

THE WAIHI REDOUBTS AND MILITARY CEMETERY.

LOCATION: From Normanby or Tokaora follow Ketemarae Road to Pikituroa Road. The redoubt and cemetery are well signposted. The second redoubt is beyond the cemetery and is marked by a small plaque surrounded by a white fence.

FEATURES: The earthworks of the Manga Manga Pa and redoubt are well preserved and there is an Historic Places Trust notice board in the cemetery. Of the second redoubt only the outline remains.

\* \* \* \* \*

HISTORY

Waihi Redoubt was established by Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas McDonnell in September, 1866. He writes:

" I moved part of my force to an old Maori Pa 900 yards (almost a kilometre) from the old native position of Ketemarae (destroyed by General Chute the previous January) and commenced the erection of a redoubt."

The old Manga Manga Pa only needed clearing out of its trenches on three sides and this was done by the Patea and Wanganui Rangers. They and some of the Taranaki Military Settlers and Kupapas (Maori troops) formed the garrison of about 130 men.

From the beginning there were almost daily skirmishes with the Maoris who were seeking revenge for McDonnell's attack on Pokaikai in August after they believed a truce had been made. On September 23rd a supply convoy was attacked and Michael Haggerty was killed. A few days later the Native Contingent killed a Maori near Waihi.

These incidents caused McDonnell to lead a sudden attack with 125 men on Pungarehu village on 2nd October. This village and Te Umu were destroyed but Captain Newland's men were driven back before reaching Popoia. It was again attacked on 18th October.

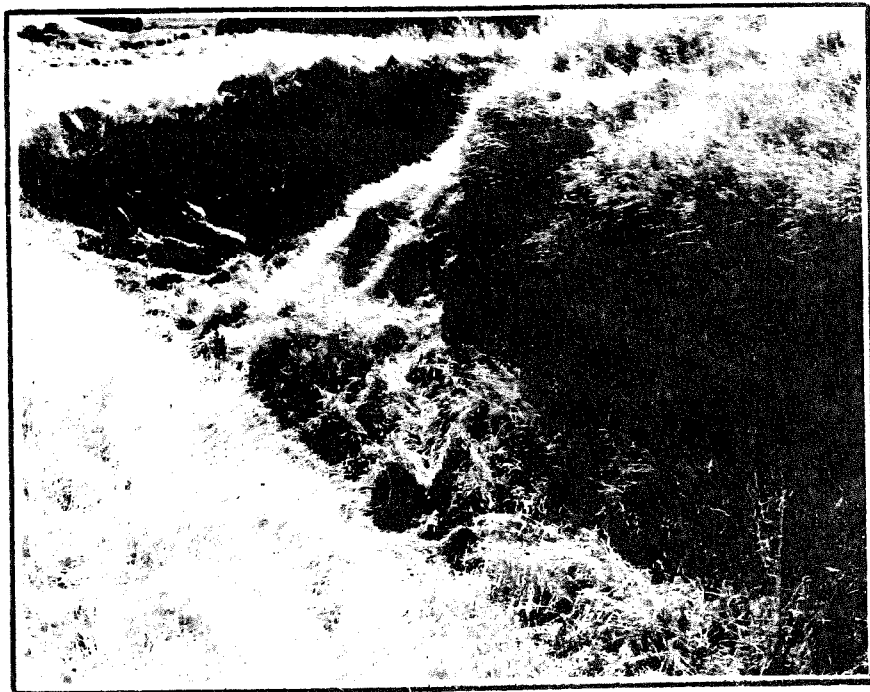
Governor Grey arrived at Waihi on 13th October and he ordered up from the Waingongoro 320 men of the 18th Royal Irish

Regiment under Major Rocke who came into camp on 27th October. Two days later they attacked and destroyed Popoia killing two Maoris and losing one of their own men.

The last action McDonnell led from Waihi in 1866 was against Tirotiro Moana on a hill above the Tawhiti Stream on 5th November. As a result of his exploits at Pungarehu and Tirotiro Moana Ensign Henry William Northcroft of the Patea Rangers was awarded the New Zealand Cross, a very rare award, only 23 being issued.

McDonnell claimed his successes allowed the surveys to proceed and he himself set an example for his men by settling on his land grant, purchasing sheep, cattle and horses and employing men struck off pay to plough and sow his farm and cut timber for a house. However before long he was sent to take command at Tauranga.

While McDonnell was away in Wellington Titokowaru asked if he could visit the redoubt. A sleeping place was prepared for his men.



The trench at the Waihi Redoubt.

