



# DESPATCHES

NEWSLETTER OF THE QUEEN'S REDOUBT TRUST

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## SERIES ON BRITISH UNITS AT QUEEN'S REDOUBT

This is the sixth article on the different British Army units involved with Queen's Redoubt and continues with the examination of those Regiments which were either involved with building the Redoubt or the Great South Road or who spent periods of time at Queen's Redoubt. The 18th, (Royal Irish) Regiment of Foot, were in New Zealand from July 1863 until February 1870.

### 18TH (ROYAL IRISH) REGIMENT OF FOOT

Most of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the 18<sup>th</sup> Royal Irish Regiment, consisting of 8 companies commanded by Lt Col Chapman, boarded the "Elizabeth Ann Bright" at Portsmouth and departed for New Zealand on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1863. The original intent had been for the 18<sup>th</sup> to relieve one of the regiments already in New Zealand but, when they arrived in Auckland on 4<sup>th</sup> July, they found that two months earlier hostilities had resumed in Taranaki. Consequently no troops returned to England and the Royal Irish were added to the strength already in New Zealand. The balance of the battalion, about 130 officers and other ranks under Col. G Carey, arrived on the "Norwood" on the 2 August. Upon landing the regiment marched south to Otahuhu and then on to Queen's Redoubt where they arrived on the 11<sup>th</sup>. On arrival they were issued their campaign kit of blue serge jumpers, haversacks, water bottles and pannikins, as well as a blanket and waterproof sheet which were rolled and slung over the left shoulder. They were armed with Enfield rifles and bayonets.

Their first engagement with Maori forces was not long coming for on the 17<sup>th</sup> a convoy of supplies, that 50 of the 18<sup>th</sup> under Capt Ring was protecting, were attacked by a superior Maori force near

Baird's Farm. They forced Ring's detachment to retire to Martyn's Farm until they were relieved by a party under Col Wyatt of the 65<sup>th</sup>, the combined force then beating off the Maori group with the loss of 5 men. Ring was in action again on the 22 July, when with a force of 100 men he attacked a strong Maori party at Kerikeri who were besieging a small group of Volunteers. Again his detachment was not large enough to overcome the Maori forces but he held on until relieved by a detachment of Mounted Artillery and some of the 65<sup>th</sup>. Ring was promoted Brevet Major for his role in these two engagements. Two members of the 18<sup>th</sup> were killed at Kerikeri.

The stockade at the Pukekohe East Church came under attack by a significant Maori force on September 14<sup>th</sup> and Captain Inman led 20 men of the 18<sup>th</sup> plus detachments of the 70<sup>th</sup> and 65<sup>th</sup> Regiments, Royal Artillery and members of the Volunteer Militia to drive off the attackers with the loss of only 3 men.

For the remainder of 1863 the 18<sup>th</sup> were employed mainly on garrison duty along the Great South Road and down into the Waikato. By January 1864 some of the regiment were also at the chain of redoubts from the Firth of Thames across to Queen's Redoubt. A comment by Lt Col Gretton about this time is very revealing for, although speaking of the 18<sup>th</sup> his comment was probably relative to all British Regiments in New Zealand:-

*"The regimental records of the New Zealand Wars are far from complete because the Battalion was constantly broken up into small detachments, buried in stockades in the depth of the*

*bush. Between these detachments and HQ communication was most difficult and for weeks or even months the various portions of the regiment knew nothing of each other's proceedings."*

On page 3 of this newsletter is a note explaining why records of army activities at this time are often sketchy and misleading –because basic Company and Battalion records will mostly have been brief and sometimes non-existent.

