

Opunake Rifle Volunteers 1882
Archives NZ Reference ARM41 26 1883/3d

Statement of charges against the Capitation due to Opunake Rifle Volunteers for the year ending 31st December 1881
29 Nov 1881 One pair Danbeny boots 13s 6d; 40 yards Hassar Braid 15s; 82 Jumpers £49 4s; 82 Trowsers £32 16s; 81 Caps Glengarry £8 2s...

This Corps was supplied with uniforms from A. C. Stores which must be deducted £94 12s

Nominal Roll of Persons serving in the Opunake Rifle Volunteers who are entitled to Capitation

Rank	Name	Enrolled	Inspections	Parades	Capitation
Captain	Martin F. Coffey	27 Sep 1881	3	23	£1
Lieutenant	John J. Ross	27 Sep 1881	3	24	£1
Lieutenant	Alfred H. Middleton	27 Sep 1881	2	15	£2
Color Sergeant	Abraham Stott	27 Sep 1881	3	26	£1
Sergeant	David McSweeney	27 Sep 1881	3	21	£1
Sergeant	John Peacock	27 Sep 1881	3	23	£1
Sergeant	Luther Wiley	27 Sep 1881	2	12	£2
Sergeant	James Higgins	27 Sep 1881	3	15	£1
Corporal	John Knobbs	27 Sep 1881	-	4	-
Corporal	Carl G. Sander	27 Sep 1881	3	17	£1
Corporal	Charles E. Middleton	27 Sep 1881	2	16	£2
Corporal	Michael Stevenson	27 Sep 1881	2	10	£1
Corporal	William Vincent	27 Sep 1881	3	17	£1
Volunteer	Edward J. Allen	27 Sep 1881	3	14	£1
Volunteer	Alexander Anderson	27 Sep 1881	3	19	£1
Volunteer	William Aiken	27 Sep 1881	2	10	£2
Volunteer	Robert Boyne	27 Sep 1881	2	10	£2
Volunteer	Benjamin Blight	27 Sep 1881	1	13	£2
Volunteer	Edward W. Brothers	04 Nov 1881	2	7	£2
Volunteer	Matthew Clough	27 Sep 1881	2	10	£2
Volunteer	Albert Coster	04 Nov 1881	2	13	£2

Rank	Name	Enrolled	Inspections	Parades	Capitation
Volunteer	James Coster	27 Sep 1881	3	17	£1
Volunteer	George Corbett	29 Oct 1881	2	5	£2
Volunteer	Charles Collins	27 Sep 1881	3	12	£1
Volunteer	William Cruickshank	27 Sep 1881	3	8	-
Volunteer	James Connolly	12 Oct 1881	3	6	£1
Volunteer	Edward Carroll	29 Oct 1881	2	2	£1
Volunteer	Samuel Clark	21 Oct 1881	3	12	£1
Volunteer	Archibald Campbell	25 Oct 1881	2	7	£2
Volunteer	Frank Des Forges	05 Nov 1881	2	3	-
Volunteer	Patrick Dominick	27 Sep 1881	3	22	£1
Volunteer	John Dick	19 Oct 1881	3	4	£1
Volunteer	Thomas Foster	27 Sep 1881	2	14	£2
Volunteer	William H. Foster	11 Oct 1881	2	10	£2
Volunteer	Joseph Foley	27 Sep 1881	3	17	£1
Volunteer	James Goodwin	30 Sep 1881	2	4	£2
Volunteer	William Goodwin	27 Sep 1881	3	11	£1
Volunteer	James Harrison	27 Sep 1881	3	16	£1
Volunteer	James Hamilton	25 Oct 1881	2	8	£2
Volunteer	Alfred Hannett	27 Sep 1881	2	19	£2
Volunteer	Aubrey Harvey	27 Sep 1881	2	12	£2
Volunteer	John Hill	27 Sep 1881	1	10	£1
Volunteer	Henry Hockey	27 Sep 1881	2	11	£2
Volunteer	Benjamin Johnson	27 Sep 1881	3	9	£1
Volunteer	William Jones	27 Sep 1881	3	16	£1
Volunteer	Vaughan W. Kirkby	27 Sep 1881	3	9	£1
Volunteer	Charles Lepine	27 Sep 1881	2	12	£2
Volunteer	Edwin Lowe	14 Nov 1881	-	1	-
Volunteer	William Livingstone	14 Nov 1881	1	6	-
Volunteer	William Matthews	14 Nov 1881	1	7	-
Volunteer	John Maysmor	14 Nov 1881	1	5	-
Volunteer	Walter W. Middleton	27 Sep 1881	2	6	£2
Volunteer	Edward J. McKenzie	04 Nov 1881	1	3	£1
Volunteer	R. McPhunn	27 Sep 1881	2	18	£2

