

Hutt Company of Militia
Archives NZ Reference ACFP 8217 NM8/9 1846/261

Letter written by A. E. MacDonogh, Adjutant at Tai Tai 20 May 1846 to His Honor the Superintendent of the Southern Division of New Zealand

Sir, I do myself the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant covering an authority issued by your Honor for calling out a portion of the Militia of the District, together with a form of notice for me to serve, in the event of Volunteers not coming forward, so as to enable me forthwith to make up my Company to Fifty.

In reply to your communication, I beg leave to state that many of the old hands of the Company having joined me since Saturday last my strength now consists of forty-one, exclusive of a Sergeant and twelve men of the armed police and as your Honor has kindly granted me permission to retain the latter force, until my number is rendered sufficient to enable me to dispense with their services. I shall for the present avail myself of your indulgence as I consider the importance of this post to be such that its possible not a single inexperienced man should be intrusted with any portion of the harassing duty we are at all hours liable to be called upon to perform.

I am happy to say that I have perfect confidence in all the men now under my command, and I feel convinced that under all circumstances a more soldierly and orderly party are rarely met with.

Since Sunday morning last I have been enabled from their willingness to erect a stockade of "Totara" perfectly ball proof and eight feet six inches high around the Buildings we now occupy; this considering that the men have scarcely an hours rest at a time and never take off their accoutrements except to work, is I think sufficient proof of that which I have advanced in their favour.