February 1864 from a musket ball received the previous day.
- 11.2 Sent cutter to board Cutter under weigh from **Opopo Bay Waiheke**,  
**Cutter detained and anchored astern of ship the owners unable to give her name and having no papers to show (one of a number of interceptions in this area noted)**
- 12.2 Owner of cutter giving satisfactory proof in lawful trade.
- 15.2 Cruising
- 16.2 At anchor off Whakatiwai, then under steam.
- 18.2 Anchored off Pukewhau (North of Pukorohoro - Miranda) sent cutter to Miranda Redoubt
- 23.2 At Ponui Island. The Maori Chief Rawiri Te Uta came on board for a visit.
- 24.2 Captain Hamilton landed on Pakahi Island and communicated with the Maori Chief Patene Puhata  
**The cutter *Albert* having no pass and being found up the Firth of Thames was brought alongside but released on agreeing to go to Auckland to get a pass (Daily entries of stop and search of cutters etc.)**
- 27.2 Maori Chief Te Tapau came on board to obtain permission to return to his Pah up the Thames.
- 2.3 Sent cutter to board three Maori Boats. Proved to be bound from Hauraki to Taupo with friendly Chief Patene Puhata, provided with a pass.
- 7.3 To Coromandel Harbour.
- 11.3 To **Opopo Bay Waiheke**
- 15.3 To Huarahi (north of Miranda)
- 21.3 To Maraetai Point
- 22.3 To & at Auckland
- 23.3 Arrived HMS *Falcon*, also *arrived the Mail Steamer Claude Hamilton with the English mail.*
- 27.3 To & at the Firth of Thames.

**HMS Esk ADM 53/8924 20 May 1863 11 June 1864**

- 10.4 Schooner *George* detained for carrying goods in excess of manifest. Brought excess goods on board and gave permission for the Master to proceed
- 11.4 To & at Coromandel Harbour
- 20.4 To & at Auckland. Boats and cutter from HMS *Curacoa* embarked troops and Naval Brigade. General Cameron came on board, steaming to Tauranga
- 21.4 Went aground off Stony Point, *Sandfly* came alongside and disembarked troops and General Cameron. On the rising tide, the ship freed and into deep water, and proceeded to Tauranga Harbour. HMS *Falcon* was aground on shoals inside Stony Point. Sent Pinnace and boats to assist taking off her troops and baggage
- 22.4 Landed *Curacoa's* Naval Brigade. Sailed HMS *Falcon*
- 24.4 *Sandfly* weighed and proceeded with General Cameron and Captain Jenkins and Hamilton to reconnoiter the Pahs situated on the right bank of the Wairoa and at Te Puna.
- 25.4 HMS *Falcon* ashore at Stony point, sent boats to assist, HMS *Falcon* floated off & anchored.
- 26.4 HMS *Harrier* arrived
- 27.4 HMS *Falcon* sailed, boats landing military stores. Landed small arms etc. Under Lieutenants George Duff and Archer Musgrave (*Promoted 29 April 1864*)
- 28.4 Employed loading boats, shell and powder. Observed heavy firing in the direction of camp (*Te Papa*)
- 29.4 The bombardment of the Maori positions continued. Landed Lieutenant Bonverie Clark with 30 men and boys and remainder of shot and powder or Armstrong Guns. Received intelligence of Captain John Hamilton being shot dead whilst leading the assault of the Pah (*Gate Pah*) near the Monmouth Redoubt  
Landed Lieutenant Clark and 35 men & boys with cots and beds for wounded & ammunition
- 30.4 Sent Mr. Gill Carpenter and three carpenters with planking to HMS *Miranda* to make coffins for deceased officers
- 2.5 Sent funeral party to attend the internment of the late Captain John Hamilton and Officers and men who fell in the assault of the (*Gate*) Pah.
- 4.5 Joined Commander Augustus Phillimore (*ex HMS Curacoa*) and read his appointment as acting Captain of HMS *Esk*
- 6.5 Sent boats manned and armed to pick up troops from Te Papa to Otumoiti (*Otumoetai*) Point
- 16.5 Sir Duncan Cameron came on board, steaming to Auckland.
- 19.5 At Auckland
- 20.5 Arrived the Mail Steamer *Auckland* with the English Mail
- 6.6.1864 Sailed HMS *Eclipse* and HMS *Curacoa* (*To Australia*)
- 9.6 To Tauranga

