

JOURNAL OF EXPEDITION

AGAINST REBEL NATIVES IN 1846

Written By David Scot (or Scott)

Inspector Of Native Forces - Wellington Militia 1846

FOR SUPERINTENDENT RICHMOND.



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Transcribed by Jane Connell
for the Paekākāriki Station Museum
from a copy of the original journal
held by the Alexander Turnbull Library

Cover: This 1852 painting gives an artist's impression of Te Rangihaeata's pa on the site of what is now St Alban's Church, Pāuatahanui. Following a series of British raids against this pā in 1846, Te Rangihaeata withdrew north to a ridgetop referred to as Battle Hill east of the Horokiri Stream. The abandoned pā at Pāuatahanui was later turned into a British military post.

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Introduction

This transcription of David Scot's field journal of military operations against Rangihaeata and his supporters, in the Wellington land wars, culminating in exchanges of fire at "Battle Hill" near Pauatahanui and Pouawha, in the hills behind Paekakariki, has been prepared from a copy held by the Alexander Turnbull Library (MS-Papers-1633). The Station Museum holds a copy of the handwritten journal.

The transcription is broken into segments, "Sheet 1" to "Sheet 32", corresponding to the pages of the hand-written document.

The transcription was prepared by Jane Connell in cooperation with Dennis Rose.

We have aimed at a literal transcription from Scot's cursive script, following his spelling of words such as "until", and his variant spellings of English names such as "Stanley" or "Stanly". Note that Scot signs his own name with a single "t", but many historians use Scott. Maori names present a particular challenge for two persons without Te Reo. For example, the first sheet of the manuscript contains a reference which we have transcribed as "E Taho of Humutoto". Whilst this clearly refers to Wi Tako of Kumutoto, there are many other names where we have no basis for judgement other than Scot's script. So, we have opted for literal transcription. Scot was clearly a close listener, and his own usage evolves within the text.

The last few pages of this fascinating journal had water damage or something similar making it impossible to decipher the words. These gaps are marked by ".....".

Jane Connell
Dennis Rose

Suggestions for improvement welcome: dennis.rose.nz@outlook.com

Sheet 1

Friday July 31st

Left the camp on the River Hutt this morning at 12 a.m. our party consisting of the following forces:

50 Hutt Militia, 140 Wellington Natives, 16 police, formed in the following order on the opposite side of the River:

6 Natives proceeding as scouts under Hararu,

50 natives forming the advanced guard under the chiefs Moturoa, Wairarapa and Purutu of Pipitea,

50 Militia men under Captain McDonogh and Lieut White,

16 Wellington Police under Sub Inspector C C Strode

104 natives in rear under the chiefs Pahuahi of Te Aro and E Taho of Humutoto.

In all five hundred and twenty-five and proceeded on the Mountain road towards Porirua (or as it is called by the natives Pariraho). It rained heavily during the day. At about 3 pm the party arrived at a convenient spot for camping about half way, which the natives decided on as being best calculated to conceal our approach to the rebels, to which Captain McDonogh reluctantly consented to, being anxious to push on. Temporary houses were soon erected for the whole party which in some measure sheltered them from the rain which continued heavy all night.

Saturday August 1st

At daylight we proceeded in the same order. Captain McDonogh leading the advance guard of Natives accompanied by myself Mr White leading the Militia, Mr Strode the Police and Mr Swainson the rear party of natives. The road continued very hilly and fatiguing and,

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notwithstanding the men were heavily loaded, they advanced cheerfully at a smart pace until descended into flat timbered land at the head of the north branch of the Porirua Harbour at about 11 am and where we supposed the rebels' Pa was situated. On the advanced party approaching this spot loud cries of women were heard and our scouts intimated that they had come in contact with the rebels. When we all pushed hastily forward and found them in possession of a prisoner Te Wareaita or Martini Ruta a Wanganui chief of considerable note and one of the principal leaders of the rebels in their depredations on the Hutt. It appeared a party of about 40 of the rebels had this day come from the Horohiri where they were lurking after leaving their pa at Pauatanui to obtain provisions and that one of our scouts Tamati Ngapuni of Pipitea suddenly came upon him unobserved some distance from his party and attempted to fire upon him but his gun being wet did not go off, when the prisoner attacked him with a large handled tomahawk with which he wounded him severely in the wrist and hand and would no doubt have succeeded in killing him had another of our scouts Piripi of Pipitea not come to his assistance and secured the prisoner; during this struggle some women escaped and gave the alarm. No doubt a considerable number more would have been taken or killed.

When the rear party of Natives came up there

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was some disposition shown by Ngapuni's friends to shoot the prisoner and one cocked and levelled his piece at him but Wairarapa put it aside saying his life was at the Governor's disposal. The prisoner was secured with a pair of hand cuffs and placed under the charge of Mr Strode and the police and the whole party prepared for advancing to the pa which the prisoner informed us had been abandoned. The Natives however recommended our approaching it with caution. Captain McDonogh and the Militia taking the lead followed by the police and natives at once advanced into the pa which we found unoccupied and intimated our arrival by three hearty cheers and a volley of musketry and took up our respective quarters at about 1 pm.

The pa is situated in a strong position, on a high point of land with a small river and steep approach on the North and East sides with cleared ground at front on the South (the most easily attacked) by thick bush, and on the west by a deep ravine also thickly timbered but open to musketry on both these sides and to shells and common shot on the other two. The fences are strongly built in double and in some places treble rows with a deep entrenchment all around inside with strong cross fences and entrenchments in the interior and sufficient houses to accommodate 300 natives.

