

## **That Captain Horan had irregularly employed natives to construct soldier huts** Archives New Zealand Wellington Reference AAYS 8638 AD1 60d CD1867/4410

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Letter dated 19 Mar 1866 George Dean Pitt, Head Quarters, Auckland to Private Secretary, Wellington

Sir, I have the honor, by direction of the Major General Commanding to forward for the information of his Excellency the Governor the accompanying communication received from Captain Horan 43<sup>rd</sup> Light Infantry relative to a report said to have been made to the local Government by Mr Parris, Civil Commissioner at Taranaki on the subject of certain alleged irregularities in the manner in which Captain Horan employed natives in the construction of Whare's for the Troops at Opunaki. I have the honor to be Sir, Your most obedient servant, Major George Dean Pitt.

Comments:

No report has been received from Mr Parris complaining of Captain Horan's conduct to the natives at Opunake but on the 17<sup>th</sup> February Mr Parris forwarded a statement from Mr W. Carrington, Interpreter at Warea representing that Captain Horan had threatened to compel some natives to act as guides without payment. On this letter of Mr Parris's a memorandum was addressed to His Excellency by Mr Stafford the 22 February 1866. T. M. Hautain, 6 April 1866.

A copy of Mr Carrington's statement is attached. Should it not be forwarded to His Excellency for General Chute's information? TMH

All correspondence on this subject which the Governor has not seen to be attached (with Mr Parris's letter of 17 Feb) to these papers and forwarded to His Excellency. E. Stafford 7 Apr 1866.

Returned from Government house 18 July 1867 – filed by order, T. W. Lewis.

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Letter dated 04 April 1866 T. M. Hautain to Mr Rolleston

Is there any report from Mr Parris in the Native Office complaining of Captain Horan's conduct to the natives at Opunaki? T. M. Hautain.

Herewith N.S. 66/492, /367 is attached – W. Rolleston 4 Apr 1866

There seems to have been some misunderstanding as to the charges brought by Mr Parris against Captain Horan. The Hutts of the troops took place in the early spring and no oppression of the natives was charged against the Military. There was a difficulty as to who was to pay them. Mr Carrington's charge was quite distinct referring to recent events chiefly the forcible employment of guides. I attach Mr Parris's letter of February 17<sup>th</sup> with other papers papers attached. W. Rolleston 4 June 1866.

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Statement of Mr W. Carrington, Interpreter

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> instant, some Natives came to Stoney River Camp to sell their peaches, Captain Horan sent for me, and told me to tell them that he wanted them as Guides to point out an Inland track, as he suspected there were some rebel plantations and perhaps some rebels in that neighbourhood, he likewise told me to tell them that if they did not go willingly, he would confine them and make them go by force, that the General had given him orders to destroy all the rebel places, and he was to make use of the friendly Natives as he liked. I asked him about pay and rations for them when he said they could get neither, but that he would let one of them go back to their village, and get food for them all. I told him if he would let them all go back to their place I would be answerable for their return when he wanted them, to which he agreed. Before the Natives went back, they told me that one of the Officers from Warea had been to their place, and said to them, if they did not find Guides to show them all the tracks and cultivations they (the soldiers) would burn all their places down, they said we came here to complain about it, but now, from what Captain Horan has said, we are certain there is a great change for the worse towards us, however we have written unto Mr Parris about it. They then went to their own place after telling Captain Horan that there was nothing on the track he wanted to go, except some cultivations of their own. On Thursday morning the 8<sup>th</sup> the Natives (Porano, Rewiti & Te Rei) came back to Stoney river Camp. Captain Horan sent for me and desired me to tell them that "he was not going today" but should start "tomorrow morning" at ½ past 3 o'clock & that they were to remain in Camp. As the Natives told me they had no food at their kainga to bring with them, I spoke to Captain Horan again about rations, when he said he would not order any, if he did, he should have to pay for them, but he would speak to the Issuer, and see if he could get them something. The Issuer gave them some broken biscuits and nothing more. I bought them some sugar myself at the canteen, and gave them all the tobacco I had, the Natives were then told they could make use of the Orderly Room tent to stop in. They protested very strongly against being made to work, without pay or rations. I told Captain Horan I considered he had no more right to force the Natives to work without pay or rations, than he had to take any laboring man from the Omata block, that they were British subjects, had signed the oath of allegiance upwards of a year ago, and were placed in their present abode by the Government. He again quoted the General, and said he was determined to carry out what he had stated previously. Signed W. Carrington, Taranaki 13 Feb 1866.

