

The expedition was detained by bad weather till the 23rd instant, on which day the troops disembarked at Hauratri, and arrived the same evening at Pukorokoro without meeting with any opposition.

I herewith enclose a copy of Colonel Carey's report of his proceedings.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) D. A. CAMERON,
Lieutenant-General.

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

Camp Pukorokoro,
November 24th, 1863.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces, that the troops under my command reached this place at half-past six o'clock last evening, after a very harrassing march over a most difficult country, having left Huaratri at eleven o'clock.

The men were ashore by half-past eight o'clock A.M., and the horses at forty-five minutes past ten; each horse had to be landed separately.

The boats of the Royal Navy, under the command of Captains Jenkins and Hamilton, with the provision cutters, arrived off the mouth of the stream about the same time.

On landing it was found that the natives had recently held the position. The mouth of the river is staked across, and the entrance strongly defended by rifle pits (traversed), and others partially dug; these were at once occupied by Blue Jackets, Royal Marines, and the Baggage Guards of the Troops, and the disembarkation of the camp equipage, &c., &c., commenced, and is now being continued.

On reaching the settlement here fires were found still alight in the Whares, boxes locked, furniture, cooking utensils, a bell-tent, and a bag of bullets, &c., &c., giving evidence of a hurried departure.

A whale boat, a war canoe, and other canoes, were also found in the neighbouring creeks.

Owing to the deep mud and the impracticability of the creek for ships boats, except at high water, the landing of the baggage, &c., will be very tedious.

I would strongly recommend two flat-bottomed boats, of very light draught, being sent here at once.

The site for the post has been chosen, and the redoubt will be commenced as soon as the "materiel" is landed and carried up the hill to the encampment.

The redoubt will require a small open work, on a hill a few hundred yards to the southward, which will command it, but which being very steep and more distant from the landing place, would not be a suitable site for the redoubt.

I purpose establishing a Commissariat Store immediately below the redoubt, upon a flat spot round which the creek runs, and on which supplies can be landed by small boats at high tide.

Being commanded by the redoubt, the Commissariat Stores will merely require a small guard over them.

The steam-ship "Corio" will return to Auckland to-night for the baggage horses. In the meantime I purpose reconnoitring the country towards Paparata, and fixing the site of the post, if necessary, midway.

I take this opportunity of bringing to the notice of the Commander of the Forces, the very efficient manner in which the disembarkation of the troops and horses was effected by the Royal Navy under Captains Jenkins and Hamilton, without loss or accident, and beg to testify to their extreme kindness and attention to the wants of the officers and men during the week of our detention off Waiheki Island, on board the "Miranda" and "Esk."

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. CAREY,
Colonel Commanding Thames Force.

The Deputy
Quartermaster-General,
&c., &c., &c.

STATE of the Expeditionary Force.

Thames, November 24, 1863.

Royal Engineers—1 Field Officer, 5 Rank and File.

Detachment 1st Battalion 12th Regiment—2 Captains, 6 Subalterns, 9 Serjeants, 2 Drummers, 169 Rank and File.

Detachment 2nd Battalion 18th Regiment—3 Rank and File.

70th Regiment—1 Field Officer, 3 Captains, 9 Subalterns, 3 Staff, 21 Serjeants, 13 Drummers (4 Drummers armed), 322 Rank and File.

Colonial Defence Force—1 Captain, 2 Subalterns, 3 Serjeants, 49 Rank and File.

2nd Waikato Militia—3 Captains, 4 Subalterns, 1 Staff, 12 Serjeants, 1 Drummer, 198 Rank and File.

Naval Volunteers—1 Captain, 2 Subalterns, 7 Serjeants, 93 Rank and File.

Total Effectives—2 Field Officers, 10 Captains, 23 Subalterns, 4 Staff, 52 Serjeants—16 Drummers, 839 Rank and File.

1 Man, Army Hospital Corps, attached to 70th Regiment, not included.

Staff Officers—Colonel Carey, Commanding; Captain Greaves, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General; Deputy Assistant Commissary-General G. J. Neill; Staff Assistant-Surgeon W. Alston; Captain D. Hay, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General.

G. J. CAREY, Colonel,
Commanding Expeditionary Force.

Head Quarters, Camp Rangariri,
November 26, 1863.

MY LORD,

AFTER the evacuation of their position at Mere-Mere, reported in my last despatch, the rebel natives collected twelve miles higher up the Waikato River at Rangiriri, were, previous to the outbreak of hostilities, they had constructed a very strong line of entrenchment across the narrow Isthmus which divides the Waikato from Lake Waikare, thus completely barring the road up the right bank of the river.

Having reconnoitred this position in the "Pioneer," on the 18th instant, I determined on landing a force in rear of the line of entrenchment for the purpose of cutting off the retreat of the enemy simultaneously with attacking him in front.