In the afternoon Captain McDonogh and myself proceeded to the banks of the adjoining bay on the north of the harbour where a number of the rebels appeared on the opposite point and held a conversation with a small party of our natives who accompanied us, the object of which was to ascertain who our party were

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and our object in coming, to which they replied they were the Governor's Natives from Port Nicholson seeking satisfaction for the murders that had been committed and that they (the rebels) had been the cause of Te Rauparaha the greatest chief of New Zealand being in the hands of the Governor, and disturbing the peace of the country; the rebels then fired their pieces at us and retired; these were no doubt the party that accompanied the chief we took prisoner. At 4pm the Porirua chief Puaha arrived who was received in a friendly manner by our natives; they had some conversation on the object of the war and he intimated his intention of joining us in it. His Excellency, the Governor also arrived and informed us that it was in consequence of contrary winds that the Calliope had not arrived sooner. The prisoner was sent by Captain Stanly who accompanied His Excellency on board the Calliope. In the evening about 5pm a relation of our first prisoner approached the Pa unarmed to surrender himself to our party. He was named Parata, a Wanganui petty chief, who was also sent on board the Calliope in Puaha's canoe during the evening. In the night women were heard crying at a short distance from the Pa, who our natives stated were the wives of the prisoners and invited them to come in but which it was supposed their friends prevented. Militia and Native guards were set round the Pa for the night.

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Sunday August 2nd

This morning Major Last and a party of troops arrived and quartered for the night. His Excellency the Governor and Captain Stanly also visited the Pa and made arrangements for proceeding against the rebels next day. Rations of salt meat and flour were issued for the whole party but only 4 camp kettles to cook it so it was late in the evening before any could be prepared and the whole party were very much dissatisfied in consequence. Natives were seen on the point where we had observed them yesterday. The Calliope's boats came up for the purpose of seizing their canoes but found none and fired upon the rebels but without any apparent effect.

Monday August 3rd

At daylight half rations were served out, 100lbs of biscuit dust for the natives. At 8 am whole party moved on to the opposite point of the bay to wait the arrival of more troops and Puaha's natives; at 10 am the troops and Porirua natives arrived in the Calliope's boats and canoes, both parties of natives had a friendly war dance. His Excellency Captain Stanly and Major Arney arrived when the whole proceeded up the Horokiri Valley where the rebels were supposed to be. At the entrance of the valley the troops formed into two divisions and, with the Militia Police and Sailors, halted until the natives proceeded to reconnoitre the rebels' camp and report. Both parties of natives proceeded by a difficult path up the valley, Puaha's party leading, being acquainted with the country. Our natives were disappointed at the Militia not being allowed to accompany them as they were rather distrustful of their new allies, the

Sheet 6

Ngatittoa tribe strained heavily during the forenoon. About 2 miles up the valley we arrived at two late deserted encampments of the rebels and met with no other appearance of their presence until we arrived at a large camp situated on a rising ground about a mile further on which had from a better class of houses and fires still burning every appearance of being occupied and on nearing the hill our natives immediately prepared for action and I sent Mr Swainson back to report to His Excellency what had been observed. After a few minutes' careful observation, we found that the rebels had almost immediately before evacuated it and from appearances had made a very hasty retreat. The fires were still burning and a number of dogs and potatoes left and on a more close examination the natives found the Bugle and several Bayonets of the 50th Regt taken from the Hutt camp besides several empty quarter powder barrells, This camp was the largest we had seen containing sixty temporary houses all having the appearance of recent occupation, strongly situated for defence on a rising ground on the banks of the Horohiri stream with ravines and small streams on each side and open for retreat at the back. Here the natives determined to camp for the night to shelter themselves from the severe weather and send back for provisions, a supply of which we were much in want of and as the rebels had evidently proceeded further inland it did not seem prudent to proceed further without supplies. The

Sheet 7

items a part of which was a keg of rum the end of which was sufficiently obvious this evening by a great part of them being intoxicated. His Excellency arrived with some troops inspected the camp and directed us to proceed next day and returned with the troops to Porirua.

Tuesday August 4th

Mr Swainson went back with a party for provisions and did not return till afternoon. The remainder of the day was spent in cooking them. Captain McDonagh and the Militia arrived to proceed with our party at which they were much pleased but Puaha's party were dissatisfied not wishing any Europeans to accompany them and in fact refused to go on with them and in consequence went on by themselves, our party and the Militia remaining all night.

Wednesday August 5th

At daylight the Wellington natives and Militia moved on following the track up the valley about 3 miles where we found the Porirua natives camped and who reported that they had that morning come in contact with the rebels and had one man wounded in the neck and that the rebels' Pa was situated at the top of an adjoining high hill and that Puaha and his party were reconnoitring it. Captain McDonagh and myself proceeded by a very difficult part leading up the hill until we reached Puaha's party and Mr Servantes who had had a narrow escape, the rebels being laying in wait at the top of the hill on their approach, and from which the shot proceeded from one of the Wanganui natives that wounded one of his party and but for Rangihaeata coming forward

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would no doubt have been shot by the same parties. Rangihaeata expressed his surprise at his friends coming against him and desired an interview with Puaha who then went forward and having cried with him they had some conversation. The rebels then returned to their Pa for the day and our party to the camp at the foot of the hill. Major Arney soon after arrived with some troops and Leut Thorp of the Calliope with a party of sailors also Major Last and Capt Henderson in the afternoon with more troops when he decided on attacking the rebels' Pa at once, to which the native allies at first objected on account of the lateness of the day but afterwards proceeded up the hill about halfway as an advance guard to protect the march of the troops when Capt Henderson was ordered to examine the state of the road who on his return reported it as impracticable during that day the natives were ordered to return and camp for the night. All hands were employed in erecting temporary houses for the remainder of the day – double sentries stationed at night. Rations of biscuits served out to Natives.

