



DESPATCHES

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SERIES ON BRITISH UNITS AT QUEEN'S REDOUBT

This is the fifth article on the different British Army units involved with Queen's Redoubt and continues with the examination of those Regiments that were either involved with building the Redoubt or the Great South Road. The 70th, East Surrey, Regiment of Foot, were in New Zealand from 1861 until January 1866.

70TH (EAST SURREY) REGIMENT OF FOOT (THE GLASGOW GREYS)

The 70th were the first regiment to be sent from India, where they had been for 12 years before leaving for New Zealand in February 1861. Under the command of Lt Colonel T J Galloway they arrived in Auckland on 13 May and encamped at Otahuhu with the 12th, 14th and 40th Regiments and were soon employed on the construction of the Great South Road. In November 1861, a detachment of 100 men under Major Ryan, was sent to Dunedin to help keep order amongst the miners in Otago, remaining there until June 1863. The remainder of the Regiment, by now encamped at Drury, continued working on the Great South Road until June 1862 when 3 companies, under Major Rutherford, were sent to help build Queen's Redoubt.

When relationships between Maori and European in Taranaki, began to deteriorate again the 70th was sent there in March 1863 in the HMS Harrier and HMS Eclipse. Their first engagement with Maori forces was at the mouth of the Katikara River just south of New Plymouth on 4th June when a detachment of the 70th comprising 235 officers and men – a third of the force – took part in a bayonet attack on the Maori trenches. A 70th section, led by Sergeant Cleary, was part of this lead group, one of whom Private William Wallace, was severely

wounded.

Their next major action was the attack on Koheroa in July 1863, where Major Ryan led the detachment of just over 100 men that had returned from Otago. In September a smaller section of this group, again, led by Major Ryan and including Captain Saltmarshe, were at the closely contested fight at the Pukekohe East Church which had been attacked by a strong force of Maori, probably Ngati Maniapoto. The 70th lost two men in this engagement and Captain Saltmarshe, who was severely wounded, was promoted to Brevet Major for his efforts.

In Taranaki Captain Wright's company was engaged at Poutoko but suffered no loss. They were favourably mentioned in dispatches by Col Warre who commanded there.

Toward the end of December General Cameron set up the Thames Expedition, a mixed force of about 900 under Col Carey (18th Regiment), whose job it was to establish a line of redoubts from Pukorokoro (Miranda) across to Queen's Redoubt. The 70th regiment, with 16 Officers and 355 men comprised almost half of this force. Captain Greaves (70th) took part in this action, his task being to map the area and report the activity back to General Cameron. Three redoubts were established; Miranda, Esk and Surrey. The first two named for ships of that name and the last for the 70th, Surrey, Regiment, who manned it. This action by the British made the interior of the Hunua Ranges untenable for the scattered Maori forces in the ranges and within a short period most escaped through the cordon into the Waikato.

The 70th were not involved in the battle at Rangiriri but were in the action in February 1864 at Rangiawhia with the Regiment, now led by Lt Colonel Mullock, made up about a third of the force which captured the village.

Two companies of the 70th, with 50th and 65th Regiment forces, then attacked and drove out from Hairini ridge the Maori rearguard forces – placed there to allow the safe withdrawal of their compatriots from Rangiawhia and the Paterangi line, – the latter a strongly fortified position. In the final battle in the Waikato, Orakau, a company of the 70th led by Captain Cay was involved. One of the 70th, Private Maskeli, was killed and two wounded.

By the beginning of May the regiment was stationed at several posts along the Waikato River but at the end of the month most were transferred by ship to Taranaki. A small detachment under Major Ryan remained in the Waikato and later took part in the attack on Gate Pa. Major Ryan was mentioned in General Cameron's dispatch to the War Office in London. The Major observed the advance of the assaulting column, then "following into the pa and, with Captain Jenkins of H M S Miranda, was one of the last to leave it."

In Taranaki two companies of the 70th, under Majors Rutherford and Saltmarshe, took part in the battle at Te Arei and, early in 1865, two companies were at Wanganui and were involved in the fight at Okeana where Lieutenant Henry Bally and three privates were killed. In the same engagement Captain Cay, Lieutenant Tilden and Sergeants Howe and Clarity of the regiment were mentioned in dispatches. It was here

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

that Captain Cay was promoted Brevet Major.

In August 1865 the regiment was moved to garrison Napier; returning to Otahuhu in December before returning to Britain in January 1866.

Ian Barton

GEORGE RICHARD GREAVES 70TH REGIMENT

One of the officers of the 70th Regiment who served in New Zealand, Captain George Richard Greaves, is little remembered today but served here with distinction and later rose to the rank of full General. Apart from General T S Pratt, the first commander of British forces in New Zealand and his successor, Sir Duncan Cameron, he seems to have been the only army officer from the Land Wars to rise this high. [Hart]

George Greaves was born at Lake Windermere on 9 Nov 1831. His Father was also an army officer who retired early and took his family on a tour of Europe which lasted 11 years. They stopped in different towns each winter where the children went to school and where George learnt German, Italian and French. Destined originally for the Artillery he attended Quaterman's preparatory school at Woolwich but for some reason entered Sandhurst in October 1846. He did well here excelling in German, French, military drawing and surveying. Aged 18 when he finished his training, in November 1849, he was gazetted as Ensign in the 70th Regiment.

