

THE SIXTH CONTINGENT

THE SIXTH CONTINGENT

28 December 1900

We trust that Gisborne will share the honor of sending reinforcements to South Africa, and that there will be a liberal response to the call that will shortly be made. It will be seen by our 'to-day's telegrams that five hundred men will be wanted, half of whom, it is understood, will be Maoris, and that the Imperial Government have offered to pay the cost of equipment and transport. There are sufficient funds in hand locally for the provision of extra comforts for the men. Captain Winter this afternoon received the following telegram from Colonel Porter, commanding the district: "Instructions and necessary papers have been posted you to-day to act in enrolling members for the Sixth Contingent." The papers should be in hand on Sunday, and a start will be made early next week to enrol volunteers.

2 January 1901

Major McCredie yesterday showed us a telegram received from Lieutenant-Colonel Porter concerning the Sixth Contingent. Applications are coming in fast, and Gisborne's draft must leave by the 6th, reach Wellington by the 8th, and be in uniform by the 12th. The proposal to extend the time for enrolment has, it will thus be seen, been unsuccessful, and it is further stated that if the draft is not got away sharp there will be a danger of the men being shut out. Local applicants will note these facts, and also the advertisement which appears in another column fixing the riding tests for Thursday morning in Captain Tucker's paddock. An effort is being made to have the shooting tests to-morrow afternoon.

Following is the complete list of names of those so far enrolled in Gisborne for service in the Sixth Contingent: James Mackinley, age 23, East Coast Mounted Rifles; Herbert Bushnell, Murewai; James Henlow, age 25; Guy Humphries, age 24, Kaiteratahi; Frank Huddleston; Williamson, Tuparoa; Ernest Albert Skeet, 31 years; James Henry James, John Barry, Robert Henry McGough, Thomas Allen, Thomas McKay, Arthur John Cooper, Cecil Bertrand DeLautour,

Thomas Ogden, Daniel Buckley, William F. Coyle, Abraham Hamson, James Higgs, John Malloy Grayson, age 28; James Ryan, age 20, height 5ft 7in, weight 11st; John Norman Leslie, 22, East Coast Mounted Rifles, and Melbourne Militia two years; Ernest Chas. Hurrey, 26, Whangara; Ernest Albert Guilford, 23, Glenroy; Irving Stanley Hurrey, 28, Whangaroa; John Joseph Lawless, Chas. John Denny, James Kenneth Campbell, William McBurney, Chas. Whitlock, 23; Chas. Glass, 23, four years' service New South Wales; Thomas James Craig, 21; Ernest Richardson, 24, Waimata; Robert Watson, 27; Percy Walter Teesdale, 23, 5ft 10in, 11st, two years in Bruce Rifles, Otago; Albert Law, 21, East Coast Mounted Rifles (can supply his own horse); Peter MacDermott, 30; Ernest James Jones, 20, 5ft 9in, 11st 4lb; Matthew Francis Bourke, 24, 5ft 8in, 11st, four years in the Kaiapoi Cadets; James Arthur Moore, 21; George Adams, 24, 5ft 7in, 11st 3lb.

3 January 1901

Gisborne candidates for the Sixth Contingent were put through their riding tests this morning, in Tucker's paddock. Major McCredie and Captain Winter conducted the tests, Sergeant Hellier Evans assisting. The principal test was the jumping of a stiff hurdle and brush fence, which the majority of the horses declined to negotiate. To the failure of the horses, however, not much importance was attached, the judges taking more notice of the manner in which the men sat and managed their mounts. There were a number of spectators, Mr "Banjo" Paterson being among them. Twenty-five candidates passed the test, following being the names—Barry, Buckley, Bushnell, Breingan, K. Campbell, Denny, A. DeLautour, Fraser, Guilford, Glass, Gray, Grayson, E. C. Hurrey, I. Hurrey, Hanlon, Humphreys, James Moore, McGough, O'Neil, Ogden, Richardson, Skeet, Teasdale, and Hesketh.

The applicants from the East Coast Mounted Rifles, being trained men, are already accepted, their names being Sergt. Thos. Allen, Corporal Norman Leslie, and Troopers McBurney, McKinley and Albert Law. The shooting tests commenced at the butts this afternoon.

