NEW ZEALAND WARS 1845 - 1847

THE ROYAL NAVY SHIPS

The role of the ships of the Royal Navy during the New Zealand wars was to sustain the British forces ashore, to transport military units around the coasts, (There were virtually no inland roads) and to provide fire support during engagements, either directly with gunfire from the ships or landing seamen and guns to join the military forces ashore. **HMS Daphne** arrived at Auckland on 12 August 1845 from Valparaiso and was at the Bay of Islands until 2 October 1845, when she returned back to Station

There were nine Royal Navy ships involved, in Northland, Wellington and at Wanganui. Dates of arrival shown below are at the Bay of Islands, apart from HMS Driver and **HMS Inflexible**

**HMS HAZARD**

Following the Flag Staff being cut down for the fourth time, HMS Hazard arrived on 15 February 1845. Officers and men joined a detachment of the 96th Regt. to defend Kororareka, and at Ohaaawai

**HMS OSPREY**

HMS Osprey arrived prior to March 1845, as Commander F. Patten was the senior Naval officer, prior to 25 March. On 11 March 1845, was totally wrecked in the Herekino or "False Hokiaanga" Harbour

**HMS NORTH STAR**

Arrived on 25 March 1845, with 230 officers and men of the 58th Regiment of Foot and provided officers and men for the Naval Brigade engaged at Ruapekapeka

**HMS RACEHORSE**

Arrived on 22 November 1845, to provide officers and men for the Naval Brigade engaged at Ruapekapeka

**HMS CASTOR**

Arrived on 12 December 1845, to provide officers and men for the Naval Brigade engaged at Ruapekapeka

**HEICS ELPHINSTONE**

Arrived on 18 December 1845, with Governor George Grey on board, and to provide officers and men for the Naval Brigade engaged at Ruapekapeka, awarded six NZ Medals for their services

**HMS CALLIOPE**

Arrived on 31 December 1845, relief for HMS North Star, returning to England. HMS Calliope was also involved with the actions at Wellington and Wanganui

**HMS DRIVER**

Arrived at Auckland on 20 January 1846, and on 3 February 1846, carried troops to Wellington, and made several round trips carrying both troops and Governor Grey

**HMS INFLEXIBLE**

Arrived at Auckland on 25 January 1847 with detachments of the 58th Regiment of Foot from Sydney. Involved with carrying troops of the 65th Regt. to Wanganui and providing men for the Naval Brigade

**HMS Dido,** arrived at Auckland on 2 July 1847 as relief for HMS Castor
# NEW ZEALAND WARS 1845 - 1866

## THE NEW ZEALAND MEDAL

List of Medals issued to the Royal Navy and Royal Marines

![Image of a medal with ribbons]

The New Zealand Medal 1863 - 65
Awarded to Seaman William Emery / HMS Eclipse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Ship</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Ship</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1845-46</td>
<td>H.M.S. Castor</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>1860-61</td>
<td>H.M.S. Cordelia</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H.E.I.C.S. Elphinstone</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>H.M.S. Iris</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H.M.S. Hazard</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
<td>H.M.S. Niger</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H.M.S. North Star</td>
<td>41</td>
<td></td>
<td>H.M.S. Pelorus</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H.M.S. Osprey</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td>H.M.C.S. Victoria</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1845-47</td>
<td>H.M.S. Racehorse</td>
<td>36</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1846</td>
<td>H.M.S. Driver</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1846-47</td>
<td>H.M.S. Calliope</td>
<td>63</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1847</td>
<td>H.M.S. Inflexible</td>
<td>20</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total of 291 medals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<th>Number</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Ship</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1863-65</td>
<td>H.M.S. Eclipse</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>1863-64</td>
<td>H.M.S. Curacoa</td>
<td>190</td>
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<tr>
<td>1864</td>
<td>H.M.S. Falcon</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>H.M.S. Esk</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865</td>
<td>H.M.S. Brisk</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td>H.M.S. Harrier</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>H.M.S. Miranda</td>
<td>92</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>H.M.S. Himalaya</td>
<td>1*</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total of 484 medals

Grand Total: 1,198

* Captain Lacy H.M.S. Himalaya, accompanied General Cameron and was present at Rangiriri

The Following ships which made claims were refused - H.M.S. Daphne, Dido, Elk, Fawn, and Fly.
HMS CALLIOPE

HMS Calliope provided a Naval Brigade at Paramata in July 1846 and on 23 July 1846, Te Rauparaha was captured and placed on board. Also involved in the action at Wanganui.

Te Rauparaha

4 July 1846, Entire Letter from William Ross MD, Assistant Surgeon HMS Calliope, Port Nicholson

ENTIRE LETTER HMS CALLIOPE - 1846

A(t) (e) 3 July 1845
Her Majesty's Ship "Calliope"
Port Nicholson NZ
July 4th 1846

Red Handstamp, 15 March 1847
"...The Medical Dept. of the sea..."

5669
6346

Sir,

Having completed my period of twelve months servitude as an acting Assistant Surgeon in Her Majesty's Navy, I herewith enclose attested copies of my certificates, and have to request you will be pleased to move the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to confirm my appointment and forward my commission.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your obedient and humble servant.

