

THE 43RD LIGHT INFANTRY IN NEW ZEALAND

In 1863 this Regiment was stationed at Calcutta having been on foreign service since 1851, first in Cape Colony and then in India. It saw service in the Kaffir War and in the Indian Mutiny. On 8th October 1863 the Regiment embarked on the *Lady Jocelyn* for New Zealand. As it was under strength a draft was ordered from England to meet the Regiment on arrival. The ship called at Mauritius for ballast and was quarantined for six days with choleraic diarrhoea. A regimental historian gives its embarkation strength as 850, but the report by the D.Q.M.G., N.Z., on its arrival at Auckland on 11th December 1863, shows its strength as being 9 companies made up as follows: 3 Field Officers, 2 Captains, 12 Subalterns, 4 Staff, 43 Sergeants, 18 Drummers, 35 Corporals, 550 Privates, 48 Women, 94 Children, — a total of 809. There were a number of deaths during the voyage and the explanation given by the Medical Officer, Dr. A.D. Home, V.C., was "the effect on Indian constitutions of chill resulting from change of climate". Fifty two were admitted to Auckland Hospital and the rest marched 9 miles to camp at Otahuhu.

The Regiment was split into many detachments and employed on redoubt duty on the Great South Road; however by April 1864 it had regained its efficiency and a large part of it was stationed in the Bay of Plenty. On 21st April men of the 43rd were engaged in a skirmish with the Maoris at Maketu, about 16 miles east of Tauranga, in which four of their men were wounded.

About 300 men of the 43rd Light Infantry took part in the debacle of Gate Pa on 29th April. On this occasion their casualties were as follows. Killed, Capt. R.C. Glover, Capt. C.R. Mure, Capt. R.T. Hamilton, Capt. A.E. Utterton, Lieut. C.J. Langlands and 9 other ranks. Wounded, Lieut. Col. Booth (spine and right arm, mortally), Lieut. T.G.E. Glover (abdomen, mortally), Ensign W. Clark (right arm, severe), Ensign S.P.T. Nicholl (scalp, slight), and 23 other ranks, four fatally.

On 21st June, the Maoris were discovered in a line of entrenchments about four miles from Gate Pa. Elements of the 43rd Light Infantry, the 68th Light Infantry and the 1st Waikato Militia, were detailed to take this position, which was known as Te Ranga. Shortly after noon the attack was sounded and after gaining the trenches in light infantry order the attackers were heavily engaged in desperate hand to hand fighting with the Maoris. Eventually the defenders fled leaving behind 123 dead or dying, and 8 wounded. Among the former were five chiefs and leading warriors of the Bay of Plenty. No less than 24 of the attackers were Mentioned in Despatches, and two were recommended for the Victoria Cross. One of these was Capt. F.A. Smith of the 43rd Light Infantry.

At Te Ranga the 43rd suffered the following casualties. Killed, 5 other ranks. Wounded, Capt. F.A. Smith, Capt. H. Berners, and 13 other ranks.

Shortly after this battle the Tauranga Maoris made their peace with the British, and the 43rd Light Infantry were removed to the Taranaki District. Here they were engaged in garrison duty with occasional skirmishes with the Maoris. With the introduction of the Colonial Government's self-reliant policy the British troops began to leave New Zealand. In March 1866 the 43rd Light Infantry embarked for England after 15 years on foreign service.

L.L. Barton
N.S.W. Military Historical Society



THE NEW ZEALAND WAR MEDAL

The obverse bears the head of Queen Victoria and the legend 'VICTORIA D:G: BRIT: REG: F:D:'. The reverse carries the inscription 'NEW ZEALAND VIRTUTIS HONOR' surrounding a laurel wreath. Inside the wreath may be the dates 1845-47, 1861-66, or it maybe blank. Around the edge is stamped, or in some cases inscribed, the name and corps of the recipient. The medal is silver, the ribbon blue with a central red stripe.

CLAIMS TO NEW ZEALAND MEDAL UNDER GENERAL ORDER 17 OF 1869—continued.