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Letter dated 15 March 1866 Captain Horan, New Plymouth to the Garrison Adjutant, New Plymouth

Sir, I have the honor to report for the information of the Colonel Commanding the District and for submission to the Major General commanding in New Zealand, that within the last few days Mr Parris, who is in charge of the Native Office in New Plymouth, has informed me, that a report was made to him of some irregularity which had taken place at Opunaki during the period of my command there, and on being requested to explain the nature of the irregularity alluded to, told me, that "I had compelled natives to work contrary to their own inclinations and wishes in the construction of the Soldier's Whares at that post and that he had made a report of it, in an official letter, to the Government of this colony." I informed Mr Parris that such was not the fact, as I had never used the smallest compulsion, on the contrary, that the natives came and did the work of their own free will and accord, as I agreed to give them each a ration daily, which I did, but at the same time I informed them through the interpreter, Mr Wilkinson, that I could not hold out any certain hope of money payment to them in addition, but would try and get them the usual allowance by writing to Colonel Warre, C.B. to bring the case before Government. They perfectly understood this, and were quite agreeable to work on these terms, and as many as liked came every day to work, the Interpreter keeping a daily account of those that worked each day. During the time the work was going on Mr Parris passed through Opunaki on two or three occasions when I took the opportunity of mentioning to him the terms on which the natives were working, and asked him if they would get the usual rate of pay besides, he then informed me, there would be no difficulty about their getting it, and I requested him the last time he was there during my command to speak to William King and Adam Clark on the subject (as his telling them would have more effect, to say nothing of the extra inducement it would be) which he informed me he had done. Of this fact Lieutenant Clark the late Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General was also aware as he was at Opunaki at the time. As this false accusation has been made against me and has actually formed the subject of an Official report to the Colonial Government without my having had the opportunity of defending the charge I requested Mr Parris to give me up the name of the individual who made it, which he declined to do, saying "I tell you it has been reported by me to Government and you will hear of it in due time, or you may not hear anything more about it." As I am in complete ignorance of the exact nature or extent of the charge that has been made against me in the letter forwarded by Mr Parris, which I only became aware of by the merest accident, I feel it is due to myself to bring the subject to the notice of the Major General that he may be in possession of the facts of the case before I embark for England with my Regiment, in order that he may either take steps in the matter at once, should he deem it proper to do so, or delay it until it is referred to him from the Colonial Government. In confirmation of my statement I beg to add that I can call upon, not only, every Officer who served with me at Opunaki but likewise upon the Interpreter, Mr Wilkinson, and a friendly native "Moses" who acted as overseer to the natives nearly all the time the work was going on. I have the honor to be Sir, Your most obedient servant, T. Horan, Captain commanding left wing 43<sup>rd</sup> Light Infantry. Submitted... 50<sup>th</sup> Regiment commanding Taranaki District.

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Letter dated 12 Dec 1865 Major George Dean Pitt, Assistant Military Secretary, Head Quarters Wanganui to the Private Secretary, Government House, Wellington.

Sir, In forwarding for the information of His Excellency the Governor the enclosed correspondence relative to an expense incurred in hutting the troops at Opunaki by the employment of Friendly Natives I have the honor by direction of the Major General Commanding... that under the circumstances, the amount referred to should be covered by a grant from the Colonial Government. I have the honor to be Sir, Major George Dean Pitt, Assistant Military Secretary.

Comments:

Captain Horan appears to have acted entirely on his own responsibility in employing natives to assist in building huts for the Garrison at Opunaki. I think, however, that the irregularity of his conduct should not prevent the remuneration of the Friendly Natives for the work they have performed – but the Major General should be requested to notify that the Colonial Government will not in future pay any unauthorized charges of this description. T. M. Haultain 16 Dec 1865.

Referred to Capt... to be good enough to instruct Sub Treasurer Taranaki to pay to Mr Civil Commissioner Parris the sum of £38 8s 9d for certain work performed by Friendly Natives as approved by ... Col. Haultain – dated 19 December.