In January 1864 the Battalion was involved in guarding the line of communication from QR south to Ngaruawahia and between QR and Miranda. From Capt Kemp's diary (quoted in Gretton) comes good description of activities along the latter route and at Miranda Redoubt:-

*"On 7 January we marched from Queen's to the Surrey Redoubt. It was very hot as we skirted the swamps and many men fainted from the heat. Leaving a detachment in the redoubt we slept in the open outside it and marched at 5.30 next day 8 miles to Esk Redoubt -on high ground in open fern covered country. Here I left Briggs (Lt J A) and a detachment and took my company down to the Miranda Redoubt, 4 miles further on, situated at the edge of a steep cliff overlooking the estuary of the Thames. .... Here I had command of 200 men one half being Waikato Militia. We enlarged the redoubt and made a road down to the landing place (previously all stores were dragged up the face of the cliff and the Commissariat suffered heavy losses). We made a floating bridge over the small river (Pukorokoro), sunk a well for drinking water and built a small redoubt on the approach from the south in which a strong piquet was posted at night. Boats being unable to come in at low*

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

*water we made a causeway across the mud-flats to a deep-water landing place..... We were annoyed at first by spies and small parties of the enemy at night so I sent out scouring parties and destroyed their villages, bringing in large quantities of beautiful peaches, potatoes and other vegetables."*

At the end of 1863 their strength was reported as being 10 companies comprised of 83 officers and NCO's with 785 rank and file. The first major battle with which they were involved was Orakau, with the 18<sup>th</sup> providing 250 men. One of those involved was Brevet Major J T Ring who just before the battle had a premonition of his death. Early on the first morning of the attack (31 March) Ring, leading his company of the 18<sup>th</sup>, was mortally wounded. At the conclusion of the battle, some of the 18<sup>th</sup> took action to avenge the death of Captain Ring who was greatly admired by both the officers and men of the regiment. Several Maori may have been killed in revenge because the cry, "That's the man that killed the Captain", was heard on more than one occasion at this time. On the other hand at least one Maori prisoner was spared when the two men charged to guard him decided they wanted to be quit of him but could not kill him in cold blood. "Kick him and let him go one said." It was done and the two soldiers rejoined the rest of the 18<sup>th</sup>.

In January 1865 seven companies, under Maj J H Rocke were sent to Whanganui while the remainder under Lt Col Chapman remained at Otahuhu Camp. Soon after their arrival in Taranaki they were at Nukumaruru where Capt Hugh Shaw was pinned down with a small number of his men. It was here that Shaw won the VC for saving the life of one of his wounded men under heavy fire from the Maori defenders. Shaw's party was relieved by Major Rocke with another 100 men and, after a fire fight of several hours, the Maori party left the field for the adjacent pa. Further supported by an additional party of 18<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> regiment men under Captain Noble the 18<sup>th</sup> continued to besiege Nukumaruru. About mid-day the Maori defenders attacked both sides of this force with about 600 men in two columns. After initially falling into some disarray the 18<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup>, supported by a further company of the 18<sup>th</sup> under Captain Daubeny, rallied and with the aid of a couple of 6 pounder Armstrong guns, turned the tables. The Maori's lost 22 killed and two wounded and carried away a further 70 dead or injured. British losses were 16 killed and 32 wounded.

The regiment was then engaged in several minor engagements in Taranaki until October 1866 when they attacked the Maori village of Papoia and, after a frontal attack on a barricade across the access trail, forced the Maori defenders to withdraw.

This was the last major incident in which the 18<sup>th</sup> was involved, remaining on garrison duty until December 1867 when all but two companies returned to Auckland with another two companies going to Napier. The battalion was now under the command of Lt Col G A Elliot who had succeeded Lt Col Chapman. In February 1870 the Regiment proceeded to Australia to relieve the 50<sup>th</sup> who were stationed there. They were the last British Regiment to leave New Zealand.

Ian Barton

## HUGH SHAW VC 18TH REGIMENT

Hugh Shaw was born in Madras, British India, on 4 February 1839, the son of James Shaw, an Inspector General of Hospitals in Madras, and Ann Hay. He was educated at Sandhurst, afterwards being posted, in May 1855, as Ensign to the 18th (Royal Irish) Regiment of Foot. He joined the Regiment in the Crimea in December 1855, remaining there until the conclusion of that war in March 1856.

