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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THE 40TH REGIMENT REDOUBT SITE, TE AWAMUTU

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INTRODUCTION

During June 1991 archaeological investigations were conducted on the 40th Regiment redoubt site, S15/173, in the centre of Te Awamutu township (for a detailed account of the history and archaeology of the site refer Ritchie and Gumbley 1992). The investigation resulted from an application to the NZ Historic Places Trust by the NZ Police for an Authority to Modify the site in order to build a new multi-storied Police Headquarters on the property. Prior to the excavation the redoubt earthworks were not discernible, having been levelled c.1900 (or earlier) when the town's first Courthouse and police station were built on the site.

The redoubt was established by British troops towards the end of the Waikato campaign in 1864 and served as the main British stronghold in the Waipa valley until British forces were withdrawn in 1867.

Two smaller redoubts were established within a kilometre of the main redoubt. They served as the headquarters for the 57th and 65th regiments, whereas the main redoubt was built and manned by the 40th (see Fig. 1). From 1869 until 1876 the site was used as a minor Armed Constabulary base.

By 1886 the site had been subdivided into a police station and a Courthouse reserve. In 1903 the original Courthouse was sold for removal. A police station was erected on the property later that year along with a policeman's residence on the old Courthouse site. The redoubt site appears to have been levelled to facilitate their construction. With the exception of the present Courthouse and the adjacent Justice Department offices, all of the buildings on the site were removed or demolished in May 1991 to enable construction of the new Police HQ.

Despite the absence of visible evidence, the general location of the former redoubt was well known, being depicted on Simpson's 1865 survey plan, and an 1873 map of the subdivision of the Camp reserve, as well as accounts in other historical records. On the strength of this information the site was recorded by Steve Edson in 1977. There are no records of pre-European Maori occupation on the site and no archaeological evidence of such activity was encountered.

