



DESPATCHES

Newsletter of the Queen's Redoubt Trust

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SERIES ON BRITISH UNITS AT QUEEN'S REDOUBT

This is the second in a series on the various British Army units which had anything to do with Queen's Redoubt. This issue will continue to examine those Regiments that were involved with building the Redoubt or the Great South Road. The 40th, Somersetshire Regiment of Foot, also known as the Excellers **1**, were in New Zealand from 1860 to 1866.

40th Regiment

The 40th (Somersetshire Regiment) was stationed in Australia for a considerable period, first in New South Wales and Tasmania during the 1820's and after a period in India, returning to Melbourne in 1852 where they were involved in suppressing the Eureka Rebellion of December 1854. In 1860 the regiment was in Tasmania and, as the situation in Taranaki had deteriorated, four Companies of the 40th were dispatched to New Plymouth in April, disembarking there on the 30th. Major Nelson **2**, in command of this half battalion arrived on 23 May 1860.

They were soon in action, being involved in the assault on Puketakauere Pah on 25 June. Relative to their losses over the previous 8 years in Australia, where only one officer and 8 men lost their lives at Eureka; their losses here were quite heavy -30, including Lieutenant Brook, killed and 21 wounded. One lesson from Puketakauere was that the traditional uniform of shako, tight red tunic and stock was unsuitable for fighting in New Zealand conditions so it was replaced by a loose blue tunic and a forage cap – much better for the bush fighting conditions.

Colonel Leslie arrived with the HQ Company on 24 July and for a period the

troops were all involved in erecting various defences around New Plymouth. The next action was on 10 September when the 40th contributed 300 men to the force of 1400 in the attack on the pahs of the Kairau plain. At this action, and probably some others, there were large numbers of friendly Maori with the British forces. **3**

Then followed a number of engagements in Taranaki, including Ma-hoetahi, Matarikoriko, Huirangi and Te Arei; these sites all south and SW of Waitara, quite close to each other and within 5 km of the town. It was at the Huirangi that Colour Sergeant John Lucas won his Victoria Cross. (see pg 2). Total 40th Regiment casualties during the 1860 – 61 Taranaki war were 40 killed and 51 wounded –three times the

losses of any other regiment. **4**

When hostilities in Taranaki ceased most of the troops moved north to garrison Auckland. The 40th arrived at Otahuhu on the 1st May 1861 and camped there for several months. Later in the year they were, with most of the British army, involved in building the Great South Road, at which task they were engaged until mid 1862. When the invasion of the Waikato commenced in July 1863 the regiment was first involved at Meremere, where they lost one man. Later at Rangiriri the bulk of the 40th Regiment, led by Colonel Leslie and comprising 32% of the total attacking force, were landed in rear of the Pah from the boats in the Waikato River although were held up, by river cur-



Camp of 40th Regiment beside Waikato River

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

40t Regiment (cont)

rents and a squall, from landing for at least an hour after the 12th, 14th and 65th had attacked from the front. Once ashore they, with the 65th, took the south side of the entrenchment. Here they lost 8 men, including Ensign Ducrow, and 11 were wounded. Their next engagement involved a group of men bathing in the Mangapiko River near Paterangi Pa. The bathers, under a guard of 20 men of the 40th, were fired upon from the other side of the river by a concealed party of Maori. Finally up to 200 men from several Regiments, including the Forest Rangers, were engaged in protecting the bathers who eventually escaped but not before the 40th had lost one man killed and four wounded.

The final action by the 40th was Orakau, which saw 109 of them, under Major Blyth, placed in the rear of the Pa while the HQ Company under Col Leslie were part of the force in front. It was the rear force through which the defenders of the Pa forced their way during their escape from. In this action the 40th suffered 20 casualties; three killed and 17 wounded.

MAORI FIGHTING TECHNIQUES

The 40th Regiment's account of its time in NZ (Smythies), carries several comments on the Maori strategy and actions during the Taranaki war of 1860–61. Their generally chivalrous approach to warfare was evident in Taranaki following the battle at Puketakauere where they offered to bury the 21 British killed providing they were not fired upon; and this was agreed to and done. At cessation of hostilities following the battle at Te Arei the Maoris made daily visits to the British camp bringing with them potatoes and other vegetables. They often shared the British soldier's rations and ate with them. Chiefs occasionally visited the officers and some of the leading ones dined at the officer's mess.

The Maori aversion to fighting on Sunday was also evident in Taranaki and at Mangarikoriko they hoisted a white flag at 5 am on Sunday 30th December requesting a parley to not fight that day.

