



DEFENDERS OF THE QUEEN IMPERIAL AND COLONIAL DEFENCE 1850 - 1901

KEYNOTE - DR CRAIG WILCOX

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Victoria and the New Zealand Wars of the 1860s: and the Victorians in the Taranaki Military Settlers and the New Zealand Armed Constabulary

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The so-called Māori War during the 1840s and 1860s saw considerable involvement from the Australian colonies and no more so than that which emanated from Victoria. This paper, though tempered by the limited time available will briefly touch upon the various support or direct involvement which Victoria provided in the 1860s. But today's focus is to provide some glimpses into two New Zealand colonial units which received significant numbers of colonial Victorians within their ranks – the Taranaki Military Settlers – both its “Otago Contingent” and the “Melbourne Contingent” components recruited during 1863 or 1864, but also the New Zealand Armed Constabulary which recruited over 200 recruits in Melbourne in late 1868 and early 1869.

The Australian colonies played pivotal roles during the wars which unfolded in New Zealand which continue to be forgotten or poorly understood, despite being an important part of Australia's military, social, political, and economic history, as it is similarly of importance as a component of the shared trans-Tasman experience. New Zealand's wars must also be considered in the broader context of frontier conflict and the British Empire, for this is a complex, and detailed shared history in which the wars were a defining moment in reaffirming a bond of kinship between all the colonies of what was then British Australasia.

Throughout 1845-46, Australia became a key contributor to New Zealand's logistic and commissariat requirements. Australian stores and arsenals provided a considerable array of weapons and artillery, ammunitions and associated military equipment. Australian garrisons provided over 1500 soldiers from the 58th, 99th, 96th and 65th regiments for New Zealand service between March 1845 and November 1846. These troops were augmented with available Australian-based Royal Navy ships, and the many sailors and marines who served ashore as part

of the Naval Brigade. The imperial garrisons in Australia therefore provided the bulk of the military force able to be put into the field during these 1840s campaigns. Military assistance from other parts of the British Empire took considerable time to be marshalled and arrived late. In the meantime, New Zealand's repeated calls for assistance, and the ready and willing responses of the imperial and colonial representatives in Australia, met the needs of the immediate crisis. New Zealand Governor Grey's requests for assistance were always met in some form, and his ability repeatedly to procure and maintain a vast imperial military force was to be replicated upon his return to the New Zealand stage in the 1860s.

In 1860, war again broke out in New Zealand in and around the settlement of New Plymouth. New Zealand again turned to Australia for assistance, and these colonies provided a wide range of support which was vital in stemming the potential military and social crisis faced at Taranaki. In replication to the 1840s conflicts, Australia became a major source for New Zealand's immediate logistic and commissariat needs. Geographical proximity and ease of supply enabled Australian commissariat stores and arsenals to supply camp equipment, rifles, revolvers, artillery and an array of munitions and other military equipment. Such war material included stores and foodstuffs to fill the larders of the military forces being assembled in Taranaki, as well as the military horses on which to carry such supplies.

The departure of portions of the imperial garrisons saw an impetus to existing volunteer movements. With this came a realisation that a degree of self-reliance and more long-term planning was essential beyond the short-term immediacy of the Taranaki crisis. Many members of the volunteer movement in colonies such as Victoria also expressed desires to serve, though at this date this manpower potential was not tapped but is a clear indication of the support and martial fervour the Australian military settler recruiting missions would elicit during 1863-64 and does account for many of its recruits.

Australian humanitarianism saw money and material goods collected for the alleviation of the sufferings of the Taranaki settlers, and although not on the scale of the Taranaki Relief Fund, other Australian colonists contributed to the relief of families of British troops sent to fight across the Tasman. Taranaki's war needs also saw many of the available vessels of the Australia Station serve in New Zealand waters and hundreds of its personnel in turn served ashore as part of the Naval Brigade; as did HMCS *Victoria* and elements of its crew.

The Australian colonies, apart from despatching Australasia's most senior military officer, Major-General Pratt from Victoria to take personal command in July 1860, also contributed a considerable supplement to available forces in Taranaki. Between April and July 1860 over nine hundred additional officers and men from the Royal Artillery, 40th and 12th Regiments, and Royal Engineers were conveyed from Sydney, Melbourne, and Hobart for war service.