4 Jan 1901 - GISBORNE'S FINAL SELECTION

At the beginning of the week the local volunteer authorities began to enrol men for the Sixth Contingent. On Wednesday, before a number of those desirous of joining the Contingent had had an opportunity of enlisting, peremptory instructions from Wellington necessitated the closing of the list. As it was, the vacancies were over-applied for three times; but had a reasonably long time been given the aspirants for military glory from the outlying parts of this district, there would, we feel sure, have been more than double the number of applicants that have so far come to hand. That there should be this enthusiasm—and it is gratifying to find it characteristic of the whole colony—after the hard experience of former contingenters in the field, has robbed the experiment of its glamor, and the unvarying rounds of unrelenting military duty have worn through the thin veneer of romantic interest attaching to it, is a splendid proof of the fact that the colony's enthusiastic interest in matters Imperial is not of the evanescent order. Local applicants are a fine stamp of men, all measurements giving a fair average. In point of physique they are on the whole quite up to the high standard of those who have gone before them. This monotonous chasing of the most mobile guerilla enemy which has ever taken the field against British arms, and the special difficulties attaching to hunting enemies in the territory of British subjects (who are covertly sympathising with the enemy, and who assist them in every way possible, their property being immune from damage at the hands of the troopers) will test all their powers of endurance to the utmost, and will require the best exercise of all those faculties characteristic of colonials. On that account, all the tests here have been of the most searching character. Drs. Hughes and Craig conducted the medical examination, and the riding and shooting tests were of a high order. It is a notable, and to those in charge of affairs creditable, fact that riding, shooting, and medical tests were all got through in one day.

Taking all three tests together, the following final selection was made for the district: Herbert Bushnell, weight 12st, age 20, height 5ft 11in, chest 37in; Bertrand Cecil DeLautour, 11st 10lb, 22 years, 5ft 7½in, 36in; Thomas Fraser, 12st, 24 years, 5ft 8in, 36in; John Mal-lory Grayson, 11st 8lb, 28 years, 5ft 10in, 37in; Chas. Glass, 11st 10lb, 23 years, 5ft 8in, 37in; John Hackett, 11st 7lb, 30 years, 5ft 9in, 38½in; Guy Hum-

phrey, 10st 7lb, 24 years, 5ft 7in, 36in; Irving Stanley Hurrey, 11st 7lb, 28 years, 5ft 10½in, 37in; Ernest Chas. Hurrey, 11st, 26 years, 5ft 9½in, 36in; Albert Law, 11st 2lb, 21 years, 5ft 10½in, 38in; John Norman Leslie, 11st 10lb, 22 years, 5ft 10½in, 36in; James Arthur Moore, 11st 10lb, 21 years, 5ft 10½in, 36½in; James McKinley, 11st 10lb, 23 years, 5ft 11in, 36in; Leonard O'Neill, 11st, 26 years, 5ft 8½in, 36in; Ernest Albert Skeet, 11st 8lb, 31 years, 5ft 8½in, 38½in. Emergency men: Ernest Albert Guilford, 23 years, 5ft 7in, 37in; Percy Walter Teesdale, 23 years, 5ft 9½in, 37½in.

Note - Guy Humphrey's proper name is Guy HUMFREY

4 Jan 1901 - FAREWELL TO THE MEN

A meeting of the Patriotic Committee was held at the Borough Council Chambers this afternoon to decide what shall be done in the direction of a send-off to the Gisborne draft of the Sixth Contingent. His Worship the Mayor presided. Matters were discussed at length, and Mr J. A. Harding offered to invite the men, Captain Winter, and Major McCredie, and the Mayor and County Chairman to dinner at the Masonic Hotel tomorrow evening at 7 o'clock, Mr Harding's offer being thankfully accepted. The assembly will be sounded at 7.45, and the men will, accompanied by the City and Whataupoko Bands and volunteers, march to the wharf, where they will go aboard the Tuna to join the Waihora in the roadstead. The Waihi, with a band aboard, will also run an excursion to the steamer, as a portion of the farewell demonstration to the Contingents. Fares have been fixed at 2s per head. Time will not allow of any demonstration of an extensive character being arranged, but the send-off arranged to take place will certainly be of the most hearty description, and will convince the troopers that they have the best wishes of their many friends in this district. Invitations were issued this afternoon by the secretary of the Committee, Mr R. D. B. Robinson.

8 Jan 1901

For the Sixth Contingent 200 men are now in camp, the Gisborne, Napier, and Wanganui sections of 15 men each arriving last night, and the remainder of the Nelson, Marlborough, and Westland sections this morning.

10 January 1901

Tuesday's New Zealand Times reports: The Waihora, which arrived in Wellington yesterday morning, brought twenty horses from Gisborne for the Sixth Contingent. The animals were accommodated in the lower hold, the hatchway immediately above them being closed down during the whole voyage. No bedding was provided, and they were left to the care of one of the crew, notwithstanding the fact that several recruits for the contingent were on board. The whole of the circumstances occasioned strong comment to a Times representative by some passengers on the steamer.

Trooper DeLautour left for South by the Omopere last evening to join the Sixth Contingent. His friends of the Gisborne Club made him a useful present before leaving.

Mr J. A. Harding, of the Masonic Hotel, has received a pleasing letter from the boys of the Gisborne section of the Sixth Contingent at Newtown Park. The boys report that they were most kindly treated by Mr and Mrs D. Thompson, of Hastings, who hospitably entertained them at lunch, and afterwards took them for a drive in a four-in-hand. In conclusion, the writers acknowledge gratefully the send-off accorded them here.

