

COMPLETED

Opotiki Oct 25th 1865

Cavalry } 2 officers 3 Regt 24 Rank & file
 No 4 } 3 Officer 3 Regt 35 Rank & file
 No 5 } 3 Officer 4 Regt 54 Rank & file
 No 6 & 7 } 1 Major 2 Regt 100 Officer 5 Regt 76 Rank & file

Sir

I have the honor to report that in consequence of information received by me from the Uriveras tribe relating to Kereopa and obtaining your permission I started force as per margin for Ohiva for the purpose of surprising Kereopa and his band proceeded along the coast until reaching the Ohiva River when we turned inland keeping the river edge and succeeded in finding a Cause with which we crossed but not until nearly 2 o'clock in the morning we then camped until day break shortly after sunrise next morning we marched inland over some very rough country after twelve or thirteen miles march we were met by a native named in the margin who informed us that Kereopa was close by about three miles off and had twelve men with him beside the seven wretches who always accompany him acting upon this report I moved up my force close by giving orders for the men to keep close but

To Major Stapp Com^d
 Expeditionary Force Opotiki

Not being quite sure that Keropa was at this village Hoings I left Capt Newland with his own Company 30 men of Capt Ross's Company and 30 men of the M.C. with instructions to lie close and not to fire until they heard the report of our guns and then go in at them unless the natives appeared to scent mischief in which case to use his own judgement I then marched to a place a mile further on firing was now heard by us in the direction from which we had come so we crossed the river that ran deep and swift between two ranges of wooded hills and had hardly gone two hundred yards when we met Keropa and his band of seven who had also heard the firing and were running away they fired off their pieces at us which was returned immediately by the Rangers and M.C. after a few seconds fight in the scrub and brush we killed four and as Keropa was the first man seen to fall I have reason to believe he is severely wounded we took five guns eight Cartouch Boxes and about 30 pounds of powder in a cask Capt Newland meanwhile had not been idle but had taken the village killing 1 man

Huni Watka

Mohi Tautara +
 Hauika
 Gue te Hui
 Haratia

Hopa

name as per margin and taking two prisoners one of whom was severely wounded

I have the honor to attach his report

The manner in which my orders were carried out by Officers and men is beyond all praise not a match was lighted and not a summer heard from any one and there might have been cause for it for the men had only had a little biscuit since they started from Opatiki. Sleep they had had none at all how the force went through the work they did surprise

Hereopa hearing of our approach should
 escape I sent the native who acted a
 guide to a Chief of the Wivera named
 Rakuraku and desiring him to come in
 to see me which he did. Rakuraku
 informed me that Wepiha had told
 them the terms I had offered to the Wiveras
 on the 11th Inst at Kopioio and that he
 and some others would have shot Hereopa
 but that Wepiha forbade them in my name
 to do so. he then asked me to go with him
 to another village half a mile further on
 when he promised to get me guides who
 would lead me ^{to} where Hereopa was, If I would
 trust myself with him, and saw the
 men he spoke of them, "Yauaki" was in the
 Pa attacked by us on the 5th Inst - the
 other "Pene" was among the men charged
 by the Cavalry on the same day - and was
 the man who wounded the Trooper in the
 foot - I then returned to where the men were
 camped and after dark marched to the
 village Te Ihu o te Ata - leaving the Cavalry
 and 30 men A.C. to take charge of the
 ammunition and keep our rear open -
 we started at 2 o'clock the next morning
 for the forest to get in rear of Hereopas
 village name in the margin the two Hoingō
 men before mentioned acting as guides -
 after going over a most difficult and
 dangerous road we reached the edge
 of the forest just as day broke we scrambled
 on over bush hills without any tracks
 until we came to the top of a rise when
 we heard the Haupaus going through their
 morning devotions - they being at that time
 only three hundred yards from us the guides

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Sumi

Moko
 Lene
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not to speak of the cheerful manner in which it was done

We returned by a short cut to our camp at the village Se Ihu o te Ata and I took upon myself to release the two prisoners one of whom has since started with thirty men of the Uriwera to seek for Keropea should they find him I believe they are going to cut his head off and bring it in

I wish especially to bring the conduct of the two guides Pene and Tawaki and of Rakuraku chief of the Uriwera and Hemi Kapehu to the notice of the Governor had those men not given us the assistance they did the expedition would have failed and I strongly recommend that some notice of most reward be made to them by Government for their services on this and other occasions. The men being totally without provisions I deemed it my duty to get some cattle from Rakuraku for which he did not ask but I promised him he should be paid for ~~them~~ he supplied us with potatoes for the men for which he would take ^{no} payment. The whole of the force started to return on the 24th Inst and reached this place on this evening

I have the honor to remain
your most ^{devoted} obedient servant

Major
Comdr R. C.

