

Military Diary of Thomas Tatlock, G Company, 43rd Light Infantry

Alexander Turnbull Library MS-Papers-4968 (partial transcript)

1860 Feb 02 Enlisted for the 43rd Light Infantry at Charles St., Westminster...

1860 Feb 03 Sworn in for the same at Westminster Police Court

1860 Feb 04 Forwarded to the Depot 43rd L. I. at Chatham...

1863 Nov 30 Embarked on board the Troop Ship 'Silver Eagle' at Gravesend, for Auckland, New Zealand, having a rather rough passage out...

1864 Mar 04 Landed in Auckland and marched to Albert Barracks...

1864 Mar 07 Marched from Auckland to Otahuhu about 10 miles, having previously exchanged our Red, for Blue Tunics and obtaining Water Bottles and other requisites for the Field, from the stores in Auckland.

1864 Mar 11 Marched from Otahuhu to Drury and joined Head Quarters 43rd L.I. under command of Lt-Col. Booth.

1864 Mar 12 ... Drury to Queen's Redoubt...

1864 Mar 13 ... Queen's Redoubt to Surrey Redoubt...

1864 Mar 14 ... Marched to Esk Redoubt

1864 Oct 26 ... Esk Redoubt to Queen's Redoubt...

1864 Oct 29 ... Queen's Redoubt to Papakura with 18th Regt under Major Rocke

1864 Oct 30 ... Marched into Otahuhu & joined HQ of Regt.

1864 Oct 30 Joined G. Company under command of Capt H. A. Brett

1864 Nov 18 Marched from Otahuhu to Onehunga with the Left Wing 43 L.I. under the command of Major Colville and embarked on board the steam ship 'Alexandria', General Cameron being one of the passengers on board, this steamer was afterwards wrecked on the coast of Taranaki.

1864 Nov 19 Landed at Taranaki, in surf boats getting very wet, and being carried ashore, in mens arms, then marching to Fort Cameron where we lay in Tents again.

1864 Nov 24 Marched from New Plymouth to Tataraimaka with Left Wing 43 L.I. under the command of Major Colville; distance 16 miles the road being exceedingly dusty, being nearly stifled, with the same. Passed Oakura Redoubt and the place where the 57th escort was murdered, "en route", and arrived at Tataraimaka where we spent a considerable period in clearing, and improving the redoubt, which was in a most deplorable state from neglect, it having been previously abandoned by the 57th Regiment. An outstanding rock called the Crows Nest, being most prominent, a Guard was stationed there, Signal Post, etc.

1864 Dec 25 Sunday Christmas Day. A first rate dinner being given to the men by the Officers of the Regt. Tables being dug in the ground & great decorations & triumphal arches being placed over them outside the Redoubt.

1864 Dec 27 Marched out to Kaitake heights passing the spots where Capt. Lloyd 57th Regt lost his head & his escort was annihilated, several cartridge cases being scattered about the ground. Several rifle pits (covered with brushwood) wilfully concealed with leaves and earth were found about two thirds of the distance up the heights, which were very steep indeed, Melons & Pumpkins etc were found in abundance here. We returned home in the evening.

1864 Dec 31 New Pattern Cap Covers, issued to the troops at Tataraimaka.

1865 Jan 09 Mounted Crows Nest Guard, Arrival of Settlers & their wives, at Tataraimaka, mostly well mounted, who left in the evening.

1865 Jan 23 Marched from Tataraimaka to Tangarei, distance about 8 miles, with one Gun (12pd Armstrong) every man carrying a Field Kit, where we encamped amidst thick fern, on the slope of a hill, where we built a redoubt in seven days from arriving here, which was named the Ngua. There was a good bathing place here in Stony River close by, the current being on the other hand, rather strong, and water deep, varying from 5 to 11 feet. A fine grove of Peaches being near the banks of the river, we were often... on the same.