Thursday August 6th

The whole party ordered to march forward to the rebels' Pa, Native forces leading up the hill. Police, Militia and first division of troops under Major Arney proceeded very slowly from the difficulty of the ascent. The natives halted about halfway and joined in prayer a most interesting sight, they then gained the top of the hill without opposition. The troops and Militia occupied that position until the natives and a fatigue party under

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Lieut Elliot had cleared the bush within reach of the Pa protected by Mr Strode and a party of Police. The native allies now divided themselves into two parties. Puaha and his party proceeded to the left to occupy a position on that side of the Pa. The Wellington natives under E Taho proceeding to the right along another ascent. Major Last with the second division of the troops. Captain Stanly and a party from the Calliope now arrived at the top of the hill; the clearing having been effected in about an hour Major Arney and first division of troops moving forward until the advanced breastwork of the rebels was visible within two hundred yards and some of the rebels looking over occasionally to watch the proceedings. The native allies advanced to within one hundred yards of the breastwork in a sheltered position the troops and Militia occupying a position in rear. Puahu's party had also reached their position on the left to within the same distance. The rebels' Pa was now discovered to be situated on the highest part of a narrow ridge of hills with a strong entrenchment and breastwork of logs laid horizontally with a densely thick heavy timbered bush on all sides having a partially cleared avenue in front and left sides and a deep ravine on the right which rendered any approach in that direction quite impracticable as well as on the left side of Puaha's position for the purpose of reaching the rear without clearing away by a very circuitous route; nothing more could be observed of its position during the day. The officers, natives and some of the Militia and soldiers continued reconnoitering

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the position from our advanced post. The rebels keeping close under cover of their trenches until at about 11 am a shot was fired from our side by a soldier when it was immediately returned by a volley from the rebels after which an irregular fire was kept up by both parties during the day from sheltered positions as they could be found, the rebels only showing a head occasionally above the breastwork which was immediately fired at by the advanced party. In the course of the day the war dance was periodically performed by both parties of our allies and returned by the rebels with the bitterest spirit of defiance. The fatigue party of soldiers attempted to clear a way to the right of the Pa but were immediately driven back by the rebels being directly under their fire in which one soldier was slightly wounded. Several parties attempted to advance in the same direction and in which Lieut Blackburn was shot dead while exposed for a moment endeavouring to reach the shelter of a tree; as also was one of the soldiers of the 99 Regt and a sailor of the Calliope so mortally wounded that he died this evening beside five others who were also severely wounded. Major Last whilst exposed at the advanced post giving directions had a narrow escape, a ball passing through the upper part of his cap. At 2 pm a small breastwork was thrown up by the troops across the ridge in rear of the natives and a company ordered forward to occupy it with fixed bayonets; our natives were somewhat uneasy at this step not understanding its being intended to support them in the event of the rebels sallying out

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of their Pa and which was considerably increased by Majors Last and Arney ordering them to proceed in front beyond our front position in the face of the rebel's breastwork and on their refusal to comply calling upon me to witness their cowardice and uselessness, and at the same time intimating that such would be reported to His Excellency the Governor, this I exceedingly regretted as I am sure almost all present will bear me out in saying that they acted in every way promptly and willingly and at one time upon some of the soldiers retreating rather precipitously from the front of our advance position amongst the natives they cheerfully and steadily obeyed my request to remain in the position they had taken up.

At 4 pm troops and Militia ordered to return to quarters in the valley, Natives occupying the advanced position during the night supported in the rear by Captain Newingham and seventy soldiers. All remained quiet during the night except occasional shots. Our allies kept up a conversation with the rebels who acknowledged having five shot and two wounded amongst whom they said was Tapuhi the Ngatirangitahi chief principal leader of Rangihaeta's party and the reported murderer of Richard Rush; the chief Kohera's son and three others. The Wanganui chief Te Ora dangerously wounded. The rebels were heard cutting down trees during the night to strengthen their pa and Rangihaeta addressing His Excellency came as far as the camp during the day and returned in the evening. Mr Swainson went to Paramatta for provisions after fighting was over.

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Friday August 7th

Continued to reconnoitre the position of the rebels' pa occasional firing by both parties during the day. Captain McDonagh and the Militia with Captain Reed and another detachment of troops arrived from the camp. Captain Newingham and his detachment returned. Waiting for mortars and ammunition to shell the pa, natives employed in building temporary houses. Militia and Captain Reed's detachment remained with the natives all night.

Saturday August 8th

This morning arrived Major Last and Arney all the troops Captain Henderson Lieut Yelverton and six privates of the artillery with two mortars and ammunition and after Captain Henderson had examined the situation of the pa as much as could be observed for the thick bush, at 11 am commenced to fire shells at about 200 yards distance but which was found to be too near, the shells falling considerably beyond the Pa. The mortars were then moved to a more level situation about 300 yards further from the Pa, when the shells fell nearer it, two in front of the breastwork, a few in the Pa but generally on one side or over it from the difficulty of taking any sure aim in consequence of the high trees, with which it was surrounded; a great portion of the shells

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fired did not burst either from striking the trees or as is supposed from some portion of the ammunition being damaged and no material effect on the rebels was perceptible they remaining perfectly quiet and no doubt in secure places after witnessing the effects of first; and in after conversation with our natives treated their efforts with the greatest contempt only acknowledging one woman being slightly wounded. Shelling and skirmishing continued untill about 3 am when Majors Last, Arney and the troops with Captain Henderson and artillery and Captain Stanley and the sailors of the Calliope returned to the camp. Captain Reed's detachment of troops and the Militia remaining with the natives.