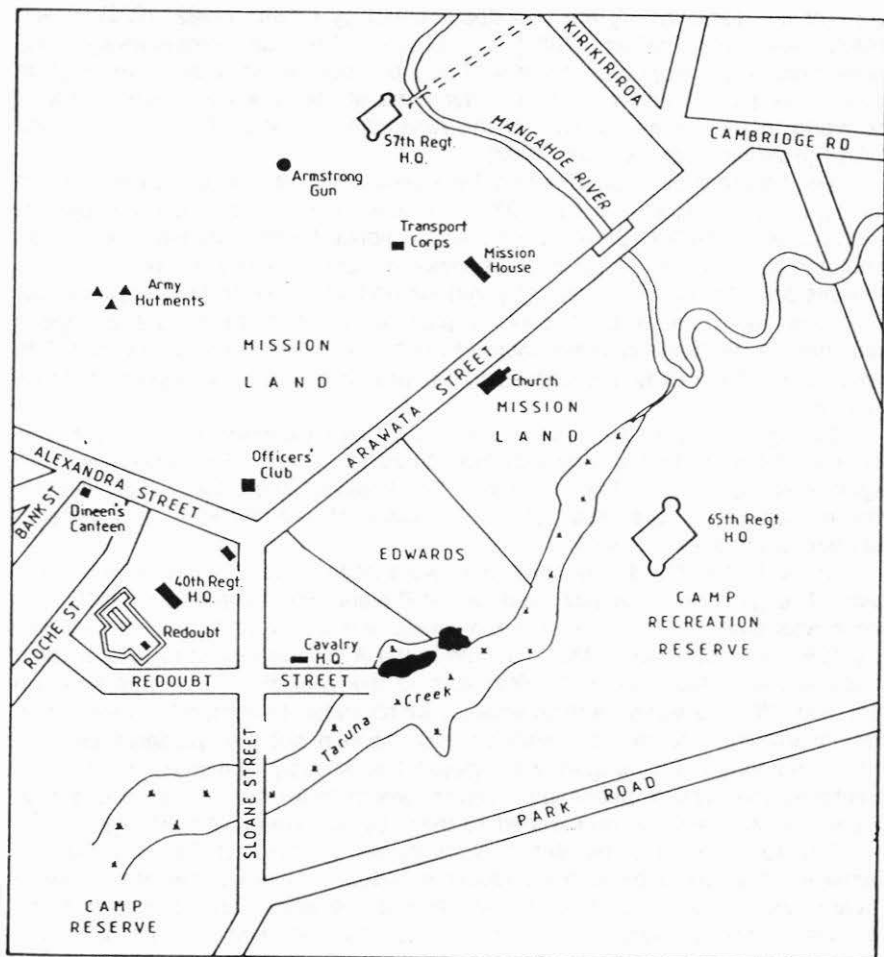


Fig. 1. Map based on 1865 survey plan showing location of military features at Te Awamutu.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Between 1845 and 1872 there were no fewer than 13 major conflicts involving British and Colonial forces against various North Island Maori tribes. These events, now called the 'New Zealand Wars' (formerly known as the 'Maori

Wars' or the 'Land Wars') are well documented by Cowan (1922, 1923), Belich (1986), Ryan and Parham (1986) and others. Although comparatively small engagements, in proportion to New Zealand's population, they were large in scale; in fact the number of men under arms at the time was second only in the world to the forces involved in the American Civil War (A. Larsen, English military historian, pers. comm. 1992).

The 'Waikato campaign' during 1863-1864 occurred about midway through the series of conflicts (Featon 1971). It was one of the major campaigns, involving some 18,000 British troops and Colonial forces. At the time, it was promoted by Governor Grey as a defensive military response to control lawless activities and threats to Auckland by various northern Waikato Maori groups; but it is now seen for what it was, a planned invasion to secure European settlement in the fertile Waikato south of Pokeno and the submission of the King movement, which Grey considered to be promoting rebellion against colonial authority.

During 1862 Grey had the Great South Road extended by military forces some 47 miles (75 km) southwards from Drury to Pokeno. Redoubts were built regularly along the way (Lennard 1986). The Waikato Maori rightly regarded this construction as a precursor to an invasion of the Waikato and ordered Europeans to leave the area.

In the first week of July 1863 there were large troop movements along the road. The garrison at Queen's redoubt at Pokeno was increased to 2000 men and it was clear the invasion of the Waikato was about to begin. On the 9th July 1863 Grey ordered all Maori people in the Auckland district to take an oath of allegiance to the Queen, or else retire to the Waikato. Two days later, on 11th July 1863, he issued a Proclamation which stated (among other things) that the Government intended to establish and maintain posts to preserve law and order, and those who waged war against Her Majesty, remained in arms, or threatened the lives of peaceable subjects would forfeit the right to possession of their lands otherwise guaranteed to them by the Treaty of Waitangi.

The following day the British Commander in Chief, Lt Gen. Sir Duncan Cameron, detailed a force from Queen's redoubt to cross the Mangatawhiri Stream, the stated boundary of the Waikato Kingites, and commence the invasion of the Waikato. That action was the beginning of the 10 month Waikato campaign which ended after the battle at Orakau in April 1864 (see Fig. 2).

The initial stages of the campaign took place in the lower Waikato, where the main engagements were in the Koheroa ridges (July 1863), at Meremere (31 Oct. 1863), and Rangiriri (20 Nov. 1863). After the fighting at Rangiriri the Kingites withdrew into the southern Waikato, where fighting was not resumed until 1864. The British forces advanced steadily south occupying Ngaruawahia, the abandoned capital of the Maori King, during December 1863.

After learning that Maori forces were amassing in the Delta, the name then used to describe the Waipa River valley, Cameron diverted his forces up the river from Ngaruawahia. En route redoubts were established at Whatawhata, Tuhikaramea (field HQ, 1 Jan. 1864), Ngahinapouri, and Te Rore (landing 27 Jan. 1864).