1865 Jan 27 Comet seen here, and for several succeeding days, very plainly.

1865 Feb 02 Five years service completed. Arrival of Col. Warre 57th Regt who addressed the Regiment stating that he was confident that in the event of any attack being made on the redoubt by the rebel Maoris, that the 43rd L.I. would render a good account of them, illustrating his Address, by quoting an incident that took place at Sentry Hill, New Plymouth, at which place the Maoris were signally defeated, through the vigilance of the Sentry, and his tact & coolness, in giving the alarm in a very quiet manner, by which means he disarmed suspicion until the critical moment.

1865 Feb 04 Marched from Ngua Redoubt to Sea Side, distance about 1½ miles encamping on a good piece of Table Land.

1865 Feb 07 [Troops marched to Stoney River... returned with peaches & potatoes]

1865 Feb 08 [Civil Maori made present of peaches & potatoes]

1865 Feb 14 Marched out over Stoney River from Camp, under the command of Col. Warre 57th Regt the entire force consisting of 200 Rank & File 43rd L.I., a Troop of C.D. Corps, a party of Royal Artillery with 3 guns (2 twelve & 1 six pounders), a party of the Royal Engineers and about 60 Military Settlers, to Warea River...

1865 Mar 10 A terrible storm took place causing much damage both on sea & land blowing down nearly all the Tents in Camp, breaking Poles etc

1865 Mar 18 [went on foraging expedition over Stoney River – returned with potatoes]

1865 Apr 22 Encounter between a party of Pai Mariri Maories and an unharmed party of men from Camp, in which J. Haroks, C.D. Force, was killed, being found next day lying quite naked, with his left eye, which had been cut out, lying on his cheek. The fate of J. Jury, 43 L.I. not being known several other men having narrowly escaped capture at the time, they being out foraging and mostly unharmed, they were surprised at or near Mokotuna about sunset, on the edge of a swamp, Haroks having been killed while urging his steed through the swamp. J. Jury, 43 L.I., was supposed to have fled by a track, to the bush inland, where he was supposed to have been either killed, or taken prisoner, as his horse he rode was found dead there, with seven bullet wounds in him, but nothing ever transpired subsequently to prove either supposition.

1865 Apr 23 Troops in Camp, and Military Settlers marched out over Stoney River discovering and bringing in the remains of J. Haroks, C.D. Force.

1865 Apr 24 Arrival of 3 Companies 43rd L.I., from New Plymouth & Tataraimaka under Col. Syngé, also a detachment of Royal Artillery with one six pounder gun.

1865 Apr 27 Road making party from camp employed in improving the roads between Stoney River and Tataraimaka. A troop of C.D. Corps left here in the direction of Warea espying and pursuing a body of mounted rebels.

1865 Apr 28 The whole of the troops in camp consisting of 6 companies of 43 L.I., a detachment of Royal Artillery with one 6 pounder gun and a party of Military Settlers struck Tents and marched from here (Stoney River) to the Warea, encamping there, the enemy being seen prowling about a short distance from camp were pursued by E. Company 43rd L.I., with the Royal Artillery & 6 pounder gun, after several shots had been fired without success, they at last succeeded by a lucky shot in striking down a horse & rider belonging to the Maoris the horse having been found next day with a large round hole in him, laying on the Sea Beach where the Maoris had evidently dragged him from off the hill where he had been struck, his carcass continuing to lay there for several months until it was decomposed.

1865 Apr 29 Commenced building the Redoubt here, all available hands, being employed at it, an immense quantity of flax, having to be removed in order to clear the ground, which proved the existence of a large quantity of Rats, who seemed to live in the flax roots.

1865 May 01 Early in the morning several shots were exchanged between our outlying Piquet Sentries and the enemy, being afterwards pursued by two companies 43rd & C.D. Corps. Large quantities of Pigs were captured near camp this morning, there apparently being an abundance of them living about this locality, some of them being captured in the middle of the river here. Arrival of Col. Warre 57th Regt and about 50 Bushrangers about 5 p.m., a company of 43rd L.I. arriving later in the evening.

1865 May 02 The Majority of troops in camp left Warea, on an expedition to Opounaki, under the command of Col. Warre, 57th Regt. I myself, remaining behind, through being on outlying piquet at the time.