William Ross MD
Assistant Surgeon
HMS "Calliope"

The Secretary of the
Admiralty
London

Note on the reverse

Inform Dr. Ross that he must forward his certificates of service in Plymouth Hospital, an original before he can be confirmed as Assistant Surgeon.

W/B

15 March BF
Dear Sirs,

Having completed my period of tenure under the arrangements as an Acting Assistant Surgeon in Her Majesty's Service, I have enclosed an attest of my certificate and have to request you will please to refer the same to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to confirm my appointment and forward my commission.

I have the honor to be,

Yours obedient and humble servant,

[Signature]

William [Name]
Assistant Surgeon
H.M.S. "Calliste"
HMS CALLIOPE

HMS Calliope, class of 1831, 6th Rate Frigate, 26 guns, 175 men, launched 6 October 1837, hulked 1855, broken up 1883. Captain Edward Stanley. Whilst in New Zealand, during 1845 - 1848, HMS Calliope was involved in both the fighting in Northland, and Wanganui, as well as at Wellington, finally leaving Auckland via Wellington on 1 August 1848.

HMS Calliope

HMS Calliope returned home, left Auckland on 1 August 1848 via Wellington, arrived at Portsmouth on 27 November 1848.

20 June 1848, Entire letter Rev. Purchase, St. John’s College.

AUCKLAND NEW ZEALAND 31 JY 1848, unframed cds. London cds. CO 28 NO 1848 and BIRMINGHAM 28 NO 1848 cds. Manuscript figure 1/ indicating one shilling due, there are no Paid markings.

Purchase notes that his letter was written several weeks ago, but has now taken the opportunity as the Man-of-War HMS Calliope is on her way home.
The enclosed was written, as I stated with these, several weeks ago, and I have been so much occupied since that I have not sent it off. The Calliope (now of course) went to Woolwich for Wellington on her way to England. I was unwilling to lose the good opportunity, therefore I will only add that you know George is quite well & what is better, still is going on steadily & in every respect satisfactorily. I shall be very happy to hear from you should you write to join with me in kind wishes. Mrs. Purchas wishes to join with me in kind wishes.

Remember me to Mr. & Mrs. Clifford. My faithful regards.

Believe me, very much so. 

Very faithfully yours,

[Signature]

Arthur J. Purchas
NEW ZEALAND WARS 1845 - 1847

HMS DRIVER

HMS Driver, Paddle Sloop of 1840, 6 guns, 175 men, wrecked in 1861. Captain, Commander Courtney O. Hayes, arrived at Auckland on 20 January 1846, from Hong Kong, and in February 1846 was one of a fleet of five ships which carried 600 British troops between Auckland and Wellington.

A force of seamen, materially assisted in the capture of Te Rauparaha on the 12 July 1846, and also employed in the suppression of the rebellion at Wellington.

28 January 1847, Reverend Thomas Buddle - Auckland

NEW ZEALAND unframed cds Type I, (used at Auckland) Boxed
PAID AT AUCKLAND Handstamp, Manuscript figure "4" Fourpence paid
Handstruck PACKET LETTER PORTSMOUTH, PORTSMOUTH 14 MY 1847
unframed cds, London receiving cds 15 May 1847. Handstruck
PACKET LETTER PORTSMOUTH, Manuscript figure 1/- One Shilling due

Letter carried on HMS Driver returning to England, leaving Auckland on 29 January 1847
HMS DIDO

HMS Dido, Flush Decked ship, 1834 class, launched 6 August 1836, Hulked 1860, sold 1903, 18 guns, 145/175 men. Left Singapore about the end of April 1847, Captain J B Maxwell, arrived Auckland 2 July 1847 to relieve HMS Castor, who returned to England on 8 July 1847. It appears that HMS Dido activities were confined to "despatch carrying" and she returned to England on 34 November 1848.

HMS Dido in a Cyclone off the Society Islands 21 January 1856

Plymouth 620 "Spoon" Duplex (A & H type No. 1496)

1 June 1855 Seaman David Williams - HMS Dido - Valparaiso

GB 1d red cancelled with the PLYMOUTH 620 "Spoon" Duplex
London 2 June 1855 circular datestamp on reverse
HMS RACEHORSE

HMS Racehorse, Favourite class of 1825, 6th Rate Sloop, 18 guns, 125 men, launched 23 May 1830, hulked 1861, sold 1901. Captain, Commander George James Hay. First arrived at Auckland in September 1845, and returned to Sydney from the Bay of Islands with £70,000 of specie for the Commissariat, returned to the Bay of Islands arriving on 22 November 1845, also present were HMS North Star, and HEIC ship Elphinstone, having on board His Excellency Governor Grey.

The Bombardment of Ruapekepeka Pa 10 January 1846

Between December 1845 and 11 January 1846, landed 340 officers, seamen and Marines from HMS Racehorse, HMS Castor, HMS North Star, HMS Collope and HEIC ship Elphinstone, for the Naval Brigade (Captain Charles Graham, HMS Castor) to assist the army with the attack on Ruapekepeka.

