



# DESPATCHES

*Newsletter of the Queen's Redoubt Trust*

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## SERIES ON BRITISH UNITS AT QUEEN'S REDOUBT

This newsletter begins a series on the various British Army units which had anything to do with Queen's Redoubt. It will commence with those Regiments that were involved with building the Redoubt or the Great South Road. Probably the most prominent of these was the "Royal Tigers" -the 65th Yorkshire North Riding Regiment of Foot.

### 65th Regiment

The 65th regiment served in New Zealand for 19 years –far longer than any other; next being the 14th and 18th only present for 7 years each. Only one other unit, the Royal Artillery, was here for longer, but were comprised of different batteries at different times.

An advance party of 5 Officers, 177 other ranks and 56 dependants arrived on the barque "Levant", landing at Wellington on the 25th July 1846. The rest of the regiment had been sent via nine ships to Sydney between August 1845 and May 1846. They then came on to New Zealand in the "Java"; dropped two Companies in the Bay of Islands and arriving in Auckland on 22 November 1846. For the next 19 years the Regiment was scattered around the North Island in Companies and even smaller units. In Auckland for a brief period, Regimental HQ then moved to Wellington until 1858, when it moved back to Auckland. Briefly in Taranaki in 1861 the HQ moved to Queen's Redoubt in 1862 and from 1863 followed the invasion as it moved south.

Their first engagement, an attack on Te Rangihaeata's pa in August 1846, took place at Horokiwi, east of Paekakariki; the last at Nukumaru in South Taranaki. There were to be 17 engagements in all, plus a few minor skirmishes; some of which –including the last- only involved one or two officers on the General's staff. Because virtually all of these engagements lasted at the most for only three days, it is obvious that life for men of the regiment in New Zealand was probably quite boring:- a continual round of drilling, marching, building camps and the Great South Road, eating and drinking. The latter activity was quite a problem for some

regiments (although probably not the 65th) and there are reports of canteens being closed because of drunkenness with a few newspaper accounts about the drowning of drunken soldiers.

The 65th were highly regarded by their Maori opponents who called them the "Hikety Pips". No other regiment was so respected.

Following this brief outline are articles on two of the more interesting junior officers

Ian Barton



**Demonstration by 65th Re-enactment Group at Queen's Redoubt -March 2007**

(Ian Barton)

**The Trust always needs more active members, so please contact Ian Barton:- 09 239 2049, if you have an interest in the project.**

## Stories from the 65th

### Lieutenant Henry Stratton Bates

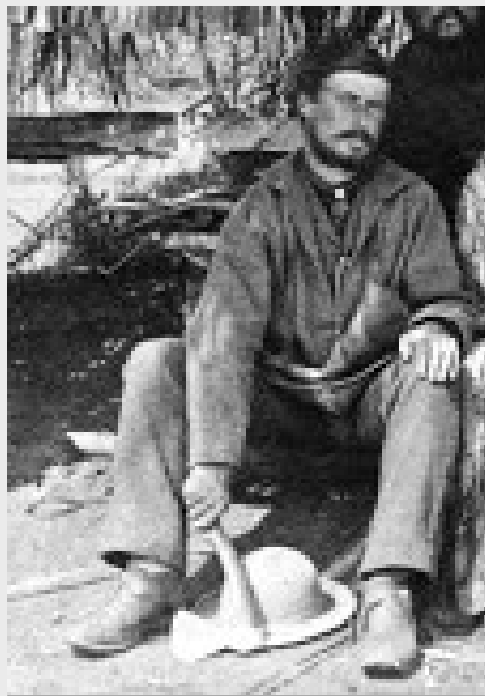
Henry Stratton Bates, the son of the Reverend J Ellison Bates, was born in Liverpool on the 21st December 1836. Nothing is known about his childhood but in the Census of 1851 he is recorded as being a boarder with eight other teenage boys in the home of the Eves family at Charlton, near Greenwich. Another record shows that he was educated at Westminster School in central London and his boarding location makes this likely, being only about 15 km away from the school and easily accessed by one of the newly established railway networks.

Bates next appears in the record in August 1854, when he was gazetted Ensign in the 65th Regt, by purchase from Ens. Warren of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Foot and, in April of the following year aged 19, he arrived in Auckland on the Euphrates. In June 1857 he was gazetted Lieutenant by purchase from Charles Cervantes. In March 1858 he is recorded as arriving in Napier on the Wonga Wonga and by December was living at Onepoto where the electoral roll describes him as a freeholder in the Hawkes Bay Electorate. In January 1861 he was in Taranaki and from then on, because of the requirements of the Regiment, seems to have moved about continuously. Lt Bates was at the battle of Huirangi (Taranaki) in January 1861: in Auckland by March and in November 1861 he was gazetted as Interpreter to the Forces at Otahuhu camp.