The high-water mark in Australian military involvement across the Tasman though took place during 1863-64. The Australian colonies again supplied a considerable array of commissariat and logistic material, ensuring the magnitude of the imperial and colonial war machine that rolled through Waikato, Taranaki, and other locations of the New Zealand's North Island. Australian commissariat stores and arsenals once again contributed rifles and carbines, munitions, artillery, and other associated ordnance material, while the trade in military horses also greatly increased. Armoured river gunboats were manufactured in Sydney to meet New Zealand orders, and existing riverboats were purchased from South Australia. These colonies also contributed naval coal and other stores and services, as well as commercial shipping used for a variety of military or commissariat purposes. Australian pastoralists successfully tendered for meat and cattle contracts for imperial forces in New Zealand, and other colonial enterprises and industries supplied many foodstuffs, military clothing, and other equipment for the war effort.

Imperial soldiers and sailors, along with the military settlers, represent Australia's manpower contribution to the forces being amassed in the North Island at this time. Although just over 680 imperial troops were despatched to assist during August-October 1863 from Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, and Hobart, it should be remembered that most Australian garrisons had not yet had those troops sent during 1860 returned. Similarly, those soldiers made available in 1863 constitute a military force able to be put promptly into the field, whereas many of the imperial reinforcements coming from other Empire locations did not arrive until late 1863 or early 1864.

Now there has in the past been the misconception that the military settlers recruited in Australia were mercenaries, which they certainly were not. Others have argued that these colonial troops recruited by the New Zealand government did not constitute an Australian force. Yet the recruitment of military settlers in Australia in 1863 was not only condoned by Australian colonial governments and imperial representatives but supported as part of a greater overall effort to assist their sister British colony New Zealand. Once in New Zealand, many of these volunteers served in military settler units with distinctive Australian identities including the "Victorian Contingent" and the "New South Wales Contingent" within the Waikato Military Settlers during 1863, followed by the "Melbourne Contingent", the largest component of the Taranaki Military Settlers in 1864. As such, these troops had a direct Australian identification, though of course cloaked as citizens of an empire. And of the estimated 2500 men who comprised the 1863 and 1864 Australian military settler recruiting missions, many did not serve solely with the military settlers as hundreds went on to join various other colonial units.

But apart from the formal Australian military settler recruiting missions which achieved upwards of 2500 men, and many with families, especially for those enlisting in 1864, there is

evidence of individuals or small groups departing Australian colonies on their own initiative. It is very hard to ascertain the actual numbers involved but could well have included hundreds of additional men to cater for New Zealand's manpower needs. Additionally, it must not be forgotten colonial Australians also enlisted into the regiments of the British Army in garrison such as the 40th and 12th Regiments in Victoria and New South Wales, as well as being recruited in ports such as Sydney for service aboard Royal Navy vessels, would also serve in these wars.

Another misconception is that the volunteers raised for the four Waikato Military Settler Regiments were all recruited in the Australian colonies. Colonial Australians only make up varying proportions of the individual strengths of each of these four Waikato Regiments, as they did with the separately raised Taranaki Military Settlers. Although exacting figures for Australian enlistments are difficult to determine, it is clear the largest proportion of Australian enlistees are not to be found in the 1st Waikato Regiment as is often believed, but rather the late-formed 4th Waikato Regiment, but also the Taranaki Military Settlers. And despite listings of Australia's war involvement including the 1885 NSW Sudan Contingent or the many colonial contingents to the war in South Africa before the Nation's Federation in 1901, we nonetheless continue to ignore or downplay the New Zealand wars or cite no "Australian" casualties. My research has previously identified at least fifty-three Australian derived Waikato or Taranaki Military Settlers who were killed in action, died of wounds or from other causes during their service through 1863-69, with some of these fatalities occurring while on service with other New Zealand colonial units after leaving the military settlers. And what will interest today's audience is that forty-one of these men had Victorian origins, to which can be added four further individuals (who were not military settlers who stayed in New Zealand) but who were enrolled in the Armed Constabulary in Melbourne in December 1868 who were shortly after killed in action or died of wounds during 1869.

But it is the Taranaki Military Settlers where some of the most significant numbers of Australian-derived and predominantly Victorian enlisted personnel are to be found. The Taranaki Military Settlers experienced a wide range of field service, engagements, and casualties through 1864-66 on the West Coast of New Zealand's North Island, but also on the East Coast during 1865-66, and it is among the Victorian-derived personnel where the majority of this unit's casualties occur.