He then went on to serve as a Lieutenant during the Indian Mutiny (April – July 1858) arriving with the regiment sometime before June that year. When he arrived in New Zealand with the regiment in 1863 he had already been promoted to Captain but little is known of his service here until 24 January 1865 when the following deed led to the award of the Victoria Cross:

*For his gallant conduct at the skirmish near Nukumaruru, in New Zealand, on the 24th of January. Accompanied by four Privates of the Regiment, who volunteered to accompany him, they proceeded under a heavy fire to within 30 yards of the bush occupied by the Rebels, in order to rescue a badly wounded comrade. On the afternoon of that day, Captain Shaw had been ordered to occupy a position about half a mile from the Camp. He advanced in skirmishing order but when about 30 yards from the bush, heavy fire from the Hau Hau there, caused him to retire to a palisade and shallow ditch about 60 yards from the bush, two of his party being wounded. Finding that one of these was unable to move, he called for volunteers to accompany him to rescue the man and carry him to the rear. Four Privates -Brandon, Brien, Kearnes and Clampitt followed him, under a heavy fire to where the wounded man lay. He was hoisted upon Captain Shaw's back and they succeeded in bringing him to the rear -remarkably not one of the five men was hit.*

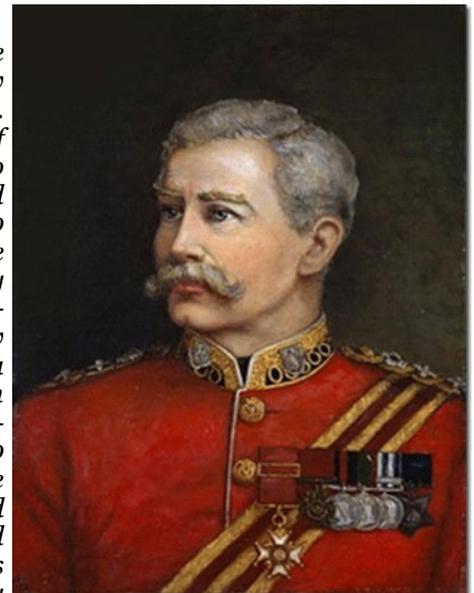
On his return to England, Hugh Shaw married Emily Grace Sheffield at Bedford on 21st June

1870. They had three daughters - Nina Jane, Dolores Evangeline and Mabel Annie. He was Adjutant of North Tipperary Militia from June 1873 to Feb 1878 and was promoted to Major on 1st October 1877. Shaw was in Afghanistan from mid 1878 and was involved with the Kyber Line Field Force during this campaign. In September 1881 he attained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, subsequently serving in the Sudan Expedition to the Nile, Sarras and Korti. He was in command of the 1st Battalion during the Nile expedition of 1884-85, being promoted Colonel in September 1885.. He retired from the active list as a Major-General late in 1887.

Ian Barton

### REFERENCES: (both articles)

Cowan J 1922	The New Zealand Wars
Gamble J 1864	Jnls of the Dep. QM General in NZ
Gibson T 1974	The Maori Wars
Gretton, G 1911	The campaigns and history of the Royal Irish Regiment
Hart H G 1849 -86	Annual Army list John Murray



### Colonel Hugh Shaw VC, CB, Royal Irish Regiment.

Oil on canvas possibly by Georgina Hardingham (untraced), 1885

### VISITOR CENTRE OPENING TIMES

Sunday 10 am until 2 pm.

OR by arrangement

–telephone Ian Barton

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**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 has been established 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 to **I Barton, 40 Isabella Drive, Pukekohe 2120** or deposit the amount in our bank account:- **12 3022 0397102** + Your Surname

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

Given Name:

Surname:

Address:

Telephone:

Email address

<b>Membership Category:</b>			
Individual \$25	Family \$35	Historic Organization \$40	Commercial Organization \$40
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**PROGRESS ON DISPLAYS AND FACILITIES AT THE VISITOR CENTRE**

In the December 2017 Newsletter there was a brief reference to the new displays, which had just been put in place. Since then the Visitor Centre has been open most Sundays between 10 am and 2 pm and we have had a small, but steadily increasing number of people through. Their responses to date have been quite positive. Some of the notes left in our visitor's book are below:-

*"Excellent model and layout of museum -very well done."*

*"Really interesting, looking forward to coming back and seeing additions to this exhibit."*

*"Many thanks, a great display. Thank you for your time and the information provided. Am member of the 40th I.Q.L.R." (Queen's Lancashire Regt)*