Letter carried on HMS Racehorse, left Sydney 3 June 1847 with Lieutenant Pattay, one sergeant and 24 men of the 58th Regiment arrived Auckland 11 June 1847.

22 December 1846, Liverpool Entire Letter to Rev Purchase - St John's College

NEW ZEALAND unframed cds (rare) Type II, Dec 46 - July 1847

23 December 1846, LIVERPOOL PAID 23 DE 1846 cds. Manuscript Figure 1 One Shilling paid at Liverpool. London PAID 30 DE 46 framed cds. PAID SHIP LETTER SYDNEY 23 MY 1847 oval ds. Redirected to New Zealand. SHIP LETTER SYDNEY 26 MY 1847 cds. Figure "3" Threepence due at Sydney. Figure 4 Fourpence due at Auckland.
By my order,

This justifies the frame what has been agreed upon, as I thought they needed some form for some work of mine, to your taste. I have been for the whole of the summer in London, where I have been engaged in writing my book. If you have not already received it, I will send it to you by the postman tomorrow. I hope you will like it as much as I do. It is a letter which I have just finished, and I am sure you will find it interesting.

I have been to see your mother and I am sorry to hear that she is not well. I hope she will recover soon. I am writing to you to ask if you would be willing to come and stay with us for a while. I think it would be very nice to have you here. I promise to be a good host and you will have a good time. I will make sure you are well taken care of.

I am writing to you to ask if you would be willing to come and stay with us for a while. I think it would be very nice to have you here. I promise to be a good host and you will have a good time. I will make sure you are well taken care of.

I am writing to you to ask if you would be willing to come and stay with us for a while. I think it would be very nice to have you here. I promise to be a good host and you will have a good time. I will make sure you are well taken care of.
The letter begins with a description of the writer's desk and the room's arrangement. The writer mentions the sunny afternoon and the comfortable weather. They then proceed to discuss the events of the day, mentioning a visit to the museum. The letter concludes with a reflection on the writer's day and their thoughts on the events of the week.
THE ROYAL NAVY SHIPS

There were five Royal Navy ships involved, as well as the Australian warship, HMCS Victoria, together with several steamers carrying troops and stores. When the Australia Station became a separate station in 1859, William Loring of HMS Iris was appointed the first Commodore in June 1859. The first shots were fired on 17 March 1859, and the cease fire was declared from 21 May 1861

HMS IRIS

HMS Iris, 6th Rate Frigate, 1840, 6 guns. Captain Commander William Loring, who as Senior Naval Officer in New Zealand organized from Auckland the Naval Brigades for the action at New Plymouth

HMS NIGER

Arrived at New Plymouth on 1 March 1860. A Naval Brigade was formed under the command of Captain Peter Cracroft, consisting of 60 seamen and Marines, together with their 68 pounder and the 12 pounder brass field piece gun. Their camp was called Fort Niger and mounted their 12 pounder at the camp. The Naval Brigade was soon in action at the Waitara, assisting the British troops

HMS PELORUS

HMS Pelorus, Frigate Screw Corvette, 1857, 21 guns, Broken Up 1868, on the Australian Station 1859 - July 1862. Captain Beauchamp Seymour, anchored of New Plymouth 18 April 1860. Provided a Naval Brigade of 60 seaman, which took part in the action at Puketakauere near Waitara, on 27 June 1860, and at also officers, seamen and marines for the action at Mahoetahi on 16 November 1860

HMS CORDELIA

HMS Cordelia, Screw Steam Sloop, 11 guns, 1856, sold 1870, Commander Charles E H Vernon (7 April 1857) on the Australian Station 1859 - 1862. Arrived in April 1860, provided men for the Naval Brigade

HMCS VICTORIA

HMCS Victoria, Steam Sloop, 7 guns. From the Government of Victoria, arrived at New Plymouth on 29 April 1860, with a detachment of the 40th Regt. Provided volunteers to join the Naval Brigade

HMS ELK

HMS Elk, Acorn Class Brig Sloop, 1847, 16 guns, on the Australian Station 1859 - 1860. Returned to England, crew “Paid Off” 21 August 1860 at Sheerness. Provided a 32 pounder gun and ammunition for the NZ Government gunboat Caroline (ex Ruby schooner) which became the Tender to HMS Niger

HMS FAWN

HMS Fawn, Screw Steam Sloop, 17 guns, on Australia Station 1860 - 1862 Commander Ralph P. Cator, brought detachments of the 12th Regt. to New Plymouth on 23 July 1860

A New Plymouth settler wrote...

“I do believe that the war would be soonest ended by sending away all the soldiers ... and having the Niger and Pelorus men to head the militia and volunteers. They would soon have made a clean sweep of the settlement”

William Odgers Leading Seaman of HMS Niger was awarded the Victoria Cross on 28 March 1860
HMS IRIS

HMS Iris, 6th Rate Frigate, 1840, 26 guns, 240 men, sold in 1869, Captain Commander William Loring. HMS Iris was the first flagship on the Australian Station 1859-60, with Loring appointed Commodore. Arrived at the Bay of Islands 8 February 1859, and visited Taranaki, before returning to Sydney. Returned to Auckland on 10 December 1859 until 12 February 1860, once again returning in April 1860 to provide a Naval Brigade of 150 men for the action at Taranaki. In all the Naval Brigade totalled 600 men, made up of men from HMS Niger, Cordelia and Pelorus, assisting the 65th Regiment.

