

# THE ROYAL NAVY IN NEW ZEALAND 1860 – 1866

## THE EXHIBIT

**Includes Virtually all of the known or recorded extant covers**

Included are details of the Ships, Officers and Seamen,  
together with details of their involvement in the various campaigns.  
Also included are details of Postal Markings, Routes and Rates

**Campaigns include Taranaki, Waikato, Tauranga  
and the loss of HMS *Orpheus***

## THE NAVAL BRIGADE & WAIKATO FLOTILLA

**Manned by 245 officers and men from**

**HMS *Curacoa*, *Eclipse*, *Esk*, *Harrier* & *Miranda*.**

Two steam-vessels were specially procured for use on the Waikato River, the  
*Avon*, which had previously been used in the Auckland Harbour and a specially  
built vessel in Sydney HMS *Pioneer* (originally to have been named *Waikato*).

There were also four small Gunboats

***Midge*, *Flirt*, *Ant*, and *Chub***

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- J. W. Gambier** - *Links in my Life on Land and Sea*. T. Fisher Unwin, London 1906/07
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- A. H. McLintock** – *An Encyclopaedia of New Zealand*. (Vol. I – III) Government Printer Wellington 1966.
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- Colin Tabcart** - *Australia New Zealand UK Mails to 1880* - Colin Tabcart Fareham, England 2004. ISBN 0-9548407-0-4
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### Personal Research at

**Public Records Office - Kew, London**  
**Mitchell Library - Sydney, Australia**  
**General Assembly Library, Wellington**

*Most details are from personal research of contemporary documents. British  
Parliamentary Papers and Post Office Notices and New Zealand Government Gazette*

**The Exhibit has been designed to be both interesting and educational**

# First Taranaki War

## HMS *Iris*

### 1860



MITCHELL LIBRARY Sydney

*Vestal* Class 183, 26 guns, complement 240 Symonds design. Built at Pembroke Dockyard, keel laid down September 1838; launched 14 July 1840. 1866 lent to the Atlantic Telegraph Co. 1867 lent to Pitcher to assist in the recovery of the *Foyle*; 1870 sold to Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Co.<sup>1</sup>

**HMS *Iris*** Commodore William Loring, CB., Flag Ship on the Australia Station<sup>2</sup>, at the request of Governor Gore Brown, returned from Sydney, arriving at Auckland on **22 April 1860**. Fighting had started up at Taranaki on 17 March 1860, following the dispute over land at Waitara. A **Naval Brigade** from **HMS *Niger*** and **HMS *Pelorus*** had already been formed to assist the 65<sup>th</sup> Regiment, however reinforcements were required and 100 Seamen and Marines from the *Iris* were immediately sent to Taranaki. **HMS *Iris***, at the request of the Governor was required to stay at Auckland and was left with a skeleton crew under the command of **Lieutenant Goldwin R. Breton**. The First Taranaki War concluded on 25 March 1861

Midshipman James W. Gambier<sup>3</sup> of **HMS *Iris***, and a member of the Taranaki Naval Brigade under the command of Captain Seymour **HMS *Pelorus***, wrote *“that life on land, was much the same as on board ship, with ordinary sea-watch, lookouts, and “bells” rang both hourly and half-hourly sea fashion, lights went out and “rounds” took place with the ordinary routine to which they were all accustomed, they simply transferred the deck to terra firma”*. Gambier further describes **HMS *Iris***, as a **“Flogging Ship”**, under Captain Loring. After Loring resigned his position as the Australian Station Commodore and Captain of the *Iris* and returned to England, Charles E.H. Vernon was appointed Captain of **HMS *Iris***. Gambier remarked that *“for the rest of the commission the “cat-of-nine-tails” slept undisturbed”*.

<sup>1</sup> David Lyon. *The Sailing Navy List* Conway Maritime Press, London. 1993 ISBN 0 85177 864 X

<sup>2</sup> John Bach. *The Australian Station* New South Wales University Press 1986 ISBN 0 86840 393 8

<sup>3</sup> J.W. Gambier. *Links in my Life on Land and Sea*. Fisher Unwin, London 1907

# First Taranaki War HMS *Iris* 1861

During 22 April 1860 and 6 April 1861, HMS *Iris* was manned by a skeleton crew under the command of **Lieutenant Goldwin R. Breton**, moored of Britomart Point, Auckland. 100 Officers, Seamen and Marines had joined the **Naval Brigade at Taranaki**, and assisted the British Troops

## Sailmaker's Mate **Joseph Richards**

4 February 1861 letter posted at the **Auckland Post Office** (Auckland cds)



Receiving circular datestamps **Swanage** and **Wareham 18 April 1861**  
This is the only recorded Seaman's letter associated with the Taranaki Campaign.

### Postal Markings

NZ 1d Chalon, Colonial Printing by J. Richardson, on white unwatermarked paper, cancelled at Auckland with the Perkins Bacon Barred obliterator N° 1

### Postal Rate

**Soldiers and Seamen's One Penny Concession Postal Rate**, introduced in New Zealand, 6 September 1843. Conditions were the same as the British rules set down for mail posted by Seamen aboard Ship in the Navy Bag. Maximum weight set at half an ounce, letter to be on private business, and to be Prepaid (Unpaid letters were charged 2d on arrival by the recipient) and had to be signed by the Officer in Command at the time, **Lieutenant Goldwin R. Breton**

### Postal Route

The mail was carried on the Inter Colonial Mail Steamer **SS Lord Wolsley** which left Auckland at 4pm on 4 February 1861, for Sydney. The "Homeward" mails, were carried on the **P&O Salsette** which left Sydney on 20 February. At Galle it was transferred to the **Colombo**, and at Alexandria to the **Massilla**, finally reaching Southampton on 17 April 1861, and final destination next day.

# First Taranaki War HMS *Iris* 1860 - 1861



The Naval Brigade (Blue Jackets) at Taranaki

## Joseph Richards

**Joseph Richards**, was born at Cowes, Isle of Wight, and joined **HMS *Iris*** on 14 January 1857, after leaving **HMS *Queen***. He was a Sailmaker's Mate and he obtained his first badge in July 1859 and his second badge 1 October 1860. A Sailmaker's Mate was classified as a Working Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> class and received £2.4s a month, compared to a Seaman's £1.6s.

## Goldwin R. Breton

**Goldwin R. Breton**, was born on 23 December 1835, and joined **HMS *Stx*** as **Mate** on 20 March 1856. After serving on board **HMS *Impregnable***, **HMS *Alaricity*** and **HMS *Dragon***, he joined **HMS *Iris*** on 21 February 1857, and was promoted to **Lieutenant** on 15 May 1858 until 3 August 1861. Resigned the service on 3 September 1861

## The New Zealand Medal 1860-1861

**11 Officers, 49 Seamen and 12 Marines from HMS *Iris***, were awarded the New Zealand Medal for their services in the fighting at **Pukekakeriki (12 October 1860)** and at **Materikirike (29 December 1860)** including various other small engagements in 1861<sup>1</sup> all in conjunction with Officers and Men from **HMS *Cordelia***, **HMS *Niger***, **HMS *Pelorus*** and **HMCS *Victoria***

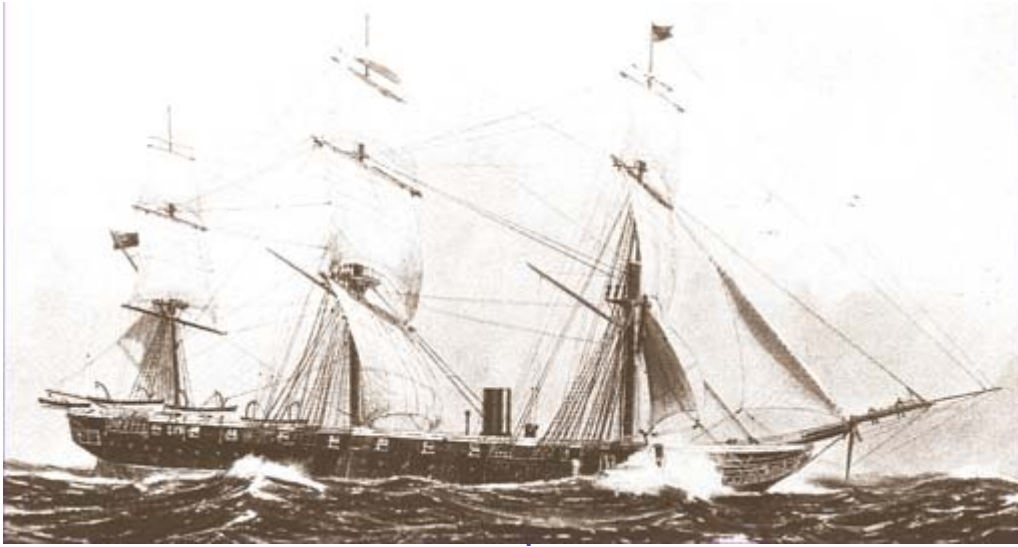
<sup>1</sup> H.G. Longley. *The New Zealand Wars 1845-1866*. H.G. Longley Henderson, NZ