On 2 February 1863, while at Pokeno, he was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the Colony of New Zealand. Although back in Taranaki for the battle at Katikara in early June 1863 he cannot have remained there long, soon returning to Queen's Redoubt. The 65<sup>th</sup> fought at Rangiriri but there is no record of Bates having taken part and, only a few days later on the 28 November, he departed for England on the Himalaya in charge of a party of troops being invalided home.

This brief account of his time in New Zealand is similar to that of numerous other officers, but several things stand out for Henry Stratton Bates.

First, he was a sketcher and painter; probably with little formal training but who had a very good eye for detail. His well-known photolithograph of Queen's Redoubt compares quite accurately with the only good photo-



**Henry Bates in the field -1863**

(National Library of NZ)

graph of the redoubt by Beere.

Because there was a limited supply of water-colours and paint brushes available he made his own, using horse hair for brushes and dyes from native plants for paint. Records show he painted at least 40 scenes of NZ life in the 1850's and early 1860's and, most likely, there are more to be discovered.

Another claim to difference is that sometime in 1856, while he was stationed in Wellington, he apparently entered into a customary marriage with Hāna Tama, an Atiawa Maori woman of rank with whom he had at least one child **1**. Hāna must have accompanied him to Napier and it is likely that she lived with him at his house at Onepoto. Hāna probably died there when their child, Henry David Bates (Rewi), was three years old. Later the child appears to have been adopted by the Booth family of Pipiriki. It is very likely that Bates learnt Maori from Hāna so enabling him to be appointed Interpreter to HM Forces in November 1861 and she probably also taught him the uses of native plants for the preparation of paints.

In June 1862 he was based at Queen's Redoubt as it was from here that he undertook a lone reconnaissance trip by canoe, from Queen's Redoubt up the Waikato to about Horahora, just north of Rangiriri. While ostensibly to shoot ducks (which he did) his mission was also to collect intelligence. At this time Bates had many friends and acquaintances amongst the Maori people, who called him Te Peeti **2**.

One of the unusual aspects of Bates time in New Zealand was that he was appointed a JP on 18 Feb 1863. In a list of all New Zealand J.P's published later that year he appears to have been the only member of the British forces to be so appointed. The best explanation for this is that Pokeno in 1863 was a "frontier" town with the military pretty much in charge of law and order; Bates, with his knowledge of the Maori language, may have been the obvious choice to administer justice, but whether he did so is unknown?

In an amusing report published by the New Zealander in July 1863 an alarm was sounded when sentries at the 18<sup>th</sup> Regt camp, outside the walls of Queen's Redoubt, challenged some people moving toward them. This threw the redoubt into disarray and Bates was reported as being armed with a revolving rifle and two revolving pistols **3**.

By early 1864 Henry Stratton Bates was in England. He was promoted Captain on 6<sup>th</sup> June of that year, transferred to the 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment and then the 8<sup>th</sup> Hussars and retired on 2 October 1866. Early in 1866 he had married Frances Rivet-Carnac and in the 1871 census Henry S Bates is recorded at Chesterton, Cirencester, as a retired Army Captain, married to Frances and having 4 servants. They eventually moved to New Alresford in Hampshire where they lived on their estate called Langtons. Colonel Henry Stratton-Bates was still a J P and also a Hampshire County Councillor.**4** Henry Stratton Bates died at the age of 82 in 1918; his wife Frances surviving him by seven years. They had no children.

**1.** A surprising number of British officers married Maori women, usually by Maori custom. Amongst these were H G Robley (68<sup>th</sup>), F S Herries (65<sup>th</sup>), B W R Trafford (65<sup>th</sup>), J Greenwood, C Bluett (65<sup>th</sup>), W Servantes (65<sup>th</sup>), H C Balneaves (58<sup>th</sup>), G Wynyard (58<sup>th</sup>), C R Yeeles. This seemed to be commoner with regiments that were in New Zealand for lengthy periods and some, like Robley (Maj Gen) and Herries (Lt Col), reached high rank. While many did leave their common law wives behind when they left the country, most seemed to make provision for any offspring. That these liaisons were quite common can probably be attributed to the fact that there were 131 males to 100 females in New Zealand at that time.

**2.** Translation -The Bates

**3.** This illustrates somewhat sloppy reporting by newspapers at that time. While revolving rifles were used in the American Civil War they were somewhat dangerous weapons and there were probably none in New Zealand in 1863.