Rank	Name	Enrolled	Inspections	Parades	Capitation
Volunteer	William McLeod	27 Sep 1881	2	11	£2
Volunteer	Alexander Melrose	28 Sep 1881	-	4	-
Volunteer	William Moore	12 Sep 1881	2	7	£2
Volunteer	John H. Newman	27 Sep 1881	2	10	£2
Volunteer	George O'Connor	27 Sep 1881	2	12	£2
Volunteer	Frederick Ottaway	27 Sep 1881	3	12	£1
Volunteer	John Pender	28 Sep 1881	1	9	£1
Volunteer	William Price	04 Sep 1881	2	13	£2
Volunteer	William Pilkington	25 Sep 1881	2	5	£1
Volunteer	George Rundle	27 Sep 1881	1	13	£1
Volunteer	Richard Rundle	21 Oct 1881	2	13	£2
Volunteer	Matiu Rona	21 Oct 1881	2	12	£2
Volunteer	John Stewart	27 Sep 1881	3	21	£1
Volunteer	Alfred Stevenson	27 Sep 1881	1	7	£1
Volunteer	Archibald Slade	03 Nov 1881	1	4	-
Volunteer	Walter Staite	27 Sep 1881	2	10	£2
Volunteer	James Smith	27 Sep 1881	1	11	£1
Volunteer	John Smith	27 Sep 1881	3	12	£1
Volunteer	Louis Smith	22 Oct 1881	2	7	£2
Volunteer	William Shearer	27 Sep 1881	-	7	-
Volunteer	Henry Shirley	20 Oct 1881	2	3	£2
Volunteer	David Souter	27 Oct 1881	1	5	£1
Volunteer	Henry Taylor	27 Sep 1881	1	1	-
Volunteer	John Tait	27 Sep 1881	1	-	-
Volunteer	George Tucker	27 Sep 1881	3	14	£1
Volunteer	Frederick Thomas	11 Oct 1881	1	3	-
Volunteer	Robert Whebbley	27 Sep 1881	1	13	£2
Volunteer	Carl Whacrow	27 Sep 1881	3	19	£1
Volunteer	Thomas Wakefield	27 Sep 1881	3	14	£1
Volunteer	Henry Wallin	27 Sep 1881	2	11	£2
Volunteer	Joseph Williams	27 Sep 1881	3	12	£1
Volunteer	John Young	27 Sep 1881	2	19	£2

12 Jan 1882 From Martin F. Coffey, Captain commanding Opunake Rifle Volunteers, Opunake Volunteer Office

Sir, I have the honor to submit the enclosed capitation returns for your most favourable recommendation and approval of the head of the Department. According to the "Act" I do not think that the number of Parades shown entitle us to full Capitation; but taking into consideration the very great personal inconvenience and pecuniary loss which the Corps necessarily has been subjected to since its organisation, together with that loyal spirit in which the Opunake Rifles Voluntarily came forward and tendered their services, at a momentous time may induce the Government making the concession sought for. With a view of keeping up the "Esprit de Corps" and securing the services of a body of men (many of whom have already shared the hardships of New Zealand warfare) I again appeal to you for the full Capitation. In conclusion Sir if Major Stapp will be seen from the Returns now before you that the Corps has endeavoured to become proficient and am happy to say with a few exceptions their knowledge of Drill (particularly skirmishing) is good, (which I trust you will endorse) & which in itself should favourable commence towards obtaining the Capitation.

01 Feb 1882 From Major Stapp commanding Volunteer District, Militia & Volunteer Office to Under Secretary of Defence

Sir, I have the honor to forward and recommend for the favourable consideration of the Hon the Defence Minister, that I am of opinion that it would be desirable to sanction the Amount of Capitation claimed, it will be seen that the Corps attended a large number of Company parades to make themselves efficient. Captain Coffey applied to me (when to late in the Year) to hold 3 Inspection Consecutive days Drill, the Opunaki settlers came forward very willingly – they received a Uniform from A. C. Stores which will have to be deducted.

06 Feb 1882 From Major Stapp, New Plymouth – Subject: Capitation Roll, Opunake Rifles – recommends full rate be granted

Hon Major Atkinson, In this Corps – Opunake Rifles – only 29 men are entitled to half capitation but full rate is applied for 63 members and half rate for 11. I do not recommend the payment of capitation as claimed.