4 February 1861 Seaman Joseph Richards, HMS Iris, Auckland, NZ

From Joseph Richards, 2nd Class, HMIS Iris, H.M. Naval Station, Auckland, New Zealand
To Commander, HMIS Iris
H.M. Naval Station, Swanage
S.W.

NZ 1d Chalon, cancelled with the PB barred obliterator No.1. Counter-signed by Lieutenant Goldin R. Breton. AUCKLAND NZ 4 FE 4 -1861 8 cds SWANAGE 18 AP 61 & WAREHAM 18 AP 61 cds. P&O Salsette from Sydney, Galle P&O Colombo, at Alexandria P&O Massila, to Southampton 17 April 1861

This is the only New Zealand Seamen’s 1d concession rate letter recorded, posted in the NZ Postal System using a 1d Chalon postage stamp 1855 -1874
THE ROYAL NAVY SHIPS

Royal Navy ships were either sent direct from England or detached from the East Indies Naval Station or from the recently opened Australia Naval Station. They were used to carry both troops and supplies, and more importantly they provided officers, seamen and marines to man the Naval Brigades, which supported the British Troops, as well as manning the Waikato Flotilla

THE NEW ZEALAND SQUADRON

HMS Miranda, arrived in New Zealand on 26 April 1861, and was engaged in both transporting troops and supplies and providing officers and men for the various Naval Brigades, including taking part in the "Thames Expedition" and action in the Waikato and at Tauranga (Gate Pah)

HMS Harrier, arrived in New Zealand in 1861, and was also involved in all the major actions

HMS Orpheus, left Sydney for New Zealand on 31 January 1863, and reached the Manukau Harbour on 7 February 1863, but was completely wrecked in attempting crossing the Bar. This is still the worst New Zealand ship disaster with a loss of life of 189 officers and men

HMS Eclipse, arrived at Auckland on 2 April 1863, and in October 1863 towed the Avon from Australia, also escorted the Pioneer and towed the gunboats of the "Waikato Flotilla"

HMS Curacoa (Flagship), arrived at Auckland on 2 October 1863, bringing the Headquarters of the 12 Regiment, supplies etc., including their horses. Commodore Sir William Wiseman Bart CB was in charge of the New Zealand Squadron and the ship's officers and men were extensively involved in every operation, including running and manning the "Waikato Flotilla"

HMS Esk, arrived in New Zealand on 3 November 1863, and took part in the "Thames Expedition" and the action at Gate Pah, Tauranga. Lieutenant Robert Gardner R.M. was mentioned in despatches

***************

HMS Falcon, arrived in Auckland on 25 March 1864, and was involved with the action at Tauranga

HMS Brisk, arrived at Auckland on 3 February 1865, and was immediately involved at Opotiki

WAIKATO FLOTILLA

The ships of the Waikato Flotilla, consisted of HMS Pioneer, originally named the Waikato, towed over from Australia by HMS Eclipse, officers and men from HMS Curacoa manned the Pioneer on the Waikato River. HMS Avon a Paddle Steamer was also manned by officers and men from other ships of the Squadron. In addition there were four small gunboats, Midge, Chub, Flirt, and Ant

POSTAL HISTORY

During these campaigns, there were over 10,000 British Troops involved, and the survival of Soldiers' letters is pretty minimal, compared to the numbers of troops, and apart from the "Quartermaster Laver" correspondence there are little over 50 recorded Soldiers' letters sent at the concession rate. As far as existing Royal Navy letters, if the letters from Midshipman Cecil Foljambe had not survived the recorded letters would be minuscule, in fact there are only two Seaman's NZ letters at the 1d rate.
NEW ZEALAND WARS 1861 - 1866

HMS MIRANDA

HMS Miranda, screw corvette 1851,14 guns, Captain Commander Henry C. Glyn, left Plymouth on 1 December 1860, arrived Sydney 11 April 1861, left for New Zealand 18 April 1861, Captain Robert Jenkins, arrived at Manukau Harbour 26 April 1861. Transported troops and ammunition to Napier, Wellington and Bay of Islands. Embarked a detachment of 70th Regiment to Otago in November 1861.

HMS Miranda and HMS Fawn

c. 22 June 1862 Seaman Thomas Boyle, HMS Miranda Sydney NSW

Placed in the Ship's Bag at Sydney NSW. P&O Northam, left Sydney 22 June 1862, at Gallie P&O Nubia, at Alexandria P&O Vectis took the via Marseilles mails and opened the Ship's Bag and struck the 2d due mark (1d NSW adhesive disallowed as it was not posted in the Australian Postal system). The P&O Ripon at Malta to Southampton 21 August 1862, LIVERPOOL D9 22 AU 62 receiving framed cds

Seaman Thomas Boyle took part in the Naval Brigade during the Waikato War. Lieutenant E.D.P. Downes who countersigned this letter, was wounded at Rangiriri on 20 November 1863, and was mentioned in despatches and promoted to Commander in February 1864.
NEW ZEALAND WARS 1861 - 1866

HMS HARRIER

HMS Harrier, Class of six Wooden Screw Sloops, launched 1854, 17 guns, recommissioned 29 October 1860 for the Australian Station, leaving in December 1860, Captain Commander Sir. Malcolm Mac Gregor. Was in New Zealand during 1861 - 1864, and both officers and men took part in all the major actions in the Waikato and at Gate Pah, Tauranga. Supplies were also brought over from Australia for the British forces at Taranaki. In February 1863, took part in the rescue of the crew from HMS Orpheus, however was also grounded but refloated.