One thing that gave the Maori considerable advantage is that they had an intimate knowledge of their sur-

VISITOR CENTRE DISPLAYS

In April Foundation North (was ASB Trust) advised that they had granted us \$68,000.00 to commence building display panels for the Visitor Centre. Snapper Graphics, who have done display work for DoC, have been engaged to do this work and have already prepared a concept plan. The broad topics they will cover are:-

- In the centre there will be a 3D model of Queens Redoubt.
- Other panels will include information about the establishment and building of Queen's Redoubt. What it looked like.
- There will be several panels on the NZ Wars - The main campaigns –where they were, what caused them, key sites, how they ended.
- The Invasion of the Waikato- why did this happen? The Pakeha perspective of the conflict.
- The tangata whenua perspective of the conflict and how they saw it.
- Queen's Redoubt, the springboard of the invasion, function and archaeology of the Redoubt.
- The forces involved; the British /Colonial military machine vs various combinations of iwi forces.
- Maori & European weaponry / what is a redoubt? /gunfighter pa.
- Food and equipment supplies: how each side lived & survived in the field when not fighting.
- The aftermath of the NZ Wars, especially in the Waikato; the later history of Pokeno.

Work on the displays will begin later in the year and we will keep you posted.

The Regiment remained on garrison duties in the Waikato for the next two years, departing New Zealand in May and June 1866, after six years in the colony.

Ian Barton

1. The 14th Regs number in Roman numerals is XL -excelllers.
2. The Maori soon named Major Nelson "teipo" (devil), because he was always on the alert and continually troublesome to them.

3. Friendly Maori, kupapa, fought on the side of the British in many engagements, especially in the latter stages of the Land Wars. Their motivation was similar to that of the so called rebel Maori. Both wanted to retain their land but the 'friendlies' thought supporting the Crown was the better way.

4. Total British losses in Taranaki were 52 killed and 131 wounded (Cowan). Maori losses are very difficult to ascertain. They range from 99 to 156 killed and 25 to 178 wounded (Cowan, Grayling and Prickett)

roundings and were able to move around quite rapidly. They could not be excelled as skirmishers. For the most part armed with good double barrelled guns (tupara) and rifles they used cover with great judgment to creep up on unsuspecting troops, firing a volley and then disappearing into the fern. The claim was also made by Smythies that, being accustomed to live on the rhizomes of the bracken, they did not need to carry any food. This idea probably arose from the fact that in the early 1860's the so called 'open country' around New Plymouth was mainly clothed with dense bracken up to 2.5 metres tall. Bracken rhizomes (aruhe) were undoubtedly an important food but needed considerable preparation. Rhizomes 2–3 centimetres in diameter were best and had to be dried, steeped in water, roasted, boiled or steamed, and then pounded to separate the edible flesh from the fibres. The resulting paste was formed into large blocks or cakes. It is possible that it was these cakes which were an important food supply on the battle field.

Pa sites were usually selected in places from where retreat was secure. They were not usually built to protect magazines, roads or other points of importance as was done by the British. Pa were usually abandoned once they had served their purpose, enticing the enemy to battle, and Maori would consider a battle won if they lost fewer men

than the enemy. As with many other pa sites the Maori position at Huirangi had been selected with great skill and, being impossible to take with a direct charge, General Pratt directed that a double sap be built from the No. 3 redoubt. Maori rifle pits were often ingeniously constructed with connecting underground passages leading to the adjacent bush to enable escape if needed.

Ian Barton (This article based on sections quoted from Smythies)

COLOUR SERGEANT LUCAS V.C

John Lucas was born at Clashganny, Borris, Co Carlow in 1826 but no details of his childhood or early life can be found. Early in 1860 Colour Sergeant Lucas, aged 34, arrived in New Zealand with the 40th Regiment.

On 18th March, 1861, Colour Sergeant John Lucas of the 40th Regiment, had charge of a party of skirmishers to the right of the No. 7 redoubt during the advance on Te Arei. At about 4 pm, when close to the Huirangi Bush, a very heavy and well-directed fire was suddenly opened upon them from the bush and high ground on the left.

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

I Barton, 40 Isabella Drive, Pukekohe 2120

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Given Name:

Surname:

Address:

Telephone:

Email address:

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

COMING EVENT

The Official opening of the Visitor Centre may be delayed until at least some of the displays are in place. This is now expected to be sometime during 2017.

LUCAS V.C (cont)

Three men were wounded simultaneously, two of them mortally, and assistance was called for to have them carried to the rear. A file was immediately sent, but had scarcely arrived when one of them fell and Lieutenant Rees was wounded at the same time. Colour-Sergeant Lucas, under heavy fire from Maori warriors, not more than thirty yards away, immediately ran to the assistance of this Officer, and sent a man with him to the rear. Under heavy fire he then took charge of the arms belonging to the dead and wounded and maintained his position until the arrival of supports under Lieutenants Gibson and Whelan. For this action John Lucas was awarded the Victoria Cross, the second during the New Zealand Land Wars.

He was presented with his Victoria Cross at Ellerslie Racecourse, Auckland, New Zealand on October 1st 1862 and was later promoted to the rank of Sergeant Major. When Sergeant Major Lucas retired from the British Army he returned to Ireland. He lived at 'The Lodge' Parkgate Street Dublin, the main entrance to the Phoenix Park, until he died on February 29th 1892 at the age of 66. He is buried at St James cemetery on James's Street in Dublin in an unmarked grave. His Victoria Cross is held at the South Lancashire Regiment Museum in Preston, England.