The Native allies proposed to Major Last clearing a road and creating a fence at some distance round the rebels' Pa so as to cut off their retreat and starve them into submission which was approved of by him and all the tools of the fatigue party were ordered to be left with them. This afternoon eight natives arrived from Waikanae amongst whom were the chiefs Mitihahau and Toeroa who informed our natives that the Waikanae natives would on the Monday proceed to the Paripari settlement on the coast in order to cut off the retreat of the rebels and await instructions from our party at which our party were in high spirits with the prospect of success which this addition to our forces promised.

Total force at the Pa this day.

200 troops, 30 Sailors, 50 Militia and Artillery, 20 Police and 360 Natives.

Sunday August 9th

Troops, Militia and Natives remained at the

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rebels' pa. Major Last and the remainder of the troops at the camp. Captain O'Connell and a detachment of 65th stationed at the rebels' first camp to protect the road, natives and soldiers employed in dressing provisions and on taking the wounded and the remains of Lieut Blackburn to Porirua. Proceeded myself with a party of natives to Porirua to obtain provisions camped at the boat station on the harbour for the night.

Monday August 10th

Proceeded at daylight in a canoe to the camp at Paramatta and received the amount of provisions due to the natives to that date left 800lb of meat and returned to the pa. On the road met Major Last, the whole of the troops, artillery, militia and police returning to quarters at Porirua and the rebels' Pa at Pahautanui in consequence of the difficulty of obtaining provisions. On my arrival at the Pa, where Mr Jamieson had remained with our allies, found the natives very much surprised at this movement and disappointed at being left by the Militia whom they understood were to have acted with them whilst stationed in this district, they were also much excited at the reports of guns on the coast coupled with a mischievous report brought to our camp by the Porirua natives that the Governor had attacked Waikanae and that all the women and children left at the Rauparaha's pa had been taken prisoners by the soldiers their sudden and unexplained withdrawal in some measure bearing out the report which so entirely distracted the attention of the whole party from proceeding with cutting the road round the

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rebels' Pa that at the request of the chiefs I wrote to Major Last for correct information on these points and to request that the Militia should again join us as they talked of returning immediately. The Porirua natives this day completed a fence round their own encampment.

Tuesday August 11th

Served out provisions, wrote to Major Last and dispatched a messenger to Porirua. A party of Porirua natives also proceeded there to ascertain the correctness of the reports of yesterday. Natives remained inactive during this day. Also served out an additional number of axes in hopes they would commence the intended work.

Wednesday August 12th

Natives employed this day in making a fence round our encampment. Received a letter from Major Last which proved the reports were entirely unfounded and stating that he had more important duty for the Militia to perform in holding themselves in readiness to return to the Hutt if required in that district. He also said that Mr Servantes was fully in possession of the Government's views with regard to our future proceedings. Mr Servantes returned from Porirua whose explanations were satisfactory to the Natives with the exception of the Militia not being allowed to return. Natives were willing to remain and proceed next day in fencing in the rebels' Pa. I now understood from Mr Servantes that it was the intention of the Government to leave the whole matter to the native allies and that the Waikanae natives had arrived at the Paripari waiting to know our intentions, to whom messengers were dispatched requesting

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them to join us immediately to enable us to surround the rebels in sufficient strength.

Thursday August 13th

A few shots were fired from the rebels' pa early this morning and about 7 am our natives observed the Porirua allies proceeding up to their Pa when they also hastily followed in the same direction and on arriving at which to their great surprise and disappointment found it had been abandoned by the rebels that morning only an hour previous. The natives being all assembled in the Pa discussed their future proceedings and notwithstanding the obvious propriety of an instant pursuit they decided on waiting the view of the Waikanae party which they fully expected in the course of that day nor could I prevail upon them to take the immediate advantage that would no doubt have resulted from harassing their retreat before they could again form another camp. The Waikanae natives left our camp for the purpose of carrying this information to their party and joining us in the pursuit. Immediately advised Major Last and Captain McDonagh of the circumstance and of the intention of the natives to follow them up. I now leisurely examined every part of the rebel's Pa and was surprised to find it so much less defensible than we had supposed it. The breastwork we had hitherto observed was a more advanced post that completely commanded the approach on that side in the form of a semi-circle of about 50 feet composed of logs piled upon each other with upright stakes outside about two feet high entrenched inside with the earth thrown up

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extending to and commanding both sides of the ridge. The main Pa was situated about 50 yards at the back on lower ground so that the breastwork once carried would have commanded it. It consisted of a very hastily erected rough fence of small wood in many parts 6 – 8 inches apart fastened by a single rail, about half an acre in extent with about twenty very ill constructed sheds for houses which had the appearance of being as recently erected as those in our own camp. On the east side was a very deep ravine from which any approach to would have been very difficult and attended with great loss. The west side was protected in a similar manner with the addition of a high commanding peak of land on the side of which was a small hollow leading up to the ridge between the Pa and Breastwork but which was defended by another covered entrenchment from which they kept Puaha's party in check in that direction, I conceive the west or back of the Pa was the most favourable for attack from its being situated on higher ground which would have commanded it and the approach sheltered by large trees so that I have no doubt if they had remained until a portion of our force could have taken a position in that direction, we must have succeeded in taking their camp. We observed nothing worth noting in the Pa except spots of blood where the dead or wounded had been laid and an evident want of provision from the remains of native food which seemed to have been their chief support. Received from Mr Servantes 800 rounds of ammunition to complete the Wellington natives' cartouche boxes.