HMS Harrier

C. 21 May 1863 Henry Clark Seaman, HMS Harrier, Sydney


Seaman Henry Clark was killed at Gate Pah 29 April 1864
10 officers, 60 seamen and 10 Royal Marines were awarded the NEW ZEALAND MEDAL
NEW ZEALAND WARS 1861 - 1866

HMS ORPHEUS

HMS Orpheus, Jason Class Wooden Corvette, 1858, launched 23 June 1860, 21 guns, 240 men, wrecked 7 February 1863. Captain, Commander William Farquharson Burnett. Commissioned to go on the Australian Station, leaving Plymouth on 10 December 1861, carrying supplies for the British troops Canada and acting as convoy to the transport ship Melbourne, taking troops to the St. Lawrence river

![HMS Orpheus](image)

c. 14 January 1862. Roy I.J. Broadway HMS Orpheus at Halifax, Nova Scotia

Cunard Line Packet Canada

GB One Penny red adhesive, cancelled with the A91 Mailboat obliterator. Countersigned by the officer in command Commander Robert H. Burton

Letter carried on the Cunard Line Packet Canada (trip 92 left Halifax 25 January 1862, Liverpool 6 February 1862 COSPORT A 6 FE 62 cds

Roy I.J. Broadway was drowned, when HMS Orpheus was wrecked on the Manukau Harbour
NEW ZEALAND WARS 1861 - 1866

HMS ORPHEUS

HMS Orpheus, arrived at Sydney on 18 July 1862, and Commodore Burnett was appointed Commodore Australia Station 28 July 1862. Leaving Sydney for New Zealand on 31 January 1863, reached the Manukau Harbour on 7 February 1863, and whilst trying to cross the bar, was completely wrecked.

The Wreck of HMS Orpheus as depicted by the Illustrated London News. This is still to date the worst New Zealand ship disaster.

c. 22 July 1862 Seaman Edwin Jenner HMS Orpheus Sydney NSW

GB One Penny red adhesive, cancelled with the A86 Mailboat obliterator. Countersigned by the Officer in command, Lieutenant W.T.F. Mudge.

Letter carried on P&O Bombay, left Sydney 22 July 1862, P&O Colombo from Galle to Suez, at Alexandria. P&O Euxine to Malta, P&O Pera to Southampton. Arrived 18 September 1862, BRIGHTON CI 18 SP 62 framed cds (flap missing)

Seaman Edwin Jenner and Lieutenant Mudge were drowned, when HMS Orpheus was wrecked.
NEW ZEALAND WARS 1861 - 1866

HMS ECLIPSE

HMS Eclipse, Cormorant Class of 1860 -67, Wooden Gun vessel, 4 guns, 90 men, launched 1860, broken up 1867. Captain Commander Richard C. Mayne. Left Spithead 15 November 1862 for the Australia Station (1862-66), arrived Sydney 8 March 1863, after leaving the Cape on 17 January 1863. Left for Auckland on 23 March 1863 arriving on 2 April 1863 and to Taranaki 9 April 1863

HMS Eclipse from a photograph supplied by Captain E. F. Fremantle (later Admiral)

29 October 1863 Surgeon S. Armstrong Willis HMS Eclipse, Port Walkato

NZ Chalon 2d Blue adhesive paying the Inland rate to Riverton. However it has been placed in the ship’s mailbag & miss-sent to England. P&O Madras left Sydney 22 November 1863, P&O Candia at Galle, from Alexandria, P&O Poonah to Southampton, 17 Jan. 1864. LONDON PAID DC 18 JN 64 cds P&O Ripon left Southampton 20 Jan. and from Galle P&O Bombay to Melbourne 12 March 1864., to Riverton, INVERCARGILL SOUTHLAND NZ 18 MR 64 framed cds and RIVERTON NZ18 MR1864 cds

HMS Eclipse towed the Avon from Sydney and was the first vessel of the Royal Navy to enter Waikato Heads. Also escorted the Pioneer and towed the gunboats of the “Waikato Flotilla” to the Waikato River 24 Oct. 1864, this letter is dated 29 Oct. 1864.
NEW ZEALAND WARS 1861 - 1866

HMS ESK

HMS Esk, Wooden Screw Corvette, 21 guns, 223 men, launched 12 June 1854, sold 1870. Captain John F.C. Hamilton (Killed at Gate Pah, 29 April 1864). Left Portsmouth 22 May 1863 for New Zealand, via the Cape of Good Hope. HMS Esk was the last Royal Navy ship to join the Naval Squadron in New Zealand arriving in Auckland on 3 November 1863 from Melbourne

