

# DESPATCHES

*Newsletter of the Queen's Redoubt Trust*

ISSN 2324-5271

## SERIES ON BRITISH UNITS AT QUEEN'S REDOUBT

This is the fourth 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 12th, East Suffolk Regiment of Foot, were in New Zealand from 1860 to 1867.

### 1ST BATTALION, 12TH (EAST SUFFOLK) REGIMENT OF FOOT (THE OLD DOZEN)

Sent to Australia in 1854, the 12th was involved in garrison duties across most of Australia at various times. At the end of 1854, only a few months after they arrived, they played a major role in the battle with goldminers at the Eureka Stockade. However this appears the only major fighting they were involved with, so being sent to New Zealand in 1860 may have been a welcome diversion. Three companies arrived in two detachments. The first two companies under Captain Miller reached New Plymouth on 16 April 1860 and a third company, under Major Hutchins on 23rd July. Their first action seems to have been in September 1860 when Major Hutchins and the 12th were involved in a sweep through Puketakauere and Tataraimaka, which they found abandoned. On 9 October General Pratt sent the 12th and 65th Regiments to engage three pa at the Kaihihi River which the Maori defenders abandoned before they were attacked. The crucial engagements did not take place until late January to March 1861 at Te Arei where Pratt adopted his favorite method of attack by digging a long sap toward the pa. When this was only 200 metres away, Wiremu Kingi, the leading chief asked for a truce which lasted 3 days before some inconclusive night attacks were tried. The conflict was re-

solved before Te Arei fell when Government negotiator, Donald McLean and Rev. J Wilson of the Church Missionary Society negotiated a cease fire. The main condition to this was that the Government would investigate the title to the Waitara Block settler occupation of which had led to the commencement of hostilities. For their part Te Atiawa had to submit to the Queen's authority and return plunder taken from the settlers.

Some innovative techniques were adopted by the Maori in Taranaki. They were often short of supplies so did a deal, with some of the kupapa [1] serving with General Pratt, who needed a constant supply of green manuka as overhead protection for the men digging the sap at Te Arei. The beleaguered Maori would cut supplies of this during the night, hand it over to the kupapa who sold it to the British and used some of the money to buy supplies from the

British Commissariat which they then passed on to the 'rebels. Another diversion was for the Maoris to use bugles they had to imitate the British bugle calls, so causing considerable confusion. The 12th moved back to Auckland at the end of March 1861 where they were involved in building the Great South Road. They were in camp at Pokeno from the end of 1861, engaged in building the section of the road closest to Queen's Redoubt. As Lt Mair of the 12th wrote, "The work for the road parties was hard, but the pay was good and the duties not heavy..." It took less than 6 months to build the road from Drury to Queen's Redoubt and in June 1862 the regiment was back in winter quarters at Otahuhu. For the next 12 months the 12th

[1] Kupapa were Maori who fought with the British

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**12th & 14th Regiments building Great South Road. Pokeno Hill (Razorback), 1862**

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

## OFFICERS OF THE 12th REGIMENT OUTSIDE THEIR MESS WHARE AT POKENO.

Left to Right:

Lt WL Murphy (fell Rangiriri)

Lt H M Lowry

Capt T E Miller

Maj W J Hutchins

Lt Urquhart (65th Reg)

Lt W C S Mair

Capt F Williams

[Miller and Hutchins were the two senior officers in NZ at the time]

(Photographer Wm Temple 1862)



Regiment seemed to be on garrison duties in Auckland and probably along the Great South Road and at Queen's Redoubt. We do know that they were at the Pokeno Camp on 6 July 1863 for on that date they replaced the 14th Regiment there. A few days later, they were the advance guard of the troops crossing the Mangatawhiri River at the commencement of the invasion of the Waikato and the subsequent attack on Koheroa with the 14th Regiment on the 17th.

On 3 October 265 men of all ranks, the HQ of the 12th Commanded by Lt Col H M Hamilton, arrived from Sydney and immediately moved to Koheroa. The remainder of the battalion arriving in several small groups until early January 1864

The 12th was now split into at least three groups with some of the remainder of the battalion forming part of the Thames Expedition sent to build a string of redoubts from Miranda to Queen's Redoubt, while a detachment of 50 of the most skilled and hardened men were assigned to the Flying Column. [2] This force of just over 500, included men from most Regiments, the Waikato Militia and Forest Rangers.

The detachment which went with General Cameron on the advance

into the Waikato took part in the attack on Rangiriri on 20 November 1863. Led by Captain Cole there were 113 men present from the 12th and, along with a slightly larger group from the 14th Regiment, their job was to attack the east end of the pa. It was no sinecure since they lost 19% of their men killed or wounded, more than any other regiment in the battle. Amongst those killed was Lt Murphy who, like Captain Mercer of the R.A., lost his life in an attack on the central redoubt.