If looking just at the late wars period of 1868-69, I have also previously identified at least fourteen Australian enlisted or derived Armed Constabulary fatalities – most of these had their origins in New Zealand firstly as enlistees in either the Waikato or Taranaki Military Settler Regiments who stayed in New Zealand and joined the Armed Constabulary following the disbandment of all the military settler units in 1867. Six of these men are former Victorian military settlers who had enlisted in either 1863 or 1864, to which we then include these four others who enrolled in Melbourne during

December 1868 – one of whom, Constable Robert Davis, although a former military settler in the 3rd Waikato Regiment who enrolled in Melbourne in September 1863, had returned to Victoria at some stage, and in Melbourne in early December 1868, decided to again enrol for New Zealand service and would die from wounds five months later.

A review of the “Nominal and Descriptive Roll of the Melbourne Contingent” of the Taranaki Military Settlers shows at least 557 men of enlisted rank were enrolled in Victoria along with a small number from South Australia who transhipped to Melbourne during January 1864. One member of this “Melbourne Contingent” was Francis Sire who enrolled at Geelong in January 1864. He departed Melbourne aboard the *Gresham* and arrived at New Plymouth in Taranaki in February 1864 and served in No. 8 Company. His 1877 confirmation of entitlement for the New Zealand War Medal documented that he had been under fire on the West Coast in actions at Sentry Hill in April 1864, the siege at Pipiriki during July 1865, and was also a member of the East Coast Expeditionary Force which included Nos. 8 and 10 Companies of the Taranaki Military Settlers which saw action at Opotiki in November 1865.

Upon return from the East Coast, the time of service for these Taranaki Military Settlers had expired and disagreement over pay and other entitlements caused a number of these men to claim their discharge in a defiant stand which led them to lose their land entitlements. Sire was one of these men, so like many other disgruntled former military settlers he moved on in search of other colonial opportunities and returned across the Tasman and was resident in Victoria in 1872 when he applied for his New Zealand War Medal. Like many other Australian-derived military settlers, service in the volunteer movement before or after their New Zealand service was also common. He appears to have been involved in the Victorian volunteers as indicated on the receipt for his War Medal which was witnessed at Brunswick by Lieutenant and Brigade Captain James Frisby Wilkinson of the Northern Volunteer Rifles. Wilkinson is himself a Taranaki Military Settler veteran. Born in Launceston, Tasmania, he enlisted in Melbourne in January 1864 and departed aboard the *Gresham* for Taranaki. He served with No. 10 Company during the siege of Pipiriki and then in the East Coast Expeditionary Force. A portrait photograph of Wilkinson as a lieutenant in the Victorian Volunteer Rifles wearing his New Zealand War Medal, along with a collection of letters dating from 1865, are held in the collection of the Australian War Memorial.

Victorian Military Settler Recruiting in 1863 and 1864

The arrival of a New Zealand government party in Sydney headed by the Native Minister Francis Dillon Bell, the civil commissioner for the Waikato John Eldon Gorst, and New Zealand Militia officers Colonel George Dean Pitt and Captain J.H. Rogers-Harrison on 14 August 1863 marked the commencement of the first military settler recruiting mission to the Australian colonies. The *Argus* the next day announced the expected arrival of Colonel Pitt “to raise a regiment of Volunteers” for

New Zealand service. This same day an advertisement sought volunteers for the “Auckland Militia” marks the beginning of recruiting efforts in Victoria. Colonel Pitt arrived on 21 August and immediately sought an interview with the Victorian governor to present his credentials and to seek support from Victoria’s authorities. The Port Phillip Hotel on Flinders Street was where Colonel Pitt obtained accommodation and was the venue where enrolments commenced. The press quickly responded in support of New Zealand, reinforcing the thread of blood and kinship that connected all the colonies of Australasia.

As would occur in other Australian colonies, it was from among the ranks of Victoria’s volunteer movement where many of the volunteers for New Zealand would emanate. But despite the positive initial response with enrolments, Pitt, after arriving in Melbourne, felt obliged to state that he did not desire recruits “should be formed of trained volunteers alone” and all “are invited to join”. It was settlers with farming experience that were especially desired so as fulfil the long-term expectations of the New Zealand Government’s military settlement scheme.

This first Victorian contingent comprised just over four hundred privates and NCOs and was placed under the command of four officer appointees. These included Captain Henry Gold Smith a former captain in the Victorian Volunteer Engineers, and Lieutenants William Alfred Smith a former lieutenant and senior drill instructor for the Pentridge Volunteer Rifle Company, Hugo Byam Lomax, and William Nunnington a former drill instructor with the Fitzroy Volunteer Rifle Company. The first Victorian contingent boarded on 31 August, and the *Argus* noted that the contingent of volunteers from Melbourne left first by train at 9.15am followed by volunteers who had been enlisted at Geelong, Ballarat, Castlemaine, and Sandhurst a couple of hours later. The *Star of India* sailed for Auckland on 1 September, but as recruiting in Melbourne and regional centres was still “going on briskly”, Colonel Pitt chartered the *Caduceus* to convey a second contingent.