HMS Esk

c. 7 September 1863 Simon's Town Cape of Good Hope From Seaman Rick Binstead HMS Esk en-route to New Zealand Countersigned by Lieutenant William E. Mitchell for the 1d rate

GB One Penny red adhesive cancelled with the Devonport Barred obliterator No.250 within bars. Receiving marks, PAID/DEVONPORT/CAPE-PACKET 20 OC 63, LONDON PAID BF 21 OC 63 cds & PORTSMOUTH 21 OC 63 cds. Union Steam Ship Co. Saxon, left Cape Town 8 Sept. 63, arrived Plymouth 19 Oct. 1863

Rick Binstead died at the Military Hospital, Auckland, and was "Discharged Dead" 25 Aug 1864
Lieutenant William E. Mitchell, was killed aboard HMS Avon, Waikato River in February 1864
HMS ESK

HMS Esk, shortly after arriving at Auckland, both the ship, officers and men were in action as part of the "Thames Expedition", leaving on 16 November 1863. This operation consisted of taking men and supplies, to land and construct a line of Redoubts across the isthmus to protect the Queen's Redoubt.

Contemporary Map showing the Redoubts including the Esk Redoubt

6 November 1863 Auckland, Lieutenant Robert B. Gardner R.M. HMS Esk

P&O Madras left Sydney 22 November 1863 P&O Candida from Galle, at Alexandria, P&O Euxine, from Malta, P&O Poona, Southampton 17 January 1864

Robert Gardner was one of only two Royal Marine Officers to be awarded the New Zealand Medal. He was ordered to be favourably noted "For gallant conduct... (Gazette 15/7/1864) Thames Expedition and Gate Poah etc."
NEW ZEALAND WARS 1861 - 1866

HMS MIRANDA

HMS Miranda, spent most of 1862, going between New Zealand and Australia, including a cruise to the Fiji Islands. In February 1863 received on board the survivors from HMS Orpheus, which had been wrecked on the Manukau Bar. In November 1863 took part in the Thames Expedition, with the first redoubt named MIRANDA. Took part in the Naval Brigade at Gate Pah, Tauranga in March/April 1864

Eight of the survivors from HMS Orpheus

c. 6 June 1864, Seaman Thomas Boyle, HMS Miranda, Auckland N.Z.

Placed in the Ship's Bag, NZ 1d Chalon cancelled with the A85 mailboat obliterator, back stamped with cds LIVERPOOL A 20 AU 64 Circular Saw Line Alice Cameron, left Auckland 7 June 1864, P&O Northam from Sydney 22 June, at Galle P&O Nemesis, at Alexandria, P&O Ceylon to Malta and Marseilles, and P&O Ripon to Malta, taking the ordinary mail to Southampton arriving 19 August 1864

This is the only Seamen's 1d concession rate letter recorded, with a 1d NZ Chalon adhesive, posted during the New Zealand Wars, 1862 - 1866
NEW ZEALAND WARS 1861 - 1866

HMS MIRANDA

HMS Miranda, became a Hospital Ship to take care of the wounded, from the Royal Naval Brigade, which amounted to 7 officers and 76 men. Carpenters from HMS Miranda were also busy making coffins for the 10 officers and 25 seamen and marines, killed during the battle at Gate Pah.

Gate Pah

The Royal Naval Brigade had over a third of the casualties at Gate Pah, and the wounded were taken on board HMS Miranda, and were attended to by Henry Slade, surgeon of HMS Miranda, and senior medical officer of the Naval Brigade. The lower deck was extemporised into a hospital.

In the arrangement of the wounded, where economy of space was demanded, the worse cases of wounds were placed in swinging cots along the sides of the ship, so that each man had an open porthole near him, in the middle of the deck, hammocks were hung, in which the less serious cases were placed. The Miranda was also pierced with large side scuttles (portholes) on the lower deck, affording abundance of light and fresh air, the two great requisites in a hospital.

Numerical Abstract of Killed and Wounded at Gate Pah, near Tauranga 29 April 1864

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Total of both services</th>
<th>Curacao</th>
<th>Miranda</th>
<th>Elk</th>
<th>Harrier</th>
<th>Eclipse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Curacao&quot;</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Miranda&quot;</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Elk&quot;</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Harrier&quot;</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Eclipse&quot;</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
<td><strong>27</strong></td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total of both services</strong></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
<td><strong>21</strong></td>
<td><strong>76</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

J. MOUAT,
Dep. In. Gen., P. M. O.
NEW ZEALAND WARS 1861 - 1866

HMS BRISK

HMS Brisk, screw corvette 1851, 16 guns, 190 men, Captain Charles W. Hope. Left Plymouth 27 September 1864, via the Cape 26 November, arrived at Sydney 15 January 1865, left on 23 January 1865, arriving Auckland 3 February 1865. Was immediately involved at Opopuki following the murder of the Rev. Volkner and Captain Lloyd, and in October transported a local militia to Poverty Bay.