Mr Carr? Inform Mr Parris that the Sub Treasurer will pay him £38 8s 9d for the Friendly Natives for their work done in hutting the troops at Opunake – vide his letter of 30 November to Colonel Warre – dated 19 December

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Letter dated 09 Dec 1865 ..., Taranaki to the Assistant Military Secretary, Head Quarters

Sir, In forwarding the enclosed correspondence for the favourable consideration of the Major General Commanding I have the honor to explain that the expence incurred in hutting the troops at Opunaki was unavoidable on account of the difficulty in obtaining Raupo from the Swamps and Timber from the Bush without the aid of the Natives. I report that Captain Horan should have considered himself at liberty to incur so large an expence without in the first instance obtaining sanction of the General Officer in command; but at so isolated a Post he thought that in obeying the General Order to hut the troops, he would be justified in employing the Natives; and by giving them employment, he understood that he would be acting according to the wishes of the Colonial Government, and keep the Natives from leaving.

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Letter dated 05 Dec 1865 ..., Camp Stoney River to the Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General, New Plymouth  
Sir, In returning the enclosure received with your letter No.760 dated 1<sup>st</sup> instant I beg to state for the information of the Colonel Commanding that I am unable from memory to afford the required information viz the dimensions of the Wharries erected at Opunaki during the time I commanded that outpost nor have I any Memo at present with me that will enable me to furnish it but by a reference to my letter to you about the end of August or early in September last reporting their completion the correct size of each Wharrie can be obtained. The work performed, as seen by enclosed Return, by the friendly Natives of the tribes of William King and Adam Clark residing near "Tenamu" viz Cutting Raupo, ToiToi in Swamps and Wood for posts, rafters and rods in the Bush was absolutely necessary, in fact without the assistance of these natives the materials to build could not have been obtained except by sending out large parties of Soldiers daily at the risk of their health and also of their lives from sudden attacks from the rebel natives. As I did not consider it advisable to run any risk under the circumstances the Wharries would not have been built and the men must have remained in Tents exposed to cold and damp during the whole of the last severe Winter. It was far advanced in July before I could commence to build. The Wharries have cost the Government nothing except the expense of the doors and windows and considering the advantage they have been to the men in point of health and comfort to say nothing of the saving they have been to the State in wear and tear in the item of Tents alone even for the few months the men have enjoyed them, they will more than compensate the Government for the small amount ie about £45 claimed by the friendly natives for their labour. In this opinion I think I will be borne out both by the Colonel Commanding and yourself. As Lieutenant Ferguson R.E. has seen the Wharries at Opunaki I beg that a reference may be made to him and that he be requested to report as to whether they are substantially built or not and what he considers of them in point of accommodation for soldiers and in every other respect. I have the honor to be Sir, Your obedient servant, Captain T. Horan, 43<sup>rd</sup> Light Infantry, Commanding at Stoney River

P.S. I also beg to suggest that the Medical Officer at Opunaki be called upon to report on the Wharries.

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Letter dated 29 Aug 1865 Captain Horan, Camp Opunaki to the Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General, New Plymouth  
Officer Commanding at Opunaki reports the occupation of whares by the Detachment 43<sup>rd</sup> Light Infantry

Sir, I have the honor inform you for the information of the Colonel Commanding that the Whareas as per margin for the accommodation of the men of the Detachment under my command at this post were completed yesterday and that the men move into them today. I have the honor to be Sir, Your most obedient servant, Captain Horan, Commanding Troops at Opunaki.

Dimensions: Two large Whareas each to accommodate 60 men each 75 feet by 18 – walls 6 feet 6 inches – pitch one third – each wharea having a centre partition, two doors and eight windows. Guard wharea 18 feet by 14 – walls 6 feet 6 inches – pitch one third, one door and one window. Cr Sergt Wharea 18 feet by 15 – walls 6ft 6 inches – pitch one third, one door and one window.

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Letter dated 30 Nov 1865 Robert Parris, Civil Commissioner, New Plymouth to Colonel Warre, C.B., commanding troops Taranaki

Sir, I have the honor to enclose herewith for your information copy of a letter I have received from the Under Native Secretary respecting an account for services performed by Natives in assisting to hut the Troops at Opunaki. I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedient servant, R. Parris, Civil Commissioner.