# The Waikato War

## HMS *Orpheus*

### 1862



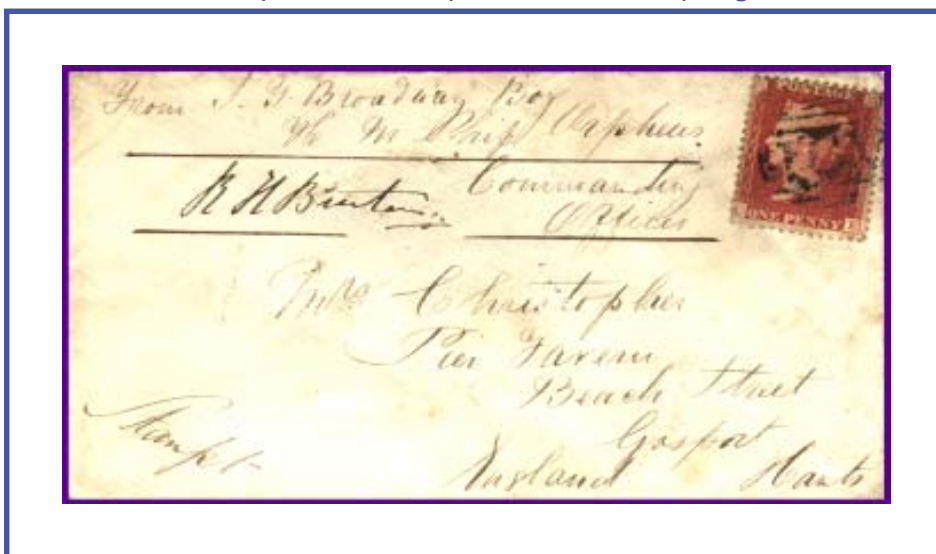
HMS *Orpheus*

*Jason* Class 1858, 21 guns, complement 240. Built at Chatham Dockyard, Keel laid down May 1858, launched 23 June 1860, completed October 1861. Wrecked at Manukau Bar, NZ 7.2.1863

HMS *Orpheus* Captain William Farquharson Burnett. (Appointed Commodore Australia Station 28 July 1862). It had been planned that she would go direct to Australia, however following the boarding of the British Mail Steamer *Trent* by the American Authorities, it was decided to send British troops over to Canada, with HMS *Orpheus* conveying the Transport *Melbourne*. After completing the mission to Canada, and Nova Scotia, she proceeded to Australia where Burnett was to take charge of the Royal Navy Australia Station, leaving Halifax on 16 Feb. 1862, finally arriving at Farm Cove Sydney on 19 July 1862

### Boy John G. Broadway

circa 15 January 1862 Letter placed in the Navy Bag at Halifax



**A91**  
Mailboat  
Obliterator

Receiving cds GOSPORT 6 February 1862

GB 1d Red, cancelled "A91", applied on the Cunard Line Packet *Canada*, left Boston 22 Jan. 1862, at Halifax 25 Jan. arrived **Liverpool 5 Feb. 1862**

References *J.C.Arnell - Atlantic Mails. Hubbard & Winter - North Atlantic Mail Sailings*

# The Waikato War HMS *Orpheus* 1862

HMS *Orpheus* reached Australia from Simon's Bay on **19 July 1862**, and anchored at Farm Cove, Sydney. After visiting Tasmania on 23 November 1862, and returning to Sydney in January 1863, HMS *Orpheus* left for New Zealand on 31 January 1863. During the six month stay in Australia there were 26 Deserters and one Straggler from the ship, reported in the NSW Gazette and Police Notices

## Seaman Edwin Jenner

20 July 1862 letter posted in the Ship's Navy Bag at Sydney NSW



**A86**  
Mailboat  
Obliterator

Receiving circular datestamps **BRIGHTON 18 September 1862**

### Postal Markings

GB One Penny Red Adhesive, cancelled with the Mailboat obliterator “**A86**” used by the Post Office Sorter on board the **P&O *Euxine***, between Alexandria and Malta (5-8 Sept.) when the sealed Navy Bag was opened, and this letter was transferred at Malta to the **P&O *Pera***, going to Southampton via Gibraltar

### Postal Rate

**Soldiers and Seamen's One Penny Concession Postal Rate**, first introduced in Great Britain, 5 May 1795. From 30 August 1850, Authorization was given for the use of British Postage Stamps which were to be supplied by the ship's Purser. The Postage of One Penny to be paid by means of Postage Stamps, unless such sum was paid then a charge of Twopence was made on delivery. Maximum weight set at half an ounce, letter to be on private business, and had to be signed by the Officer in Command at the time, in this case **Lieutenant William T.F. Mudge**

### Postal Route

The “Homeward” mails from Sydney, were carried on the **P&O *Bombay*** which left Sydney on 22 July 1862, at Galle it was transferred to the **P&O *Colombo***, and at Alexandria to the **P&O *Euxine***, at Malta transferred to the **P&O *Pera***, reaching Southampton on 18 September 1862, and finally at Brighton on the same day

# The Waikato War

## HMS *Orpheus*

### 1863

#### Discharged Dead

187<sup>1</sup> officers and men died out of a total of 256<sup>1</sup>

Boy I.J. Broadway, Seaman Edwin Jenner, and the two Officers who signed their letters; **Commander Robert Burton** and **Lieutenant William T.F.Mudge**, all, perished on 7 February 1863

### Commander Robert Burton

*signed the 15 January 1862 Letter*

The most senior officer on board **HMS *Orpheus***, after Commodore Burnett was Robert Burton the Commander. He was on the Bridge with the Commodore just before the Bar was struck, and at the enquiry it was stated "*Commander Burton was seen with his head between the shrouds, which jammed his head and throat between them, killing him instantly*" The Obituary Notice in the '*Illustrated London News*' of 16 May 1863 detailed his Naval career. Was born in 1829, entered the Service in 1841, and served on HMS *Agincourt* Flagship Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane for five years. In 1851 he was a Lieutenant on HMS *Hermes* and co-operated with the Army during the Kaffir War, and was gazetted for his gallantry. He was advanced to the rank of Commander on 31 January 1861

### Boy 1<sup>st</sup>. Class John G. Broadway

*wrote the 15 January 1862 Letter*

John Broadway was born on 3 June 1842, at Southampton, Hants., and lived at Portsmouth. Prior to joining HMS *Orpheus*, he had served on board HMS *Excellent* as Boy 2<sup>nd</sup>. Class, from 16 April 1860 to 31 October 1861, conduct very good. Joined HMS *Orpheus* 31 October 1861, 5ft 4in. tall, sallow complexion, hazel eyes, brown hair, marked with smallpox, Single and no trade

### Lieutenant William T.F.Mudge

*signed the 20 July 1862 Letter*

The senior Lieutenant was William Tertius Fitzwilliam Mudge, born in Dublin about 1831. Late in 1845 he was appointed as Naval Cadet with HMS *Lucifer*, surveying the coast of Ireland, and paid off in October 1847. He joined HMS *Inconstant* in January 1848, promoted to Midshipman in March 1848. In 1855 promoted to Acting Mate and in August 1855 to Lieutenant on board HMS *Excellent*. In July 1857 on board HMS *Pylades*, and as First Lieutenant and for Gunnery duties on **HMS *Orpheus*** 25 October 1861