1865 May 03 The troops in camp finished building the Redoubt here, duty being very hard at this time.

1865 May 10 Arrival of Major Holmes 43rd L.I., relieving Col. Synge, 43rd L.I.

1865 May 13 [...]

1865 May 15 [...]

1865 May 18 Arrival at Warea of Convoy, bringing up materials for the erection of a canteen, and stores for the same.

1865 May 20 [...]

1865 May 31 Marched out with 100 Rank & file 43rd L.I., under command of Major Holmes, across Warea river about two miles

1865 Jun 03 Marched out with 100 Rank & file 43rd L.I., taking a circuitous route up the flank & rear of our camp

1865 Jun 08 Marched out with 100 Rank & file, under the command of Major Holmes to the wreck of the 'Marchioness' where were situated a Maori Pa, or village some very well made huts were here, in addition to a large flagstaff, which was left standing in the Centre, all appeared in good condition

1865 Jun 09 [Marched out to 'Marchioness' again...]

1865 Jun 12 Arrival at Warea of two companies 70th Regiment from New Plymouth

1865 Jun 13 A combined attack made on the Warea Pa, or Maori stronghold, by a portion of the 43rd L.I., 70th Regt, C.D. Force and Bushrangers, under the command of Col. Warre 57th Regt. After a bombardment by the Royal Artillery with two Guns which lasted about 20 minutes the enemy retreated (their loss not being known for certain) leaving two prisoners in our hands, one of them being a young female. A pair of boots and trousers were found here, which was supposed to have belonged to J. Hanks, C.D. Force, and a shirt, to J. Jury 43rd.

1865 Jun 14 Departure of Col. Warre 57th Regt the whole of the 70th and part of the 43rd L.I., for New Plymouth and outposts intervening also the Detachment Royal Artillery and C.D. Corps

1865 Jun 15 [...foraging...]

1865 Jun 17 Arrival of convoy bringing up Kits belonging to the men, which were left at Stony River

1865 Jun 19 [...]

1865 Jun 21 [...]

1865 Jun 27 [...]

1865 Jun 30 Several tents blown down by stormy weather

1865 Jul 04 [...]

1865 Jul 13 Surprise of a party of 43rd L.I., when on wood fatigue in the bush about a mile and a half from camp, and being but partially armed, the Maories had the advantage, however they managed to escape without a single casualty back to Camp, Sergt. Cuneen, 43rd L.I., being in charge of the party at the time.

1865 Jul 24 On returning from Wood fatigue and when nearly back to camp two Rifle shots were fired in slow succession by the Maories from the place we had so lately vacated, with our wood, as a kind of defiance, it is presumed.

1865 Jul 28 Marched out with 50 Rank & File, under the command of Capt. Close, 43rd L.I., and on returning back, when about a mile from camp, encountered a strong body of rebel Maories, when a severe engagement took place, which lasted about twenty minutes or half an hour, terminating in the retreat of the enemy towards their village, with (what loss not known) the casualties on our side being as follows: viz. Killed – Capt Close shot through head just over the eye, Private J. Holohan, shot through the Brain (death being instantaneous) Wounded – J. Overall, in the hip slightly, and Hemi the Civil Maori Guide, or as he was more commonly called Jem, being severely wounded in the thigh, this was my first engagement in the colony.

1865 Jul 31 Arrival at Warea of two Companies 70th Regt and a party of the 43rd L.I. and C.D. Corps under the command of Major Colville, 43rd L.I.

1865 Aug 02 The troops in camp, consisting of 200 Rank & File, composed of a mixed number of 43rd L.I. & 70th Regt, marched out over Warea River, to a place a few miles distant from the wreck of the 'Marchioness' early in the morning where an engagement took place, which resulted in the reported loss of the enemy of 28 killed & 30 wounded, 3 prisoners who were taken were shot for refusing to walk to our camp. The loss on our side being as follows: viz One Officer and 4 men of the 70th Regt killed and one Officer and 5 men wounded. The troops being under the command of Col. Colville, 43rd L.I. On outlying piquet this day and consequently absent from the expedition.