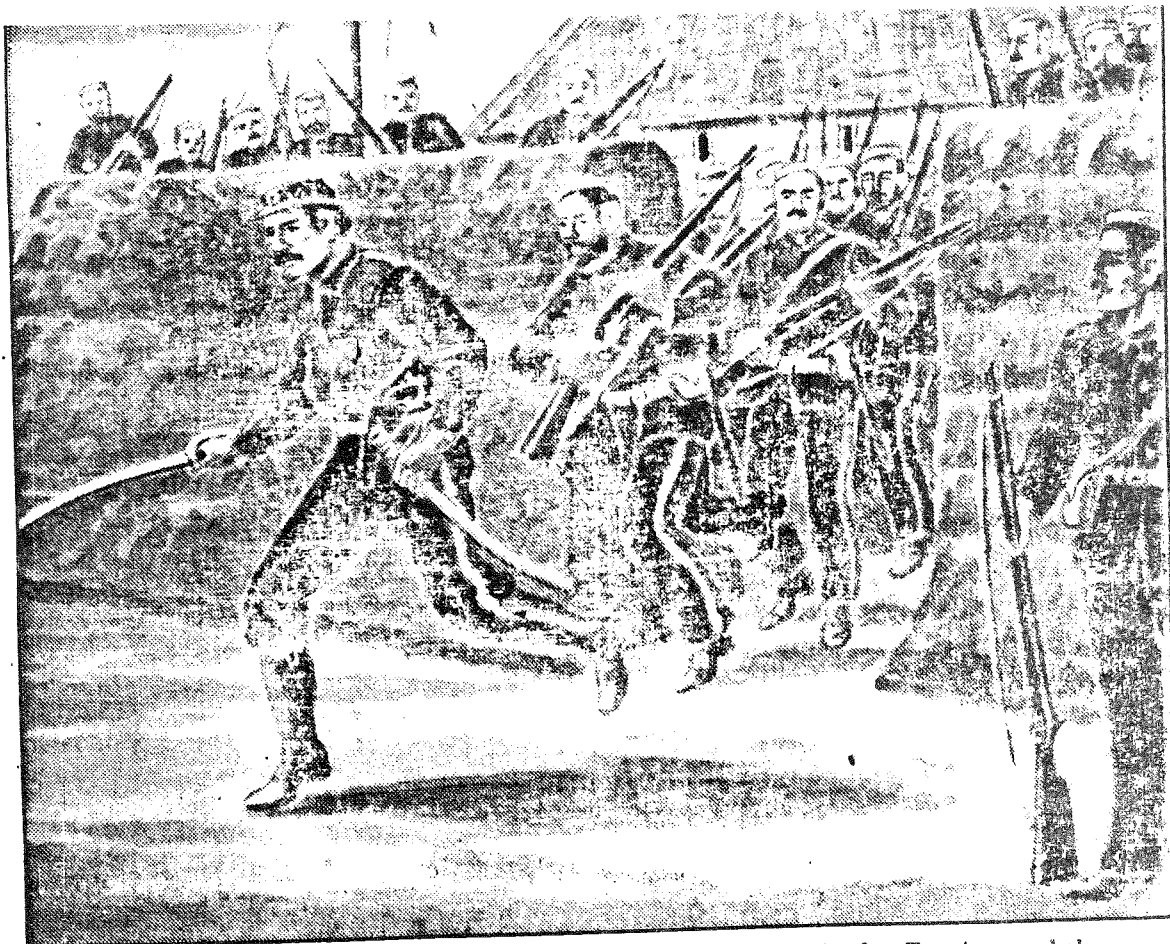
About fifty of them marched three times round the walls "to show their respect for the Queen" (Victoria) and then sat down to eat the food prepared for them. Captain Newland invited Titokowaru and his chiefs inside and after looking around they held a long 'korero' (talk) in the mess-room. The captain proposed the health of Queen Victoria but Titokowaru and his chiefs did not stand saying they did not care for it. Captain Newland expressed surprise at their attitude after they had been allowed to march around the walls to show their respect and eventually they joined in the toast. The party left at ten o'clock the next morning and did the same thing at Turuturumokai Redoubt before going on to Taiporohenui.

From October, 1866, Captain Morrison was in charge. Monotony led to much slackness. The canteens which sold liquor at exorbitant profit were kept going at all hours and officers were often unfit for duty and members of the guard would be drunk by the end of the day. The men knew their term of service would soon end and so no training or exercises were carried out.

Major Gorton, formerly of the 57th Regiment took command in February, 1867. When he arrived unexpectedly he found many in the canteens or drinking in their tents, there was no proper guard and only a junior N.C.O. in sight. He gave the officers half an hours warning to appear properly shaved and dressed with full equipment, closed down the canteens and ordered a vast improvement in the cookhouses.

By handing out extra duties, cancelling leave, instituting two hours drill a day and putting men on road work, Gorton restored order to the garrison. However, the first time there was an alarm it turned out to be only a party of Maori women who had come to sell fruit at the redoubt. They were highly amused by the panic they had caused.

In March, 1867, the men of the No. 5 and No. 9 companies of the Taranaki Military Settlers who made up the garrison were struck off pay and settled on their land on the left bank of the Waingongoro River. Command then devolved on Lieutenant-Colonel M. Lepper.