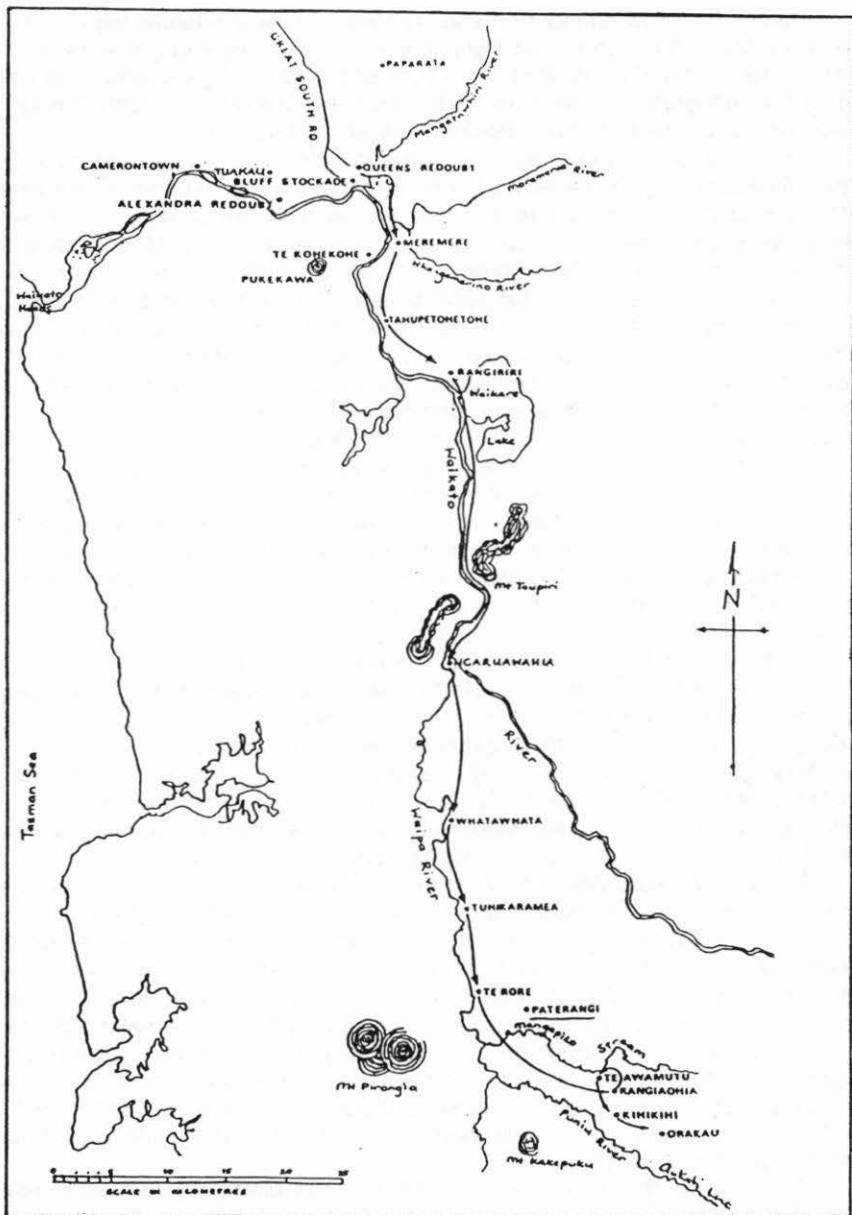


Fig. 2. The main British line of advance, Waikato Campaign, 1863-64.

During the following month (February 1864) Cameron's forces bypassed the extensive Maori fortifications on Paterangi and after small engagements on the Hairini ridge and at Rangiaowhia, his forces occupied both settlements, the latter being the recognised 'food bowl of the southern Waikato'. Shortly thereafter Cameron established his field headquarters at Te Awamutu.

At this stage it looked as though the Waikato War was all but over, but Rewi Maniopotō rallied the Maori forces for what was to become a celebrated last stand at Orakau in April 1864. After withstanding five assaults, and having nearly exhausted their water and ammunition, many of the Maori defenders managed to break the British cordon and flee south into the King Country.