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Letter dated 20 Nov 1865 W. Rolleston, Under Secretary to the Civil Commissioner, Taranaki

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the number and date noted in the margin [178 Nov 8<sup>th</sup>, 1865] covering an account for services performed by Natives in building houses for the Troops at Opunaki. In reply, I have to inform you that Colonel Russell does not consider the Colonial Government chargeable with the expense of hutting Imperial Troops, the account therefore is returned for reference to the Major General. I have the honor &c, W. Rolleston, Under Secretary.

Account shewing the number of Friendly Natives employed to assist in erecting Whares for the Troops at Opunaki between the 5<sup>th</sup> July and 24<sup>th</sup> August 1865.

Date	Number employed	Nature of work performed	Remark
July 5 <sup>th</sup>	2	Cutting raupo	
July 6 <sup>th</sup>	3	Cutting raupo	
July 10 <sup>th</sup>	2	Cutting raupo	
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	2	Cutting raupo	
July 13 <sup>th</sup>	7	Cutting raupo and cutting flax	They worked only half a day each
July 14 <sup>th</sup>	15	Cutting toi toi, raupo and flax	
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	17	Cutting toi toi, raupo and flax	
July 17 <sup>th</sup>	16	Cutting toi toi, raupo and flax	
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	16	Cutting poles & supplejacks in bush	
July 19 <sup>th</sup>	18	Cutting poles & supplejacks in bush	
July 20 <sup>th</sup>	2	Cutting poles & supplejacks in bush	
July 21 <sup>st</sup>	16	Cutting timber in bush for whares	
July 22 <sup>nd</sup>	14	Cutting timber in bush for whares	
July 23 <sup>rd</sup>	11	Cutting raupo & rods in bush	
July 24 <sup>th</sup>	13	Cutting raupo & rods in bush	
July 27 <sup>th</sup>	10	Cutting toi toi, flax and raupo	
July 28 <sup>th</sup>	14	Cutting toi toi, flax and raupo	
July 29 <sup>th</sup>	10	Cutting timber in bush for whares	
Date	Number employed	Nature of work performed	Remark
August 2 <sup>nd</sup>	4	Cutting timber in bush for whares	

August 3 <sup>rd</sup>	11	Cutting rods and assisting to thatch whares
August 4 <sup>th</sup>	8	Cutting rods and assisting to thatch whares
August 7 <sup>th</sup>	8	Cutting rods and assisting to thatch whares
August 9 <sup>th</sup>	7	Cutting rods and assisting to thatch whares
August 10 <sup>th</sup>	6	Assisting to thatch whares and cutting raupo
August 11 <sup>th</sup>	9	Assisting to thatch whares and cutting raupo
August 12 <sup>th</sup>	10	Assisting to thatch whares and cutting raupo
August 13 <sup>th</sup>	5	Assisting to thatch whares
August 14 <sup>th</sup>	12	Cutting toi toi and flax
August 16 <sup>th</sup>	9	Assisting to thatch whares
August 17 <sup>th</sup>	6	Assisting to thatch whares
August 18 <sup>th</sup>	6	Assisting to thatch whares
August 19 <sup>th</sup>	6	Assisting to thatch and cutting rods
August 20 <sup>th</sup>	4	Assisting to thatch and cutting rods
August 21 <sup>st</sup>	4	Assisting to thatch and cutting rods
August 23 <sup>rd</sup>	4	Assisting to thatch and cutting rods
August 24 <sup>th</sup>	4	Finishing off the whares

Total of 307½ days or natives employed.  
Signed John Wilkinson, Interpreter

I certify to the best of my belief that the above statement of work performed by friendly Natives in assisting to hut the Detachment at this post is correct and agrees with the daily account kept by the Interpreter. T. Horan, Captain commanding at Opunaki, 43<sup>rd</sup> Light Infantry.

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Letter dated... [first page missing]

... leaving the District. The Huts afford excellent accommodation and I trust under the circumstances the Major General will be good enough to allow the expence; or to recommend that it should be covered by a Grant from the Colonial Government. The understanding, I believe, with Mr Parris, was that the Natives should get 2s 6d a day while employed viz 307½ days at 2s 6d = £38 8s 9d thirty eight pounds eight shilling and nine pence. I have the honor to be Sir, Your most obedient servant, Colonel H. J. Warre, Commanding at Taranaki.