11 January 1901

WELLINGTON, this day.

There are 426 men in camp at Newtown Park, including 18 returned troopers. The contingent has been divided into five companies, Nos. 1 and 2 Wellington and Nelson, No. 3 Otago, No. 4 Canterbury, No. 5 Auckland. Telegraphed instructions have been received to include in its strength seven members of the Federal Contingent, and 13 of the men now returning in the Orient. Twenty of the Canterbury detachment were rejected on the riding test, and have left the camp. One man rejected for want of horsemanship was a returned trooper, and another such is in danger of being set aside. Neither was in any previous New Zealand contingent, both having enlisted in the Cape Corps.

14 Jan 1902

On Saturday afternoon the Gisborne Post and Telegraph staff met to bid farewell to their quondam fellow-officers, Messrs. Holford and Cox, who were leaving for South Africa. Mr Sampson on behalf of the staff presented each of the voyagers with a useful travelling bag, and expressed the hope that their "bid for fortune" would be crowned with success and prosperity. The young fellows left by the Te Anau yesterday for Wellington. They leave Sydney by the Persic about the 27th inst.

19 January 1901

WELLINGTON, last night.

No. 18 Company of the Sixth New Zealand Contingent is made up of the men from the East and West Coasts of the North Island and Nelson, and is composed of the following:

J. Allford, Wanganui; F. J. Burrell, Petone; H. P. Brown, Feilding; H. Bushnell, Gisborne; J. Burroughs, Marlborough; O. T. Baigent, Wakefield; E. Beardmore, Nelson; W. F. Boyes, Motueka; F. T. Briggs, Taranaki; J. W. Baker, Palmerston North; A. B. Birkett, Opunake; A. Bolstad, Wellington; F. Bourne, Upper Hutt; E. Brown, Wellington; T. Brown, Wellington; J. W. M. Browne, Wanganui; J. Campbell, Mosgiel; F. R. Cotton, Reefton; W. Cameron, Marlborough; H. Connell, Taranaki; H. Connop, Hastings; S. H. W. Crawford, Wellington; C. B. DeLautour, Gisborne; P. A. Deloree, Hunterville (Third Contingent); A. Erickson, Wanganui; W. Ellis, New Plymouth; D. P. Evans, Taranaki; T. Fraser, Gisborne; W. K. Freeman, Dunedin; H. W. Gillies, Napier; J. M. Grayson, Gisborne; C. Glass, Gisborne; J. P. Gibbons, Nelson; R. J. Glen, Greymouth; C. S. Girdlestone, Wellington; F. Harris, Palmerston North; P. E. Harney, Kumeroa; H. B. G. D. Hewitt, Wanganui; J. S. Hurry, Gisborne; E. C. Hurry, Gisborne; G. Humfrey, Gisborne; J. Hackett, Gisborne; G. S. Heberd, Nelson; R. Hayes, Greymouth; H. J. F. Heley, Nelson; S. Haslett, Wellington; J. H. Hayward, Dannevirke; J. A. Johnson, Te Aute, Hawke's Bay; A. W. Jensen, Greymouth; J. Jickell, Nelson; A. T. Kitney, Marton (Second Contingent); A. Law, Gisborne; C. N. Lewis, Wanganui; J. N. Leslie, Gisborne; J. Linklater, Westland; E. W. Lahman, Hokitika; F. L. Leech, Taranaki; J. F. McCutchen, Hunterville; R. T. McCallum, and A. McMillan, Napier; D. McNiven, Clive; J. McKinley, Gisborne; J. McGoldrick,

Napier; A. McKeown, Stratford; C. J. Daylesford, Victoria; A. Millar, New Plymouth; J. W. Morrison, Taranaki; A. Mooney, Wanganui; E. E. S. Marsh, Napier; J. G. P. Morgan, Napier; J. A. Moore, Gisborne; W. J. Moirish, Blenheim; W. Maddock, Blenheim; E. L. Mead, Nelson; H. Mence, Westport; F. Newcombe, Blenheim; L. O'Neill, Gisborne; W. F. O'Donnell, Wanganui; J. J. Phillips, Wellington; A. Powell, Dannevirke; F. E. Pahl, Nelson; R. H. Porter, Gisborne; E. J. Quinlan, Wellington; J. F. Richards, Marlborough; J. Reid, Westport; J. D. Ross, Taranaki; A. Snoswell, Napier; R. C. Sturm, Clive; E. A. Skeet, Gisborne; G. Smith, Nelson; A. Scott, Motueka; J. Street, Nelson; H. Steevens, Napier; T. Stafford, Waipawa; G. W. Sullivan, Wanganui (Fifth Contingent); E. Terrill, Blenheim; W. K. Taptin, Patea; E. Theobald, Wellington; F. G. Thomas, Marlborough; W. R. Tipler, Inglewood; E. J. Turvey, Canterbury; H. Wilkins, Hastings; A. Walsh, Napier; J. D. Williamson, Marlborough; G. Wilson, Greymouth; H. R. Young, Wanganui.