### Seaman Edwin Jenner

*wrote the 20 July 1862 Letter*

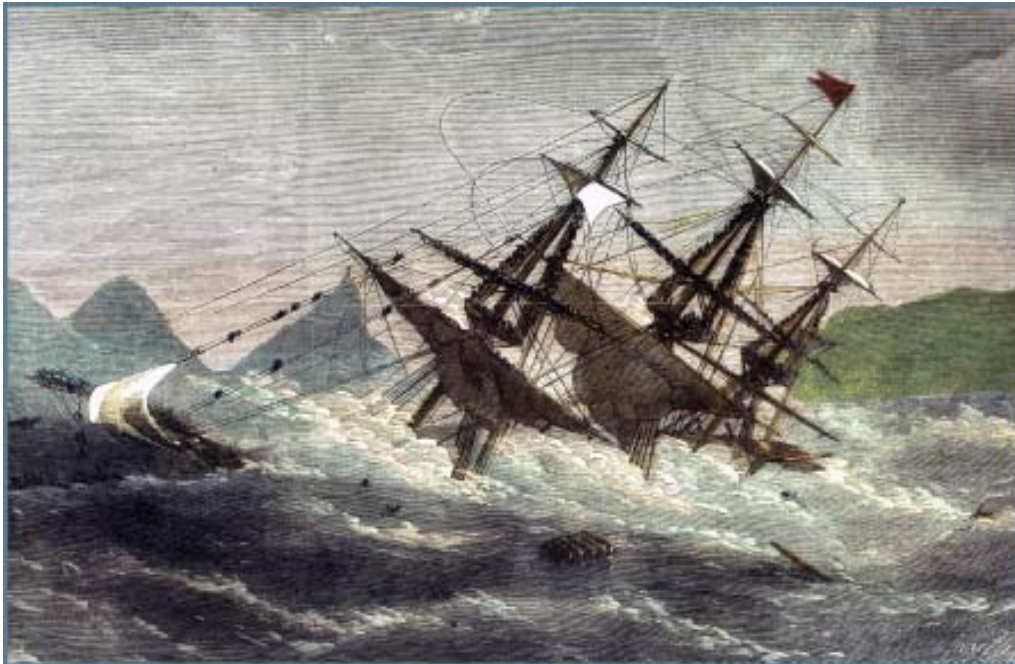
Edwin Jenner was born on 29 March 1837, at Godalming Surrey, and lived at Brighton. Prior to joining the Navy his trade was Blacksmith. Prior to joining HMS *Orpheus* he had served on HMS *Excellent* and HMS *Pylades* (*Lieutenant William Mudge also served on board both ships*). Edwin Jenner was 5ft. 6.5in. tall, sunburnt, blue eyes, brown hair, single, conduct very good

<sup>1</sup> These figures vary according to source. Reference T. Fairburn *The Orpheus Disaster* According to Ingram the loss was 189 out of 259, Hetherington quotes 189 out of 258

# The Waikato War

## HMS *Orpheus*

### 1863



The wreck of HMS *Orpheus* on Manukau Bar New Zealand 7 February 1863  
This is still today (2009) the worse Ship Disaster in New Zealand

Leaving Sydney for New Zealand on 31 January 1863, HMS *Orpheus* reached the Manukau Harbour on 7 February 1863, and in attempting to cross the bar at the entrance, was completely wrecked with a **total loss of life amounting to 187**, only 69 were accounted for out of a total complement of 256. With the loss of the Commodore, Captain Robert Jenkins of HMS *Miranda*, became the senior Officer on the Australian Station, awaiting the arrival of Sir William S. Wiseman of HMS *Curacoa*

In the Manukau Harbour at that time was HMS *Harrier* (Commander Sir Malcolm MacGregor) and the Colonial Steamer *Avon*. HMS *Miranda* (Captain Robert Jenkins) was at Auckland Harbour, although Captain Jenkins was on board the *Avon*. Proceeding out of the Harbour, the *Wonga Wonga*, eventually was able to assist in picking up some of the survivors, however it was not until much later that news reached HMS *Harrier*, who in going out to the heads, became grounded in the mud. The *Avon* however did reach the site of the wrecked vessel and was instrumental in picking up 25 Petty Officers and men, which were transferred to HMS *Harrier* on 8 February, whilst Lieutenants Hill and Yonge, Mr. Amphlet, Paymaster, Midshipman Charles Hunt, B.W. Fielding, Henry Barkly, William Mason Boatswain, John Beer, Carpenter and 61 Petty Officers, Seamen and Marines, were received aboard HMS *Miranda* at Auckland



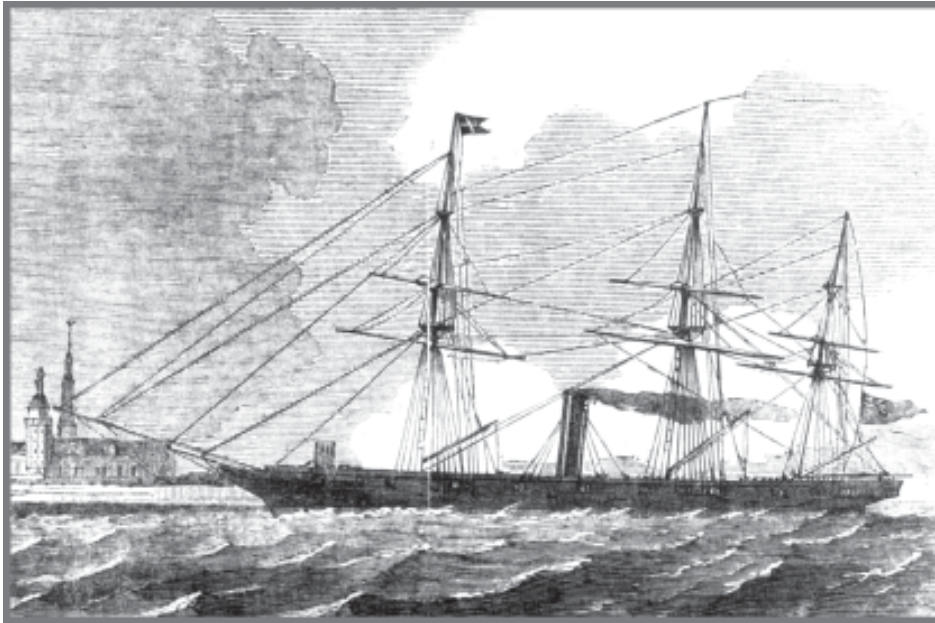
Eight of the Survivors from HMS *Orpheus*



# The Waikato War

## HMS *Miranda*

### 1861



Prior to being commissioned for the Australian Station in 1860, HMS *Miranda* was the pioneer of the Baltic Fleet during the Crimean War of 1855/56

HMS *Miranda*, Screw Corvette, 1039 T, 250 HP, 14 guns, Built at Sheerness Dockyard, launched as a screw sloop in 1851. Commissioned for the Australia Station in October 1860. Paid off at Sheerness in June 1865, became a Police Ship at Sheerness prior to being sold to C. Lewis 2 December 1869 Captain Robert Jenkins, Lieutenant Edward D. P. Downes, Lieutenant William H. Elton, Master Arthur Thomas, Chief Engineer John H.C. Bishop, Surgeon Henry Slade, Paymaster George Barnes.