Following the seizure of Rangiaowhia/Hairini, Cameron established a redoubt at Pukerimu (March 1864), which for a time served as his headquarters (Vennell 1992: 183-187). From here he intended to launch an attack on Te Tiki o te Ihingarangi, the Ngati Haua chief Wiremu Tamehana's pa c.8 km upstream, but after the fall of Orakau, Tamehana abandoned the position and the attack was aborted (Vennell 1939; Walton 1983; Proctor 1990).

After failing to effect a decisive battle with the Waikato Maori, Cameron decided that the Puniu River would mark the southern limit of his advance. He appreciated that the Maori forces would have a very real military advantage in the broken wooded country south of the river, and the land itself would have little immediate appeal to European settlers. The Maori acknowledged the loss of the British occupied territory, the limits of which they referred to as the aukati (boundary line).

Cameron directed some of his regiments to establish outposts on the frontier and elsewhere in the Waikato to hold the occupied lands and withdrew the core of his striking force to Auckland, in preparation for a new campaign around Tauranga. Some 40 blockhouses and redoubts were built throughout the Waikato between 1863 and 1867 (Swarbrick 1967). Many of the redoubts are recorded archaeological sites (Appendix 1), but other than the private fortification Firth's Tower near Matamata, all the blockhouses have gone, and their former locations are poorly documented.

After the Waikato War, virtually all of the Waikato north of the Puniu River was confiscated by the Crown, and much of it subdivided and granted to the militia (soldier settlers). The militia were volunteers who performed a specific military service, in this case assisting the British occupation of the Waikato, in return for a plot of land at the completion of their tour of duty (the size of each holding was related to each soldier's rank). The agreement also stipulated that a stockade 'would be built on the most eligible site at the government's expense' to afford protection for the settlers, and that a town site would be laid out around or as near as conveniently possible to the redoubt (Barton 1979). Many Waikato towns were established by this means, most notably Hamilton, Cambridge, and Pirongia.

Te Awamutu, the site of the mission station established by Ashwell in 1839, was selected by Cameron as the winter site for the Waikato Army and his frontier headquarters (Mandeno 1967: 12; 1991: 12). At the close of the war, in April 1864, some 4000 Imperial and colonial troops were in quarters at Te Awamutu, which remained a large cantonment for over a year (*Southern Cross*

20 Feb. 1864; Cowan 1922: 79). Shortly after their arrival, troops of the 40th regiment were reported to have 'thrown up a large redoubt capable of holding 500 men, protected by a ditch 10 feet deep and a high parapet'. The redoubt served as the headquarters of the general staff, commissariat, artillery, and engineers, as well as the site of the camp post office, a bakery, and a general hospital (Barber 1984: 46). Despite its role as the main British HQ on the southern frontier, there are no unambiguous photographs of the redoubt taken during the years it was occupied by either the British garrison or the Armed Constabulary or after its abandonment. A photograph in the Alexander Turnbull Library captioned 'The Te Awamutu redoubt' (reproduced in Barber 1984: 38) probably depicts the smaller 57th regiment redoubt. Another photograph (in the Te Awamutu Museum collection) is captioned 'A Te Awamutu Redoubt, probably the 65th Reg.', i.e. the other redoubt at Te Awamutu (these photographs are reproduced in Ritchie and Gumbley 1992: 7).

ARCHAEOLOGY ON OTHER WAIKATO REDOUBTS

Prior to this investigation, a small and almost undocumented excavation was conducted on the Narrows redoubt, Hamilton (S14/45) by the Waikato Archaeological Society (c.1973), and small mitigation excavations have been conducted on four others, viz. Pukerimu (S15/41, Waikato Archaeological Society 1985; Proctor 1990), Kihikihi (S15/235; Prickett 1984), Ohaupo (S15/11; Morgan Leatherby Associates 1986), and Rotorangi (S15/54; McFadgen and Walton 1987; 1988). Only the Ohaupo investigation produced a substantial assemblage, and it has been inadequately analysed and documented. The Pukerimu redoubt is briefly discussed in a survey of the area (Walton 1983). The 1985 excavation there has been written up recently by one of the participants, as part of a student project (Proctor 1990). Bellwood (1968: 88-92) briefly described the Esk redoubt (S12/30), and considerable historical research has been undertaken on the Hamilton West redoubt site (Simmons 1989).