**HMS Esk ADM 53/8925****12 June 1864 to 16 June 1865**

12.6.1864 At Tauranga  
21.6 Observed firing near Gate Pah, steaming  
23.6 At Auckland  
26.7 To Sydney  
9.8 At Sydney  
27.9 To Melbourne  
11.10 At Melbourne  
30.10 To Sydney  
5.11 At Sydney  
21.11 To Auckland  
2.12 At Auckland  
11.12 To Sydney  
19.12 At Sydney  
26.12 To Auckland  
6.1.1865 At Auckland. Employed hoisting provisions for HMS *Curacoa*  
7.1 To Tauranga  
8.1 At Tauranga  
9.1 Embarked 1 Captain, 1 Subaltern & 64 Rank & File of 65<sup>th</sup> Regt.  
10.1 Embarked 8 Officers & 205 NCOs & Privates, steaming to Auckland  
12.1 At Auckland, disembarked troops 7 baggage  
21.1 sent boats to disembark troops from transport *Nelson*.  
26.1 [Arrived the Mail steamer \*Otago\*](#)  
1.2 [Mail steamer \*Otago\* sailed with the mail for Europe](#)  
7.2 HMS *Miranda* sailed for England  
14.2 To Tauranga and at Tauranga collected the chief Honi Kingi Tupaea & the Pai Marire High Priest Tui Tawihaua (?) with seven other Maori prisoners. Proceeded under steam to Auckland.  
15.2 At Auckland  
17.2 The Captain & Officers gave a theatrical entertainment & Ball  
18.2.1865 Discharged the Chief Honi Kingi Tupaea to the shore. Remaining 8 prisoners to HMS *Eclipse*.  
22.2 To Bon Accord Harbour, Kawau Island with Sir George Grey  
23.2 To Wellington  
27.2 Single Anchor at Patea River  
28.2 To Wanganui and Wellington  
2.3 At Wellington  
4.3 Sir George Grey on board, proceeded to Wanganui  
6.3 At Wanganui. Arrived the *Alexandra* with troops  
11.3 To Wellington  
13.3 At Wellington  
18.3 To Wanganui  
19.3 At Wanganui  
23.3 Arrived the steamer *Ahuriri* with Military Settlers from Taranaki  
24.3 To Wellington  
26.3 To Wanganui  
30.3 Off Wanganui River

**HMS Esk ADM 53/8925****12 June 1864 to 16 June 1865**

1.4 To Wellington  
3.4 At Wellington  
11.4 To Auckland  
13.4 At Bon Accord Harbour, Kawau Island and Governor & suite landed  
14.4 At Auckland  
26.4 To Te Kaha Bay of Plenty  
28.4 Te Kaha To Hicks Bay  
29.4 At Hicks Bay  
2.5 To Wharariki Point, East Cape  
3.5 To Poverty Bay  
6.5 To Auckland  
12.5 At Auckland  
22.5 [Arrived English Mail Steamer \*Rangitoto\*](#)  
27.5 To Melbourne  
16.61865 Moored at Hobson Bay, Port Philip

**HMS Esk ADM 53/8926****17 June 1865 to 2 June 1866**

17.6 Melbourne  
26.6 [Arrived the Mail Steamer \*Albion\* from NZ, also the English Mail ship \*P&O Salsette\*](#)  
28.6 To Sydney  
1.7 At Sydney  
19.7 Off on cruise to Fiji Islands etc To Aneiteum, New Hebrides  
29.7 At Aneiteum, New Hebrides.  
10.8 To Leouka, Fiji  
17.8 At Leouka, Fiji  
18.8 Nukulau Port, King Thaekam came on board accompanied by an Interpreter and Minister. To Nandi  
26.8 To Annau island  
31.8 To Goro island  
1.9 Leouka Ovalau  
3.9 To Sydney  
22.9 At Sydney  
30.9 To Auckland  
6.10 At Auckland  
12.10 To Wellington  
18.10 At Wellington  
2.11 To Napier  
4.11 At Napier  
5.11 To Awanui (*Hawke's Bay*)  
9.11 To Poverty Bay  
11.11 At Poverty Bay  
14.11 To Auckland  
18.11 At Auckland  
23.11 [Arrived mail steamer \*Prince Alfred\*](#)

**HMS Esk ADM 53/8926****17 June 1865 to 2 June 1866**

9.12 To Napier  
 12.12 Napier. Employed taking troops and baggage to the steamer **Sturt**  
 13.12 Disembarked the remaining officers, men and baggage of the 12<sup>th</sup>  
 Regt. And also troops and baggage of the 70<sup>th</sup> Regt. From the Colonial  
 steamer *Sturt* under Captain Mulock (70<sup>th</sup> Regt.)  
 14.12 To Auckland  
 16.12 At Auckland Disembarked troops and baggage  
 8.2.1866 To Sydney  
 19.2 At Farm Cove, Sydney.  
 19.5 To Norfolk Island  
 25.5 At Norfolk Island  
 28.5 To Auckland  
 1.6 At Auckland

**HMS Esk ADM 53/8927****3 June 1866 to 25 May 1867**

3.6.1866 Auckland  
 18.6 To Opopo Bay Waiheke  
 21.6 To Coromandel  
 24.6 To Auckland  
 25.6 At Auckland  
 11.7 To Firth of Thames  
 14.7 To Wellington  
 23.7 At Wellington  
 6.8 To Wellington  
 13.8 At Auckland  
 4.10.1866 HMS *Curacoa* and HMS *Eclipse* sailed for England  
 11.10 To Fiji  
 (*According to the Southern Cross Newspaper it was the 10 October 1866*)  
 23.10 *Ovalau*  
 24.10 To Tongatabu  
 28.10 At Tongatabu  
 29.10 At Sefuka  
 31.10 To Vauau  
 1.9 At Vauau  
 4.11 To Vanna Bularu, Fiji  
 7.11 To Sar Saru  
 9.11 To Sandlewood Bay  
 12.11 At Nanduri, Vana Levu  
 15.11 At Sandlewood Bay  
 19.11 Falsa Bay Kaudaru  
 24.11 At Galoa Bay  
 25.11 To Sydney  
 13.12 At Sydney