HMS Brisk from a drawing 1860

c 12 August 1866 Lieutenant Francis S. D. Broughton, HMS Brisk, Auckland

Officers letter placed in the Ship’s Bag. Endorsed FSD Broughton Commanding Officer. NZ 6d Chalon cancelled en-route with the A99 Mailboat obliterator. LONDON PAID HM 20 OC 66 cds. (No NZ pmks) P&O Bombay left Sydney, 24 August 1866, at Galle P&O Bengal, at Alexandria P&O Massilia to Malta, at Malta P&O Delta carried the ordinary mail to Southampton, arriving on 20 October 1866.

The New Zealand Medal (1865) was awarded to 3 officers and 10 seamen from HMS Brisk.
HMS GALATEA

HMS Galatea, Wooden Screw Frigate, launched 1859, completed 1862, 26 guns, 450 men, broken up 1882. Left Devonport 5 February 1867, Captain HRH Prince Alfred Ernest Albert, Duke of Edinburgh KG KT. HMS Galatea was on a Royal Cruise round the world, with visits to Tristan da Cuna, Cape Town, South Australia, Melbourne, Sydney, Tasmania, New Zealand, Tahiti, Singapore, and Japan etc.

After visiting Tristan da Cunha on 5 August 1867, Simon’s Bay was reached on 15 August 1867, and leaving on 2 October 1867.

August 1867 William Grimes Sergeant Royal Marines HMS Galatea - (South Africa)

GB 1d x 3 cancelled with barred oval obliterator No. 11 at London. LONDON FW SP 2.67 cds and LONDON-N 2 SP 6.7 cds. Ship arrivals at Gravesend on 2 September 1867, reported in The TIMES 3 September 1867 included the Alert from St. Helena. Private Ship Concession Rate 3d. 1d plus 2d for the Master’s Gratuity (Aug. 1850)
NEW ZEALAND WARS 1868 - 1874

HMS GALATEA

During the invasion of the Urewera Country, in the expedition against Te Kooti, a large redoubt was built at Karamuramu in the valley of the Rangitaiki. In Honour of the visit of HMS Galatea, and the Duke of Edinburgh this redoubt was named Fort Galatea.

[Sketch Map of the Urewera Country showing series of engagements 1869]

8 May 1869, William Grimes Sergeant RM, HMS Galatea, Auckland


The Duke of Edinburgh was a keen Stamp Collector and in 1890 became the Honorary President of the London Philatelic Society (later the Royal Philatelic Society London).
HMS GALATEA

The Duke of Edinburgh arrived in Auckland on 8 May 1869 direct from Wellington. HMS Challenger with His Excellency Sir George Bowen on board arrived from Wellington via Napier the next day. HMS Blanche which accompanied HMS Challenger, remained at Napier, under orders to execute a survey of some parts of the coast at Tauranga, prior to joining the squadron at Kawau.

8 May 1869, William Grimes Sergeant RM HMS Galatea, Auckland

G8 1d red adhesive cancelled with the A85 mailboat obliterator en-route (P&O Delhi). Countersigned by Robert F. Taylor, Captain of Royal Marines, Commanding Detachment. LONDON EC PAID 16 JY 69 cds. Circular Saw Line Pheobe left Auckland (Manukau Harbour) on 11 May 1869 to Taranaki, Picton and Nelson. Later research indicates that the mail could have been transferred at either Nelson or Picton, and taken to Melbourne via Hokiiki, arriving at Melbourne on 26 May to connect with the P&O Geelong, at Galle P&O Surat, Alexandria P&O Tanjore direct to Marseilles, P&O Delhi via Malta to Southampton 15 July 1869.
HMS BLANCHE

HMS Blanche, whilst in New Zealand waters, visited the Auckland Islands to search for the six members of the schooner Daphne which on 19 May 1870, aboard a whaleboat, were visiting the site of the wreck of the General Grant, and had not returned within a reasonable time.

GENERAL GRANT

Departed Melbourne on 4 May 1866 bound for London via the Cape Horn under the command of Captain William H. Loughlin. She was carrying 58 passengers and 25 crew, along with a cargo of wool, skins, 2,576 ounces of gold and 9 tons of zinc spelter ballast. Included in the passenger list were a number of successful miners from the Australian gold fields. At 11pm on 13 May 1866 the Auckland Island's were sited dead ahead. With only light winds the crew were unable to change course and she collided against the cliffs and drifted into a large cave on Auckland Island's western shore.
HMS BLANCHE

HMS Blanche, Eclipse Class, Wooden Screw Corvette, 6 guns, 180 men, 1868, sold 1886. Left Portsmouth on 15 January 1868 for the Australian Station, Captain John Eglinton Montgomerie.

Original design of the Blue Ensign for the NZ Navy, as suggested by Lieutenant Albert Hastings Markham in 1859

17 April 1868, Lieutenant Albert H. Markham, HMS Blanche, Simon's Town

Cape of Good Hope 1s 0d x 3 & 1d x 2 adhesive cancelled at Cape Town, Cape Colony, 17 AP 68 cds & barred obliterator “27 within square box, oval SIMON’S-TOWN 17 AP 1868 backstamp. LONDON PAID 25 MY 68 cds. Sent via San Francisco, to Elk Creek, Wisconsin, USA

Simon's Town Datestamp on reverse
NEW ZEALAND WARS 1868 - 1871

HMS BLANCHE

Markham joined the Royal Navy in 1856 at the age of 15 and spent the first eight years of his career on the China Station, travelling out in Camilla and later serving on Niger, Retribution, Imperieuse, Coromandel and Centaur. Markham was appointed First Lieutenant on HMS Blanche, on 9 January 1868 until 11 November 1871, on the Australia Station where he helped suppress "blackbirding", the illegal trading of slaves between Queensland and the South Sea Islands. This included time spent as an acting commander on HMS Rosario.

