

4 pages written 6 Oct 1860 by Robert Reid Parris to New Plymouth District

(32) 2/1/1866.
New Plymouth 6 October 1860

Dear Sir,

On Saturday a force of about 400 Men under the command of Lt Col Leslie left the camp at Waitera at 9 AM for the purpose of destroying the intrenchments of the Kairau Pa, which had been partially destroyed by the Expedition under the Command of the Major General on the 11th Oct.

On arrival at Kairau a division of the force (under Major Nelson) was advanced to protect the other whilst demolishing the works, and having so done they retired to complete the destruction of what remained

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of the Ngataiparirua Pa. They (the whole
body) then retired toward Waitera. —

During the burning of the stockades
and the retreat to the Camp at Waitera, the
Natives were firing upon the troops, but
it was not until the Natives were close
upon them that their fire was returned, and
this appears to have been done by the men
in self defence and in conformance
of orders, five of the soldiers being
wounded.

The whole affair appears to be
inexplicable, and it is reported that at
one time it was a complete flight.

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The numbers of the enemy are estimated at less than 100 and some say not more than 50. —

Why the troops were not allowed to return the fire and why the 12 pound gun loaded with canisters was discharged into the river after the arrival at the camp instead of at the rebels, must I suppose remain a mystery

I remain Sir
Yours very truly
Robert Parris

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