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Letter dated 08 Mar 1866 R. Parris, Civil Commissioner, New Plymouth to the Native Minister, Wellington

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of His Excellency the Governor's letter to Wiremu Kingi Matakatea, which I have not yet been able to forward to him as there has been no communication with Opunaki since the withdrawal of the detachment of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Light Infantry which was relieved by the 50<sup>th</sup>. I am thinking to try to get to the District myself next week and if possible communicate personally with Wiremu Kingi Matakatea. Should it appear impracticable to go myself, I hope to get a Native to take the letter to him.

Annotation dated 14 Mar 1866 written by... Russell: Inform Mr Parris that I have lately had an opportunity of conversing with Colonel Warre and Lieutenant Clark both of whom are strongly of opinion that Wiremu Kingi Matakatea's defection preceded any serious injury... to his feelings and they state themselves to be quite at a loss to account for his conduct except that he probably acted under the influence of Jeremiah – he seems to have been in the Redoubt the evening before his defection apparently on the most friendly terms with the garrison, yet when a letter was sent to him for explanation it was rammed into a firelock and fired off in derision... for the truth of this but it is the belief of impartial... and Mr Parris's statement that the account lately given the Government by the Chief Piriki and others is "utterly untrue" shews that their word is not always to be relied on.

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Civil Commissioner, Taranaki

Sir, I am directed by the Hon. Native Minister to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No.72, of the 8<sup>th</sup> inst., in which you report that you have not yet been able to forward the Governor's letter to Wiremu Kingi Matakatea. In reply Colonel R. directs me to inform you that he has lately had an opportunity of conversing with Colonel Warre and Lieutenant Clarke, both of whom are strongly of opinion that W. K. Matakatea's defection preceded any serious injury to his feelings and they state themselves to be quite at a loss to account for his conduct, unless he acted under the influence of the native Jeremiah. It seems that Matakatea had been in the Redoubt the evening before defection apparently on the most friendly terms with the garrison and yet when a letter was sent to him for explanation it was rammed into a firelock and fired off in derision. Col. R. cannot vouch for the truth of this, but it is the belief of impartial men, and your statement the account lately given to the Government by Piriki and others is "utterly untrue" shews that the word of Natives is not always to be relied upon.

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From the Governor to Wiremu Kingi Matakatea

My friend, I have heard with very great regret that evil has arisen between you and the Troops because they were not aware that you were a friend and not an enemy of the Government. I lose no time in writing to beg you at once ... the ... of this taken to Mr Parris – whether you are fighting against the Troops or whether the fighting has ceased in any case go at once to Mr Parris. He will tell you what to do. Show this letter, in English, as...

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Letter dated 27 Feb 1866 R. Parris, Civil Commissioner, New Plymouth to the Native Minister, Wellington

Sir, Adverting to my letter of the 22<sup>nd</sup> instant, I was hoping to have been in possession of reliable information respecting the defection of the chief Wiremu Kingi Matakatea, to have enabled me to report fully to the Government by this Mail, but as Ropata Ngarongomati has not returned from Opunaki I must defer it until he arrives. I received a letter from him a few days ago stating that he had not succeeded in obtaining an interview with Wiremu Kingi Matakatea and that it was dangerous to move about in the district, as the rebels were planting ambuscades in all quarters. He intends to come in from Opunake with the detachment of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Light Infantry who are to be relieved by the 50<sup>th</sup> Regiment on arrival from Wanganui. A native who was sent in last Thursday night by Captain Horan with letters, was fired upon at Tipoka, he however escaped and got into Warea.

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Letter dated 26 Feb 1866 Russell to?

[difficult to read]

Inform Mr Parris. In reply to his letters of 17<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February and enclosures my letters of 15<sup>th</sup> instant will have expressed the great regret with which I have heard of the lamentable... that have arisen with respect to the friendly natives in general and to Wiremu Kingi Matakatea in particular. His Excellency the Governor has addressed to them both to Wiremu Kingi Matakatea and to the Officer Commanding at Opunake which I trust may arrest further hostilities as regard of the seizure... and destruction of the property of those who had taken the oath of allegiance. I fear that... have involved themselves in legal difficulties the... of which it is not easy to...

