

of the force (with the guns and mortars, if necessary), to cross the mouth of the river as soon as the defences of the main road were turned, and to advance to support the main body of the 57th in the attack of the redoubt, and afterwards of the Kainga.

These arrangements were successfully carried out. Soon after daybreak, having given all the instructions necessary to Colonel Warre, C.B., of the 57th Regiment, and the Officers in command of the three parties of the advance, as well as Captain Mercer, Royal Artillery, I directed Colonel Warre to move the 57th up the river, and to place it opposite the ford, by which it was to cross. Captain Mercer followed with the three Armstrong guns, which he placed in position a little to the right of the 57th Regiment; I posted the detachment, 65th and 70th Regiment, under the command of Major Mulock, in rear of St. George's Redoubt, ready to cross the river at any point when ordered.

The 70th threw out a line of skirmishers to the edge of the bank of the river, to check any attempt the enemy might make to interfere with the passage. The "Eclipse" stationed herself as close to the mouth of the river as her draught of water would permit.

At a quarter before 7 o'clock, everything being ready and the pre-concerted signal having been given, Captain Mercer's half battery and the "Eclipse" opened fire upon the enemy's position, throwing shells with great precision and effect into his principal work.

After a few rounds the 57th crossed the river, and ascending the left bank with some difficulty, gained the plateau without opposition, the two leading parties then wheeled quickly to the right without replying to the musketry fire opened upon them from the rifle-pits in every part of the enemy's position, and under the immediate direction of Colonel Warre moved rapidly to the rear of the rifle-pits, and flax bushes at the road, which the enemy hastily abandoned, retreating in the greatest confusion toward the Kainga, closely pursued by the two parties. When I perceived these parties turning the defences of the road, I moved the 65th and 70th across the mouth of the river, ascended the left bank without opposition, and pushed them on towards the Redoubt, which from the heavy musketry fire, and cheering of the 57th, I inferred was being attacked by that Regiment.

The third party of the "advance," and the main body of the 57th, commanded, in the absence of Colonel Warre, who was with the two leading parties, by Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Logan, had, after crossing the river, obeyed the instructions they had received; but after replying for some time to a sharp musketry fire, opened upon them from the redoubt, and rifle-pits near it, they assaulted the work with the bayonet, and entering it with a rush, shot down or bayoneted all who remained inside to defend it. I had the satisfaction of witnessing the gallantry of the 57th at this point, and the desperate resistance made by the enemy in their rifle-pits. Major Mulock's column arrived at the spot before the contest was terminated, but their assistance was not required, and I moved them towards the Kainga to support the two leading parties of the "advance," who were met returning after burning all the wharres of the Kainga, which had not been entrenched, as reported. The enemy had now been driven from every part of his position and was seen from the "Eclipse" in precipitate flight down the coast, which afforded her an opportunity of throwing a few shells among them.

Knowing that it was hopeless to attempt to overtake any of them, and being desirous that the troops should return to New Plymouth before dark, I withdrew them from the left bank of the Katikara, and ordered them to march back to the town, after a short rest. They reached New Plymouth about 5 P.M., and in the twenty hours of their absence, these troops had made a night march of 15 miles, had taken part in an action with the enemy, and had marched back the same distance without a straggler, although many had been on duty the previous night.

Our loss in this engagement was small, as will be seen in the return of the casualties herewith enclosed. Twenty-eight of the enemy were found dead inside of the redoubt, and one on the road leading to the Kainga; but it is probable that there were many more killed and wounded.

There can be no doubt that the enemy was taken completely by surprise, all the preparations for the march having been kept secret, and he was thrown into confusion by the suddenness and rapidity of the attack.

I cannot speak too highly of the conduct of all the officers and men present in this engagement, or of the conspicuous gallantry displayed by the 57th, on whom the brunt of the action fell. The movements of this regiment were most ably directed by Colonel Warre, whose zeal and activity throughout the action I beg to bring to your favourable notice, and to that of the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief.

I transmit a very clear and interesting report from that officer, and I would wish to draw your attention to the gallant and meritorious conduct of the officers therein mentioned, particularly of Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Logan, who commanded at the attack of the redoubt: of Captain Shortt, and the officers commanding the three parties of the "advance," viz., Lieutenants Brutton and Waller, and Ensign Duncan.

I cannot omit to mention the services of Captain Mercer, Royal Artillery, the excellent practice of whose guns, with those of the "Eclipse," under Captain Mayne, R.N., contributed materially to the success of the day.

I derived the greatest assistance in the field, as well as in all of the previous arrangements, from the officers of the General Staff, and of my Personal Staff, viz.:—Lieutenant-Colonel Gamble, Deputy Quartermaster-General; Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals Mouat, C.B.; Lieutenant-Colonel Hutchins, Assistant Military Secretary; Major McNeill, Aide-de-Camp; Brevet-Major Paul, Major of Brigade; and my extra Aide-de-Camp, Captain Gorton, 57th Regiment.

I may perhaps be allowed to add, that my former Assistant Military Secretary, Major Whitmore, who not long ago retired from the service to settle in this Colony, happened to arrive at New Plymouth the day before the engagement, and insisted upon accompanying me to the field.

I enclose a rough sketch of the enemy's position, showing also the movements of the troops in the course of the action.

I have, &c.,

D. A. CAMERON,
Lieutenant-General.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for War,
War Office, London.