26 Jan 1901

It has been definitely decided that the Cornwall, with the Sixth Contingent aboard, will leave for Auckland at six o'clock to-morrow morning. A beginning was made with the shipment of horses this afternoon.

The following non-commissioned officers from the Wellington Volunteer District have been appointed to the Sixth Contingent:—

No. 18 Company: Sergeant-Major, S H W. Crawford, Wellington; Farrier Sergeant, E. J. Quinlan, Wellington; Sergeants, P. A. Deloree, New Plymouth; E. Beardmore, Nelson; J. McGoldrick, Napier; J. N. Leslie, Gisborne; Corporals, J. Jickell, Nelson; A. Kitney, Wellington; G. W. Sullivan, Wellington; L. F. Leech, Wellington; Lance-Corporals, H. Mence, Westland; C. B. DeLatur, Gisborne; H. Connop, Wellington; W. J. Morrish, Blenheim; bugler, C. S. Girdlestone, Wellington.

31 Jan 1901

The Men of the sixth Contingent embarked on the Cornwall about 5 pm and sailed out of the Auckland harbour on their way to SA

Troopers James Moore and Thomas Fraser, of Gisborne, have enlisted with the Fourth Contingent, that option having been given to those going with the Sixth. Trooper E. Kenny, formerly of the East Coast Mounted Rifles, and E. Taylor, another Gisbornite, joined the Wellington section of the Sixth Contingent.

6 Feb 1901

SYDNEY, Feb. 5.

The troopship Cornwall has arrived, after a pleasant passage, all on board being well. Birt and Co., agents of the steamer, entertained the New Zealand troops at a harbor trip and tea. The Company to-night entertained the officers at a theatre party. The Cornwall expects to get away on Wednesday evening, and calls at Albany to coal. The steamer then proceeds direct to the Cape.

16 Feb 1901

ALBANY, Feb. 16.

The troopship Cornwall has arrived here.

WELLINGTON, this day.

A cable message from Mr McEacharin, veterinary officer of the Sixth Contingent, announces the arrival of the Cornwall at Albany. There was a heavy sea in the Great Australian Bight. Two horses were lost from pneumonia.

A later report says 14 horses were lost on the voyage

TO BE RELIEVED BY

13 March 1901

LATER CONTINGENTS.

WELLINGTON, last night.

The Government have made arrangements for the immediate return of the members of the first five contingents now in South Africa, as soon as the men of the Sixth and Seventh are able to take their places. The Sixth Contingent may be reported as having arrived at any hour, and the Seventh will be due at the Cape at the end of April. Though the men signed on for a year, or until the termination of the war, the Minister for Defence has arranged that the term of the agreement shall expire at the end of a year's service, and this limit has expired as to the first three contingents, and as to the Fourth and Fifth will be reached in the course of a few weeks. The Sixth Contingent, now due at Capetown, will commence the work of relief, and will replace the remainder of the first three and parts of the Fourth Contingent, while the Seventh, now in

camp here, will relieve the balance of the Fourth and Fifth. A month ago a careful computation was made of the number of our men then in South Africa, or on the way home, with the following results: First (officers and men in each case), 17; Second, 177; Third, 201; Fourth, 425; Fifth, 561; total, 1381. This number will be diminished by a further draft invalided home, so that the total strength of the Sixth and Seventh, say 1100 men, will probably suffice for all purposes of relief.

6 May 1901

Sergeant Norman Leslie, of the Sixth Contingent, writing to his friends in Gisborne under date of Pretoria, March 28th, says: "From East London, we were ordered to the front by train. The horses were shipped straight from the steamer to the train, and could hardly stand. You can imagine the treat we had getting them off the boat. Several of them had to be left behind at the depot. At Stormberg, we saw the place where Gatacre and his men were cut up. At Springfontein we met the Third New Zealand Contingent, and also saw a number of graves of Maorilanders who had fallen. Lord Kitchener inspected us yesterday, as also did Colonel Plumer. Lord Kitchener is a very determined-looking man. Some of the boys are in the hospital, amongst them being Law and McKinley. The place is overrun with fever, as we are camped behind a large field-hospital."

7 May 1901

A private letter received from Trooper Law, of the Sixth Contingent, at Pretoria, states that McKinley and himself were down with German measles, not with typhoid fever as another trooper had reported. He says: "There were nineteen altogether with the same complaint, and we were all left behind. We were very disappointed, as we anticipated going with General Plumer's column to take Petersburg, but having to stay in the hospital for fourteen days put a set on it."