On the Australian Station 1860 – 1865. Left Plymouth 1 December 1860, passed Tristan da Cunha, and at Simon's Bay 12 February 1861. Left the Cape 26 February 1861, arrived at Farm Cove Sydney 11 April 1861, leaving for New Zealand on 18 April 1861 and arrived at Manukau Harbour **26 April 1861**

On 3 November 1861, at Auckland, embarked detachment of **70<sup>th</sup> Regiment**, six Officers and 100 Rank & File with baggage for passage to **Otago**. (*To act as escorts for the carriage of gold from the Gold Diggings*). The troops were transferred to the steamer at Otago on **9 November 1861** From Otago, HMS *Miranda*, proceeded to Sydney, arriving there on 20 November 1861, leaving on 19 December 1861 for Manukau, arriving on 27 December 1861. Leaving Auckland on 24 January 1862 back to Sydney, HMS *Miranda* was only in New Zealand for only a short period between 25 March and 4 April, until 17 December 1862. During that period, Sydney and Melbourne were visited twice and three times and a cruise of the Fiji Islands took place between 16 June 1862 and 30 August 1862

HMS *Miranda* was in Auckland Harbour at the time of the **HMS Orpheus** Disaster, although Captain Jenkins was on board the **Avon** at Manukau. The following survivors were taken on board (8 February 1863) Lieutenant Hill, and Yonge, Mr. Amphlet Paymaster, Midshipmen Charles Hunt, B.W. Fielding, Henry Barkly, Mr. William Mason Boatswain, John Bere Carpenter & 61 Petty Officers, Seamen & Marines

During 17 February and 4 August 1863, HMS *Miranda* was in the Dry Dock at Sydney having a major refit, at one stage there were 49 Shipwrights and Carpenters removing defective portions of the ship's side and bottom. Arriving at Manukau on **10 August 1863**, Captain Jenkins was requested by the Governor to immediately proceed to Auckland, where an imminent attack was feared. **HMS Eclipse** also at the Manukau had also received a similar request on the 8 August, but was considered too small for the task and it was decided that she would return to Sydney in order to bring back the colonial steamer (**Pioneer**)

# The Waikato War 1863 - 1864

## HMS *Miranda*

### 1862

Leaving Auckland on 24 January 1862 back to Sydney, HMS *Miranda* was only in New Zealand for only a short period between 25 March and 4 April, until 17 December 1862. During that period, Melbourne was visited twice; 6 May -22 May 1862 and 13 September - 18 November. Sydney was visited on four occasions; 24 February - 14 March 1862, 17 April - 26 April 1862, **26 May - 16 June 1862** and 30 August - 6 September 1862. A cruise of the Fiji Islands took place between 16 June -30 August 1862

### Seaman Thomas Boyle

circa 20 June 1862 letter posted in the Ship's Navy Bag at Sydney



Receiving circular datestamp LIVERPOOL 22 August 1862

### Postal Markings

NSW 1d adhesive, has been left uncanceled. Seamen's letters placed in the Navy Bag were required to be prepaid with Great Britain postage stamps, otherwise they were treated as unpaid. The Handstruck Accountancy marking "Figure 2" (indicating Twopence to Pay) was applied in transit aboard the **P&O *Vectis***

### Postal Rate

**Soldiers and Seamen's One Penny Concession Postal Rate**, confirmed by GPO Notice N<sup>o</sup>. 41, 4 June 1859 set down for mail posted by Seamen aboard Ship in the Navy Bag. Maximum weight set at half an ounce, letter to be on private business, and to be Prepaid (**Unpaid letters were charged 2d** on arrival by the recipient) and had to be signed by the Officer in Command at the time, **Lieutenant Edward D. Panter Downes. (Severely wounded at the Battle of Rangiriri 20 11. 1863)**

### Postal Route

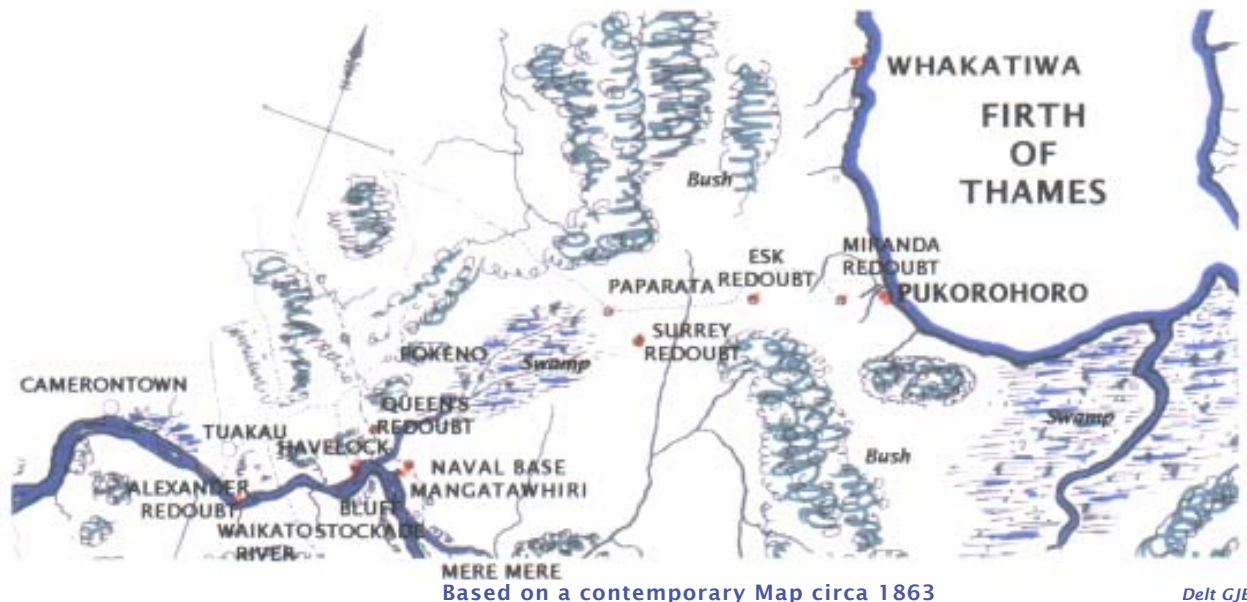
The "Homeward" mails, were carried on the **P&O *Northam*** which left Sydney on 22 June 1862, at Galle it was transferred to the **P&O *Nubia*** and at Alexandria to the **P&O *Vectis***, at which stage the Navy Bag was opened and sorted, and marked accordingly, and at Malta transferred to the **P&O *Ripon*** finally reaching Southampton on 21 August 1862 and at Liverpool the next day **22 August 1862**

# The Waikato War

## HMS *Miranda*

### 1863

## The Thames Expedition



After the major overhaul in Australia, **HMS *Miranda*** was back in action, and between the 13 -25 October 1863, carried out a survey of the Tamaki Strait, and the islands of Waiheke, Ponui, Rotoroa and Pakatoa and the Firth of Thames, in preparation for the proposed Expedition. This was to protect the main base camp at Pokeno (**Queen's Redoubt**) from attack from the North-East coast (Thames), and it was planned to construct a line of Redoubts from Pukorokoro on the coast, across the Isthmus to the Queen's Redoubt

On **16 November 1863** an Expeditionary Force of 44 officers and 922 men, commanded by Colonel George Jackson Carey, left Auckland, in addition to **HMS *Miranda***, which carried the Militia and Naval volunteers, **HMS *Esk***, carried detachments of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> Regiments, the ***Corio***, carried the Defence Forces and Horses, and the ***Sandfly*** accompanied the brigantine ***Jessie*** and the four cutters, which had three weeks supplies for the whole force

Due to bad weather the ships were forced to take shelter for eight days in the Waiheke Channel, and the troops and horses were not landed until the morning of 22 Nov. at Whakatiwa, ten miles north of Pukorokoro which was not reached until 6.30 pm on the 23<sup>rd</sup> having marched for nearly eight hours. A **Naval Brigade** of 3 Officers, 3 Petty Officers and 49 Seamen & Marines, also marched with the troops

The first Redoubt was built at Pukorokoro which was renamed **Miranda** after **HMS *Miranda***. Two additional Redoubts were formed the first was named the **Esk Redoubt**, after **HMS *Esk***, and the second the **Surrey Redoubt**, so named after the 70<sup>th</sup> Regiment, who were also known as the Surrey Regiment of Foot

#### References

- HMS *Miranda* Ship's Log
- The Road to War* by Maurice Lennard
- The New Zealand Wars* by James Cowan
- New Zealand Gazette Report* 24 Nov. 1863 by Colonel George Carey

# The Waikato War

## HMS *Miranda*

### 1864

HMS *Miranda* left Tauranga on 19 May 1864 arriving at Auckland on 19 May 1864. During May there was more than one Court Martial carried out, and on 31 May 1864, the news of the day was the departure of the Inter-Colonial Steamer *Prince Alfred* which sailed with the English Mail

### Seaman Thomas Boyle

31 May 1864 Letter placed in the Navy Bag at Auckland



A85  
Mailboat  
Obliterator

Receiving circular datestamp **LIVERPOOL 20 August 1864**  
Provenance Western Auctions 3 May 1977