**4.** His Colonelcy appears to have been in the Yorkshire Militia where he was recorded as a Major in the 1886 Army List.

Ian Barton



# Friends of Queen's Redoubt

Early in 2013 the Trust resolved to formally set up a group to be known as the "Friends of Queen's Redoubt". A membership database is being set up and anyone with an interest in the work of the Trust is invited to join.

Current membership fees are \$20 for individuals and \$30 for families. We are currently reviewing membership grades for organizations and when these are known it will be announced in the newsletter. At present it is suggested that any organizations that wish to join, register at the same rate (\$30) as Family members.

Please post a completed application form with a cheque for the appropriate amount to:

**I Barton, 40 Isabella Drive, Pukekohe 2120**

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

**Given Name:**

**Surname:**

**Address:**

**Telephone:**

**Email address:**

**Membership Category:**

**Individual \$20**      **Family \$30**      **Organization \$30**

## COMING EVENT

The Official opening of the Visitor Centre may be delayed until at least some of the displays are in place. The soonest it is likely to be is the end of 2015

## The Murder of Ensign William Alexander

This is a sad and unusual story. William Alexander's whole life was the army; born at Woolwich on 29<sup>th</sup> January 1823, possibly the child of army parents, he joined the 65<sup>th</sup> Regiment as a Drummer Boy and then worked his way up the ranks.<sup>1</sup> In July 1846 he arrived in Wellington on the barque Levant with other officers and men of the 65<sup>th</sup>. He rendered meritorious service during the Wellington earthquakes of 1848 and 1855 and during a serious fire at the Wellington barracks in 1856. He had been promoted to Sergeant by November 1849 when he gave evidence at the inquest into the death of a fellow Sergeant and was promoted to Company Sergeant Major about 1856. In December 1858 he was promoted to Ensign, without purchase, and became adjutant of a unit of the 65<sup>th</sup> based in Wellington, later transferring to Wanganui. Now promotion from the ranks was not that common so Alexander must have been an exceptional N.C.O.<sup>2</sup> According to the Wanganui Chronicle he was apparently much esteemed by the local community but was a strict disciplinarian and had, prior to his murder, subjected the men to more drill than which they had previously been accustomed. This had apparently made him unpopular with some of the men. William Alexander was shot on 1 November 1861, in the orderly room of the 65<sup>th</sup>, by Colour Sergeant James Collins who had felt that the Ensign had been picking on him over the previous 18 months. Just before he shot him he commented, "You will never jaw me again". Collins was immediately arrested and tried for murder on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December; found guilty he was hanged in the Wanganui prison on 30 January 1862.

It is very likely that the two men had known each other for many years, probably since 1846, and it is likely that there had been tension between them for some time, possibly exacerbated by Alexander's promotion to Ensign. Whatever the underlying cause there appeared to be no extenuating circumstances and, despite attempts led by the Bishop of Wellington to have the sentence commuted to life imprisonment, the execution went ahead.

**1.** Depending upon the unit, boys could join the army as a drummer or bugler between the ages of 12 and 17.

**2.** In 1863 Colour Sergeant Edward McKenna was awarded the V.C. for his actions at Cameron-town and then promoted to Ensign. The percentage so advanced was usually between 2 and 6% during the later Victorian period when Great Britain was almost continuously at war somewhere. However during the regiment's long period in NZ 8 lower ranks were promoted to officer rank, amounting to 11% of 65<sup>th</sup>'s officers. This high percentage may have been due to the Regiment being away from Great Britain for a long time; it being easier to advance a suitable NCO to officer than wait for a replacement from the other side of the world.

Ian Barton



**Sgt Major William Alexander.  
Promoted Ensign 1858**

(Puki Ariki Museum -New Plymouth)

### REFERENCES (for all 65th Regiment articles)

Acland-Troyte J E	2015 (facsimile)	Through the ranks to a commission.	Forgotten Books
Bates H S	1860	Travels in New Zealand	m/s Nat. Lib of NZ
Cook L	1997	People and places	Statistics NZ
Cowan, J	1923	The New Zealand Wars. Vols 1 & 2	NZ Govt Printer
Cowan, J	1944	Tales of the Maori border	AH & AW Reed
Hart H G	1852 – 1886	Annual Army list	John Murray
Platts U	1980	Nineteenth century NZ artists	Avon Fine Prints
Treadwell C	1934	The Trial of James Collins.	NZ Railways Magazine. 9 (3)
Wanhalla, A	2013	Matters of the heart	Auck Univ Press