Rank.	Name.	Regimental Number and Rank at the period Medal was earned.	Period of Service in the Field on which the claim is founded, stating actions, etc.					Remarks.
			From	To	Maketu, 21st April, 1864.	Gata Pa, 20th April, 1864.	To Rangia, 21st June, 1864.	
Sergeant	Edward Cooper	1994 Sergeant	11 Dec. 1863	8 Mar. 1866	-	1	-	Discharged 18.9.66.
"	Jas. Edgingham	2380 "	"	"	-	-	-	" 7.1.68.
"	John Howe	1959 Sergt. & Pte.	"	"	-	1	-	" 18.9.66.
"	Wm. Harland	2998 Sergeant	"	1 Sept. 1865	-	-	1	" 13.12.65.
"	Charles Lane	2984 "	"	8 Mar. 1866	-	-	-	Transferred to 97 Regiment 15.5.67.
"	John Leggett	3799 "	9 Jan. 1864	24 Oct. 1865	-	-	-	Invalided 24.9.65.
"	Henry Quinn	2526 "	11 Dec. 1863	24 Oct. 1864	-	-	-	" 24.9.64.
"	Thomas Waters	3279 "	"	"	-	1	-	"
"	John Webster	569 Sergt. & Pte.	"	8 Mar. 1866	1	-	2	Transferred to A.H.C. 31.3.67.
"	Edwin Young	3047 Sergeant	"	24 Oct. 1864	-	1	-	Invalided 24.9.64.
"	Michael Ryan	3408 "	"	"	-	-	-	" 24.10.64.
"	Jesse Bullock	78 "	"	8 Mar. 1866	-	-	1	Discharged 12.9.66.
"	Jas. Goodman	1075 "	Nov. 1864	"	-	-	-	" 18.9.66.
Corporal	Jas. Ashby	3117 Corporal	11 Dec. 1863	"	1	-	1	" 26.5.68.
"	Francis Basford	225 Private	9 Jan. 1864	"	-	1	1	" 18.9.66.
"	Jas. Boulcher	2210 Corporal	11 Dec. 1863	"	1	-	-	" 4.6.67.
"	Josiah Burgess	3563 "	"	"	-	-	1	" 11.9.66.
"	Thos. Connors	3309 "	"	"	-	1	1	Invalided 11.9.66.
"	Thos. Gibbons	2285 "	"	2 April 1864	-	-	-	" 2.4.64.
"	Richd. Govier	2205 "	"	8 Mar. 1866	-	-	-	Discharged 4.6.67.
"	Richd. Hart	2362 "	"	"	-	-	-	" 24.3.66.
"	John Hurley	2790 "	"	24 Oct. 1864	-	1	-	Invalided 24.10.64.

Corporal	-	James Kingsley	-	2251	Corporal	-	9 Jan. 1864	8 Mar. 1866	-	-	-	2	Discharged 19.2.67.
"	-	Robert Lloyd	-	3104	"	-	11 Dec. 1863	"	-	1	1	-	" 18.7.66, since re-engaged.
"	-	Wm. Edwld. Peel	-	2224	"	-	"	4 Jan. 1864	-	-	-	-	Died at Auckland 4.1.64.
"	-	Ambrose Perkins	-	2591	"	-	"	8 Mar. 1866	-	-	-	-	Transferred to 2/19 11.4.66.
"	-	Chas. Pettit	-	231	"	-	"	"	-	1	1	-	Transferred to Com. Staff Corps.
"	-	John Shea	-	2616	Corpl. & Pte.	-	9 Jan. 1864	"	-	1	1	2	Discharged 24.3.66.
"	-	Thos. Thompson	-	2528	Corpl. & Sergt.	-	11 Dec. 1863	"	-	-	-	1	Transferred to 2/19 Regiment.
"	-	John Walsh	-	2278	Corporal	-	"	"	-	1	1	2	Discharged 16.1.67.
"	-	James Webb	-	2107	"	-	"	"	-	-	1	-	" 18.9.66.
"	-	Joseph Williams	-	2450	"	-	"	"	-	-	-	-	" 28.3.66.
"	-	John Davis	-	3063	"	-	"	1 Sept. 1865	-	-	-	-	Embarked for Eng- land & discharged 18.6.66.
Bugler	-	Benjn. Davis	-	3136	Bugler	-	"	8 Mar. 1866	1	-	-	-	Discharged 5.4.66.
"	-	Alfred Hand	-	13	Private	-	"	"	-	1	1	1	" 20.11.67.
"	-	James Lamb	-	87	"	-	"	"	-	1	1	-	Transferred to 51 Regiment 24.2.68.
"	-	Jas. T. Lewin	-	2424	Buglr. & Corpl.	-	"	"	1	-	-	-	Discharged 4.8.68.
"	-	Thos. Lomax	-	2361	Bugler	-	"	"	-	1	1	2	" 10.9.67.
"	-	Edw. McR. Rowland	-	3367	Private	-	"	"	1	-	-	-	" 23.10.66, with passage to India.
"	-	John Stevenson	-	68	"	-	"	24 Oct. 1864	1	-	-	-	Invalided to Eng- land 24.10.64.
"	-	Keziuh Wilby	-	662	"	-	"	8 Mar. 1866	-	-	-	4	Discharged 17.2.68.
"	-	John Mynott, alias Jno. Connolly.	-	217	"	-	"	"	-	1	1	4	" 24.3.66.
Privates	-	Thos. Adams	-	45	"	-	"	"	-	-	-	-	" 5.4.67.
"	-	Alfred Adlam	-	442	"	-	"	"	-	1	1	2	" 24.3.66, to settle in Colo- nia.