Additional note? The C.C... use no opportunity of... the 8 natives to... the oath of allegiance

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Letter dated 22 Feb 1866 New Plymouth to the Native Minister, Wellington

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Under Secretary's letters of the 15<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> instant conveying instructions to me to enquire into and report upon the losses sustained by certain Natives in the Taranaki district by the action of the Troops. I have already reported the result of those untoward occurrences, which drove as loyal a Native Chief as any in New Zealand from his allegiance to the Government, and will I am very much afraid be the cause of unsettling others, and of prolonging the unhappy struggle likely to become more desperate than ever, which precludes the possibility of my doing anything in the matter at present, as there appears to be no limits to the movements of the Forces, who put their own construction upon places whether friendly or unfriendly, regardless of the remonstrances of Interpreters, or anyone else. The District from Te Ikaroa to Waingongoro a coast line of about 45 miles in which since last June, no one has ever been molested, is now infested with ambuscades, watching no doubt for small parties, to cut them off. A Native who came from Opunaki with letters on the night of the 20<sup>th</sup> inst., passed no less than four rebel encampments, between that place and Warea, without being seen. Two friendly Natives, in attempting to communicate with Wm. King, fell into an ambuscade and were fired upon, when one of their horses was shot dead, and both of them made prisoners. The party composing the ambuscade were Taranakis & Waikatos, and among the latter, was Tapihana. Waikatos proposed to kill them, but Taranakis would not consent, and they were then taken to the bush that their fate may be decided by the Council, and in their deliberations the Waikatos proposed to keep them prisoners, but were opposed by the Taranakis, who afterwards liberated them in the night time, when they returned to Opunaki. I beg to enclose herewith a copy and translation of a letter which I have received from the Chief Wiremu Hukanui, of Te Kauae, and hope before the mail leaves on the 28<sup>th</sup> to be enabled to furnish His Excellency's Government with further particulars respecting this unfortunate occurrence, just at a time when there was every prospect of the whole district north of Waingongoro extending to Mokau, being settled by the end of this month. I have the honor to be Sir, Your most obedient servant, R. Parris, Civil Commissioner.

Te Kauae Pepueri 17 1866

Ehoa & Pareti, Tena koe, ka nui toku aroha atu ki a koe I roto I te mate raua ko te Ora. E hoa tenei ano au to pupuru nei I au kupu I tou taenga mai kit e Kauae nei kaore au e wareware aha koa nui nga pouritanga kaore e ngaro I au. E hoa k otaku matua I au e noho nei Kanara Patara raua ko Kapene, kua tae mai ta raua Haki Kuini kit e Kauae nei heoi tena. E hoa ko nga tangata o te Kauae kua pakaru no tem ahi a te Tinara ki tenei taha o Waingongoro ka pakaru, mei tera taha ano e kore e pakaru ko nga mea I noho hui katoa nga tano nga wahine nga tamariki 33 heoi ano [signed] Na Wiremu Hukanui

Translation

Te Kauae February 17 – 1866. Friend Mr Parris, Salutation, great is my love for you in the midst of life and death. Friend, I am holding fast to your word, when you were at Te Kauae. I shall not forget it although great troubles prevail, it will not be lost by me. Friend Colonel Butler & Captain is a Father (true friend) to me remaining here – Their Flag of the Queen has arrived at Te Kauae, that is all of that. Friend the people of Te Kauae have separated (part have gone over to the rebels) on account of the work of the General on this side of Waingongoro, if it had been

only on the other side, there would have been no separating. Those who remain, all told men women and children are 33 – that is all. [signed]  
from Wiremu Hukanui

Annotation dated 25 Feb 1866 written by W. Rolleston.

It seems impossible to over rate the difficulties and complications which are arising in Taranaki with regard to a letter in the Taranaki Herald signed "Civis" urging hostilities against W. Kingi in the Waitara on the ground that he has not come in to sign the oath of allegiance. I wish to put on record that it was by Mr Fitzgerald's verbal instructions that Mr Parris has not required the Natives to sign the Oath of Allegiance or to give up their arms. I was present during much that passed between Mr Fitzgerald and Mr Parris recent events as ... here and in other letters here & run completely counter to the policy ... & the instructions then given, that Mr Parris's position must now be as unsafe as it is painful and perplexing.