This second contingent of volunteers boarded the *Caduceus* on 4 September after the morning trains brought “eighty men from Sandhurst, and thirty-two from Castlemaine, ... and others arrived in [Melbourne] ... in the afternoon. Colonel Pitt enrolled altogether 150 men at Sandhurst and forty-five at Castlemaine”. A further twenty-five volunteers were enrolled in Melbourne this same day, and more were expected to follow from Pitt’s visit to Geelong and Ballarat the following day. Two former imperial army officers were selected to command this second contingent. These were Lieutenants John Joseph Dunn and John Spencer Perceval, and they were shortly after joined by Ballarat enlistee and officer appointee Lieutenant Robert Wallace. Lieutenant Perceval and three other Victorian enlistees serving in the 1st Waikato Regiment within a month of their arrival would be killed in action on 23 October 1863 – the first fatalities among the Australian enlisted military settlers.

Over 930 enlisted rank volunteers would depart Melbourne in three contingents for Auckland in 1863. The *Star of India* conveyed four officers and 406 men, the *Caduceus* three officers and 386

men, the *Golden Age* with four officers and 140 men, and three other officers were reported to have sailed by way of Otago or Sydney. Of all these volunteers, thirty-five per cent were said to be “drilled men”, either former members of the Victorian volunteer units or former imperial soldiers or sailors, nine per cent were married men, their average age was twenty-seven, and their average height was 5ft 7½in.

During early 1864, Colonel Pitt undertook a second military settler recruiting mission in Victoria which secured nearly 800 further volunteers along with a small number from the neighbouring colony of South Australia. The total number including families amounted to “nearly 2,000 souls” left Melbourne during January and February 1864 – a considerable achievement despite the growing opposition and criticisms raised within Victoria in this period.

Australian and Victorian military settler contributions

Australian-derived military settlers carried out varying roles in the campaigns during 1863-67. The first recorded engagement involving a detachment of the 1st Waikato Regiment (also known as “Pitt’s Militia”) took place on 14 September 1863 at Pukekohe East, several miles south-west of Drury on the Great South Road in Auckland Province. Although it is unclear whether any of these Waikato militiamen had Australian origins it is claimed in some sources there were indeed Australian volunteers among their number. The first Australian-derived Waikato militiamen killed in action occurred at Wheeler’s Farm on Titi Hill near Mauku Stockade on 23 October 1863. The Australian-derived men who were killed were all Victorian enlistees from Bendigo – Lieutenant John Spencer Perceval, Corporal Michael Power, and Privates William Beswick and William Williamson. And one of the last field campaigns involving elements of the Waikato military settlers was the 1st Waikato Regiment’s involvement in the Tauranga Bush Campaign in January-March 1867. Included among this campaign’s casualties were three Victorian enlisted privates who were killed in action: William Stevenson and Denis Augustus Ward on 23 January 1867, and Henry Jeffs on 15 February 1867.

The first active service of the Australian enlisted component of the Taranaki Military Settlers occurred on 11 March 1864. The 57th Regiment, supported by elements of the “Melbourne Volunteers”, also known as “The Melbourne Contingent”, Taranaki Military Settlers, carried out a successful reconnaissance of Māori positions at Kaitake in Taranaki Province. On this occasion those “Melbourne Volunteers” involved were largely held in reserve or in support roles and sustained no casualties, but “Melbourne Volunteers” were shortly in action again on 25 March taking part in the attack and capture of Kaitake *pa*. Here one company of “Melbourne and Otago Volunteers” under Captain Corbett were engaged for the first time “and distinguished themselves by the spirited manner in which they assaulted and took one of the stockades, considered to be

the key of the enemy's position". Captains James McKellar and Andrew Page's two companies of Taranaki Military Settlers also took part in this attack and the total complement of "Melbourne & Otago Volunteers" involved totalled some 240 officers and men. Again, no fatalities were sustained amongst the ranks of the "Melbourne Volunteers" – but this was to change suddenly on 6 April 1864.

In an ambush of elements of the 57th Regiment and a detachment of Taranaki Military Settlers (at Te Ahuahu) near Kaitake resulting in seven killed and twelve wounded, four Victorian enlisted personnel, Corporal John Banks and Privates John Gallagher, Charles Hartley, and James Neagle were among the troops killed, decapitated, or otherwise mutilated, and four other Victorians were wounded.