14 May 1901

A letter received from Trooper Mark Pickett, of the Gisborne section of the Third Contingent, written from Capetown on March 26th, stated that he had gone to Capetown to see his comrades off, and was returning to the front to join the Sixth Contingent. He states that he is thoroughly satisfied with the life, and intends to see the thing through. "Sometimes," he says, "we have it a bit rough, but I like it, and if I can get through with the Sixth I will

be satisfied to have a turn at something else."

At the Magistrate's Court this morning Messrs. Matthewson and Mason, J.S.P., occupied the Bench. A first-offending Native charged with drunkenness was discharged with a caution. Herbert Hooper pleaded not guilty to a charge of not registering his dog for the previous year. He was fined 10s registration fee, and costs 22s 6d, and was allowed till May 31st to pay the amount. A similar charge was lodged against Harry Reed, who produced a receipt for the registration fee, which had been paid to a clerk in the Registrar's employ. The case was withdrawn. In the case of the Registrar v. Rewai Taipaha, the summons was enlarged for proper service. Wiri Pohapi (Mr Lysnar) pleaded not guilty. Mr Jones (for the Registrar) said that in this case there was a dispute as to the ownership of the dogs, which had been about the defendant's place. The Registrar in his evidence stated the four dogs had not collars, and so far as he knew the dogs were not registered. He had seen the dogs following defendant. In answer to Mr Lysnar, he said he would not swear that the defendant was the same man he had seen the dogs following. It was very difficult to ascertain the owners of Native dogs. Mr Lysnar called the defendant, who stated he did not own any dogs, and that he was a waggoner, and had not owned any dogs during the last five years. The Registrar had mistaken him for Tautawa Pohapi, who had four dogs. Mr Jones asked for leave to withdraw the case against defendant, as a mistake had been made in the identification of the owner. Mr Lysnar asked that costs be allowed in this case, as the Natives had been put to a lot of inconvenience over these dog cases. The Bench considered the Registrar had taken every care, but decided to allow defendant 10s 6d costs.

19 June 1901 -

ITS ADVANCE TO PIETERSBURG.

PIETERSBURG, April 12.

On Saturday, the 6th inst., we left Piet Potgieters Rust as part of Colonel Colvin's flying column to seize Berg's Nek. The seizing of this pass, enormously strong for defensive purposes, was absolutely essential for the successful completion of our march to Pietersburg.

The journey was uneventful until we entered the final stage of the pass (in all eight miles long), when the Australian Third Regiment, under Major Vyles, encountered a heavy fire from the enemy, and lost three men and several horses in a few minutes. The pom-pom under Captain Rotten galloped into action and quickly dispersed the enemy, who consisted of a rearguard of General Beyer's commando. The New Zealanders occupied the heights on each side of the

pass. The Australians had several very narrow shaves, and one man had a piece taken out of the butt of his rifle. Another had a tin of jam in his haversack shot through. Trooper Angel, a Western Australian, was shot through both lungs, and is not expected to recover. Thomas, also a Western Australian, was shot through the ankle. Another had a wound on the hand. The wounded were attended on the field by Surgeons-Major Green and Sherman and Captain Purdy, who were with the advance supports.

The remainder of the column with General Plumer reached De Berg's Nek at 10 a.m. on Sunday, and our march was resumed at 1.30. Early in the morning two of our men were captured. They had been out on patrol, and getting lost, came upon a party of the enemy. After a desperate resistance, in which Corporal Loree was slightly wounded and both horses were killed, they were forced to surrender. Their captivity, however, was of short duration, as the Boers, owing to their hasty retreat on Pietersburg, had to leave them behind. To the credit of the enemy be it said they were both very kindly treated. The Australians were less fortunate, as they lost two men on the flanks, who were wounded, captured, and taken on in their flight. We camped for the night at a village nine miles from Pietersburg.

We entered Pietersburg on Monday, 8th inst., at 9.30 a.m. The Australians formed the advance screen, engaging the enemy in a desultory manner the whole way. On the slopes at the back of the town it was thought that a more obstinate resistance was offered. The New Zealanders were galloped up to the centre of the firing line.

Up to this there had only been one casualty this morning, one Bushman having been shot on entering the town. But now occurred one of those dastardly outrages which have done so much to damage the reputation of the Boer. The local schoolmaster, evidently a man of fanatical disposition, having carefully prepared a large mole-hill to conceal him, permitted the Imperial Bush Contingent to come within thirty yards of him, and then commenced firing on them. Owing to the noise caused by the desultory firing all round, the party were unable to locate whence the effective firing came. Within a few seconds Lieutenant Walters and Sayle and one trooper fell. The first was shot through the heart; the other two were mortally wounded, and have since died. Seven horses were also shot by this Boer before he was discovered, when he immediately threw up his hat and offered to surrender. A Bushman, however, rushed in, and, infuriated by his conduct, shot and bayoneted him. Two squadrons of New Zealanders, under Major Finlay and Captain Matthews, pur-

Major Finlay and Captain Matthews, pursued the Boers for seven miles, but were unable to overtake them.