Opotiki Oct 25th 1865

Sir

I have the honor to report that in consequence of information received by me from the Uriweras Tribe relating to Kereopa And obtaining your permission I started force as per margin for Ohiwa for the purpose of surprising Kereopa and his band proceeded along the coast until reaching the Ohiwa River when we turned inland keeping the rivers edge and succeeded in finding a Canoe with which we crossed but not until nearly 2 o'clock in the morning we then camped until daybreak Shortly after sunrise next morning we marched inland over some very rough country After twelve or thirteen miles march we were met by a native named in the margin who informed us that Kereopa was close by about three miles off and had twelve men with him besides the seven wretches who always accompany him Acting upon this report I moved up my force close by giving orders for the men to keep close lest Kereopa hearing of our approach should escape I sent the native who acted as guide to a chief of the Uriwera named Rakuraku and desiring him to come in to see me which he did Rakuraku informed me that Wepiha had told them the terms I had offered to the Uriweras on the 11th inst at Kapiopio and that he and some others would have shot Kereopa but that Wepiha found

No 4
No 5
No 6 & 7
3 officers 3 Sermts 35 Rank & File
3 officers 4 Sermts 54 Rank & File
1 Major 2 European officers 5 native officers 6 Sermts 76 Rank & File

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them in my name to do so. He then asked me to go with him to another village half a mile further on where he promised to get me guides who would lead me to where Kereopa was, If I would trust myself with him, and saw the men he spoke of them, "Tauaki" was in the Pa attacked by us on the 5th inst the other "Pene" was among the men charged by the cavalry on the same day, and was the man who wounded the Trooper in the foot. I then returned to where the men were camped and after dark marched to the Village Te Ihu o te Ata - leaving the cavalry and 30 men N.C. to take charge of the ammunition and keep our rear open we started at 2 o'clock the next morning for the Forest to get in rear of Kereopas village name in the margin the two men before mentioned acting as guides. After going over a most difficult and dangerous road we reached the edge of the Forest just as day broke we scrambled on over bush hills without any track until we came to the top of a rise when we heard the Hauhaus going through their morning devotions - they being at that time only three hundred yards from us the guides not being quite sure that Kereopa was at this Village Koingo I left Capt Newall with his own Company 30 men of Capt Rosses Company and 30 men of the N.C. with instructions to lie close and not to fire until they heard the report of our guns and then go in at them unless the natives appeared to scent mischief in which case to use own judgement I then marched to a mile further on firing was now heard by us in the direction of the Pa which we had

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come so we crossed the river that ran deep and swift between two ranges of wooded hills and had hardly gone two hundred yards when we met Kereopa and his band of seven who had also heard the firing and were running away they fired off their pieces at us which was returned simultaneously by the Rangers and N.C. after a few seconds fight in the scrub and Bush we killed four and as Kereopa was the first man seen to fall I have reason to believe he is severely wounded we took five guns eight Cartouch Boxes and about 30 pounds of powder in a cask Capt Newland meanwhile had not been idle but had taken the village killing 1 man name as per margin and taking two prisoners one of whom was severely wounded.

hi Tatar
Kaneka

te Kai
Haratia

Hopa

I have the honor to attach his report.

The manner in which my orders were carried out by officers and men is beyond all praise not a match was lighted and not a murmur heard from any one and there might have been cause for it for the men had only had a little biscuit since they started from Opotiki. Sleep they had had none at all how the force went through the work they did surprised (me) not to speak of the cheerful manner in which it was done.

We returned by a short cut to our camp at the village Te Ihu o te Ata and I took upon myself to release the two prisoners one of whom has since started with thirty men of the Uriwera to seek for Kereopa ^{Copies are supplied only to facilitate private study and may not be reproduced without the permission of:} and may find him I believe they are going to cut his head off and bring it in

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I wish especially to bring the conduct of the two Guides Pene and Tauaki and of Rakuraku chief of the Uriweras and Hemi Kaketu to the notice of the Governor had those men not given us the assistance they did the expedition would have failed and I strongly recommend that some notice if not reward be made to them by Government for their services on this and other occasions. The men being totally without provisions I deemed it my duty to get some cattle from Rakuraku for which he did not ask but I promised him he should be paid for them he supplied us with potatoes for the men for which he would take no payment - the whole of the force started to return on the 24th inst and reached this station this evening

I have the honor to remain

Sir

Your most obedient servant

(Unsigned)

Major

Commdr. N.C.

To Major Stapp Comdg.
Expeditionary Force Opotiki

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No 748
2

Colonel James O'Brien,
Wellington, 30 Dec 1855

Sir,

80547

I have the honor, by
direction of the Hon^{ble} the Defence
Committee, to enclose to you the
copy of a letter of thanks, which
was addressed to the Officer
commanding at Opotiki, on
the occasion of the engagement
with the Maori forces on the 5th October
(but which it appears had not reached you before you left);
and I ~~am~~^{am} to request you to
communicate the contents of

Major W. Downall
Commanding Contingent
Wairarapa

The

Colonial Defence Office,

No. 748
2

Wellington, 30th Novr. 1865

Sir,

I have the honor, by direction of the Honble. the Defence Minister, to enclose to you the copy of a letter of thanks, which was addressed to the Officer commanding at Opotiki, on the occasion of the engagement with the Hauhaus on the 5th October (but which it appears had not reached Opotiki before you left;) and I am therefore to request you to communicate the contents of the said letter to the men of the Native Contingent under your command, who took part in the fight.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant,

For? ✓
Captain

Under-Secretary

Major McDonnell

Comd Native Contingent

Wanganui

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