One of the last active field operations involving the Taranaki Military Settlers took place in an attack on the Māori village of Pokaikai in the Patea District on 2 August 1866. This involved Taranaki Military Settlers from Nos. 8 and 10 Companies, the Patea and Wanganui Rangers, and the Wanganui Cavalry. During this attack, Private Denis Spain, a Melbourne enlisted private was accidentally killed. And the last Australian-derived Taranaki Military Settlers to be killed were Lieutenant Bamber Gascoigne and his whole family, along with Privates John Milne and Edward Richards in the White Cliffs (Pukearuhe) Massacre in the Taranaki District on 13 February 1869. These men had all enlisted in Victoria and have the dubious distinction for being the only Australian derived military settlers who were killed on their military settler land entitlements. Again, it must be remembered that many of military settlers also served in a variety of other colonial units during 1863-67 such as the Colonial Defence Force Cavalry, Patea Rangers, Patea Rifle Volunteers, and the Armed Constabulary from October 1867 when this force was established.

The New Zealand Crisis 1868–69

In 1868-69, when New Zealand authorities faced apparent crisis on the West Coast and East Coast, they again sought assistance from Australia, with the events, military reverses, and so called "massacres" elicited much comment in the Australian press. But despite genuine concerns about events unfolding across the Tasman, the Australian colonies would not provide aid in the form or quantity as in 1860 or 1863. Nonetheless, there was important Australian involvement during this period, with many former Australian enlisted military settlers continued to serve in New Zealand's Armed Constabulary and other volunteer or militia forces. And it is from the ranks of the Armed Constabulary, and especially the Melbourne recruitment of personnel – the last specifically targeted Australian recruits – continued to prove Australia's important contributions to New Zealand's military manpower needs.

On the West Coast of the North Island, New Zealand government forces suffered a series of dramatic military reverses against Māori leader Titokowaru and his forces in the South Taranaki and Wanganui regions. These occurred at engagements such as Turuturu Mokai (12 July 1868), Te Ngutu o te Manu (7 September 1868), and Moturoa (7 November 1868). On the East Coast, another Māori leader Te Kooti and his followers created similar difficulties for government forces following his escape from the Chatham Islands. Initially with several actions in July 1868 in the Poverty Bay and Hawke's Bay area, the impact of Te Kooti was dramatically reinforced in what became known as the "Poverty Bay Massacre" on 10 November 1868.

The news of this growing military crisis was no doubt a stimulus for some of the men who soon came forward in Melbourne to offer their services, and especially those who already had prior New Zealand military service or even family and friends in New Zealand. Into this scenario appeared New Zealand Militia officer Captain William Griffin Stack who arrived in Melbourne to enlist men for the Armed Constabulary. And despite his recruiting activities rekindling some of the criticisms earlier leveled towards Colonel Pitt's military settler recruiting endeavours, especially in 1864, Stack's efforts were nonetheless an overall success.

Captain Stack arrived in Melbourne on 28 November 1868 tasked by the New Zealand Government to enlist two hundred recruits for its Armed Constabulary. He was appointed captain in the Auckland Militia in June 1863 and soon after was placed in command of a company of military settlers from the 1st Waikato Regiment. He also saw active service with this unit during the Tauranga Bush Campaign in 1867 before becoming Paymaster for Colonial Defence Services at Tauranga and Opotiki in the Bay of Plenty late that year. Here he continued to be involved with military settlers who had settled on their land grants in this area. Apart from being an experienced officer, Stack had significant involvement with Australian recruited military settlers, many of whom originated from Victoria. This would appear to have made him an ideal candidate when ordered to Melbourne to recruit for the Armed Constabulary.

To assist Stack in his recruiting mission a Dr Dermott was also despatched from Hokitika in New Zealand's South Island to provide medical inspections of prospective recruits and he arrived in Melbourne on 4 December. Stack was also assisted in the selection process of potential recruits by Joseph Tuckwell a former Victorian Police detective from the late 1850s who left Victoria for Otago in November 1861 to organise a detective force for that South Island district. Tuckwell is an example of former Victorian Police officers who assisted in the development of provincial police forces in New Zealand during the 1860s. The social turbulence which occurred in the wake of the opening of the goldfields there quickly led to several paramilitarised police forces established, especially in the South Island, which were not only modelled on Victoria's police, but utilised the services of many trained and experienced men from the Victorian force. Some of these former Victorian police officers in turn played

significant roles as part of the New Zealand's Armed Constabulary through the late 1860s and into the 1870s. Tuckwell was engaged as a private investigator by Stack "to aid him in selecting the right men". This became necessary as the Victorian government denied Stack any formal recognition or assistance from its own detective force in weeding out any criminal elements who might try to engage for New Zealand.