The reconnaissance in force was made on Thursday. Most of the New Zealanders had been on picket duty all night. By 8 a.m., however, all had returned to camp. At 9 a.m. nearly the whole column, with three guns and two pom-poms, marched out. We were told to strip our saddles, so most of the men were riding merely in their shirt-sleeves, having left tunics, great-coats, blankets, waterproofs sheets, etc., behind. We marched 26 miles to the south-east, only to find that the Boers' Long Tom had been removed 24 hours previously. After four hours' sleep for those who could rest in spite of the bitter cold, we trekked back to camp, starting at 4 a.m., and arriving at 12 noon to-day.

Our future movements are unknown to us. One thing is certain—if we are marched day after day, we shall soon be an infantry corps, as the horses are beginning to break down under the strain. The poor beasts have never had a day's rest since leaving New Zealand.

A message was read to the troops from Lord Kitchener, congratulating them on the successful termination of their arduous march to Pietersburg.

In the town large quantities of ammunition were captured. For five or six hours a continuous fusillade was heard of the ammunition, which was burned; also a large stock of dynamite was blown up.

22 June 1901 - THE SIXTH CONTINGENT HOW COMMANDANT SCHROEDER WAS CAPTURED.

Writing from Silverton, near Pretoria, under date May 12, the Post special correspondent with the Sixth Contingent gives an account of the operations of General Plumer's column (of which the New Zealanders formed part) in the country north of Pretoria at the end of April and the beginning of May for the purpose of enveloping the commandos of Viljoen-Fourie, Trichaardt, and Schroeder.

Schroeder was captured on the 25th May by Lieut. Reid and Mr Brink (Intelligence Department) with 20 Australian Bushmen. Late the previous night they had heard voices on a kopje. Sergeant Stocker (a New Zealander), with nine Tasmanians, climbed the kopje. Schroeder withdrew his men to the further side of the kopje. By daybreak the little band of Australians had occupied posts surrounding the Boers. At the first streak of dawn they rushed the position with fixed bayonets. Commandant Schroeder had his men drawn up in a semi-circle. He himself had determined to surrender,

thinking he was surrounded by an overwhelming force, and stood with folded arms, an orderly holding a white flag above his head. He had with him a Maxim gun (captured from Dr Jameson in the famous raid), eleven waggons, and several Cape carts. He handed over his sword and revolver to Lieut. Reid, and gave his word that none of his men would attempt to escape. Only on arrival at Major Viall's camp did he realise that he had been "bluffed" by a party half his number.

On arrival at Captain Markham's camp at 10 p.m. a large fire had been lighted. Lieut. Banks acted as guard over the prisoners, with fifteen men with fixed bayonets. Commandant Schroeder, with his lieutenant and two nieces, were hospitably entertained, his men also receiving a good meal. In connection with Schroeder, who is a tall, handsome man, standing 6ft in his socks, with a fine military carriage, we were told that the previous day he had been harried considerably by Captain Markham's party of New Zealanders. On more than one occasion he had trained his Maxim on them, but knew that should he fire he would bring the whole column after him. The fate of the sniper at Pietersburg had taught them that the Bushmen showed no mercy when their officers were picked off.

Schroeder related how he had captured 600 Yeomanry and marched them to Waterval between Roberts' and Buller's columns. He had been censured by the Boers for showing undue leniency to the "sons of Admiral Goschen," as he called the statesman who was so long First Lord of the Admiralty. In the morning the prisoners were taken to General Plumer's camp, where Lieut. Williams acted as their guardian.

On April 25th Lieut. Wood, with 40 New Zealand Mounted Rifles, was sent to reinforce Captain Markham. At 5 p.m., together with Mr Taylor and Surgeon-Captain Purdy, this party started off after Trichaardt, under the guidance of Mr Taylor. They marched until 2 a.m. During the night they crossed a ravine which by daylight seemed impassable. At one time the party were in a narrow kloof scrambling over rocks, horses going down, the men tattered and torn by the thick bush. Some of the men afterwards said they thanked God their horses kept up, and that they eventually reached the creek. After two hours' rest they started once more at 4 a.m. At 6 a.m. a hard trot brought them to the Boer position, only to find that they had trekked, simply leaving one old spring-cart. However, at 7

o'clock we found their waggons safe in the hands of a party of I.L.H., who were an advance party for the Devons, under Major Davis. Though the waggons were taken, most of the enemy had escaped.