**HMS Esk ADM 53/8926****17 June 1865 to 2 June 1866**

26.1.1867 To Melbourne  
 31.1 At Melbourne  
 13.2 To Adelaide  
 26.2 At Adelaide  
 3.3 To Melbourne  
 9.3 At Melbourne  
 23.3 To Sydney  
 7.4.1867 At Sydney END OF LOG

**RICK BINSTEAD**

Rick Binstead, date of birth; August 1828, Kingston Parish, Sandport, Hampshire, residence Kingston. Description when re-enlisting; 5ft. 7in. tall, Ruddy complexion, Hazel eyes, brown hair, tattoos; Crucifix & Banners of War on left arm, Smallpox vaccination scar, Single, Trade – “The Sea”.

Received both the Baltic Medal & the Turkish Medal.

HMS <i>Howe</i>	Ordinary Seaman	2.6.47 – 17.5.50	V.G.
HMS <i>Queen`</i>	Able Seaman	12.8.50 – 2.7.52	Good
HMS <i>Meander</i>	Able Seaman	12.8.52 – 27.5.54	V.G.
HMS <i>Algiers</i>		30.5.54 – 27.2.56	V.G.
HMS <i>Daisy</i>		28.2.56 – 11.9.56	V.G.
HMS <i>Princess Royal</i>	- Captain Main Top	12.9.56 – 5.12.59	
HMS <i>St Vincent</i>		6.12.59 – 11.1.60	On Leave
HMS <i>Queen</i>	Boson's Mate	12.11.60 – 16.3.61	V.G.
Received Bounty		8.7 .59	Trained Man 1.4.61
HMS <i>Queen</i>		1.4.61 – 6.11.61	Hospital
HMS <i>Duke of Wellington</i>		27.3.62 – 25.5.62	Hospital V.G.
Re-enlisted to complete time		30.8.63	
HMS <i>Esk</i>		10.6.63 – 24.8.64	Hospital
Discharged Dead		25.8.64	Auckland Military Hospital

The only letter recorded from Rick Binsted, was placed in the Ship's Navy Bag at Simon's Bay, Cape Town, to be transferred to the Mail Ship, which left on 10 September 1863.



## ROBERT B. GARDNER ROYAL MARINES

Robert Ballard Gardner was born Southampton, his Father was a Captain in the Army. He joined the Royal Navy as a Gentleman Cadet, and was only 17 when he was commissioned 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant 25 September 1854, he was promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant on 22 March 1856, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Captain on 3 August 1867. Brevet Major 4 August 1867.

Portsmouth.

Transfer to Artillery Company	30.8.1855	
Portsmouth HMS <i>Diadem</i>	29.8.1857 –	14.11.1860
Artillery Division	12.11.1860 –	25.5.1863
HMS <i>Esk</i>	26.5.1863 –	17.10.1867
Royal Marine Artillery Headquarters	18.10.1867 –	6.12.1869
HMS <i>Monarch</i>	7.12.1869 –	10.10.1870
Royal Marine Artillery Headquarters	11.10.1870 –	10.10.1873
HMS <i>Hercules</i>	11.10.1873 –	3.6.1874
Royal Marine Artillery Headquarters	6.6.1874 –	28.9.1874
HMS <i>Sultan</i>	29.9.1874 –	26.10.1874
Royal Marine Artillery Headquarters	27.10.1874 –	9.11.74

Served on board HMS *Esk* from 26 May 1863 until 17 October 1867

While in New Zealand, he was “Ordered to be favourably noted ‘for gallant conduct’ in action at Pukehiahina (Gate Pah) *vide NZ Gazette 15.7.1864.*

New Zealand War 1863-1864.

Thames Expedition 1863,

Waikato Campaign 3.2.1864 – 26.4.1864.

Assault on Gate Pah in Tauranga 29.4.1864

and landed for defence of Camp (Makatu) in June 1864.

Senior Marine Officer on the Station and in command of Marines twice during operations.

26 September 1874 - To be retired on account of health, placed on Retired List 10 November 1874 with £200.00 p.a. The retired pay as a special case on account of services. Discharged Dead 22 December 1896.

Robert B. Gardner HMS *Esk* and W. Cockcraft HMS *Curacoa* were the only two Royal Marine Officers to be awarded the Maori War Medal.

## References

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**Post Office Notices, Acts etc.**

**Personal correspondence and research**

The majority of the research work carried out at the PRO Kew, was carried out by Margaret Frankcom, to whom I shall always be indebted.

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

We make a living by what we get.  
We make a life by what we give.  
Winston Churchill

I accept that any errors are mine, and hopefully these will be brought to my attention, together with details of any other surviving letters.

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