After Rangiriri the battalion, under Lt Col Hamilton were at Ngaruawahia on Boxing Day 1863, then advancing deep into Waikato territory. A detachment of 104 men, under Captain Vereker, was tasked to erect two redoubts at Ngahinepouri. They then continued on to Orakau, where they formed part of the attacking force four men being wounded. The Flying Column, detachment from the battalion was involved at Gate Pa in April 1864.

From this time the 12th Regiment were mainly involved in garrison duties at various sites throughout the Waikato and on 28 October 150 officers and other ranks formed the garrison at Queen's Redoubt. It was here on 13 July 1865 that Lt Col Kempt of the 12th and O/C Queen's Redoubt died of apoplexy (stroke). Later in the year Surgeon WRG Manley V.C. was posted as Regimental Surgeon, exchanging from Assistant Surgeon with the Royal Artillery. He exchanged back to the RA in November 1867.

The last move made by most of the 12th Regiment, was to the East Coast in December 1865, only a small detachment remaining at Otahuhu. Early in 1866 small detachments were sent from Napier to garrison Wairoa and Tauranga, however they were not involved in any fighting.

In 1867 the 12th gave support to local volunteers at Tauranga and, although they did not fight, this was the last time Imperial troops took to the field against the Maori. From February 1867 the regiment began to re-group in Auckland, prior to departure for England. They left in two parts on the 2nd and 17th May 1867, leaving behind 190 NCO's and privates who had chosen to take their discharge in New Zealand.

Ian Barton

## References:

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NZ Herald 1 May 1867 Services of the 1st 12th

[2] The Flying Column is an alternative name for the Moveable Column.

**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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<b>Membership Category: (new rates)</b>		Historic	Commercial
Individual \$25	Family \$35	Organization \$40	Organization \$40
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**PUNISHMENT IN THE BRITISH ARMY DURING VICTORIAN TIMES**

This article is a summary, mainly taken from an article published in The Suffolk Gazette in 1907. WCS Mair then still alive, wrote: "Some Reminiscences of the XII Regiment 1858—1865". Gazetted an Ensign in 1858 he was sent to join the First Battalion of the Regiment in Sidney and later went with the 12th to New Zealand. He was seconded to the "Flying Column" as Adjutant, when it was formed and transferred from here to the Second Battalion, stationed in India, in 1864.

His reminiscences were probably written from memory, many years after his time in NZ but they contained quite a lot of information about the punishments meted out to the battalion's soldiers, which is material usually not readily available.

The Duke of Wellington had two famous aphorisms about the men he commanded against Napoleon. First he is said to have stated that: "Our army is composed of the scum of the earth, the mere scum of the earth." The second, somewhat contra, was, "I don't know what effect these men will have upon the enemy, but, by God, they frighten me." Control of this ferocious Army appears to have been achieved by various punishments, chief of which was corporal punishment -flogging with a cat-o-nine-tails. By the time British regiments were in New Zealand the maximum number of lashes that could be applied at one time

was 50 (500 or even more were often given to convicts on Norfolk Island not many years prior to this)

Probably the main reason for so much flogging was the endemic problem of drunkenness; Mair records several occasions which necessitating punishment for this. Once 17 men of the 12th had broken into a commissariat store tent and stolen many gallons of rum. On another occasion General Cameron and his ADC visited a detachment of an unnamed regiment at a Waikato outpost. On arrival they found 'the entire unit drunk' so doubtless the usual penalty was applied.

Mair reports that officers were not immune either and that in his first few years in the regiment about 14 officers had to resign because of their addiction to alcohol.

The soldier to be lashed was tied to a triangle with his back exposed and flogging was usually administered by regimental drummers who were of course mostly quite young and, if observed not applying the lash hard enough, were told that if they did not try harder 'they would also be put on the triangle.' The lash was often applied alternately by a right handed and a left handed drummer so that half the lashes went one way and half the other. After being lashed the man was cut down and at least on some occasions salt and water was applied

to his back.

In August 1863, in the diary of an un-named corporal of the 40th regiment, it was recorded that at 7 a.m. on the morning of the 5th, "3 men of the 40th were served out with their 50 lashes for being drunk when required to march". The next day "one man of the 18th got 50 lashes that morning for being drunk on the march to Paparata."

Flogging, with a few exceptions, was finally abolished in the British Army in 1881 by the Secretary for War, Hugh Childers; who had continued the reforms begun 10 years earlier by Edward Cardwell. In 1868 he had stopped flogging in the peace time army.