Ian Barton



Colour Sergeant John Lucas V.C

EXCERPTS FROM THE DIARY OF A 40th REGIMENT CORPORAL

Recently found in the Alexander Turnbull Library this manuscript diary, kept by an unknown Corporal, is possibly the only major work by a non-commissioned officer written during the Land Wars.

Spelling and Capitalization as per m/s. Underlined words are those assumed for indecipherable words in m/s [words] added to improve sense of narrative

13 [July 1863] Ever since the natives left the village of Pokeno the other day, numbers of the men of the different corps have been in the habit of going there to see what they could pick up [but] were taken rather short this afternoon by being fired upon by native ambush. 9 men of the 40th are still absent and there is a strong presumption that they may have fallen

under the Maori bullets. - **14th** Capt Cook with 50 men of the 40th Reg went to Pokeno at day-break this morning to try and discover the missing men After searching in the vicinity of the village for upwards of one hour we got intelligence that the missing men had arrived in camp having been running through bush and swamp during

most of the night. They had narrow escapes of falling into the hands of the Maoris [and] they were fired upon several times.

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Encyclopedia of New Zealand	http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/te-ngahere-forest-lore/page-7		
London Gazette	19th July 1861		
Papers Past	1849-1863	Newspaper clippings	Various newspapers

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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.

Diary Excerpts (cont)

2 August [1863] I was on convoy [to the] exchange of a European from the 65th Convoy who found him in the bush near Shepherds Bush; for what purpose he would not tell. He pretended to be deaf and dumb and altogether he had a very suspicious appearance. He is supposed to be a Maori spy as there no doubt there is a number of people amongst them who is capable of anything.

27 [Aug 1863] I Yesterday a man named Nailor, a discharged soldier of the E.I.C.S, (East India Company Service) who has been living with the Mouries (sic) for 9 months past succeeded in making his escape from amongst them. He came with a couple of Natives from some place near Meremere to take a look at the Position. He says the war was kept so quiet that he knew nothing of fight at Koheroa until he saw some of their wounded carried past his place. After that he tried to carry away (sic) [escape] whenever he could get an Opportunity. He made an excuse while in Meremere to go and hunt pigs. He left them for that purpose, swam the Waikato, came down the opposite bank until he came opposite the camp of the 14th Reg when, after trying in vain to attract the attention of sentry, he re-crossed the river and found his way in to Camp. He was brought down next morning to see the General. He gives some curious particulars; he says the Chiefs tell the others that the Soldiers are short of provisions and that they are in possession of the Queen's Redoubt, they having driven the 40th Reg out during the night. He says there is 1100 Mouri (sic) in Meremere but there is no more in arms at present. The King is at Ngaruawhia with 10 young men as a Tiati (guard).

10 [Oct 1863] The Pontoon Bridge across the Mangatawhiri river was finished this afternoon and will be a great relief to the boats who has had all the work on this river.

18 [Oct 1863]. The Bishop of New Zealand preached a Voluntary service this evening at ½ past 6 o'C am in the Church to a

well filled house. He is very popular with all denominations and he certainly deserves his popularity for a more Liberal and earnest minded man I have rarely met with. He has plenty of N or K (1) [On] his parade. Mr Lyod(sic) (2) of St Pauls and himself having all the Camps on the road from Williamsons to that of Whangamarino to attend to besides week day services.

26 [Oct 1863] The long looked for Gun boat, now named the 'Pioneer' steamed up the Waikato and anchored (sic) immediately under the Bluff Stockade at 3 o'C pm this afternoon with two or three boats in tow. The general came from Queen's Redoubt and went down the Mangatawhiri to have an interview with Sir W Wiseman who brought her from Onehunga.

28 [Oct 1863] This afternoon about 2 o'C natives were found digging potatoes on the other side of the Waikato opposite Koheroa. **29th** heavy firing was heard this morning in direction of Whangamarino. The gun boat that was brought up the Waikato by the "Pioneer" was brought up the Mangatawhiri to the Naval Camp for the purpose of shipping the guns

10 [Nov 1863] No 3 Company from Adilade (sic) South Australia arved (sic) at the redoubt with the Convoy. They were commanded by Major Boudler. The whole of the 40th is now here in New Zealand.

28[Nov 1863] A man of the 40th got 50 lashes this morning for striking a Non Comm Officer. A miserable spectacle was presented in the first place. The Officer whose duty it was to read the Court Martial was quite incapable of doing it and the Senior Officer in Parade, who took the document from him was very little better, he however did manage to make his way through it.

1. Possibly stands for Non-conformist & K(C)atholic
2. Rev Lloyd was minster at St Pauls (Anglican Church)

SUBSCRIPTION NOTICE: At the Annual General Meeting held August 2015 it was voted to increase subscription rates from 1 August 2016, as follows:-

Individual	\$25 (incl GST)	Family	\$35 (incl GST)
Historical Organization	\$40 (" ")	Commercial Organization	\$60 (" ")