1865 Aug 03 The same force again marched out to the same village, and encountered the enemy, who, after a short resistance, was defeated with the reported loss of 5 killed, the only casualty on our side being Private Samuel Bolton shot through the head.

1865 Aug 05 [...]

1865 Aug 09 Two Maori prisoners released – a blind man (rather aged) and a young woman, by whom he was at once conducted back to their old tribe having seen them on their way myself, being on wood fatigue, on the Sea Beach, that day.

1865 Aug 11 [...]

1865 Aug 12 Departure of two Companies 43rd L.I. & one company 70th Regt under Col. Colville 43rd L.I. for New Plymouth & outposts intervening.

1865 Aug 13 Departure of two companies 70th Regt for New Plymouth

1865 Aug 24 A party consisting of the butcher from camp, and two or three of the Colonial Defence Corps, who were bringing up a mail from New Plymouth were attacked by the enemy about mid-day, one of the Col Def Corp's being wounded in both arms, another in both feet, the Butcher contrived to effect his escape by concealment amid the fern, until he considered himself safe, then crawling back to camp. This occurred at Mokotuna about half way between here and Stoney River.

1865 Aug 27 One company left here for Stoney River under the command of Capt. Crozier, 43rd L.I. leaving the men here, to do very hard duty on account of the small number left behind in the redoubt.

1865 Sep 06 [...]

1865 Sep 28 Major Holmes left Warea Redoubt for New Plymouth being shortly afterwards replaced by Col. Colville, 43rd L.I.

1865 Oct 13 Confined off Sentry by Col. Colville, 43rd L.I., for being relieved off Sentry without a corporal being present, Private Elias Neaves was also confined at the same time, for relieving me

1865 Oct 16 [...]

1865 Oct 20 [...] A party of the Col. Def. Corps were attacked by the enemy near the Waiuru River, 3 of them being wounded they were conveying the mail to town at the time. Arrival of a party of 43rd L.I. from Stony River at Warea and a small number of Col Def Corps as reinforcements about 2 p.m.

1865 Oct 22 Marched out at 2 in the morning, with 100 Rank & File 43rd L.I. under the command of Col. Colville, with our belts under our tunics (blue serge) and Rifles without slings crossing Warea River and proceeding inland from our redoubt near to the spot where Capt Close was killed and lay in ambush until the dawn of day on the side of a hill, being Sunday and a very wet day, after a ruse had been performed by the C.D. Corps to draw or entice the enemy out, which met with great success about 10 a.m. the enemy came by close to us along a track when we opened fire upon them which was returned by them with great spirit, and not until several of their Leaders were either killed or wounded, did they retire, which they eventually did with severe loss. The casualties on our side, were Col. Colville 43rd L.I. wounded severely in the thigh, Sergeant Clifford killed shot through the heart, Sergeant Dyer wounded in the Arm and leg slightly, Private Pratt dangerously wounded in the stomach and died same night at 10 p.m.

1865 Oct 23 Departure of reinforcements from Warea, escorting the killed & wounded on their way to town.

1865 Oct 28 Private Elias Neaves Court Martial read out on Parade about 10 a.m. Sentenced 50 lashes, afterwards commuted to 14 days imprisonment in the Guard Tent.

1865 Nov 08 Arrival at Warea of a Detachment of Royal Artillery with an Armstrong Gun (12 pounder) and a reinforcement of 25 men 43rd L.I....

1865 Nov 13 [...]

1865 Nov 29 A colonist named Bailey drowned, both horse and man having been swept away, in attempting to cross Stony River, when swollen by the rains...

1865 Dec 11 [...]

1865 Dec 23 Arrival at Warea of a party of Bushrangers (about 60) under the command of Capt. Corbett.

1865 Dec 25 Christmas Day...

1865 Dec 26 A party of 60 Bushrangers under the command of Capt. Corbett marched out early in the morning and lay an ambush for the enemy who, however, did not make their appearance. A similar movement was made, by the 43rd L.I. under Capt. Hon Harris, but in a different direction, with the same result.