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Friday August 14th

Rained very heavily all this day, reinforcement of ten natives arrived from Port Nicholson to join our party. Mr Servantes received letters from Major Last to see the rebels out of the district past Waikanae and Otaki dispatched Mr Swainson and a party of natives from both parties to obtain a further supply of provisions for our journey in pursuit up the coast.

Saturday August 15th

Natives' provisions consumed. Mr Swainson and party arrived with 800lbs of flour and 500lbs of beef, which was served out to the natives who were employed in baking it into bread for carrying into the bush.

Sunday August 16th

Remained all this day in expectation of the arrival of the Waikanae natives or of hearing from them. Received information that eight of the rebels had been taken prisoners by the Paripari natives in the provision grounds of that place amongst whom are the brother of the Pau the murderer of Gillespie and Te Kumete who was sentenced to be transported for the Hutt robberies, and that we might expect the Waikanae natives to join us on the hills next day the signal on our part to being agreed to be firing four guns on arriving opposite the Paripari settlement.

Monday 17th August

At 8 am left our camp at the Pa and tracked the rebels' retreat along the same ridge for about half a mile when we came to another camp of about the same number of temporary houses supposed to be where the rebels conveyed their women and children the day after the shelling

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of the Pa. The track being somewhat indistinct halted for a short time until we found it descending a break in the ridge and again ascending and continuing along it till we reached a resting place of the rebels on a high peak from whence we observed smoke in the distance before us. The Wellington natives then proposed to take a different road for the purpose of cutting off their retreat leaving the Porirua Natives to pursue the track and attack them in front whilst they did so in rear, in the morning should they be found encamped where the smoke indicated, and accordingly they descended into the Horohiri Valley along which they proceeded and halted for the night at one of the surveyor's old stations under the hill where the rebels were supposed to be. Scouts were immediately sent out to ascertain their exact position before any fires or other indications of our approach was known. Our scouts returned in about an hour and found the rebels had also left that camp which our natives attributed to several shots that were fired by a party of Puaha's natives who left us to return to Porirua this morning having been made as signals to the rebels of our march as it was evident, they had only left this morning. We therefore camped for the night on the Horohiri stream.

Tuesday August 18th

At daylight ascended the hill to the rebels' camp where we met Puaha's party; here we found a crosscut saw, two chests remaining of several that had been burnt, several New Testaments and Prayer books in the Native language with half the leaves torn out, and some dead dogs which had evidently died from starvation, the ashes

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of their fires and cooking places were quite fresh since the rain on Sunday and their whole track indicated that their only food was such as they procured in the bush which convinced us that they could not attempt to hold out again in another camp and that our Waikanae friends might intercept them at Wainui. This camp was situated on a very narrow part of the ridge which was fenced across the end to prevent surprise. We continued to follow their track which now descended into the valley where the stream rises and at the foot of the hill came to another resting place which from general appearances and articles left there such as pieces of women's dresses, prepared flax and thread for making mats was supposed to have been the camp of the women and the children proceeding in advance of the rebels' party. The track continued very indistinctly down the stream until it struck off to the right up the highest mountain in the neighbourhood called Pouawa opposite the settlement of Wainui. This was the most difficult and fatiguing part of our journey occupying nearly three hours in reaching the top. We found the track continuing along the ridge which was very narrow and from which we had a fine view of the coast below but could observe no signs of our Waikanae friends in any direction. After halting for some time, the natives determined to descend to the neighbourhood of Wainui for the double purpose of communicating with the natives on the coast and obtaining supplies of provisions being now too far advanced to obtain them from Porirua. We again proceeded along the ridge of the hill when the track became very indistinct until we reached a ridge descending

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towards the range of hills adjoining the coast where we found several axe handles which were the only indication of the rebels having gone that way. At this time 2 am about 30 of the Wellington natives with the usual number of scouts were considerably in advance of the main body when they turned down the ridge leading towards the coast and were about a quarter of a mile down, when the rebels laying in complete ambush in a semi-circle round an abrupt descent opened a close fire on our party in which three of the young men were shot dead on the spot and two of the rebels fell at the same time, one of which was the notorious murderer of the Gillespies who was foremost of the rebels' party and shot by E Taho who had been the leader of our advance party during the day and conducted himself upon this occasion with the utmost steadiness and bravery, ably supported by young Henry Epuni and Wa..? of Ngauranga as well as the whole party with him. Our party had some difficulty in maintaining their position against such numbers and in their exposed situation but they stood firm and spiritedly returned the fire at scarcely more than ten yards, indeed they received the first fire at not more than half that distance and looking at the advantage of the situation that the rebels first possessed it is surprising the whole party was not cut off, however they were speedily reinforced by the remainder of our natives coming up to their assistance when the rebels were driven back down the ridge, they again attempted to flank our position on the left but at that time Puaha and his party came up and gallantly repelled them in that direction in which he had one severely wounded. Two of our party were also wounded during the engagement. The skirmishing

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continued untill dark; the position of the rebels could not be observed from the deep bush on the ridge and our whole party remained on the watch for the night in their first position.

Killed

Edward Te uhu __ Pitone.

Ho Muru ____ do

Aripere ____ do

Wounded

Moses Neumatua ____ Pitone

Hoeta ____ Te Aro

Nihinihi ____ Porirua.