The *Argus*' Saturday issue on 5 December 1868 drew its readership's attention that the full terms and conditions of the Armed Constabulary would be published later that day in its *Supplement*. Recruiting would commence at Meagher's Hotel on the corner of Lonsdale and Swanston Streets, and those enlisted would embark on the following Wednesday for New Zealand. Stack began to immediately receive applications that same day, and despite the *Argus* initially reporting that his recruiting mission was going to be "a fruitless one" then noted that almost one hundred men had already presented themselves for enrolment. Those who received their medical certification were reported as formally enrolled on Monday 7 December, while further applications continued to be received. The first contingent aboard the *Alhambra* left for Wellington on 9 December and comprised ninety-nine recruits. A second contingent of forty-one recruits departed aboard the steamship *Otago* on 12 December, followed by a third contingent seven days later with thirty recruits aboard the *Rangitoto*.

Among the men who made up the five contingents of Melbourne recruits were many individuals with prior service in the British Army or Royal Navy, or else had served in various police forces including the Irish Constabulary, British and Australian volunteer or militia units, and those who had already served in New Zealand colonial forces earlier in the 1860s. One of the men aboard the *Rangitoto* was William Guthrie, a former "Otago Contingent" Taranaki Military Settler with Victorian family connections, who also served in the Patea Rangers during 1865-66 until he was severely wounded in action in September 1866. He returned to Victoria but again came forward for service when he enrolled in the Armed Constabulary in Melbourne in December 1868. In New Zealand he served in No. 1 Division, Armed Constabulary, and saw action at Otauto on 13 March 1869. Here he was part of a detachment of six volunteers who assisted Sergeant Richard Shepherd who was tasked with holding a narrow path close to Titokowaru's camp. It was in this action that Sergeant Shepherd's bravery was later recognised by the award of the New Zealand Cross (in May 1876). Of the six volunteers involved in this action, three were killed, and the other three, like Sergeant Shepherd, were all variously wounded. "Corporal Guthrie was struck in the mouth by a spent bullet, knocking out two of his teeth, and he coolly put his fingers into his mouth and pulled out the bullet". Guthrie had already taken part in actions at Nukumarū and Karaka Flat during February 1869, and continued to serve in the Armed Constabulary into the 1870s.

The continual trickle of applicants led to a fourth contingent of nineteen recruits departing on the *Gothenburg* on 26 December, with a fifth and final contingent of sixteen recruits left on the *Omeo* on 5 January 1869. Captain Stack temporarily remained in Melbourne on related military business seeking to procure ammunition for breach-loading rifles but departed via Sydney aboard the steamship *Hero* on 9 January 1869.

His departure coincided with that of an imperial military party of Major-General Sir Trevor Chute, the Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's forces in Australia and New Zealand, and Colonel Hyde Page. Although Chute's visit was reported as merely a routine inspection of the British regular troops stationed in New Zealand, it would seem more than mere coincidence that Captain Stack was aboard and returning to New Zealand with this party at this time. As the official New Zealand Government Agent recruiting for the Armed Constabulary as well as seeking arms and ammunitions, he no doubt had discussions about his colony's plight with these senior imperial officers while *en route* to New Zealand. Apart from this, there was considerable Victorian public awareness of the military crisis that New Zealand authorities were facing at this time and the Victorian Government had even proposed the need for despatching four hundred men of the 14th Regiment currently garrisoned in the colony to bolster the available forces in New Zealand if needed.

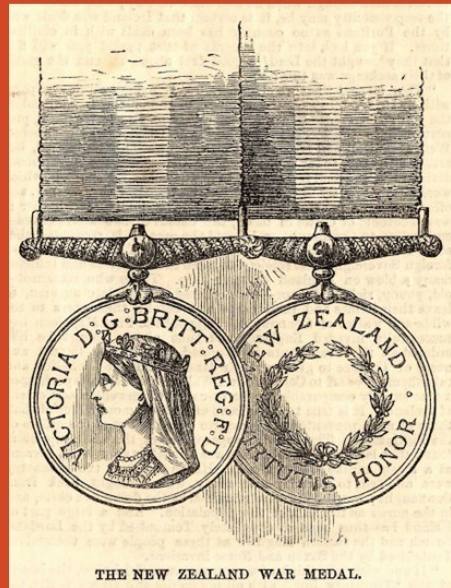
Anyway, that concludes my paper. I hope this had provided you with a little more appreciation of some aspects of Victoria's involvement in these wars across the Tasman during the 1860s.