*To the Editor of the Taranaki Herald*

Sir, Can you inform me if William King, of Waitara notoriety, has taken the oath of allegiance to Queen Victoria? I know he took the oath to the rebel native king. If he has acknowledged the supremacy of the Queen, how is it that he has been allowed to locate himself and *hapu* deep in the forest in rear of one of our outposts, under no surveillance, and permitted to hold correspondence with the rebels? If not for us, he must be against us; we can't allow neutrals, particularly of his class – the originator of a war that has desolated this Province for the last six years. Probably the officer commanding this district (Colonel Warre) has been prevented taking any steps in the matter by instructions issued during General Cameron's reign; but these, *if ever issued*, are now set aside by the more imperative instructions of General Chute to all in command – to act vigorously against all rebels, follow them up, and allow them no rest. Had such been the commands issued six years' since, the war would have been over years ago, the province would be now enjoying peace and very many valuable lives saved; but better late than never – thanks to General Chute, who is the right man in the right place, and who will not rest satisfied with half measures, who, report says, informed his staff that he came here to fight and would have nothing to do with politics – being the very opposite course to that pursued by General Cameron. Colonel Warre has now a splendid opportunity to close his New Zealand career and add other laurels to those already gained by the 57<sup>th</sup> Regt., in striking a blow to the rebellion north of Waitara; by so doing he will carry home with him the thanks of a community as ready to acknowledge merit, as to censure when deserved. CIVIS. February 16, 1866.

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Letter dated 17 Feb 1866 R. Parris, Civil Commissioner, New Plymouth to the Native Minister, New Plymouth  
Sir, Adverting to my letter of the... instant, in which I anticipated new difficulties in the Taranaki District, I have now the honor to report for the information of His Excellency's Government that the Forces have been engaged the past week in attacking Wm King Matakatea's places, and burning and destroying his property. The reason assigned for doing it, is said to be because he and his people had gone over to the rebels. I have not heard yet what proof there was of his having done so, but on hearing of the report I sent off Ropata Ngarongomatu to try to communicate with him, and to recommend him to come in and refer his case to the Government. Up to the present time, I have not heard from him, and as they were attacked again on the 15<sup>th</sup>, I am afraid there is but little chance of his being reconciled. In the absence of reliable information respecting this untoward occurrence, I must abstain from making any remarks, further than stating that he was never implicated in this last war and was always proverbial for kindness to European travelers, and since Opunaki has been occupied, he has been very civil to the Detachment stationed there – I enclose herewith a "Taranaki Herald" containing a short article upon the subject, together with a detailed report of the movements of the Troops the past week. Horses are now brought in in large numbers, some of which have been claimed by friendly Natives. I enclose herewith copies of two letters, which I sent to the Auctioneer who was employed to sell the horses, together with his reply. Captain Mace and his men refused to give them up their horses, stating they were authorized by Major General Chute to take any horses they saw. I beg also to enclose copy of a letter from J. Reddy, Interpreter at Opunaki, about the same horses. To show how arbitrarily things are being carried on at the Outposts, I enclose herewith copy of a statement of Mr W. Carrington, Interpreter at Outpost. The Natives there spoken of were three old men who had supplied Guides for Captain Corbett's company and were away with him at the time.

Annotation dated 22 Feb 1866 by E. H. Stafford. For His Excellency the Governor. These papers indicate a state of affairs which if not speedily rectified will lead to serious difficulties. Action seems to have been taken by the Troops against Natives (Wiremu Kingi Matakatea and his people) who have been not only (as far as the Government is aware) abstaining from hostilities against the Government but at least on one occasion – that of the wreck of the 'Lord Worsley' – rendered valuable assistance to Europeans. Kingi had just taken the oath of allegiance and given up some arms in token of his wishing to... at peace with us, but (as is now represented) was ... afterwards led to... hostilities... against him acting, it is said... impression he left his pah which was... troops... a collision has taken place with loss of life – it is most desirable that an explanation should... and that hostilities, for which...the Government is not aware that there was any necessity, should not continue. It is believed that if His Excellency could visit the locality promptly it would be attended with many advantages the more so... to the very inconvenient distance of Head Quarters of the General Commanding from the seat of Government, it would be difficult to... effectually by means of correspondence, or... to arrive at an accurate knowledge of facts, including the instructions given by the General to Officers commanding the Forces the nature of instructions has... been communicated to the Government.