1865 Dec 27 [...]

1866 Jan 03 Marched from Camp Warea with G. Company for New Plymouth, but detained at Stony River by Capt. Horan, by whom a mounted orderly was sent to alter our course, who overtook us when in the act of crossing Stony River, on our way to town, at which outpost we were practised in setting up and other drill, daily being the only place, excepting Otatihu, where drill was practised

1866 Jan 17 On convoy from Stony River to Warea Redoubt

1866 Jan 18 On convoy as yesterday

1866 Jan 28 Arrival at Stony River of General Chute's Field Force, consisting of about 250 men of the 14th Regt, about 60 bushrangers, and 60 Maories (Native Contingent), a party of Royal Artillery and Engineers, with a large number of Pack Horses, Baggage Waggon, etc., etc., being the force with which General Chute had just cut his way from Wanganui to New Plymouth, with such signal success, through the bush, not however, without the dire necessity of being compelled to kill and eat a few horses, belonging to the expeditionary force for want of food. Many victories were won by General Chute.

1866 Jan 29 Marched from the Redoubt Stony River to Warea with 60 men 43rd L.I. under the command of Major Horan joining General Chute's Field Force at Stony River, where they were encamped, and proceeding to Warea, in their company, where the whole formed a general encamping ground outside the redoubt.

1866 Jan 30 Marched from Warea with General Chute's field force to the Bushrangers Stockade at Tipoka, distance about 7 miles, where we encamped, at the sea side, amongst a great quantity of bushes & flax, a clear running stream being close at hand for any purpose required.

1866 Feb 01 Marched out about 3 a.m. with General Chute's field force having belts under our blue serge tunics and our Rifles without slings, every third man carrying a

tomahawk or short chopper and to a place called Waikoko, where we met and engaged the enemy who after a sharp and short contest were driven from the field, some of them being shot off trees, by our men, the casualties on our side being as follows: viz One man 14th Regt killed, 2 Forest Rangers and two native contingent wounded, the village was immediately burned down and the Crops (which were in a most splendid condition) destroyed by our troops.

1866 Feb 02 Marched from Tipoka to Stony River, with a small party of 43rd L.I. escorting the wounded on their way to town, leaving General Chute's Field Force to proceed onwards to Opounaki, that day, starting about the same time as ourselves. Completed 6 years service today.

1866 Feb 09 [...]

1866 Feb 10 [...]

1866 Feb 12 [...]

1866 Feb 13 Marched from Warea to Opounaki with about 50 men 43rd L.I. and about 50 Bushrangers, escorting a convoy Col. Synge in command distance about 25 miles road very sandy, being mostly near the sea side, amidst sand hills and gullies etc.

1866 Feb 14 Remained encamped at Opounaki, outside the redoubt

1866 Feb 15 Marched out into the bush at 1 a.m. with the Field Force, where we stormed a village, driving the enemy from it, after burning and destroying the village we left it, when the enemy advanced upon us again, and continually hung upon our rear, until we had left the bush far behind i.e. the bush where we had first encountered them. Our casualties being two men wounded, 43rd L.I. one of them being a man who had that day completed 12 years service.

1866 Feb 16 Remained at Opounaki, with the Field Force, under the command of Col. Synge, 43rd L.I.

1866 Feb 17 Marched from Opounaki to the Warea with the Field Force under Col. Synge 43rd L.I. escorting the whole of the Carts, Waggons, &c belonging to the original convoy, brought up a few days previous, distance 25 miles.

1866 Feb 18 Remained at Warea with the Field Force under Col. Synge 43rd L.I. until the 21st instant.

1866 Feb 21 100 Rank & File left Warea under the command of Major Horan 43rd L.I. on a Bush expedition, which lasted three days, resulting in the burning and demolishing of a few Maori villages with a slight loss to the enemy in men and no casualties to ourselves, worth recording. To days orders arrived from Head Quarters to hold the Regiment in readiness to embark for England at a short notice.