For more detailed insights into Australian (and Victorian) involvement in the New Zealand Wars refer to this author's: *Blood Brothers: The Anzac Genesis* (Rosedale, North Shore, New Zealand: Penguin Books, 2009; also published by Wakefield Press, Kent Town, South Australia, 2009); "Taranaki Military Settlers and the Australian Context", *The Volunteers: The Journal of the New Zealand Military Historical Society*, Vol.43, No.3, (March 2018), pp.6-35; and "The Armed Constabulary of New Zealand: and the Australian Context", *The Volunteers*, Vol.27, No.1, (July 2001), pp.5-42, and an abridged version of this article was also published as "New Zealand's Armed Constabulary and its Australian Context, 1867-72", in *Sabretache*, Vol.43, No.4, (December 2002), pp.19-38.

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Jeff Hopkins-Weise

(*Defenders of the Queen: Imperial and Colonial Defence 1850-1901* - MHHV One Day Conference, 5 November 2023)



THE NEW ZEALAND WAR MEDAL.

"The New Zealand War Medal",
Illustrated Times, 15 January 1870.



Some of you will already be familiar with these works, but for others, these are the main published works that can be consulted if you are wanting to gather a greater understanding about Australian involvement in the 1860s wars in New Zealand ... and for detailed accounts about the two military settler recruiting missions to Australia, especially see the late Dr Frank Glen's 1985 and 2011 books, as well as my 2009 released *Blood Brothers* (Penguin NZ & Wakefield Press SA) ...

Map of the Auckland-Waikato and Bay of Plenty region of New Zealand's North Island



Left: Private Francis Sire, "Melbourne Contingent", Taranaki Military Settler, New Zealand War Medal (Undated type).

Right: Portrait photograph of fellow Taranaki Military Settler veteran and member of the Victorian volunteer movement, Lieutenant James Frisby Wilkinson, Victorian Rifle Volunteers.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL P10416.001

“Two Sides to a Question”, a satirical cartoon in the *Melbourne Punch* on 3 September 1863 directed towards motivations of some members of Victoria’s volunteer movement as to whether or not to enlist following the commencement of the first Australian military settler recruiting mission during August 1863.



Captain William Alfred Smith’s New Zealand War Medal (Undated type).

Captain Smith, No. 10 Company, 1st Waikato Military Settler Regiment was awarded the New Zealand War Medal for coming under fire at Te Ranga on 21 June 1864 which culminated in a bayonet charge on the entrenched Maōri forces by imperial troops from the 43rd and 68th Light Infantry Regiments and supported by the 1st Waikato Regiment. Smith was a former Victorian volunteer lieutenant and senior drill instructor for the Pentridge Volunteer Rifle Company prior to enlisting for New Zealand and was presented with a testimonial by members of this unit just prior to his departure for Auckland. He obtained a lieutenant’s commission in the Auckland Militia on 1 September 1863, and was later appointed captain in February 1865. It is unclear how long he remained in New Zealand, but he had certainly returned to Victoria by the early 1870s as the address he supplied for his New Zealand War Medal application was care of the Melbourne Post Office.



The Melbourne & Hobson's Bay Railway Company's pier at Sandridge, Melbourne. Many imperial troops and military settler volunteers departed for New Zealand from piers and wharves like this during the 1860s. *Illustrated London News*, 18 October 1862.

Railways also played an important element in the success of the military settler recruiting activities in regional Victoria during 1863 and 1864.

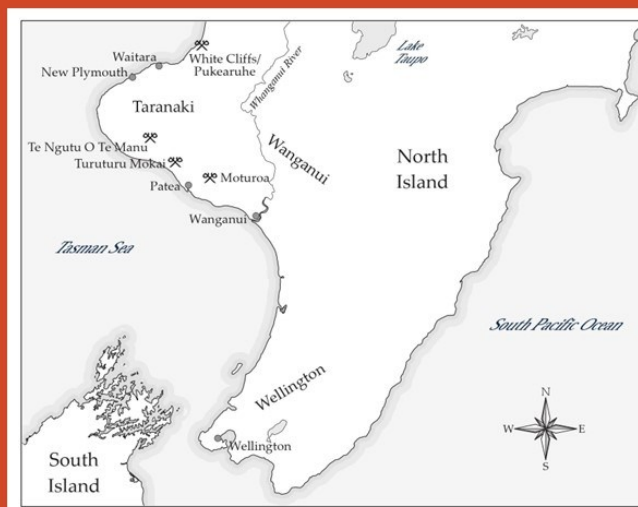


"The New Zealand Poacher", a satirical cartoon in the *Melbourne Punch* on 21 January 1864 attacking the commencement of the second military settler recruiting mission to Australia which was underway in early 1864.