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Letter dated 13 Feb 1866 R. Parris, Civil Commissioner, New Plymouth to J. C. Sharland Esq., Auctioneer &c, New Plymouth  
Sir, I have the honor to inform you that two Natives named Heta and Hona came to my Office this morning, to prefer a claim to eight horses, which they informed me they saw in your enclosure by the South road this morning, and supposing that these are some of the horses you have advertised for sale tomorrow, the duty devolves upon me of informing you that the person or persons who have put the horses claimed by Heta and Hona into your possession for sale, will be held liable for them, until otherwise decided in a Court of Justice.

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Letter dated 16 Feb 1866 R. Parris, Civil Commissioner, New Plymouth to J. C. Sharland, Esq., Auctioneer &c, New Plymouth  
Sir, Adverting to my letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> instant, I have now the honor to request that you will furnish me with the name or names of the person or persons who instructed you to offer for sale at Auction, the horses referred to, and which were claimed by certain Natives on the day of the sale.

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Letter dated 17 Feb 1866 J. C. Sharland, New Plymouth to R. Parris, Civil Commissioner, New Plymouth  
Sir, In reply to your letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> ult, I have to inform you that I was instructed by the Mounted Corps of this place to sell some horses brought in by them, and I accordingly sold such as they indicated were for sale. With reference to those horses which you stated in your letter were claimed by Natives, I did not sell them, nor can I give you any information relative to their disposal.

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Letter dated 13 Feb 1866 John Reddy, Interpreter, Camp Opunaki to R. Parris, Civil Commissioner, New Plymouth  
Sir, I beg to report for your information that some horses were captured from the friendly Natives on or about 11<sup>th</sup> instant by Captain Mace and some of the Mounted Corps, on their way from Wanganui to this Post, and several of the horses being claimed by the Natives, I at once acquainted the Officer Commanding here, Captain Livesay, 43<sup>rd</sup> Light Infantry, with the circumstances who took steps to arrange with Captain Mace that the horses were to be given up to the Natives. The horses having been taken to Town, I have thought it my duty in obedience to your orders to forward you the particulars for your decision. I have also desired the Natives to forward you the full description and marks of the horses they lay claim to.

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Copy of Mr W. Carrington's (Interpreter) Statement

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> instant some Natives came to Stoney River camp to sell their peaches. Captain Horan sent for me, and told me to tell them that he wanted them as Guides, to point out an Inland track, as he suspected there were some rebels plantations and perhaps more rebels in that neighbourhood, he likewise told me to say to them, that if they did not go willingly, he would confine them and make them go by force, that the General had given him orders to destroy all the rebel places, and he was to make use of the friendly Natives as he liked. I asked him about pay & rations for them, when he said they would get neither, but that he would let one of them go back to their village and get food for them all. I told him if he would let them all go back to their place, I would be answerable for their return when he wanted them, to which he agreed. Before the Natives went back they told me that one of the Officers from Warea had been to their place and said to them if they did not find Guides to shew them all the tracks and cultivations they (the soldiers) would burn all their places down they said, we came here to complain about it, but now from what Captain Horan had said we are certain there is a great change for the work towards us – however we have written in to Mr Parris about it – they then went to their own place, after telling Captain Horan that there was nothing on the track he wanted to go, except some cultivations of their own. On Thursday morning (the 8<sup>th</sup>) the Natives (Porana Rewiti & Te Rei) came back to Stoney river camp. Captain Horan sent for me, and desired me to tell them that “he was not going today” but should start “tomorrow morning” at ½ past 3 o'clock, and that they were to remain in camp. As the Natives told me they had no food at their kainga to bring with them, I spoke to Captain Horan again about rations, when he said he would not order any, if he did he should have to pay for them, but he would speak to the Issuer, and see if he could get them something. The Issuer gave them some broken biscuits, and nothing more. I bought them some sugar myself at the canteen, and gave them all the tobacco I had, the Natives were then told they could make use of the Orderly room tent to sleep in. They protested very strongly against being made to work without pay or rations. I told Captain Horan I considered he had no more right to force these Natives to work without pay or rations than he had to take any laboring men from the Omata block, that they were British Subjects, had signed the Oath of Allegiance upwards of a year ago, and were placed in their present abode by the Government. He again quoted the General, and said he was determined to carry out what he had stated previously.

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