Army Regulations (various)	1895 -1901		
Papers Past	1849-1863	Newspaper clippings	Various newspapers
The New Zealand Gazette	Dec 1858 - Feb 1863		NZ Govt Printer
Tripod	2010	History of the 65 <sup>th</sup> in NZ	<a href="http://hicketypip.tripod.com/history.htm">http://hicketypip.tripod.com/history.htm</a>
UK Census data on line	1851-1911		
Victorian Wars Forum	2012	NCO's into Officers	<a href="http://www.victorianwars.com/viewtopic.php?f=27&amp;t=7412">http://www.victorianwars.com/viewtopic.php?f=27&amp;t=7412</a>

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**PURPOSE OF THE TRUST**

The Queen’s Redoubt Trust was established in February 1999 with the intention of acquiring this nationally significant historic place and ensuring its protection; with the long term vision to restore and develop the site into a nationally recognised visitor attraction and education centre. In February 2001 the Trust completed the first major phase of the project, raising the funds to acquire the property in Pokeno which contains much of the site of the Queen’s Redoubt.

**OBJECTIVES of the TRUST**

1. To acquire the Queen’s Redoubt site at Pokeno to preserve it for future generations.
2. To make Queen’s Redoubt accessible to the public by development and interpretation of the site as appropriate.
3. To restore the massive earthwork ‘ditch and bank’ walls of the fort (they were leveled after the war) as a key interpretive feature.
4. To promote education about the Queen’s Redoubt and all the New Zealand Wars between Maori and European.
5. To establish a premier visitor and educational facility on the Queen’s Redoubt site. This will be carried out in conjunction with an archaeological excavation programme to maximize knowledge of the site for future exhibition and interpretation purposes, and to promote public participation in the project. At the same time, historical research will continue into Queen’s Redoubt itself, the Pokeno District, the Waikato Campaign of 1863-64 and the New Zealand Wars as a whole.

**EXERPTS FROM CHAIRMAN’S ANNUAL REPORT (Aug 2015)**

The past year has seen the new Visitor Centre go from foundations to completion, except for the toilet which still has to be installed

We have begun Stage II – developing a concept plan to fit-out of display room with a view to making a bid for a grant to fund the work, probably in stages.

The committee has decided to defer the opening until we have at least a few displays set up so people can get an idea of what we are about. Once we have some displays in the building, it will be opened on demand by volunteers that we need to recruit. We will also try to be open one day per month which may coincide with our working bees.

As part of the fit out of the work room, we are establishing a small research library and have applied for a grant for computer, scanner, printer and WIFI connection. Both Ian and I have been photocopying everything we can about Queen’s Redoubt, and the NZ Wars in general and acquiring key reference books. Ian has compiled a spreadsheet of our library holdings and another one called a ‘Chronology of Events relative to Queen’s Redoubt (with special focus on the regiments and other forces that were here). We are intending to write a small history of the redoubt (the problem is deciding what to leave out as there is no shortage of information).

During the year Ian produced two more editions of our Newsletter- ‘Despatches’, 16 (December 2014) & 17 (June 2015). I am sure those of you who have seen the revamped newsletters

will agree they will help attract some new ‘Friends of QR’.

One of the beneficial outcomes of the Resource Consent process involved in getting consent for the new building is that we have developed a partnership relationship with the tangata whenua, Ngati Tamaoho and they are now represented by two of their Board members on the Queen’s Redoubt Trust. It is my pleasure to formally welcome Hero Potini and George Wheatley tonight.

I would like to remind you all that the full name of our project is ‘The New Zealand Wars Interpretation Centre at Queen’s Redoubt, Pokeno’. In other words our vision is to create a combined visitor and interpretation centre and memorial to all those who fell in the engagements that make up the NZ Wars between 1845 and 1872, with of course a special focus on the 1863-64 Invasion of the Waikato and its consequences.

Last year I reported that we are required by Waikato District Council to connect the Trust’s house on the property to the Pokeno sewage scheme within the next 4 years. We opted to do this immediately because otherwise we will have to upgrade the house’s septic tank and its soakage and we also want to get a functioning toilet in the new building. After numerous delays we have been informed by the council that they have put us at the top of the priority list for a sewerage connection.

Neville Ritchie, Chairman

**SUBSCRIPTION NOTICE: At the Annual General Meeting last August it was voted to increase subscription rates from 1 August 2016, as follows:-**

<b>Individual</b>	<b>\$25 (incl GST)</b>	<b>Family</b>	<b>\$35 (incl GST)</b>
<b>Historical Organization</b>	<b>\$40 ( “ “ )</b>	<b>Commercial Organization</b>	<b>\$60 ( “ “ )</b>