Wednesday August 19th

Bodies of the killed brought into the camp wrapped in their blankets and laid on poles to be carried to the coast for interment, observed the rebels' smoke in the bush at a short distance. The whole party then moved down a ridge on the left opposite the rebels' camp and continued skirmishing during the day. Camped within musket shot of the rebels' camp for the night exchanging occasional shots during the night. The rebels cutting timber and supposed to be making another Pa. They had stripped one of our dead bodies of his musket and cartouche boxes, another musket was damaged by having a ball through the barrel in the first fire. Messengers were sent to the Waikanae natives to join us or move up the hills to cut off the rebels' retreat. Three of the rebels known to have been shot, one of them was Te Pau the murderer of the elder Gillespie shot by E Taho. Dispatched a party to Wainui for provisions.

Thursday August 20th

The bodies of the killed and wounded sent on to Wainui arranged with Te Hurumutu the chief of that place for a supply of pork and potatoes for the whole party, the prices to be arranged by Mr Servantes and myself. Waiting return of the messengers from Waikanae and provisions from Wainui, at 3 am neither having arrived and there not

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being another meal of provisions in the camp the natives resolved to remove to a potato field belonging to Te Hurumutu on the Wainui stream at the foot of the hill, on proceeding to which we met Dr Turnbull and some native police and a few others with provisions who returned with our party and camped for the night in the potato field. Mr Servantes, Mr Swainson, Dr Turnbull and myself proceeded to Wainui for the night, where we found Captain Stanley, officers and seamen of the Calliope, Major Durie, Mr Strode and policemen and Mr D.A.C.G. Power waiting our arrival at this part of the coast. Captain Stanley reported our proceedings to Major Last and requested the Militia to be sent to Wainui.

Friday August 21st

Mr Deighton, interpreter to Captain Stanley was dispatched to Otaki to ascertain the feelings of that tribe in answer to Te Rauparaha's letter calling upon them to join against the rebels. Proceeded to Wareroa and Waikanae in company with Captain Stanley and Major Durie to see William King principal chief of the latter place to ascertain the feeling there as to joining us against the rebels - at the former place the natives all declared themselves willing to join us. We next saw William King and stated the object of our visit to which he replied he was not aware the Governor required him to proceed against the rebels amongst the hills but only to prevent them coming on the coast, and that he had done all he was required by proceeding to the Pariari for three days and assisting to take the prisoners secured at that place and that he intended repairing his Pa in case of an attack from any other quarter, that he did not consider it safe to leave the women and children of the tribe in its present state. Captain Stanley offered to station

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there during his absence one hundred men for their protection but this he declined; he said he would attack the rebels if they made their appearance on the hills near his place but would not join in any pursuit in the bush; we then returned to Wainui and found that Captain McDonagh and the Militia had arrived.

Saturday August 22nd

G.B. Victoria arrived with stores and provisions. Proceeded with Captain McDonagh, Mr Servantes and Mr Swainson to report to our natives who told us they believed the rebels had moved on last night. Our party proceeded by a different road to ascertain and could find no traces of them except their late camp and a few tracks along a mountain stream leading inland toward the Wairarapa Valley. The rebels' camp was again situated in a strong position on the ridge of a spur leading down from the mountain, fenced at both ends, and the trees cut and thrown for defences on each side. Three graves were observed but not opened; the body of Te Pau was found laying outside the fence with only the face and part of the body covered and was immediately recognised by our natives. He was shot through the breast and was supposed to have been left in that situation to satisfy us of his death in hopes we would not continue the pursuit further; we then returned to Wainui leaving the natives encamped in the potato field. Mr Deighton had returned from Otaki and reported the determination of the Natives of that place to remain neutral saying that had Te Rauparaha spoken to them personally, they would rise to a man, but would not attend to his

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letter, insinuating it might have been the dictation of the europeans.

Sunday August 23rd

Went to Wareroa again with Mr Deighton to endeavour to raise the natives of that place to proceed to the hills with Sailors, Militia and Police as proposed by Captain Stanley, the natives expressed themselves willing if the Waikanae natives would join.

Monday August 24th

The whole party of Wellington and Porirua natives arrived at Wainui. E Taho also arrived from Wareroa with the final decision of that party not to move without the Waikanae natives. Mr Power purchased a number of pigs for the use of our party and also procured tobacco from the Calliope.

Tuesday August 25th

Mr Power purchased from the natives of this place 300 baskets of kumaras which with the pigs' purchase yesterday and 12 lbs of tobacco were shared out to our party and the Ngatitoas. In the afternoon they had a most animating war dance and speeches were made in which they expressed their intention of proceeding to Waikanae and from that place to go in pursuit of the rebels if the former would consent to join but objected to take any further steps in this district without the concurrence and assistance of the natives belonging to it.

Wednesday 26th August

Captain Stanley and party, Captain McDonagh, Major Durie, Militia and Police with about one hundred of the Ngatiawa's and the same number of Ngatitoo's proceeded to Waikanae. E Taho, Wairarapa, Porutu and Moturoa with about sixty of the Wellington natives returned to Porirua. These chiefs stated that they would not visit the

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the Waikanae natives in consequence of them not having joined them. Mr Swainson and myself also proceeded to Waikanae in the evening; we found them of the same opinion they had expressed to me formerly.