There are four confirmed wounded “Melbourne Contingent” Taranaki Military Settlers among the casualties on 6 April 1864 at Te Ahuahu near Kaitake:

- **No.407, Colour-Sergeant George Bentley [also as Bartley]**, “gunshot wound in arm, bone fractured, severe”, No. 12 Company, who enlisted at “Creswicks Creek” Victoria on 18 January 1864 and departed for New Plymouth aboard the *Gresham*.
- **No.55, Corporal Robert Stokes**, “gunshot wound right shoulder, slight”, No. 12 Company, who enlisted in Ballarat on 18 January 1864 and departed for New Plymouth aboard the *Brilliant*.
- **No.898, Private Francis Thomas Tomlins**, “gunshot wound upper part thigh, severe”, No. 12 Company. On the roll of “The Melbourne Contingent” he has a note added: “12th May 1864. On Furlough to Melbourne” (which indicates he returned to Victoria shortly after to convalesce on account of his severe wound).
- **No.901, Private Edward Whatmore**, “gunshot wound calf of leg, slight”, No. 12 Company, who enlisted in Ballarat on 21 January 1864 and departed for New Plymouth aboard the *Brilliant*.

Maps of the West and East Coast regions of New Zealand’s North Island



Later this same day the *Argus Supplement* (5 December 1868, p.2) became available in which a near full page government advertisement was taken out by Captain Stack as Agent for the New Zealand Government, including this:

NEW ZEALAND ARMED CONSTABULARY.

Office-Meagher's Hotel, corner of Lonsdale and Swanston streets.

200 unmarried MEN, of good character, under 40 years of age, and of sound health, are REQUIRED, for the above force, to serve for three years, subject to discharge at the option of the Government. Any men discharged within 12 months with good conduct certificate, to receive a bonus of £15. When on service in the field they will be subject to the Mutiny Act and Articles of War. They will serve generally under the provisions of the Armed Constabulary Act, 1867, and the regulations made under its authority. They will be entitled, when, used as a military force, to the benefits of the Military Pensions Act-pay, 5s. a day without rations, or 3s. 6d. a day when rations are supplied. The Armed Constabulary Act and Regulations, with an extract from the Military Pensions Act, are herewith published for general information.

I propose enrolling men for the above service on Tuesday, the 8th instant, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., and all men enrolled on that day will embark for New Zealand on the 9th instant.

Men desirous of joining the force will call at this office on the 5th and 7th instant, between the above-named hours, with testimonials as to character, and for medical inspection.

In the event of the required number not being obtained on the 8th instant, a subsequent day for enrolling will be advertised.

W.G. STACK, Captain,
Agent for the New Zealand Government,
Melbourne, Dec. 4, 1868.

Constable Benjamin Carter, No. 3 & No. 4 Divisions, Armed Constabulary late issue New Zealand War Medal (Undated type).

Carter was a former member of the Kyneton Volunteers (3 years' service) who enrolled in Melbourne on 11 December 1868 and departed with the second contingent of recruits aboard the *Otago* on 12 December 1868. Late in life he was living in Auckland when he made application for the war medal in December 1912. After investigation to confirm his entitlement for this medal for coming under fire, he was issued this medal in April 1913. Carter served in Armed Constabulary until discharged medically unfit in September 1869. He was determined to have come under fire at Fort Lyon in January 1869, and at Nukumaru (Tauranga-ika) on 2 February 1869.



Right: New Zealand Armed Constabulary, 1st pattern cap badge, 1867-1881.

The End



THE NEW ZEALAND DIFFICULTY.
Example of the first of the New Zealand difficulties, as first sight of the Enemy.

Left: "The New Zealand Difficulty", a satirical cartoon about the experiences which one Victorian military settler volunteers was about to face on service in New Zealand, from the 22 October 1863 issues of the *Melbourne Punch*.

Right: "Another New Zealand Difficulty" cartoon lampooning the service experience of Australian recruited military settlers in New Zealand from the 10 March 1864 issue of the *Melbourne Punch*.



ANOTHER NEW ZEALAND DIFFICULTY.
"One of our's" goes out reconnoitring, and suddenly discovers the whereabouts of the Natives.