### Postal Markings

NZ 1d Chalon, Colonial Printing by J. Richardson, on white unwatermarked paper, (used contrary to Regulations) cancelled with the Mailboat obliterator "A85"

### Postal Rate

**Soldiers and Seamen's One Penny Concession Postal Rate.** When posted in the Ship's Navy Bag, Great Britain Postage Stamps were to be used, however in this case the NZ stamp has been accepted and the charge of 2d for unpaid mail has not been made. The letter has been signed by the Officer in Command at the time, **Lieutenant Paul Storr, (ex. HMS *Curacoa*)**. Commander Edward D. Panter Downes, who signed the previous letter from HMS *Miranda*, and was wounded at Rangiriri had been discharged at Tauranga for passage back to England on 27 April 1864

### Postal Route

The mail was carried on the Inter Colonial Mail Steamer **SS *Prince Alfred*** which left Auckland on 31 May 1864, for Sydney. The "Homeward" mails, were carried on the **P&O *Northam*** which left Sydney on 22 June 1864. At Galle (20.7.1864) it was transferred to the **P&O *Nemesis***, and at Alexandria to the **P&O *Ceylon***, on which the Navy Bag was sorted, the adhesive cancelled and the letter transferred to the **P&O *Ripon*** at Malta, finally reaching Southampton on 19 August 1864, and final destination at Liverpool the next day, **20 August 1864**



# The Tauranga Campaign

## HMS *Miranda*

### 1864

#### Gate Pah

Following the conclusion of the Thames Expedition, HMS *Miranda* was involved in transporting troops to Tauranga. On 20 January 1864 a detachment of Royal Engineers, 68<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> Regiment together with 15 'Cast offs' from the *Bombay* left Auckland for Tauranga, arriving on 21 January 1864, where the *Miranda* stayed anchored at Te Papa until 19 May 1864, during which time the ship's pinnace assisted in disembarking the troops from SS *Sandfly*, HMS *Esk*, & HMS *Falcon*, whilst HMS *Harrier* was at Maketu

Following the defeat of the Maoris at Orakau on 31 March/ 1 April 1864, which virtually saw the conclusion of the fighting in the Waikato, the East Coast Maoris had been building up their forces in the Tauranga area, and had engaged the troops at Maketu on 21 April 1864. The Maoris were also constructing near Tauranga a formidable redoubt (Gate Pah), which General Cameron decided that as soon as reinforcements had arrived from Auckland it would be attacked

All the troops were assembled at the Te Papa Mission Station by 26 April 1864, including a Naval Brigade from HMS *Miranda*, *Esk*, *Curacoa*, and HMS *Falcon*, consisting of 10 Officers, 7 Midshipmen, 36 Petty Officers, 5 drummers, and 371 seamen and marines, totalling 429

The assault commenced at 4 pm on 29 March 1864, following a short bombardment by the Armstrong gun and howitzers. 80 seamen and 70 Marines from the Naval Brigade, under Commander Edward Hay, HMS *Harrier*, and an equal number of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, under Lieut-Colonel Booth, formed the "**Assaulting column**". Both Commander Edward Hay and Lieut-Colonel Booth, who led into the work, fell mortally dead. Captain Hamilton was shot dead on the top of the parapet while in the act of encouraging his men to advance, and in a few minutes almost every officer of the column was either killed or wounded.

General Cameron in his Despatch dated 5 May 1864 to the Governor Sir George Grey, comments as follows: - "**The heroism and devotion of Captain Hamilton and Commander Hay reflect the highest honour on the Naval Service**". Colonel H.H. Greer 68<sup>th</sup> Regiment in his Despatch of 1 May 1864, favourably mentions Lieutenant Hotham of HMS *Falcon* who was in charge of another party of the Naval Brigade (30 men) at Gate Pah.

HMS *Miranda*, suffered the following losses :- **Killed (1)** Gunner M. Watts. **Wounded (9)** Lieutenant Hammick, Boatswain's Mate, John Nokes, Captain Main Top, James English, Able Seamen M. Bryan, Samuel Ruthven, George Charmbold, and Alexander McAllister, Royal Marine Gunner George Alton. **PM Levi Keane**, who was listed as **wounded later died at 1.30 pm on 2 May 1864**, just after the Funeral Party had left the ship to attend the burial of the Officers and Men who had been killed

HMS *Miranda* returned to England on 7 February 1865 via Cape Horn, reached Spithead on 20 May 1865, Ship's crew paid off and at sunset 3 June 1865 the Pendant was hauled down.

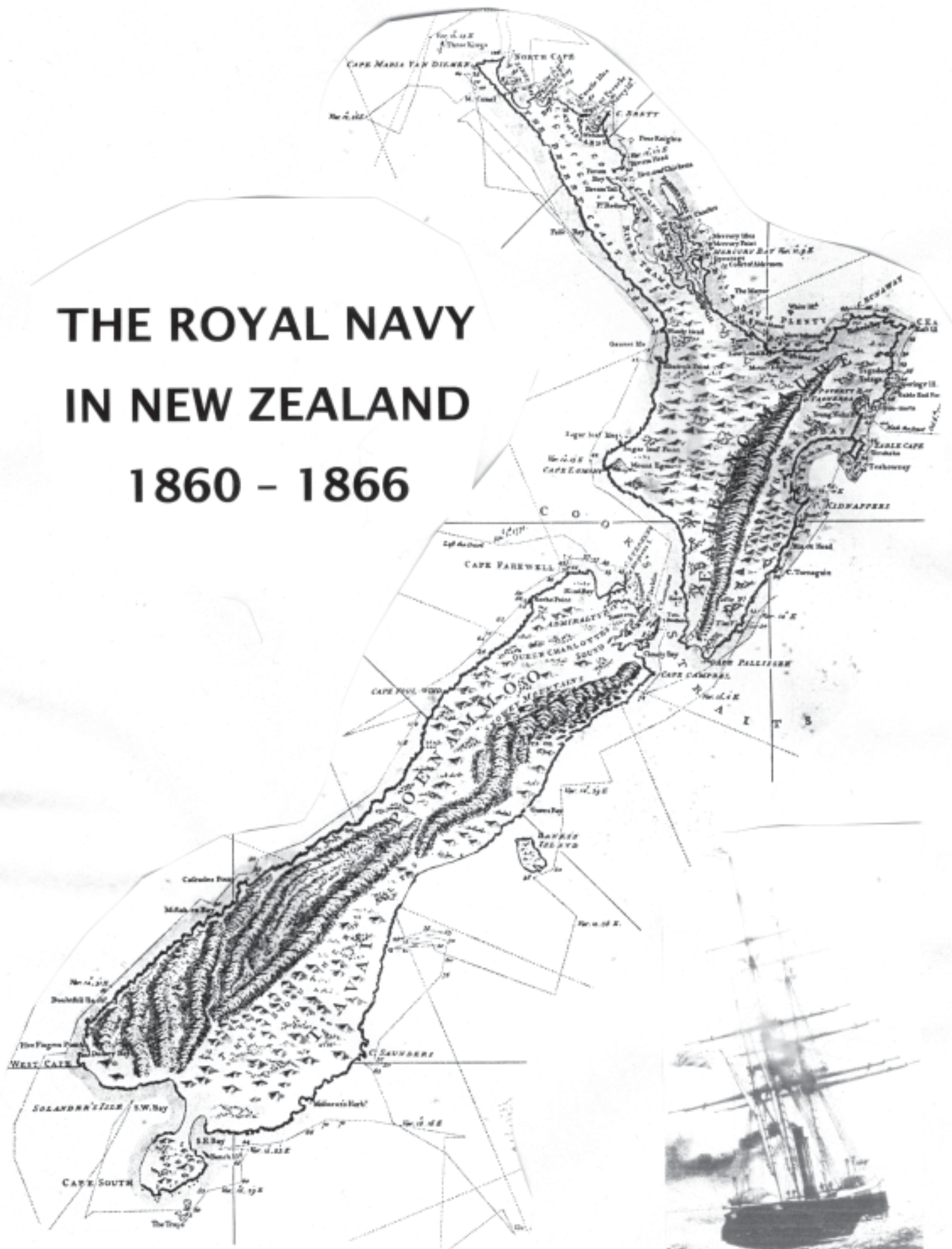
#### Seaman Thomas Boyle

Thomas Boyle was born at Liverpool, previous service 1853 HMS *Horatio*, 1854-1860 HMS *Boscowen*. In Prison 25 February - 15 June 1860 and in Hospital 25 July - 6 September 1860. Joined HMS *Miranda*, 5ft. 6in. tall, Ruddy complexion, blue eyes, brown hair, scar on upper lip, single