The Regiment were in India at this time and he joined them there in October 1850. He was stationed in the NW (now Pakistan) for most of the next ten years and appears to have spent most of his time on routine garrison duties intermingled with spells of hunting –seemingly the main occupation of young officers. George Greaves was gazetted lieutenant by purchase in January 1852 and Captain in November 1859. On the 9 July 1859 he married, Ellen Hutchison, the daughter of his senior officer Brigadier General Hutchison. [Memoirs]

In January 1860 the regiment was scheduled to go to China but the order was rescinded and a year later, January 1861, they embarked for New Zealand. Ellen Greaves accom-

panied her husband and for most of their time here she lived in a house in Auckland. Greaves, who apart from being a Captain in the 70th, was also appointed Deputy Assistant QM General (DAQMG). He was often mentioned in dispatches for his gallantry and ability and was promoted Lt Colonel based on his time in NZ.

His wife did go with him on the first surveying job he had as Assistant Quartermaster General which was to survey the country on the right (north) bank of the Waikato in the area around Queen's Redoubt during the summer of 1862. Here George Greaves (whom the Maori called 'Jack') lived in a tent camp, adjacent to the Waikato River, with his wife and dog Ranee; looked after by his two soldier servants and the wife of the Regimental Drum Major. Apparently, although the local Maoris were aware of what he was doing, they were quite friendly at this time. [Memoirs: DQMG pg 8]

His next job, and probably the most important he did, was a survey from the mouth of the Waikato to as far up river he could reach. The objective of this work was to determine how far up river it was possible for the proposed river transport fleet to reach. This necessitated triangulating the river and taking soundings across it; his tools being a pocket sextant, prismatic compass, aneroid barometer, field glasses, rod and lead for sounding and a surveyor's chain. Despite difficulties like high cliffs and swampy ground Greaves did a competent job and was able to produce a useful chart of the river. However by this time, early 1863, relationships with the Maori were becoming strained. On one occasion he and his two assistants were surrounded by a group of Maori they did not know, to be informed that the King had given orders for them to be killed because they had been trespassing and measuring on the king's land. After considerable korero the survey party was let go. Sometime afterwards Bishop Selwyn told Greaves that the reason they were not killed was that they could not kill a man who laughed. [Memoirs]

Soon after this Greaves went to Taranaki to help co-ordinate activities in the Tataraimaka Block and the attack on Katikara before returning to Auckland and the invasion of the Waikato.

Greaves made some observations on the weapons employed by the Maori, who mainly used double barrelled flintlock shotguns firing a solid ball. They were able to be loaded very quickly; the powder was poured in, a



Colonel G R Greaves CB 1874

shot-smaller than the bore dropped in, more paper or wads on top and then primed by having the butt struck on the ground. The British with their muzzle-loading Enfield's were out gunned because they were longer and difficult to load, especially when on the move through fern and long grass.

Soon after the Koheroa attack, about which Greaves had considerable praise for General Cameron, he was sent to join Captain Maine RN, to pilot the Avon from Overhung, across the Waikato bar and up the river; this making full use of his earlier experience surveying the river. A little later, when the Pioneer arrived, he also piloted it across the bar and later piloted it to rescue Archdeacon Maun sell and his family from their mission station at Te Kalong.

The next task Greaves had was to accompany the Thames expedition to Pukorokoro and then to traverse the country back to Queen's Redoubt while making a sketch plan of the area. This was later published as part of Col Gamble's DQMG report. His final active service in NZ was at Gate Pa where he led one of the attacking groups into the works. After this he was involved with staff duties at Head Quarters.

Brevet Major Greaves, and his wife, returned to England on the troopship Siam on 7 Jan 1866; he being noted in the shipping report, as commanding officer of the 70th detachment.

F R I E N D S O F Q U E E N ' S R E D O U B T

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 has been set up and anyone with an interest in the work of the Trust is invited to join.

Current membership fees are \$25 for individuals, \$35 for families, \$40 for Historical organizations and \$60 for Commercial organizations; all inclusive of GST.

Please post a completed application form with a cheque or deposit the amount in our bank account:- **12 3022 0397102** + Your Surname

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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G R Greaves (cont)

It is worth recording his opinion, made in his memoirs, about the Maori combatants; "the Maoris, taking them all round, as enemies or friends, are as good a lot of men as I have ever met before or since." [Memoirs]

Ian Barton

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PROGRESS ON DISPLAYS AND FACILITIES AT THE VISITOR CENTRE

The first displays prepared by Snapper Graphics and the model of the redoubt built by Mike Codling are now in place. In addition the lighting has been upgraded and the toilet is operating.

The latter has been made possible by the connection of the house at the redoubt and the Visitor Centre to the new Pukekohe Sewerage Scheme. As well as a hot water system has been installed.

Although the remaining displays have yet to be prepared the Trust decided at its last meeting to open the Visitor

Centre every Sunday from 10 am until 1 pm.

A grant to complete the displays is now being sought from the Lotteries Grants Board and we expect to hear whether we have been successful or not before the end of this year

OPENING TIMES

Every Sunday 10 am until 1 pm.

OR by arrangement

–telephone Ian Barton

09 239 2049;

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Visitors inspecting the model and displays at the 2017 AGM of the Queen's Redoubt Trust

This map (no 13) is taken from the 1864 War Office report

“Journals of the Deputy Quartermaster General in New Zealand”

As noted on the map, it was produced from sketches made by Captain Greaves, D.A.Q.M.G

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