The chase was kept up, and on May 3rd a flying column was formed to pursue the enemy. Two hundred and fifty of the best mounted men were sent, including 60 New Zealand Mounted Rifles, under Major Finlay, Captains Markham and Cameron, with Lieut. Wallis. Lieut. Banks acted as galloper. The first day they rode 33 miles, capturing 18 waggons, 35 Boers, and 1200 cattle. Next day (May 4th) they reached Waterval at 9 a.m. Three hours previously a force of 300 Boers with several waggons and over 400 cattle had crossed the railway two miles above the station, which was held by part of the West Riding Regiment.

On May 6th the column reached Pienaar's river at 8 a.m., having covered 135 miles in three and a half days. Here the flying column remained in camp until May 11th, when it entrained for Pretoria, whence it marched to join General Plumer's force, which had been encamped for five days at Silverton, six miles from town.

Of the New Zealanders, nearly 100 had to walk the last few days on trek, owing to the loss of horses from horse-sickness and hard work. We are to move off again on the 14th, taking eleven days' rations, destination unknown. Owing to the lack of remounts, several men were to be sent into a resting camp until a fresh draft of horses arrives.

On Saturday, May 11th, the Contingent defeated the Australian Bushmen at football by 20 points to nil. Dr O'Neill distinguished himself by dropping a goal and scoring a try.

19 July 1901

ADVENTURES IN SOUTH-WEST TRANSVAAL.

MORE ABOUT HURREY'S DEATH.

(Post's Special Correspondent.)

STANDERTON, May 29.

General Plumer's column, of which the Sixth New Zealanders form part, has just completed an adventurous march from its old camp at Silverton (outside Pretoria) to Ermelo, 140 miles south-east of the Transvaal capital, and then south-west to Standerton, on the Laing's Nek to Pretoria railway.

The column moved off from Silverton on May 14th, and soon came in contact with the enemy. About noon on May 18th the advance guard had a little brush with the Boers just after the main body had halted. Four New Zealanders—Sergeant De Loree, Privates Hackett and J. S. Hurrey, and another were sent out to reconnoitre a farmhouse about three miles from camp.

When within a hundred yards of the farm a horseman rode past them at a distance of 100 yards. Thinking he belonged to their own column, they did not fire. Not so the Boer, as he proved to be. He dismounted and fired on our patrol. Hurrey returned the fire, evidently slightly wounding the Boer, who mounted and rode back to the farm. Straightway six horsemen issued from behind the house and opened a hot fire on our men, who retired. Hackett's horse, however, was knocked up, and consequently delayed their progress. Private Hurrey, seeing this, dismounted and returned the enemy's fire. Sergeant De Loree and the others came to his assistance. On seeing this, the Boers also took cover.

Private Hurrey, who had been lying and firing, raised himself on his knee to get a better shot. Hardly had he done so than he was shot, the bullet passing through his left knee, and then through the stomach. The other three New Zealanders took up a position behind a slight rising ground, and kept up a constant fire until Sergeant Gallaher, with Lance-Corporal Hunt and the others who were the advance party of Lieutenants Overton and Williams' troops, came up and drove back the enemy.

Camp was reached at 4 p.m., Lieutenant Wilson keeping the Boers busily engaged with his pom-pom until the waggons had got into laager and the pickets posted. Private Hurrey died at 10.30, and was buried the following afternoon at Trigardsfontein, along with Gunner Wye, who died a few hours after the trek was resumed. A pathetic incident was the arrival of Hurrey's brother, who had ridden over from General Plumer's column to inquire after his wounded brother, only to be in time to witness his burial.

The correspondent goes on to detail other engagements, including a stiff one at Mooifontein on May 25th, in which Viljoen made a severe attack on a convoy.

When Plumer's column reached Sanderton, on the evening of May 29th, they found that the Seventh New Zealand Contingent had just left a few days previously, trekking to Ermelo under Colonel Grey. At present in Sanderton we have Plumer's column, Bethune's column, Knox's column, and Col. Enderby's column. So the place is filled with troops, besides a large refugee camp and the local garrison. Col. Galway this afternoon assembled the troops who took part in the fight at Mooifontein, and read a telegram from Lord Kitchener saying: "Whilst the Commander-in-Chief regrets the loss, he wishes to congratulate the troopers on their gallant and successful defence of the ox-convoy."

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Many of the New Zealanders have suffered from dysentery and other troubles, 176 in all having passed through the field hospital in three months. Our men all speak in high terms of praise of the treatment they have received both in the field and base hospitals.

Our New Zealand doctor, Surgeon Purdy, had a novel experience. Commandant Speut had sent in a Boer named Grobler with a flag of truce, asking Col. Galway to send out a surgeon to dress their wounded. Surgeon-Captain Purdy volunteered, and left the camp accompanied by an orderly. The Boer was blindfolded on leaving our camp until the party got beyond the picket lines. The doctor's name was used as a countersign that night. But it was not until just before we commenced trekking that he turned up. When he and the orderly appeared on the sky-line they received a volley from a picket of forty Munsters at 600 yards' range. Wonderful to relate, neither were hit, though the doctor's horse bucked and reared, and eventually threw its rider. The Boers, however, caught the horse, which had galloped madly back to them, and sent it into camp.

