

Hutt Militia Journal 16 May to 31 May 1846

Archives NZ Reference ACFP 8217 NM8/10 1846/277

This transcript is of a copy forwarded to the Superintendent of the Southern Division by Arthur Edward MacDonogh, Commanding Hutt District.

Sir, I do myself the honor to transmit you, a copy of the journal of my proceedings during the past month.

Taita 16th May 1846

Arrived at the station at half past five p.m. where I found Ensign Turnbull in command of one Sergeant and twenty seven rank and file. The rebels had made an attack upon the post at half past 8 a.m. They fired twelve or fourteen shots but without effect and on the fire being sharply returned they retreated. A Sergeant and twelve men of the armed police having effected a junction with the Militia four of each force made a sally against the rebels whom they forced to fly from the neighbouring houses leaving all the booty they had collected behind them. The women and children of the settlement (forty in number) had taken refuge within the building early in the morning on hearing the firing from the Camp. Finding that there was no room and that there was still danger to apprehend if they remained here I escorted them to the Stockade at the bridge, and reported the circumstance to Major Last, 99th Regiment, the Officer in command of the district. He informed me that he was unable to accommodate them, I therefore placed them under the care of Mr Burcham of the "Aglionby Arms" and returned to the Taita at half past 12 a.m.

May 17th

The whole detachment under arms at half past 4 until daylight. Parade at 11 a.m. when I informed the men of the necessity of placing ourselves in a better state of defence, they all readily volunteered to work and I forthwith commenced a Stockade round the building.

18th

Detachment under arms at 4 a.m. until sunrise. Guard mounting at half past 7 a.m. Remainder of the day spent in working at the Stockade.

19th

Under arms at 4 a.m. At sunrise scoured the clearing and the skirts of the forest with the guard and inlying picquet, the remainder of the day working at the Stockade.

20th

Under arms at 4 a.m. until sunrise. Sent out Ensign Turnbull to scour the clearing with the guard and picket.

21st

Under arms at 4 a.m. until sunrise. At 9 a.m. proceeded to Wellington to see His Honor the Superintendent. Returned to the station at 5 p.m.

22nd

Under arms at 4 a.m. until sunrise, remainder of the day working at the Stockade.

23rd

Under arms at 4 a.m. until sunrise. At 9 a.m. sent Ensign Turnbull, one sergeant and twelve rank and file to the Camp for ball cartridges. Parade at 12 p.m. for inspection of arms. This being the Queen's Birthday we gave three cheers, and I ordered the men an extra glass of spirits. At half past 4 p.m. Ensign Turnbull returned with his party bringing 420 rounds of Ball cartridge.

25th

Under arms at 4 a.m. At daylight we perceived the fires of the rebels in a valley about a mile and a half from the station, they continued burning the whole of the day, the rebels were heard by our sentries during the night.

26th

Under arms at 4 a.m. until daylight. At 9 a.m. I proceeded to the Stockade with a party of twelve rank and file and brought up 500 rounds of ball cartridge.

27th

At 3 a.m. a native being seen by two of our sentries in front of our stockade they both fired at him at which I turned out the whole detachment and remained under arms until daylight. No provisions having arrived the previous day I purchased a pig from one of the settlers and caused it to be killed for the use of the detachment.

28th

Under arms at 4 a.m. until daylight. At half past 9 a.m. sent a Sergeant and twelve men to the Camp for ammunition. They returned at 4 p.m. bringing 500 rounds. The Stockade finished today.

29th

Under arms at 4 a.m. until daylight. Sent an escort consisting of one Sergeant and twelve rank and file to the Camp for rations. They returned at 4 p.m.

30th

Under arms at 4 a.m. until daylight. Proceeded to the Camp with a party for rations.

31st

Under arms at 4 a.m. until daylight. Sent a party to the Camp for rations. Parade at 11 a.m. for muster.
