

Boulcott's Farm – Report by Lieutenant George Hyde Page

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(copy)

Camp River Hutt May 16th 1846

Sir, I have the honour to state that about half an hour before daylight this morning, the Sentry in front of where the Inlying Piquet was posted, observed several Maories creeping towards him. He fired, when immediately a heavy rush was made from all parts of the surrounding wood. The Piquet was overpowered in an instant. The Maories then surrounded the outhouses occupied by part of the Troops, at the same time keeping up a heavy fire. Sergeant Norton here succeeded in checking them with a few men who got out of the houses. I rushed from the back part of my house with two servants but we were driven back directly. We sallied forth again and with a few men who joined up, made our way at last to the barn round which I had made a small stockade occupied by half my force (twenty five). On arriving there I advanced in extended order with as many more of the Men as I could in all safety take from the Stockade, and drove the enemy across the river. They then plundered a house belonging to a settler of the name of McHardy. From the darkness we were unable to judge accurately of their numbers, from those we saw, and the War dance they had afterwards I should suppose there were about two hundred. I feel convinced that but for the alertness of all in turning out and the determination of the Men, we should all have fallen. The Enemy were so completely superior in numbers and having the advantage of knowing the ground and watching us for some time before the alarm was given. It was impossible to remain in the outhouses, as none of them could resist a bullet in the slightest degree. I am sorry to say our loss has been severe for the number of men engaged. Several of the Enemy were killed but carried away by others directly they fell. I have the honor to be Your Obedient Servant, Signed G. Hyde Page, Lieutenant 58th Regiment.

Doctor Turnbull of the Wellington Militia who happened to be in the neighbourhood arrived about two hours after with some Volunteers. He also rendered every assistance in his power to the wounded men till the arrival of Doctor Galbraith from Wellington. I have the honour Signed G.H.P.

I beg to enclose a list of the killed and wounded.

Killed	L.Corpl James Dockerell Pte William Allan Pte Robert Brett Pte Thomas Bolt Pte J. McFadden Pte T. Sonham
Wounded	Lance Sergt Edwd Ingram Pte Patk. Bevan Pte Thomas Taylor Pte John Ward