#### The New Zealand Medal 1863 - 1864

13 officer, 62 Seaman and 18 Royal Marines from HMS *Miranda*, were awarded the **New Zealand Medal (1863-64)** for their services in the attack at Rangiriri 20 November 1863, Te Awamutu 21 February 1864, Rangiaowhia 21 February 1864, Gate Pah 20 April, Tauranga 29 April 1864

# THE ROYAL NAVY IN NEW ZEALAND 1860 - 1866



# The Waikato War

## HMS *Miranda*

### 1864

HMS *Miranda* left Tauranga on 19 May 1864 arriving at Auckland on 19 May 1864. During May there was more than one Court Martial carried out, and on 31 May 1864, the news of the day was the departure of the Inter-Colonial Steamer *Prince Alfred* which sailed with the English Mail

### Seaman Thomas Boyle

31 May 1864 Letter placed in the Navy Bag at Auckland



A85  
Mailboat  
Obliterator

Receiving circular datestamp **LIVERPOOL 20 August 1864**  
Provenance Western Auctions 3 May 1977

### Postal Markings

NZ 1d Chalon, Colonial Printing by J. Richardson, on white unwatermarked paper, (used contrary to Regulations) cancelled with the Mailboat obliterator "A85"

### Postal Rate

**Soldiers and Seamen's One Penny Concession Postal Rate.** When posted in the Ship's Navy Bag, Great Britain Postage Stamps were to be used, however in this case the NZ stamp has been accepted and the charge of 2d for unpaid mail has not been made. The letter has been signed by the Officer in Command at the time, **Lieutenant Paul Storr, (ex. HMS *Curacoa*)**. Commander Edward D. Panter Downes, who signed the previous letter from HMS *Miranda*, and was wounded at Rangiriri had been discharged at Tauranga for passage back to England on 27 April 1864

### Postal Route

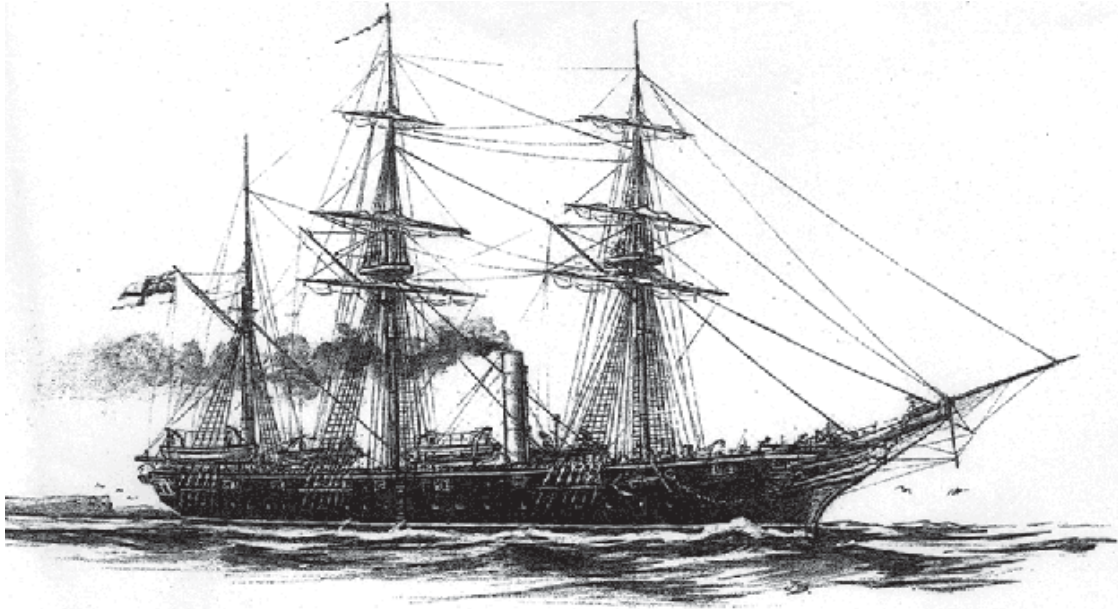
The mail was carried on the Inter Colonial Mail Steamer **SS *Prince Alfred*** which left Auckland on 31 May 1864, for Sydney. The "Homeward" mails, were carried on the **P&O *Northam*** which left Sydney on 22 June 1864. At Galle (20.7.1864) it was transferred to the **P&O *Nemesis***, and at Alexandria to the **P&O *Ceylon***, on which the Navy Bag was sorted, the adhesive cancelled and the letter transferred to the **P&O *Ripon*** at Malta, finally reaching Southampton on 19 August 1864, and final destination at Liverpool the next day, **20 August 1864**



# The Taranaki War

## HMS *Harrier*

### 1861- 1862



*Class of six wooden screw sloops; Alert, Cruiser, Falcon, Hornet and Fawn.* Screw Sloop, 17 guns, 100HP, 747T. Built at Pembroke Dockyard, South Wales, launched 1854, broken up 1866. Commissioned for the Australian Station 30 October 1860 at Portsmouth. Captain, Commander Sir Malcolm MacGregor Bart., Master, Henry C. Sedmond. Captain Francis William Sullivan (9 Nov. 1863)

**HMS *Harrier*** left England on 17 December 1860, at Tristan da Cunha 14 February until 3 March 1861, at Simon's Bay 15 March 1861, finally arriving at Sydney on **22 May 1861**. Left Sydney for New Zealand 28 May 1861, arrived Manukau Harbour **4 June 1861**. On 21 June 1861, transferred the Royal Marines to HMS *Fawn*. 8 August 1861, proceeded to Taranaki, having embarked 4 Officers and 108 Rank & File of the 57<sup>th</sup> Regiment, due to heavy seas on the bar, delayed and troops not disembarked to the shore off Taranaki until 12 August 1861. Returned to Manukau Harbour, with 4 guns, 2 Muskets and amunition and ordinance stores, discharged at Onehunga, on 19 August 1861

Left New Zealand on 19 September 1861 for a cruise of the Fiji Islands and Norfolk Island, returning to Auckland on 8 November 1861, before going to Sydney on 22 January 1862. At Sydney from 1 February 1862 until 13 March 1862, arrived at Auckland on 25 March 1862. Whilst at anchor in Auckland Harbour, **Thomas Robinson 1<sup>st</sup> class Boy** fell overboard and was saved by Neil McEwen, 2<sup>nd</sup> Captain Foretop, who jumped overboard and saved him from drowning. On 3 April 1862, a Gunner from **HMS *Fawn*** and a Seaman from **HMS *Miranda*** came aboard to identify deserters. **Micheal Machan**, Private Royal Marines was punished for drunkenness, and received **48 lashes of the cat of nine tails**.