During March 1992, Nigel Prickett conducted a small salvage excavation on the extensive Queen's redoubt site at Pokeno (Prickett in prep.), from where Cameron launched the Waikato campaign.

A summary of redoubt and blockhouse sites in the Waikato (and its northern margins) is presented in Appendix 1.

EXCAVATION AT TE AWAMUTU REDOUBT

The archaeological work on the Te Awamutu redoubt site (Fig. 3) involved two weeks of monitoring the removal of up to 2 m of the so-called 'Te Awamutu clay' off the entire site (some 200 truckloads), during which it was confidently expected that the alignment of the redoubt ditch would be exposed as well as other archaeological features such as trash pits.

A condition of the Trust's authorisation to modify the site required the contractors to allow up to two weeks to enable the investigation of features

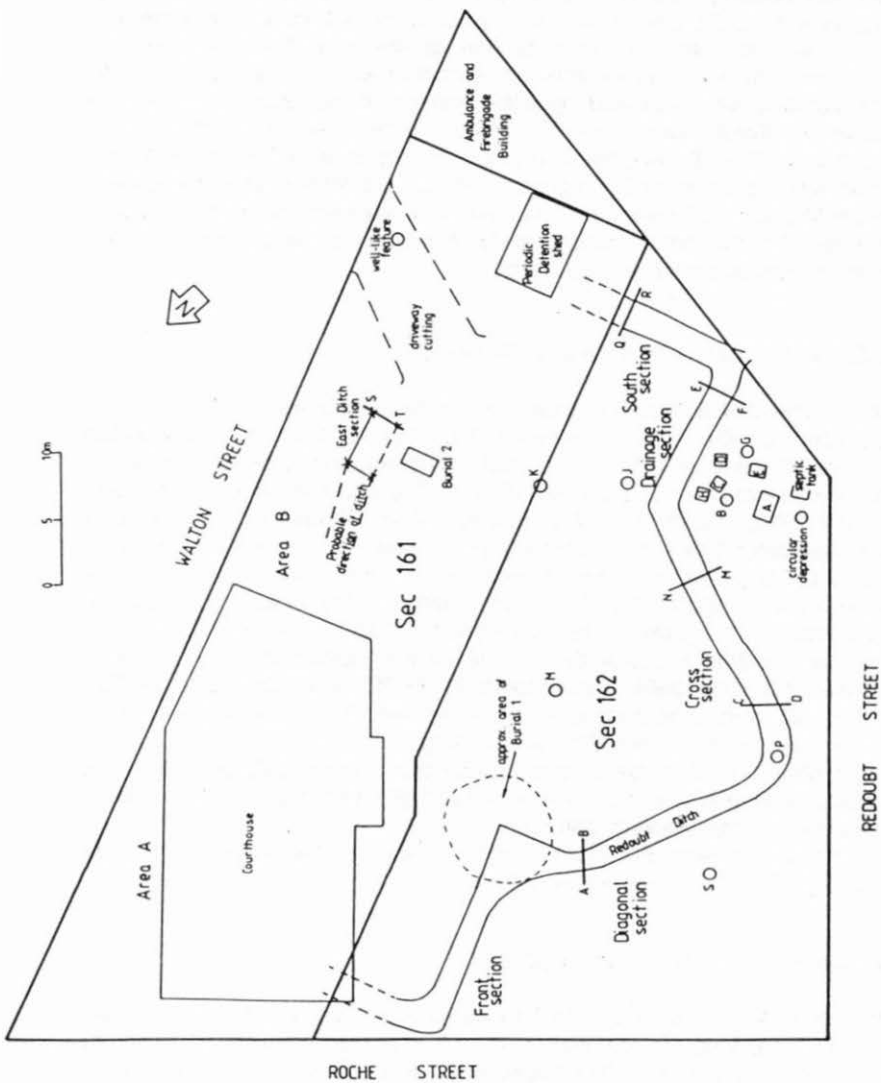


Fig. 3. Te Awamutu redoubt: 1991 site plan.

considered to be archaeologically significant. In the event we were able to investigate features as they were uncovered while the contractors worked elsewhere on the site. We were assisted during the excavation by some local volunteers. A gang of periodic detention workers also did one day of involuntary labour on the site, excavating ditch-fill.