Ian Barton

**REFERENCES**

Anon 1863-66 Diary of an unknown Corporal of the 40th Regt. National Library of NZ Ref: MicroMS0445  
Mair S 1907 Some Reminiscences of the XII Regt 1858 - 1865. Suffolk Gazette, Nov-Dec 1907

**PROGRESS ON DISPLAYS FOR THE VISITOR CENTRE**

The firm contracted to produce the displays for our Visitor Centre, Snapper Graphics, have been hard at work over the past nine months preparing the material. This has not only involved their team of five but also Neville and myself -we having been working with them on checking and revising the text. An outline of what is proposed was included in the June 2016 newsletter and we are now concentrating on building the model of the redoubt (on which Mike Codling is doing a

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**PURPOSE OF THE TRUST**

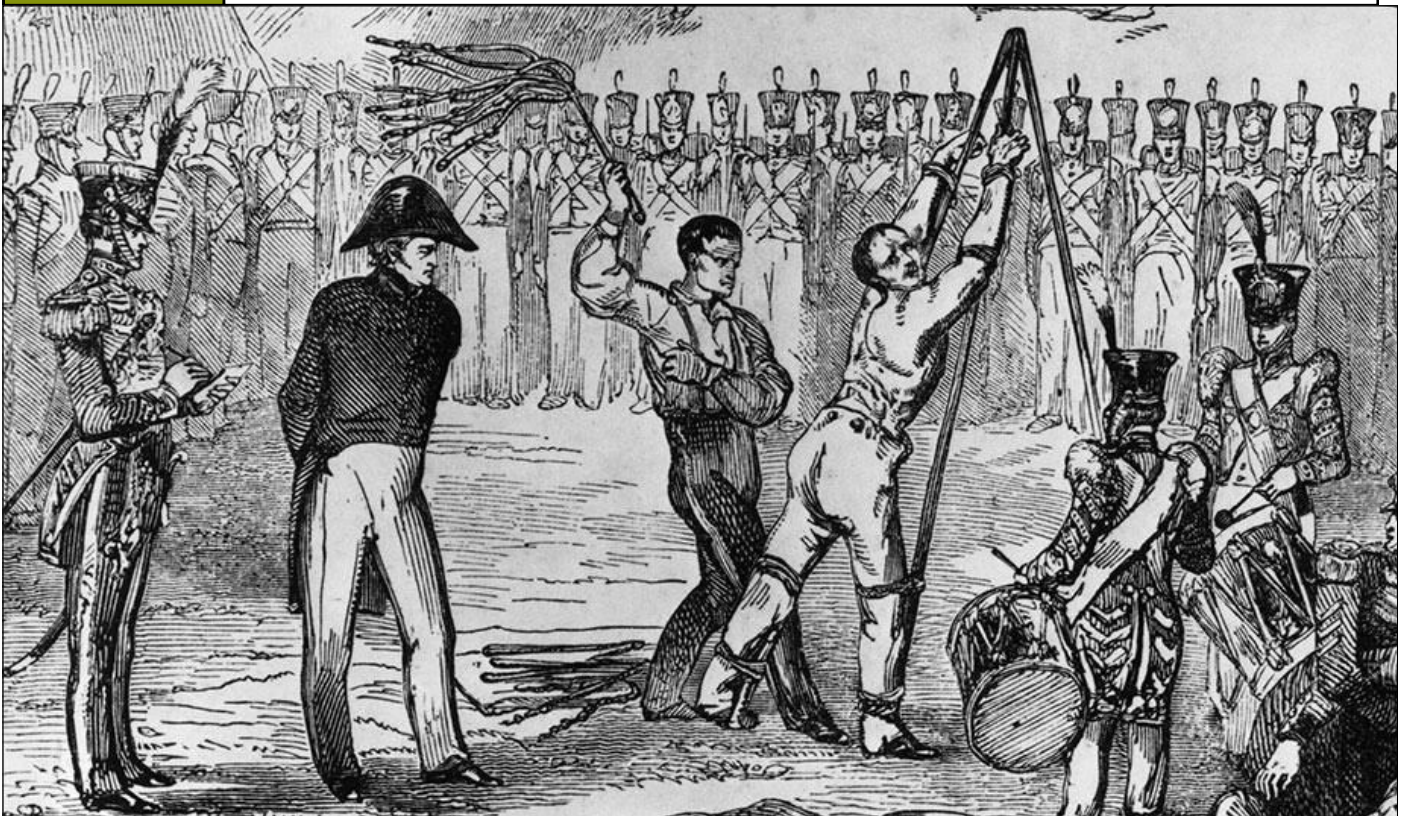
The Queen's Redoubt Trust was established in February 1999 with the intention of acquiring this nationally significant historic place and ensuring its protection; with the long term vision to restore and develop the site into a nationally recognised visitor attraction and education centre. In February 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.

**COMING  
 EVENT**

**The Official opening of the Visitor Centre:** The opening will occur when at least some of the displays are in place. This is now expected to be late 2017.



**FLOGGING:** This lithograph, probably from the earlier part of the 19th century, shows the lash being applied by only one man. Note that floggings were done in public, with the whole battalion present to observe the punishment (no doubt intended as a deterrent), with the drummers beating the time for each lash and the officer on the left recording the number.

remaining panels and we will soon seek a meeting with Foundation North to sort out the process for this. No date is yet set for the opening of the Visitor Centre but if it is to be before the next newsletter comes out in December, a special notice will be sent to all on our mailing list.

very realistic job) and preparing the main panels dealing with the causes of the wars and the Invasion of the Waikato. It is

hoped that these will be in place very shortly.

The next step is to get funding for the