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Exerts from the letters of C.S. Volkner 1864

Opotiki February 16 1864

Sir, As there is no government agent in my district to inform you of the movements of the natives here, I think I should be wanting in my duty to you if I did not make known to you what happens around me relating to the present disturbed state of the natives. But as I have reason to fear that it would interfere with my future usefulness in the cause in which I am engaged if it were publically known that I gave such information to you, I therefore humbly but earnestly request your excellency to receive my accompanying letters as private communications to yourself, and not publish my name or abode with any information you wish to make use of. My brother-in-law, Reverent T. Lenfear, had some unpleasantness with his natives because his name was published with some information he gave respecting them. And I know that, besides the people who sailed in the coasting vessels, there are agents among the natives who snatch up everything that can be turned against English missionaries, and use every opportunity to raise the natives' suspicion against us.

I am, Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

C. S. Volkner

Exerts from the letters of C.S. Volkner 1864

Opotiki, February 26, 1864.

Sir, All the people here, except two, have now declared themselves in favour of the war against Government, profess great sympathy with Waikato, and hatred against Europeans.

I am sorry to have to state that I think that they are now ready to do anything to promote the bad cause they recklessly espoused. The emissaries of Waikato and Ngatiporou arrive here almost daily, and secret running's attended by selected persons only, are held constantly.

All the roads to the west from here are again stopped against the take "Keriu" and all Europeans. They have sold their vessels to Europeans, one of them, the Rahape, ^{two} are Portuguese, with the understanding that he is to sail her between this place and Auckland. The Hira and the Susan are the others they have sold. They will sail from here, manned with natives from this place. Besides these sailors, I hear there is a native woman of bad character going up in one of the vessels to stay in Auckland.

Whilst I write this, is a party of twenty men from Kawhia have come here on their way to the east to get powder. This is the third party from Kawhia who have come through here for that purpose during the last six months.

It is my humble opinion that it would be advisable strictly to blockade, if not the whole coast of the Bay of Plenty, at least places like this where they are so unanimous in their opposition to Government and have no assessor.

Your Excellency will find some of my letters long after date. The reason is that for the last two months I have been unable to send either by land or by sea, for no one would move. I wrote to Mr Smith, Civil Commissioner at Maketu, by opportunity, informing him there were letters here for you. I fear my letter did not reach him as he has never sent for the letters. From the letters of the native assessors you will see that they are "Kati" as well as ourselves, so we would have no communication with them.

(this letter is unsigned)

Extract from Notes – Note 2

page 27. An expedition set off again a month later. It came into conflict with the Arawas on the eastern shores of Lake Rotoiti on 7, 8 and 9 April, 1864 having travelled in land from Otamarakau. Being repulsed, the invaders retreated back to Otamarakua where they received reinforcements and marched on to Maketu. Here again they were beaten off by Arawa and forced to retire.

Fighting a rear-guard action along the beach from Otamarakau to Matata they were finally dispersed into the Rangitaiki Swamp on 28 April and retreated along the Orini Stream in the direction of Whakatane. This day-long engagement was known as the battle of Kaokaoroa ("Long Rib"). The spot where the final stand was made was near the pua-kowhai stream, about two miles west of Matata. Hakaraia was the chief who sued for peace at the lake Rotoiti engagement in order that the Tai-Rawhiti invaders might retire to Otamarakau, there to reopen hostilities.

Vide "N.Z. Wars" Vol. 1 (Cowan), 414-420.

Hakaraia also figured prominently at the Volkner murder scenes a year later and in the subsequent encounters with Te Kooti.

The final battle for the month of April, 1864, was that fort at gate pa on 29 April.

page 24. Grace says that three charges were brought against Volkner by the hauhau to justify his death, viz:

1st. His going to Auckland as a spy for the government.

2nd. A cross has been found in his house, and therefore he was a Romonist and a deceiver.

3^d. He returned to Opotiki after having been told to remain away.

Exerts from the letters of Wiremu Kingi to Reverend Volkner

Tauranga June 27th 1864

To Reverent Volkner

friend. greetings.

Here I am in Tauranga on the 21st (day of June 1864) our ship anchored. We came upon a battle between soldiers and the Maoris. I saw for myself the bodies of the slain Maoris and pakehas. Now of the Maoris, 165 were killed, the prisoners there were 27, some died in the field of battle, altogether there were 200 of which ten were pakeha.

The Maori leaders whom I knew were:

Rawiri	of the Ngaiterangi tribe, Tauranga
Poihipi	of the Whakatohea tribe, Opotiki
Epareima	of Ngatiporou, East Coast
Te Hati	of Tokomaru, East Coast
Witenance	of Ngatiporou, East Coast
Kaingarere	of Rangiwewehi
The brother of Hori Tupaea of Ngaiterangi	
Henare	of Ngatipikiao, Rotoiti
Hirini	of Ngatipikiao, Rotoiti
Tuatara	of Ngatihaua, Matamata

That is all I knew, but one was a Ngaitai namely Ihake Materano I witnessed it. I do not know if one of the men captured in an earlier battle (or incident) is alive or dead "pertaining to an earlier report." I will be glad if all these men were dead. (still referring to an earlier report). That is all I have to report.

From your loving friend WIREMU KINGI.

Tutahu Arangi (title or rank) of the Ngaitai (Torere).

Exerts from the letters of Wiremu Kingi to Reverend Volkner

Hune 27th 1864

Kia tu Wakana

Ehoa tena koe

Tenei ahau kei Tauranga no te 21 Ongare I tuai to matou kei puke I aokohanga ana I matou te whawhai tanga o te hoia me te maori I kite pu tonu ahau I nga tupapaku o te maori o te pakeha. No te Maori 165 Na mua I mate ko nga mea I hopukia ore tia e 27. Ko atahi I mate atu kit e koreha huihuis 200. No te pakeha ko ten 10 tekau nga mea I mate.

Ko nga rangitira ote maori I mohio iahau

Rawiri	Ngaiterangi tribe, Tauranga
Poihip	Whakatohea tribe, Opotiki
Epareima	Ngatiporou, East Coast
Te Hati	Tokomaru, East Coast
Witenance	Ngatiporou, East Coast
Kaingarere	Rangiwewehi
The brother of Hori Tupaea of Ngaiterangi	
Henare	Ngatipikiao, Rotoiti
Hirini	Ngatipikiao, Rotoiti
Tuatara	Ngatihaua, Matamata

Heoi ko etahi kahore I mohio iau

Ko tahi te ngatai

Koi hake meterana I kite tonu ahau.

Ko te tahi o nga tangata kua riro maire I muare.

Ko otahi ka hore ahau I mohio kua mate ranei kui te ore ranei.

Kanui taku pai kia mate aua tangata
Heoi nga korero
Na tohoa aroha
Na Wiremu Kingi
Tutahu arangi
ngaitai