When the doctor and his orderly appeared around the side of the hill a shrapnel was put into them by the R.H.A. Before another shell could be fired it was seen that the supposed Boers were coming in with their hands up, and so they reached the outlying pickets. I believe that the doctor had a most interesting time with the Boers, and should he care to write his experiences, no doubt they will be worth reading.

26 Feb 1902

(Per Press Association.)

WELLINGTON, this day.

The Premier has informed Mr Wilford, M.H.R., that the Sixth Contingent will return to the colony about the 15th or 16th of April.

WELLINGTON, last night.

The following is a list of the names of the officers and men of the Sixth Contingent who arrived in Australia by the Cornwall and are coming on to Wellington by the Monowai, due here on Wednesday night: Page, Woodlay, Taylor, Pike, Rooney, Good, Baker, White, Murray, Andrews, Attwood, Alexander, Barlow, Bryers, Bayly, Bowers, Buttler, Beatty, Berntsen, Colhoun, Conner, Collins, Coulbrough, Cameron, Doel, Davey, Donohoe, Ellis, Fahey, Gleeson, Healing, Howe, Harris, Headifen, Hone, Harris, Jackson, Kelly, Luther, Leonard, Lop-

dell, Lovegrove, Lawrence, McKenzie, Marchall, Madill, Maloney, Matheson, Morton, Marson, Milon, Norris, Ryan, Robertson, Scherfer, Stewart, Spencer, Simonds, 3417 Smith, Strange, Muir, 3416 Smith, Moore, Maddock, 3392 Miller, McGoldrick, Newcombe, Nathan, O'Donnell, O'Neill, Phillips, Powell, Parsons, Perham, Philip, Snoswell, Skeet, 3344 Smith, Scott, Stevens, Stafford, Spence, Turner, Tipler, Walsh, Wright, Young, Morine, Picket, Robertson, Harris, Kelly, Gillanders, Cassidy, Alexander, Blythe, Bateman, Blakely, Blydon, Black, Butchers, Burns, Baylis, Boolong, Chadwick, Cassidy, Cresswell, Cooling, Chamberlain, Darby, Dorward, Derrett, Duncan, Elen, Free, Ford, Gebbie, Harrison, Hall, Hanlon, Kensett, McKenzie, Martin, Mehrtens, Melton, Murdoch, McColl, McCullough, Pye, Payne, Ronald, Shields, 3659 Smith, 3848 Smith, 3845 Smith, Salt, Slater, Shand, Saunders, Saver, Tarbot, Molin, Thomas, Trenary, Whitaker, Watt, Will, Winter, Irwin, Sheerin, Stubbs, Metcalfe, Horne, Hurrey, Whitney, Skeet, Sherman, Connop, Armstrong, DeLautour, Evatt, Hayward, Fraser, Cundy, Grayson, Girdlestone, Anderson, Burrel, Bargent, Baker, Birket, Bolstad, Brown, Bourne, Baines, Camp-

bell, Cameron, Connell, Carley, Clarke, Darlock, Ellis, Evans, Ferguson, Freeman, Gibbons, Glen, Griffen, Harlett, Harris, Hibberd, Hayes, Hartzell, Jones, Jensen, Laid, Dahman, Lewis, Linklater, Lett, McKeown, 3521 Miller, Morrison, Morgan, Vincent, Willis, Withers, Duncan, Johnson, Jones, Cunningham, Griffiths, Dermott, Bishop, Allen, Brittenden, Bayly, Browne, Curle, Collins, Curney, Cochrane, Cameron, Callaghan, Clarke, Dale, Edwards, Earle, Farquhar, Green, Horan, Harvey, Hunter, Hall, Hanley, Hunt, Hepburn, Hulme, Jack, Johnson, Key, Kennard, Leckett, Lawrei, Luxford, Lindsay, Lyall, 3767 McKay, McKinley, McLaren, McLean, Miles, McInnes, Mitchell, McMeekin, Marshall, 3761 McKenzie, Moses, 3772 McKay, Murray, Mickle, Miller, Martindale, McDonald, Nicol, Neill, O'Hogan, O'Keefe, Parry, Purlon, Ross, Raper, Standen, Taylor, Thompson, 3806 Wilson, Wood, 3803 Wilson, Withers, Fookes, Dunford, Antridge, Jury. Lieutenant - Colonel Banks, Captain Tucker, Surgeon-Captain O'Neill, Lieutenants Blenthorn, McDonald, Banks, Jones, and Beamish, and Veterinary-Lieutenant McMillan are also with the party.