*"Awesome, must come back and bring my class."*

*"Very interesting display and wonderful to see this aspect of our history being presented and researched."*

As yet the displays are only half complete, covering the period leading up to and including the invasion of the Waikato and the causes of that. At the end of last year we were successful in obtaining a grant from the Lottery Grants Board totalling \$59,775.00, which will enable the remainder of the basic displays to be created. These will concentrate on the weapons and food supplies of both sides, their organization and conflicts in other parts on New Zealand – the Northern War, Wellington, Taranaki, Bay of Plenty and East Coast. At the end of May we met with the Snapper Graphic's team to discuss the work they have done so far. The Trust is very pleased with progress and it is hoped that the new displays will be in place by early 2019.

Ian Barton

**A "LIGHTBULB MOMENT"**

In the article about the Royal Irish on page 1 a comment by the author of the book about the Regiment, Lt Col G. le M. Gretton, struck me as very pertinent for anyone attempting to make sense

of the records of the British Regiments who were in New Zealand at this time. Below is a paraphrased version:

*[The regimental records were far from complete because the Battalion was constantly broken up into small detachments, buried in the depth of the bush which made communications very difficult for long periods of time.]*

Because this happened with all Regiment in NZ, it is a logical explanation as to why it is often very difficult to assemble a history of individual regiments, let alone delve deeper into the activities of smaller units and the relationship of most officers to the men of their regiments

The discovery of unpublished material, such as the diary of the 40th Regiment Corporal recently 'found' in the Alexander Turnbull Library or individual letters and papers of both officers and enlisted men sometimes made available by their descendants, enables us to begin solving some of these difficulties.

If you know of any such papers, however insignificant they may appear, the Queen's Redoubt Trust would be pleased to hear from you.

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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**

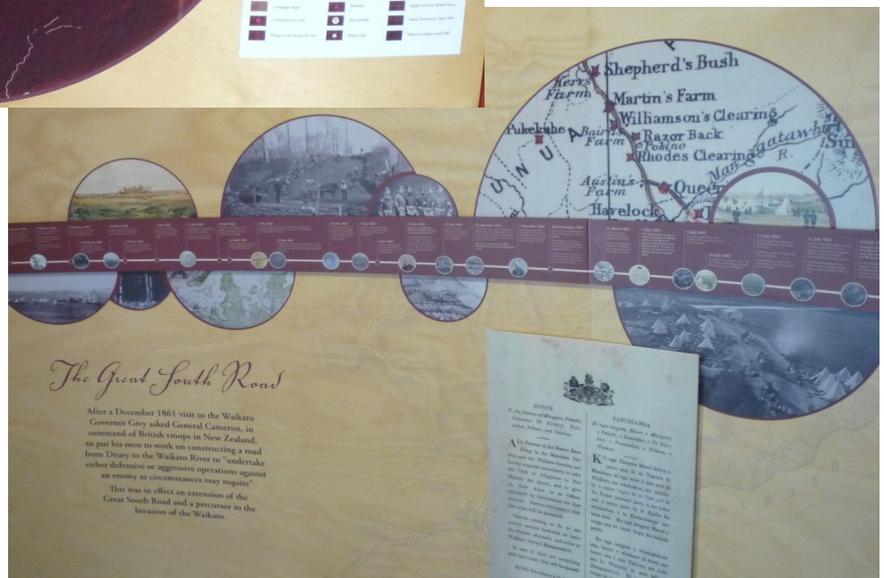
1. To acquire the Queen's Redoubt site at Pokeno to preserve it for future generations.
2. To make Queen's Redoubt accessible to the public by development and interpretation of the site as appropriate.
3. To restore the massive earthwork 'ditch and bank' walls of the fort (they were leveled after the 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.

**TWO OF THE DISPLAYS  
 IN THE VISITOR CENTRE**

**LEFT: Map showing details of the Waikato Invasion**



**BELOW: Part of the time-line showing the construction of the Great South Road**



**DROP IN ONE SUNDAY WHEN  
 YOU ARE PASSING AND  
 HAVE A LOOK.**

**OR ARRANGE WITH IAN TO  
 MAKE A SPECIAL VISIT WITH  
 YOUR GROUP**