Thursday 27th August

Went on board the Calliope with Captain Stanley, Mr Deighton and Mr Swainson accompanying Martin and Puaha to see Te Rauparaha for the purpose of carrying his message to the Otaki natives in addition to the letter he had previously written. Puaha and Martin had a very pathetic interview with Te Rauparaha for the first time since he had been made prisoner. Te Rauparaha was in good health and spirits and much pleased with the visit. The other prisoners looked melancholy and dejected. Te Rauparaha seemingly approved of our late campaign against Rangihaeata and his party strongly entreated Puaha to follow them and raise every party he, Te Rauparaha, had any influence with to join in driving them out of this part of the country, or destroy them and especially to inform his friends at Otaki that this was his particular wish, as he considered it was through the rebels that he had been made prisoner and was now detained he also addressed us Europeans to the same effect desiring us not to turn back until we had subdued or scattered the rebels. He complained of the confinement, not liking to go on deck to look on his own place while the vessel lay at Kapiti. We left the Calliope about 11 am, when Te Rauparaha again addressed Puaha from the port of his cabin encouraging him to proceed in what he had

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undertaken. On our arrival at Waikanae, Captain Stanley, Mr Deighton, Mr Servantes and myself with Puaha and the Ngatitoas proceeded to Otaki where we arrived in the evening and informed the natives that an interview was requested in the morning.

Friday August 28th

The Ngatitoas arrived early when a very general meeting of the Otaki natives took place to receive them. The meeting at first was somewhat reserved on both sides as was also the tone of their respective speeches and in very general though candid terms expressed their respective views. The meeting was addressed on the Ngatitoto side by Noarua, brother to Te Rauparaha, Puheho Moses, Te Rangihorouata, Te Peka a chief from Rangitoto. On the Ngatiraukawa side by Matiaha, Puke, Rearoa, Te Aotetahau, Pohoteraha, Te Hatiti, Teau. The Ngatitoas urged the poling and driving the rebels out of the d..... should they make their appearance there imputing all the evil that had arisen to these parties including the imprisonment of Te Rauparaha, and asking what claim Ranghaeta had upon their sympathies after the course he had pursued in leaving them and connecting himself with the Tauwhauke or Whanganui people, and not to countenance their settlement amongst them or evil would also shortly come on them and also to consider that Te Rauparaha and two of his children were through the rebels' proceedings imprisoned and declaring that they intended to remain in peace with the Europeans. The Ngatiraukawas replied that they had in no way been the cause of, or connected with these events.

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They had heard of them and remained thoughtful in the matter, not foreseeing the result to themselves or from what quarter evil might arise; their intention was to remain neutral having yet no cause of quarrel with Rangiheta, if he arrived there, they should desire him to pass on in peace. They would not interfere with his passing over their lands or eating what he might find there in passing, as they had housed their crops of provisions and the gatherings that remained they would not fight for. The cause of Te Rauparaha's captivity they did not understand and it was the same as his death to them. They approved of what the Ngatitoas had done but joining them was a matter of mature consideration. We remained at Otaki. Ngatitoas intended to proceed to Ohau and Manawatu to talk over the matter with the natives in those places. The Ngatiraukawawith a huge feast of pigs, eels potaura and taro and other demonstrations of friendship.

Saturday August 29th

On our return to Waikanae this day Captain Stanley finding that we could not expect any more assistance from the natives and from the report of two women who had come and given themselves up that the rebels had, from want of provisions, disbanded themselves and dispersed, reembarked his party on board the Calliope and sailed for Porirua. Captain McDonagh proceeded to Wainui with the Hutt Militia on their return to Wellington. Mr Swainson and myself also returned to Wainui leaving the Wellington natives to follow on Monday.

Sunday August 30th

Remained at Wainui during this day waiting the

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return of the Wellington natives from Waikanae. At 10 pm two messengers arrived to inform me that the rebels had again made their appearance at Waikanae and were encamped a short distance from that place. Advised Major Last at Porirua and Major Richmond of it by a messenger in the morning.

Monday August 31st

At daylight Mr Swainson and myself proceeded to Waikanae and arrived at 7 am, found the Natives at morning prayers, urged upon them the necessity of immediately attacking the rebels. The Wellington Natives were quite willing to start at once but referred to the Waikanae ones who seemed careless about it, waited to breakfast and then had a long conversation with Iwihau, the Taupo chief which delayed us until about 12 o'clock. Then about 100 of the Wellington natives natives went out to recon as indicated by them on the which appeared to be about. tant at the foot of the range of coast hills towards the Otaki district, we were accompanied by Mr Last, Inspector Strode and the Police stationed here. The Waikanae natives led supported by the Wellington natives and Police on right and left; we proceeded with great caution with scouts ahead fully expecting to surprise the rebels or find another ambush until we heard several shots fired and then a volley. When all pushed briskly forward but on arriving at their camp found they proceeded from our own party, it was situated in one of the most distant provision grounds and that the rebels had proceeded towards Otaki into which district all the Ngatiawa tribe objected to follow them stating as a reason their

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not wishing to act with or put themselves in the power of the Otaki tribe and anticipating that the rebels would themselves receive support in that district. The Wellington natives remained at Waikanae to hear Puaha's determination who still remained at Otaki.

Tuesday 1st September

Returned with Mr Swainson to Wainui and detained a further supply of provisions and ammunition at this place in case of its being required should any further attack be determined upon.

Wednesday September 2nd

Left Mr Swainson at Wainui and proceeded to Porirua to report to Major Last and detain the portion of Wellington natives arrived there until further accounts from Otaki.

Thursday September 3rd

Returned to Last's orders to obtain further the rebels proceedings at Otaki Proceeded to Porirua.

Friday September 4th

Arrived and where I found Puaha and Ngatitua tribe returning to Porirua leaving the Otaki natives to adopt what course they thought fit with regard to the rebels, not finding them inclined to adopt any immediate active measure.