As work proceeded approximately 80 m, or about half of the total extent, of the redoubt's perimeter ditch and 11 discrete rubbish pits were uncovered (see artefact discussion).

The average depth of the ditch was 2 m, but it had almost certainly been truncated when the redoubt earthworks were levelled. Many of the 970 artefacts found within it were in a drainage trench running along the floor of the ditch. A more indurated clay layer immediately below the soft Te Awamutu clay defined the base of the ditch in most locations.

Two burials have been uncovered on the site. The first was found in 1961 during excavations for foundations for the former police station extension. There is some uncertainty as to what happened to the remains, but general agreement that military buttons, clay pipes and other European items were found in and around the skeletal material and scavenged by the workers on the site at the time. Not surprisingly, and possibly quite erroneously, it was assumed to be a soldier's grave.

Shortly after the completion of the archaeological investigation on the Police HQ site, PD workers excavating a cable trench on the adjacent Courthouse property uncovered some bones, suspected to be human foot bones. N. Ritchie was requested to investigate the situation and arrange the removal of the remains. A small excavation revealed the remains of a single individual who had been buried in a coffin which had almost completely decomposed. Other than coffin nails there were no other artefacts. With the tangata whenua's approval, the remains were taken to Auckland to be examined by Professor John Carmen, Anatomy Department, University of Auckland. He concluded that the remains were those of a male Maori, about 30 years old. There was no indication of the cause of death. After the remains were brought back from Auckland they were reburied with appropriate protocol in the urupa at the Mangatoetoe marae near Tokanui Hospital. It is presumed that this person served the British in some capacity and was buried in the redoubt, possibly shortly before it was abandoned.

The excavation revealed that the redoubt differed markedly in layout from that depicted on Cundry and Goodall's 1865 plan, but this would not be uncommon. Redoubts were often drawn in stylised form (cf. Prickett 1984: 1). The layout of the redoubt appears to be similar to that depicted on the 1873 plan, but it was marked only in its approximate position, and its shape may also be slightly inaccurate. No definitive evidence of the two structures, a barrack building and a telegraph office, marked inside the redoubt on the 1873 plan was apparent during the investigation.

ARTEFACTS AND CONCLUDING DISCUSSION

A minimum of 2,628 artefacts were recovered from the site (Table 1). Analysis of this material revealed that it was associated with three main chronological periods, termed by Ritchie and Gumbley (1992) the Redoubt phase (1860s-c.1880), the Early Post-Redoubt Phase (c.1885-1910), and the Late Post-Redoubt Phase (1920s-1940s). Items associated with the two latter phases were found almost exclusively in 11 rubbish pits or deposits on the site, whereas the majority of the Redoubt Phase artefacts were found in the fill or in the drain in the base of the infilled redoubt ditch.

The 970 Redoubt Phase artefacts (36.9% of the total) were associated with the occupation of the redoubt by the British garrison (1863-1867), and the Armed Constabulary (c.1869-1876). While some artefacts, e.g. regimental buttons, can be specifically linked with a fair degree of certainty to the British garrison, for the most part it was impossible to distinguish which force they were associated with. However, the various chronological indicators, outlined in the relevant sections of the excavation report (Ritchie and Gumbley 1992), clearly indicate that the Redoubt Phase artefacts predate 1880, and as such they differ from the 1,658 artefacts (63.1% of the total) associated with the post-military use of the site. The presence of two sherds of a large transfer-printed platter in a completely different part of the redoubt ditch from the rest of the vessel suggests that they were deposited at the same time and that the ditch was infilled (probably in one event) shortly thereafter. This was also suggested by the pattern of deposition evident in the section drawings (Ritchie and Gumbley 1992: 18-20, Figs. 3.2-3.7).