1876

Albert Hastings Markham

On 29 November 1872, he was promoted to Commander and in 1878 he was promoted to Captain. From 1886 to 1889 he acted as Commodore of the training squadron, and on 14 May 1888 he was appointed naval aide-de-camp to Queen Victoria. On 1 August 1891, he was promoted to the rank of Rear-Admiral. In 1897 he was promoted to Vice-Admiral, and in 1903 he was promoted to Admiral and made a Knight Commander of the order of the Bath.

3 September 1870, HMS Blanche Wellington New Zealand

NZ 6d Chalon Head, Davies print perforated 12.5 Large Star Watermark, brown adhesive, cancelled with the Wellington "070" Duplex barred obliterator. Endorsed via San Francisco. Backstamped Auckland cds. City of Melbourne left Auckland 7 September to Honolulu, Moses Taylor to San Francisco (cds 8 October). Peter Holcombe Certificate 22 June 1997
NEW ZEALAND WARS 1868 - 1871

HMS BLANCHE

HMS Blanche, was on the Australian Station 1868 to 1875, arrived at King George Sound from the Cape on 28 May 1868, and finally arriving at Sydney on 23 June 1868. Whilst in New Zealand in 1869 during the Royal Visit of the Duke of Edinburgh, took the Duke from Wellington to Port Chalmers. HMS Blanche was also at Auckland in company with HMS Challenger and HMS Virago, to welcome the arrival of HMS Galatea and the Duke. HMS Blanche was also involved during the troubles on the West coast of New Zealand.

30 SEPTEMBER 1870 LONDON WC Arrived SYDNEY 25 November 1870 (no ds)
Addressed to "GUN ROOM MESS" this was traditionally the Midshipman's Mess

(Endorsed on reverse "R, 6/12/70")

Letter sent from W.H. Smith & Son, 186 The Strand, London W.C.
NEW ZEALAND WARS 1868 - 1871

HMS BLANCHE

The Governor Sir G.F. Bowen, left Wellington on 28 September 1870 on board HMS Blanche, he felt it necessary to visit New Plymouth, following the late assembly of Maoris at Parhaka and the general state of Native affairs on the West Coast, arriving there the next day. In his Despatch No. 44 he wrote. "It is agreed on all sides that the presence of HMS. Blanche" at New Plymouth during the meeting produced an excellent moral impression on both the loyal and the disaffected Natives: encouraging the former and dispiriting the latter"

27 October 1870, London to the Gun Room Officers HMS Blanche Wellington NZ

G8 6d adhesive cancelled with the LONDON -WC 27 OC 70 Duplex WC over 15 Barred obliterator. Unframed HOBARTTOWN TASMANIA H 9 FE 71 cds, G P O ADELAIDE 17 FE 71 cds

AUCKLAND NEW ZEALAND 13 JA 1871 unframed cds, second HOBARTTOWN cds (O) SHIP LETTER INWARDS FREE 8 FE 1871 within Diamond, PORT ADELAIDE S A 17 FE 71* cds
* see endorsement on obverse "R 16 Feb. 71"
NEW ZEALAND WARS 1868 - 1871

HMS BLANCHE

HMS Blanche, was on the Australian Naval Station, until 1875, re commissioned at Sydney on 12 October 1871, the recommissioning crew were stranded at St. Paul's Island, South Indian Ocean in 1871 when HMS Megaera beached there as being unseaworthy. HMS Megaera left Chatham 22 July 1871, was also bringing the replacement crew for HMS Rosario

Donald Alexander Lewis McAlpin

Joined the service as an Assistant Clerk, December 1865, was Assistant Paymaster on 1 January 1870, and retired on 27 April 1874. Left HMS Blanche when the replacement crew arrived and returned to England. William H F Kay was appointed Assistant Paymaster HMS Blanche on 1 December 1871

22 December 1871 Lombard St. to Donald A L M McAlpin - HMS Blanche Melbourne

22 DE 71

Pembroke Dock
South Wales

Donald A L M McAlpin Esq.

Assistant Paymaster

HMS Blanche

Postmark

Melbourne

GB 1s 0d Green (Plate 5) Adhesive, cancelled with the LOMBARD ST D4 22 DE 71 Duplex L over 41 oval barred obliterator, there are no other transit markings. Original address crossed out and readdressed to Pembroke Dock South Wales

POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS

It would appear that mail addressed to Royal Navy Ships overseas, was forwarded to the Naval Authorities at Devonport or elsewhere to be sorted and forwarded to Destination. (See the Notice in the Army and Navy Gazette regarding mail for the "Flying Squadron 1869 - 1870")