Saturday September 5th

Proceeded to Wainui with The Ngatitua tribe and served out the flour remaining for their use.

Sunday September 6th

Returned to Porirua, visited the natives and delivered to them a ration of flour.

Monday September 7th

Issued the balance of our week's rations from the 1st instant in flour and tobacco for present use and

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and journey to Wellington. Detained the natives for Major Last's return from Wellington and Puaha's from the coast in order to consult on any future operations that may be deemed necessary and to give evidence on the trial of the native prisoners now on board the Calliope. A portion of Puaha's party arrived this evening as also the witnesses against the native prisoners taken at the Paripari. Arranged and signed the commissariat accounts of the native forces for the month of July on the Hutt and in these districts to this date.

(Signed) David Scot

Porirua 7th September 1846

Porirua 8th September 1846

Sir

I have the return to this place on theder of the Wellington natives present terminated their further against the rebel natives under the gihaeta . They returned to Wellington this day.

I also do myself the honor to enclose a rough draft of a journal I kept during the late expedition in which I trust are noted every material occurrence I conceived necessary for your information & which I extremely regret circumstances prevented. at an earlier period of our proceeding and more frequent communication with you regarding them.

With permission of the commanding officer stationed here I shall proceed to Wellington tomorrow when I shall be able to furnish you with a more particular report of the whole expedition which

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shall have my earliest attention

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your Obedient Servant

David Scot

(signed)

To

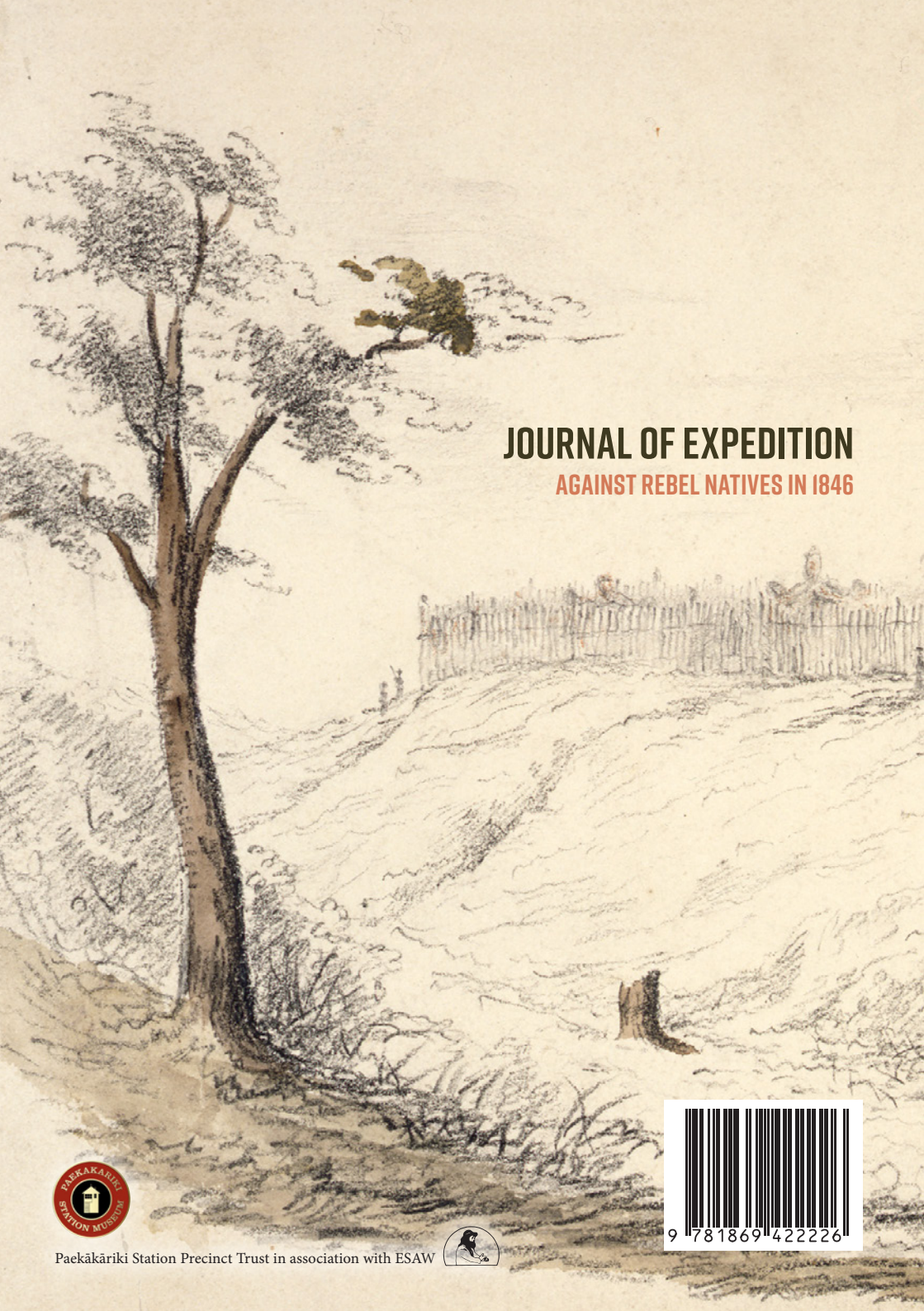
Major Richmond

Superintendent

Wellington

* A later addition to the manuscript.

Journal of Expedition
against rebel Natives
in 1846



JOURNAL OF EXPEDITION

AGAINST REBEL NATIVES IN 1846



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