The trash pits contained c.1,660 artefacts and individual faunal remains. Analysis revealed that all the artefacts in the pits post-date the use of the redoubt by the military or the Armed Constabulary. The Early Post-Redoubt Phase artefacts were buried or dumped on the site during the period when the present Courthouse and original police station and police residence were constructed. Although it is difficult to demonstrate categorically that particular artefacts or groups of artefacts (e.g. the numerous alcohol bottles) were specifically related to activities in these structures, it seems likely that they were because the majority of the artefacts were buried rather than just dumped on the property.

The archaeological deposits which made up the Late Post-Redoubt features (A-H) consisted of a group of pits which contained domestic trash believed to be derived from the police residence. It is inferred that one or more new trash pits were excavated before a neighbouring one was full, because several instances were noted where different portions of the same artefact were found in adjoining pits. For example, sherds from the same ceramic tablewares and other household items were found in features C and D, B and H, A and E, and C and H.

The large number of intact bottles (562, or 41.8% of the total glass) is a notable feature of the assemblage. In addition there were also a large number of substantially intact bottles. In fact there were so many intact or substantially complete bottles and so much duplication, that most of the broken glass

material was dumped following analysis.

TABLE 1. MINIMUM NUMBERS OF ARTEFACTS

<u>Type</u>	<u>Redoubt Phase</u>		<u>Post-Redoubt Phase</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	
Glass	514	38.2	832	61.8	1346
(intact)	(99)	17.6	(463)	82.4	(562)
Ceramics	151	41.5	213	58.5	364
Tin Containers	29	15.3	161	84.7	190
Wax Vesta Matchboxes	10	28.6	25	71.4	35
Tobacco Pipes	19	79.2	5	20.8	24
Bullets & Cartridges	17	100.0	-	-	17
(military)	(9)		-	-	(9)
Personal	46	100.0	-	-	46
(military)	(29)		-	-	(29)
Footwear	36	100.0	-	-	36
(military)	(5)		-	-	(5)
Miscellaneous	34	23.6	110	76.4	144
(military)	(2)	1.4	-	-	(2)
Faunal Elements	114	26.8	312	73.2	426
TOTALS	<u>970</u>	<u>36.9</u>	<u>1658</u>	<u>63.1</u>	<u>2628</u>
(total military)	(45)				(45)

Many of the black glass beer bottles had their necks neatly lopped off, the neck sections sometimes being found nearby with corks and wire bail still in place. This 'neck lopping' trait is a feature of military site assemblages. It is evident in the Ohaupo assemblage (pers. observation), and was also present in the assemblages from Forts Galatea and Clarke, and the Runanga, and Opepe sites (W. Spring-Rice, pers.comm.). It is believed to be the result of deliberately lopping off the neck of a bottle with an implement, probably a bayonet, to

facilitate drinking, essentially an act of bravado by the soldiers, not dissimilar to the modern party stunt where young men rip crown caps off with their teeth.

The redoubt era faunal assemblage was dominated by sheep bones, whereas cattle bones predominated in the post-redoubt features, possibly reflecting a change in the local availability of the species over time.

Overall there was nothing spectacularly different from the usual about the artefacts and faunal material from the 40th Regiment redoubt site when compared with those from other sites of this type. However, as the assemblage is large, has been thoroughly studied, and each item related to one of three time periods, it should be useful for comparative purposes, pattern recognition, and developing a greater understanding about the range, popularity, and sources of the manufactured goods, foodstuffs and other items used by the Colonial and Imperial forces and the later settlers in New Zealand in the last century. It is only by building up a database of information on artefacts from secure dated archaeological contexts in many different types of sites that patterns can be recognised which will enable a more full and accurate picture to be reconstructed.