**Micheal Machan**, was later reported in the New South Wales Gazette, dated 6 May 1863 as a **Deserter**, together with 4 others. **HMS *Harrier*** was in Sydney from 3 April 1863 to 30 May 1863

During most of 1862, **HMS *Harrier*** was steaming between the Manukau Harbour and Auckland, with a visit in September to Wellington. On 16 October 1862, Commander Sullivan joined the ship and Commander Sir Malcolm MacGregor Bart. was discharged to the Super List for passage home. Left Auckland for Lyttleton on 5 November 1862, to collect the ***Avon***, which was towed to Onehunga, through the Cook Strait via Taranaki, arriving on 26 November 1862



# The Taranaki War

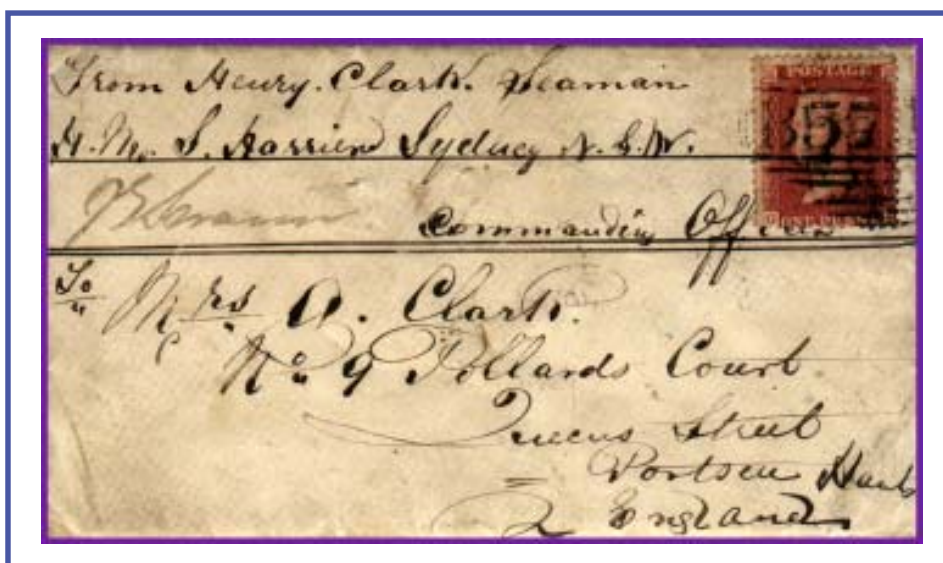
## HMS *Harrier*

### 1863

HMS *Harrier* was moored at Onehunga from 25 December 1862, and was present when HMS *Orpheus* was wrecked. On the day of the wreck, the Paymaster of the Orpheus came on board and reported the loss, and arranged for the Colonial Steamer Avon to get up steam and to render assistance. The Avon picked up survivors, with 25 Petty Officers and men transferred to the *Harrier* on the 8 February 1863, also salvaged was a chest of drawers belonging to Lieutenant Mudge. On 30 March 1863 discharged military stores at Taranaki. Left Manukau on 11 April 1863 for Sydney, and at Sydney from 3 April 1863 till 30 May 1863

## Boy Henry Clark

22 May 1863 letter posted at the Sydney NSW Post Office (cds S21)<sup>1</sup>



**B57**  
Mailboat  
Obliterator

Receiving circular datestamp **PORTSMOUTH 21 July 1863**

<sup>1</sup> (cds S21) see J. White *The Postal History of New South Wales*

## Postal Markings

GB One Penny Red Adhesive, cancelled (twice) with the Mailboat obliterator “**B57**” used by the Post Office Sorter on board the **P&O Euxine**, between Alexandria and Malta (8-11 July) when the sealed Navy Bag was opened, and this letter was transferred at Malta to the **P&O Poonah**, going to Southampton via Gibraltar

## Postal Rate

**Irregular use of the GB 1d adhesive on mail posted at the Sydney Post Office.** From 30 August 1850, authorization was given for the use of British Postage Stamps for Seamen’s mail posted in the sealed Navy Bag. However In this case, the letter has been posted at the Sydney Post Office, and should have had a NSW 1d postage stamp. The letter has been correctly signed for the concession rate by the Officer in Command at the time, **Lieutenant John Thomlinson Swann**

## Postal Route

The “Homeward” mails from Sydney, were carried on the **P&O Madras** which left Sydney on 22 May 1863, at Galle it was transferred to the **P&O Candia**, and at Alexandria on 8 July 1863 to the **P&O Euxine**, at Malta 11/12 July 1863, transferred to the **P&O Poonah**, which arrived at Southampton on **21 July 1863**

# The Tauranga Campaign

## HMS *Harrier*

### 1863

#### Waikato Flotilla

**HMS *Harrier*** picked up Military supplies in Sydney for Taranaki and these were discharged at the end of June 1863, delayed due to a heavy swell, picked up other supplies and returned to Manukau. On 6 July 1863, the **Captain and 25 men** off in the 2nd Cutter to **Drury** to take charge of the Gunboats on the river. On 13 July 1863, purchased **six rowboats and 23 sets of oars** for work on the Waikato River, **plus 200 blankets and 290 pairs of socks** for the Naval Brigade. The Armstrong Gun was sent to the **Avon** for service on the River. On 17 July 1863 the ship's pinnace and the one from **HMS *Orpheus*** proceeded to Drury with **8 Officers and 66 men** for the Waikato Flotilla, during August to November taking supplies for the Naval Brigade

Following the Battle at **Rangiriri**, news received on 20 November 1863 that **David Downer, Private Royal Marine** and **Fred R. Osborne 2nd Captain Foretop** had both been killed in action. In February 1864, the pinnace and cutter embarked Marines on board the steamer **Alexandra** for the Front, also Marines from **HMS *Curacoa***. On the promotion of Captain Sullivan, **Commander Edward Hay** joined the ship on 19 Feb. 1864. 24 Feb.- 2 March, ship's Carpenters repairing whaleboat of **HMS *Eclipse***

#### Tauranga

On 14 April 1864, **HMS *Eclipse*** arrived with the Commodore and party of Seamen and Marines from the Front. Discharged all the Marines to **HMS *Curacoa***, and received 22 men from **HMS *Eclipse***. At Auckland on 24 April 1864, Lieutenant Hunt, Mr. Allen, Engineer plus 32 men from **HMS *Curacoa*** joined the ship. Embarked troops for Tauranga and on 26 April disembarked troops to the **Sandfly, HMS *Esk*, Miranda** and **Falcon** also at Tauranga. **On 27 April 1864, disembarked stores and baggage, Captain, 2 Lieutenants, Gunner and 51 men landed for the Naval Brigade.** On 28/29 April, following 'Heavy Firing' in the direction of the Camp, landed all men available for service. Following the action at Gate Pah, details were received that **A. Greenham Stoker** and Able **Seaman George Young** and **Seaman Henry Clark** (*wrote the letter illustrated*) had been killed. **Commander Hay** had also **"Departed this life from wounds received in action"**. On 1 May 1864 the ship's carpenters were making coffins on board **HMS *Miranda***. A party of 50 men proceeded to Te Papa to embark guns. **Lieutenant John T. Swann** (*who signed the letter written by Seaman Clark*) was promoted to acting Commander vice Commander Hay. 5 May **"sold to the mast the effects of the late Commander Hay"** For Commendation by General Cameron see **HMS *Miranda***. On 21 June 1864 **Battle at Te Ranga**, mustered at quarters 9.15 am sent landing party on shore, prepared for action. Landing party returned at 8pm. and sent wounded Officers and Men on **HMS *Esk*** to Auckland. **HMS *Harrier*** returned to England on **10 December 1864** via The Falkland Islands, reached Spithead on 17 March 1865, Ship's crew paid off and put the ship out of commission 30 March 1865

#### Seaman Henry Clark

Henry Clark was born at Portsmouth on 7 March 1844. Previous service; **HMS *Asia*** 8 November 1860 - 31 March 1861. Joined **HMS *Harrier***, and advanced to Ordinary Seaman 12 March 1862 Killed in Action at Gate Pa, **Discharged Dead** 29 April 1864. Was owed when he died wages of £2 11.7d