15 Apr 1882 I approve of usual rate and nothing more – John Bryce

12 Jun 1882 From Major Stapp, New Plymouth – Subject: Further re petition of Opunake Rifles that their uniform be a free issue
Sir, I have the honor to state in reply to letter No.321 of 06 Jun 1882, I regret that I did not state more clear what I meant to infer relative to Waimate Capitation allowance, in fact it was the complaint of the Opunake Corps, that the Waimate rifle Vols had got their Uniforms free and a credit balance, whilst their Corps was in Debt. I explained to Captain Coffey that the Waimate rifle Vols, did a certain number of Inspection Parades, to entitle them to capitation allowance which paid for the Uniforms of the Corps, and also had earned a small balance, it is hard to make the Corps understand how this occurred, as they were enrolled at the same time, and were willing to attend any Parades ordered, the fact is Captain O'Brien found out that the Waimate mounted rifles, and I believe Hawera rifles were doing the number of Parades Inspection to entitle them to Full Capitation, consequently he held Consecutive Inspection Parades under Drill Instruction Sergeant Thompson. Captain Coffey did not do so, consequently the Corps consider they are the innocent sufferers, under all the circumstances if the Corps is relieved of the Debt it would be tantamount to receiving the Uniforms for the Corps free, and would remove a great sore if the Hon the Defence Minister will make this concession it will give great satisfaction, not only to the Corps, but Opunaki settlers generally, some of whom have signed the petition, which I pointed out to Captain Coffey was irregular, but he wished it sent as it was.

01 Jun 1882 From Major Stapp, commanding the District, Militia & Volunteer Office
Sir, I have the honor (at the particular request of Captain Coffy Commanding Opunaki rifle Volunteers) to forward the enclosed petition for the favourable consideration of the Hon the Defence Minister, in doing so I would beg to state that although they did not attend strictly the number of Inspection Parades, the attended well at Drills and Company Parades which their Capitation return will shew, they made themselves as efficient or more so than the Waimate rifle Volunteers. I would strongly recommend that the Debt be remitted, so that they receive the Uniform Free, Waimate rifles have their Uniform Free and a credit balance. I should like to see if it possibly can be done both Corps served alike, I know the Opunaki settlers were prepared to build a redoubt or anything other duty that might have be required from them.

Petition

The humble Petition of the Settlers of Opunake sheweith:

[1] That it is with Sincere regret we have received the very discouraging intelligence that Your Defence Office has decided in charging the Opunake Rifle Volunteers with the Uniform issued them which each and every member of the Corps considered a Free Issue.

[2] That Your Petitioners in this case with confidence appeal to your sense of Justice and impartiality and towards maintaining the Peace (which for the first time has been so successfully established) fervently trust that the Opunake men will at four hands receive a little encouragement with a view of endeavouring to hold the Position You have achieved.

[3] That further we would most respectfully call your attention to the fact that the Opunake Rifles came forward "Voluntarily" offering you their services during impending difficulties and the suppression of the Native difficulty on this Coast.

[4] That the foregoing together with the very great personal inconvenience and loss of time which the Opunake Rifle Vols have unavoidably suffered during operations against Parihaka we fervently hope you will take into your favourable consideration granting them the Uniform as a "Free Issue" therefore averting what would be termed a calamity – the disorganisation of your Vols on the Coast.

Should the Hon J. Bryce accede to our Petition we shall as in duty bound every pray. We beg to subscribe ourselves Sir, your most humble servants

Abraham Stott, Edward... McKenzie, William Goodwin, John Coffey bootmaker, Albert Coster, C..., J. Hogwood, M. Stevenson, John Currie, James..., B... Lambert, ...Vaughan Kirkby, Walter..., H. Newman, William Burnett, S. Prosser, William Jones, William Shearer, Patrick Donovan, Henry Taylor, James Kearny, J. Clare, W. C. Alexander M.B. (M. Assistant Surgeon Opunake Rifles), T. Appleby, J. Garrock, William Dor..., John Johnston, W. A. Vincent, Matthew Clough, Walter Staite, Francis Des Forges, G. Sander, Daniel McSweeney, John Peacock, Edward J. Allen, R. Boyne, S... Henwood, Walter Manne, Martin F. Coffey, Richard..., G. W. Smith, Chris Rowlands, John Benden, T. Peacock, Alex. Anderson, Luther Wiley, J. Watkins, Charles Hicky, R. Seagor, James Neal