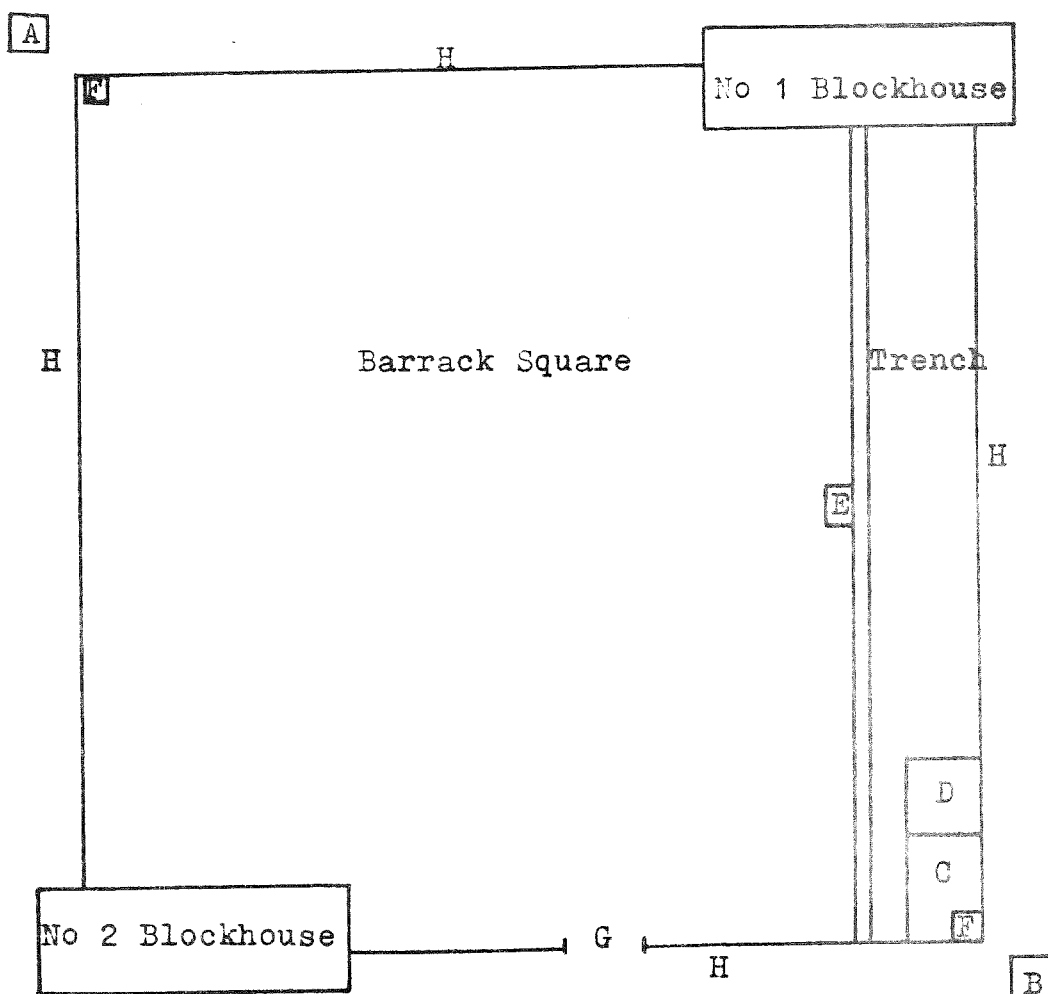


**MAJOR VON TEMPSKY** leads the relief force from Waihi Redoubt for Turuturu-mokal.

Fighting broke out again in mid-1868. On June 9th Cahill, a former sergeant-major, Squires and Clarke were killed at their sawpit at Te Rauna. McDonnell again took command and the garrison was reinforced by the Rifle Volunteers. It was from Waihi that McDonnell launched a successful attack on Te Ngutu o te Manu on 21st August. But when he tried to repeat this success on 7th September his force suffered heavy casualties including the death of Major von Tempsky. Waihi was abandoned in October but visited again by McDonnell in December.

After Titokowaru slipped away at Ngaere, near Eltham on 24th March, 1869, Waihi was garrisoned by three chiefs, 115 N.C.O.s and men and 30 women cooks of the Ngati Porou tribe of the east coast under Captain R.P.Blake. Their task was to patrol the country and intercept any of Titokowaru's people trying to return. One of the Ngati Porou garrison was the father of Sir Apirana Ngata, a famous Maori politician of the 1920s and 30s.

THE WAIHI STOCKADE, 1870 - 1885



- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| A. TOWER     | E. MAGAZINE   |
| B. BASTION   | F. TRAP DOORS |
| C. GUARDROOM | G. GATEWAY    |
| D. STOREROOM | H. PALISADING |

*This redoubt, at the top of the hill, was probably built in 1870-71. It covered an area of about 15 metres by 13 metres and contained two blockhouses, a small guard room, reading room, orderly room, underground magazine and a lookout tower two metres square at the base and about nine metres high. Right around was a heavy palisade and on one side a wide, deep trench. The gate was approached by a drawbridge which could be hauled up at night. It was garrisoned by the Armed Constabulary.*

*A photograph taken in 1875 shows nine or ten small houses and huts in the gully below the redoubt. The Armed Constabulary were abolished in 1885 and in that year the Waihi Redoubt was offered for lease.*