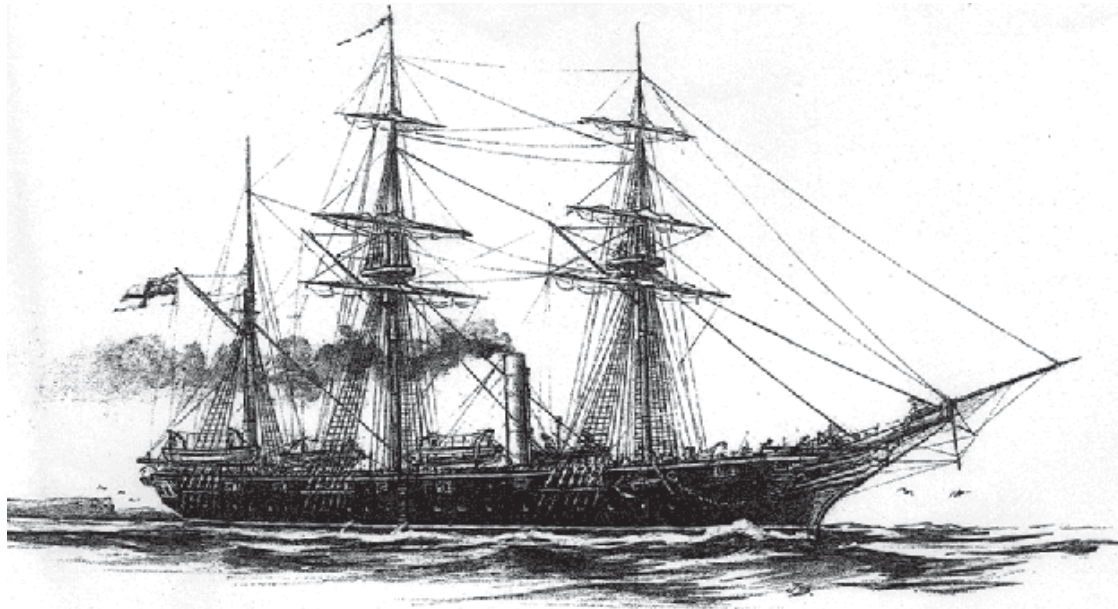
#### The New Zealand Medal 1863 - 1864

10 Officers, 60 Naval Ratings and 10 Royal Marines from **HMS *Harrier*** were awarded the **New Zealand Medal (1863-64)** for their services in the actions at Paparoa 1 Aug. 1863, Rangiriri 20 Nov. 1863, Te Awamutu 21 Feb. 1864, Rangiawhia 22 Feb., Gate Pah, Tauranga, 29 April and Te Ranga, 21 June 1864

# The Taranaki War

## HMS *Eclipse*

### 1863



**HMS *Eclipse*** *Cormorant Class*. Wooden Gunboats, 4 guns, 690-774hp, 877t. Built by Scott Russell at Millwall, launched 1860, broken up 1867. Commissioned for the Australian Station 26 September 1862 at Portsmouth. Captain, Commander Richard Charles Mayne, Lieutenants Henry J. Coddington, & William F. Boughey, Master, George Stovin. Surgeon Simon Armstrong Willis, Paymaster Charles E. Phillips

**HMS *Eclipse*** left England on 15 November 1862, at Simon's Bay 4 January 1863, finally arriving at Sydney on **8 March 1863**. Left Sydney for New Zealand 23 March 1863, arrived Auckland **2 April 1863** On 9 May 1863, received troops and baggage from the Avon, 3 Officers & 5 Rank & File 40th Regt., 1 Captain, 3 Subs., 5 Sergeants, 2 privates, 100 Rank & File 70th Regt., 2 Captains, 5 Subs., 2 Staff, 18 sergeants, 4 Drummers, 150 Rank & File, total 300, took the cutter Kate in tow and proceeded to Taranaki. At Taranaki 10 May 1863, discharged troops and baggage. 13 May 1863. Returned to Manukau with baggage from 70th Regt.

On 15 May 1863 received from the Avon; 2 Armstrong Field Pieces, and their limbers, baggage and spare parts, 4 wagons and spare gear, 1 Sergeant, plus 20 men from the Royal Artillery and three passengers. Disembarked field pieces etc., on 17 May 1863

At Taranaki on 21 May 1863, Governor, Sir George Grey and suite embarked on 22 May 1863, proceeded southwards, opened fire on some native earthworks and rifle pits, returned to Tataraimaka, discharging cannons at the Redoubt. Proceeded south to Warea, returned to New Plymouth where Sir George Grey disembarked. At Manukau on 31 May 1863, picked up 1 Sergeant, 1 Bombardier, 1 Gunner from 60th Battery No 4 Brigade Royal Artillery. Proceeded to Taranaki 1 June 1863. Disembarked troops at Taranaki 2 June 1863, proceeded down the coast and at Tataraimaka, opened fire on the native earthworks at Katikara Stream

In June 1863, General Cameron taken to Taranaki, and on 27th. embarked troops and baggage from the 40th & 70th Regiments, total 316 to Manukau. On 3 August 1863, 181 men of the 70th Regiment were taken to Taranaki where they embarked on 5 August 1863.

# The Waikato War

## HMS *Eclipse*

### 1863

On 16 July 1863 preparations made to tow the *Avon* to the Waikato Heads, however delayed through bad weather, eventually the *Avon* crossed the Waikato Heads Bar on 25 July 1863, whilst a party took the *Avon* down river, the *Eclipse* returned to Manukau.

At the request of Governor Sir George Grey, HMS *Eclipse* left Auckland for Sydney on 17 August 1863, to bring reinforcements, finally leaving Sydney on 22 September 1863, with reinforcements and towing the Gunboat *Pioneer* to the Manukau, arriving on 3 October 1863.

On the 18 October 1863, proceeded to the Waikato Heads, escorting the *Pioneer* and towing the four small gunboats, however due to bad weather had to take shelter and anchored off Cornwallis, with the Waikato Bar not reached until 24 October 1863. On the 25 October 1863, Commander Richard C. Mayne proceeded on board the gunboat *Pioneer* for service on the River. On 29 October 1863 sent the gig to survey the river (moored off Putataka Point)

## Surgeon Simon Armstrong Willis

29 October 1863 letter written at Waikato Heads, placed in the Navy Bag.



Receiving datestamp of LONDON 19 January 1864 (red), Framed cds INVERCARGILL, SOUTH LAND NZ (red), PORTSMOUTH 21 July 1863

<sup>1</sup> (cds S21) see J. White *The Postal History of New South Wales*

### Postal Markings

NZ 2d Chalon Head adhesive, appears to have been cancelled with the 21 in an oval of bars at Invercargill on its return to NZ. obliterator “B57” used by the Post Office Sorter on board the P&O *Euxine*, between Alexandria and Malta (8-11 July) when the sealed Navy Bag was opened, and this letter was transferred at Malta to the P&O *Poonah*, going to Southampton via Gibraltar

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The “Hull and” mails from Sydney were carried on the P&O *Madras*, which



# THE NEW ZEALAND MEDAL ROYAL NAVY 1860 - 1865

**During 1860 - 1861** there were **four ships** of the Royal Navy and one Australian ship involved in the First Taranaki War. HMS *Cordelia*, HMS *Iris*, HMS *Niger*, HMS *Pelorus*, & HMCS *Victoria*. A total of **323 NZ Medals (1860-61)** were awarded to the officers, seamen and marines from these ships who had been involved in the numerous actions on land. In the case of HMS *Iris*, there were **72 medals** awarded (11 Officers, 49 Naval Ratings, 12 Royal Marines)

**During 1863 - 1864** there were **four ships** of the Royal Navy, including the transport ship *Himalaya*, involved in the Waikato War. HMS *Curacoa*, HMS *Esk*, HMS *Harrier* and HMS *Miranda*. **245** officers and men from these ships, manned the six vessels forming the *Waikato Flotilla*. A total of **484 NZ Medals (1863-64)** were awarded to the officers, seamen and marines who had been involved in the numerous actions on both land and the Waikato River. Medals awarded to the individual ships were; HMS *Curacoa* - 190, HMS *Esk* -121, HMS *Harrier* - 80, HMS *Miranda* - 92

**During 1863 - 1865** as well as the ships listed above (1863-64) there were **three additional ships** of the Royal Navy also involved in the campaigns in the Waikato and Tauranga War. HMS *Eclipse*, HMS *Falcon*, & HMS *Brisk*. A total of **100 NZ Medals (1863-65)** were awarded to the officers, seamen and marines who had been involved in the numerous actions on land. Medals awarded to the individual ships were; HMS *Eclipse* - 75, HMS *Falcon* -12, HMS *Brisk* -13.



**1863 TO 1865**  
**Medal awarded to Ordinary Seaman William Emery, HMS *Eclipse***

## **OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE ROYAL NAVY AND MARINES**

The medals were only awarded, provided that (a) The ship's companies who actually came under fire. (b) Those who served in the WAIKATO FLOTILLA, 21 October 1863 - 31 January 1864. The Waikato Flotilla consisted of the gunboats, Pioneer, Avon, and four smaller vessels; Ant, Chub, Flirt, and Midge. (c) Those who were present at the storming of Gate Pa, Tauranga, and Te Ranga & Opotiki.

There were a total **1,198** medals awarded for both Wars, **1845 - 1847, 291** and **1860 - 1865, 907**