The assemblage (minus non-diagnostic glass and items in an advanced state of decay) has been repositied in the Te Awamutu Museum, which has established a display on the excavation. The Police have asked the museum to mount a display of some of the excavated artefacts in the new Police HQ at Te Awamutu, on the site of the former redoubt.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to Warren Gumbley for assisting with the excavation, and for the long hours he spent cleaning and documenting the artefacts and helping compile the excavation report (Ritchie and Gumbley 1992). Thanks to all those who assisted during the excavation or analysis, especially the staff of the Te Awamutu Museum. Specific contributions are individually acknowledged in the excavation report (ibid. xii).

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MAPS

- (Part of) Plan of 50ac Lots near Te Awamutu. (L. Simpson June 1865; shows approximate position of 40th and 65th Regiment redoubts, Te Awamutu. Te Awamutu Museum reference room.
- Subdivision of Camp Reserve at Village of Te Awamutu (shows redoubt, 1873). Te Awamutu Museum reference room.

APPENDIX 1

REDOUBTS AND BLOCKHOUSES ASSOCIATED WITH
THE WAIKATO CAMPAIGN

<u>Name\Location</u>	<u>Construction Date</u>		<u>Site No.</u>
The Bluff (Stockade)	May	1862	R12/161
Queen's Redoubt (Pokeno)	June	1862	S12/23
Alexandra (Tuakau)	July	1862	R12/141
Buckingham (Koheroa)	July	1863	S12/--
Eglinton (Koheroa)	July	1863	S12/204
Suffolk (Koheroa)	July	1863	S12/238
Miranda *	Nov.	1863	S12/46
Miranda lookout *	Nov.	1863	-
Esk *	Nov.	1863	S12/30
Surrey *	Dec.	1863	S12/38
Pickards (Whangamarino)	Oct.	1863	S12/22
Meremere	Oct.	1863	S13/7
Rangiriri, Te Wheoro's 1867	Nov.	1864	S13/3
Rangiriri (Maori defences)	Nov.	1864	S13/50
Paetai (1.5m upstream)	Nov.	1864	-
Ngaruawahia	Dec.	1864	S14/31
Raglan (blockhouse)	Jan.	1864	-
Raglan (top of harbour)	Dec.	1863	-
Raglan (W.end Old Mtn Rd)	Jan.	1864	-
Raglan (on harbour)	?	1864	R14/133
Whatawhata	Jan.	1864	S14/74
Tuhikaramea	Jan.	1864	-
Ngahinapouri (2)	Jan.	1864	S15/38
Te Rore (3)	Jan.	1864	S15/63 & S15/71
Waddy's (near Paterangi)	Jan.	1864	S15/311
Paterangi ex Maori position	Feb.	1864	-
Rangiaowhia	Feb.	1864	S15/234
Rangiaowhia (blockhouse)		1867	-
Picquet Hill	?	1864	-
Kihikihi	Mar.	1864	S15/235
Kihikihi (blockhouse)		1867	S15/236
Pukerimu	Mar.	1864	S15/41
Arikirua (opp. Pukerimu)	Mar.	1864	S15/99
Pukekura	Mar.	1864	T15/4
Cambridge 'Star' redoubt	Mar.	1864	S15/320
Orakau	Apr.	1864	S15/103
Orakau (blockhouse)		1867	-
Te Awamutu, 40th Reg't	Apr.	1864	S15/173
Te Awamutu, 57th Reg't	Apr.	1864	-

Te Awamutu, 65th Reg't	Apr.	1864	-
Alexandra (Pirongia) (2)	?	1864?	-
Alexandra, A.C.		1872	S15/28
The Ford Redoubt	?	1864	S15/233
Hamilton East		1864-65	S14/72
Hamilton West		1864-65	S14/57
The Narrows (Hamilton)		1864-65	S14/45
Harapipi (blockhouse)		1866	-
Paekuku (blockhouse)		1867?	-
Ohaupo	?	1864	S15/11
Roto-o-rangi		1873	S15/54
Kawhia		1883 ?	-

* between Koheroa and the Hauraki Gulf