1866 Feb 23 Marched half way to Opounaki where we met Major Horan's expeditionary party, encamped near the beach, to whom we delivered over our convoy, or supplies, returning to Warea same day. Before starting back, we feigned an Ambuscade, by order of Major Horan, resulting in Sergeant Bradshaw being left behind at this spot, through going to sleep, he afterwards found his way back to Warea, about mid-night.

1866 Feb 27 Four or five companies 50th Regt arrived at Warea from the Wanganui side under Col. Weare, to relieve the 43rd L.I.

1866 Feb 28 Marched from Warea to Tataraimaka, where we encamped for the night, the 50th Regt relieving our outposts on our way.

1866 Mar 01 Marched from Tataraimaka to New Plymouth, a detachment 50th relieving Oakura, on our way to town, where we arrived about 6 or 7 in the evening and marched to Marsland Hill where we encamped it raining very heavy at the time. Other companies who had been in town before were accommodated in Barracks, or Huts, but my company being the longest out but one (D. Company) was placed in Tents, much to their astonishment, it being a very unfair arrangement.

1866 Mar 08 Embarked on board the screw corvette 'Brisk' for Auckland...

1866 Mar 11 Arrived at Auckland... marched to Otahuhu...

1866 Mar 28 About 200 men 43rd L.I. left Otahuhu for Auckland to embark for England on board the ship 'Maori' a rather old vessel

1866 Apr 16 Marched from Otahuhu to Auckland and embarked on board the 'Silver Eagle' for England with Head Quarters and 6 companies 43rd L.I. Crowds of people at Auckland witnessing the Regiment depart.

1866 Apr 18 Sailed for England with a very favourable breeze

1866 May 02 Narrow escape with Icebergs near Cape Horn about 7 at night...

1866 May 08 Burial of a little girl on board in the afternoon

1866 May 16 Severe storm... off South America...

1866 Jun 01 Crossed the equator

1866 Jun 07 Death of No.596 Private Charles Sillett, 43rd L.I. and burial of the same person at two p.m. the whole of G. Company attending his funeral then band also attended playing the dead march.

1866 Jun 11 Death of Private Harris 43rd L.I. about 12 noon and burial of the same about 7 p.m.

1866 Jun 26 ... becalmed English Channel...

1866 Jun 30 ... anchored Plymouth Sound...

1866 Jul 02 ... tugged out of Plymouth Sound...

1866 Jul 03 ... arrived at Spithead...

1866 Jul 04 ... Tugged into Harbour and moored alongside Customhouse Quay... Disembarked to Anglesea Barracks where we became stationed for nearly 12 months

1868 Apr 23 ... Marched with 43rd L.I. from the End Block Barracks, Aldershot to Farnborough Station, there proceeding Per S. W. Railway to Portsmouth and embarking on board H.M.S. ship 'Urgent' for the Channel Islands...

1868 Apr 24 ... landed at Aldernay with 3 Company 43rd L.I.

1868 Aug 19 Arrived in Guernsey on Escort...

1868 Sep 12 Embarked on board the Paddle steamer 'Dasher' with 3 Company 43rd L.I.

1869 Apr 13 Arrival at Jersey...

1869 Apr 21 Landed in Kingstown and proceeded by rail to Dublin then marched through part of the town about 2 miles and again proceeded by rail to the Curragh Camp...

1869 Apr 23 The following men of G. Company were discharged – No.209 Private J. Walters, No.488 Elias Neaves, No.400 H. Cunliffe

1869 Apr 30 Discharge of Private George Jenkins of G. Company

1869 Aug 06 To Fermoy, the Left Wing of the Regt having arrived here the previous day

1871 Mar 08 Discharged from the service at Spike Island

1871 Mar 10 Left Spike Island by steamer 'Juno' or rather Cook Harbour bound to Bristol

1871 Mar 11 Arrived at Bristol (Cumberland Basin) 9 a.m. Left Bristol about 1.30 p.m.
and arrived in London at 4.55 p.m.

End of Military Career