

# The New Zealand Wars

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## Introduction

After Cook's landing in New Zealand in 1769, it was some years before the British began to colonise the islands and trade with the native Maoris. Some of the first goods to be traded were muskets and these would later have a significant effect, not only on the conflict with the British but on inter-tribal fighting. Although British troops had been present aboard ships that halted at New Zealand *en route* to Australia, mainly convict transports with a detachment of guarding troops, the first British troops to land as a force was a detachment of the 50<sup>th</sup> Foot who were sent as a rescue party, from New South Wales, in 1834 [1]. The first British garrison troops landed in 1840 and comprised elements of the 80<sup>th</sup> and 96<sup>th</sup> Regiments of Foot. In the main the Maori wars can be traced back to land ownership and purchase and territorial rights. The concern of this article is the Third New Zealand War, specifically 1863-4.

The Principal Medical Officer during this period was Deputy Inspector General James Mouat VC. He found the regimental hospital system too cumbersome for the type of bush fighting encountered and directed that regiments would go into action with pack mules or ponies, carrying a light scale of medical equipment, comprising field panniers, blankets and one bell tent. The sick would be left in camp and not proceed on the line of march. Should the terrain allow, the sick would be picked up by light horsed ambulances and evacuated to small mobile field hospitals, which themselves were equipped utilising the remainder of the regimental hospital equipment. Where possible, these hospitals were sited within a redoubt and housed within a hospital marquee. At Queen's Redoubt, in Taranaki Region, a general field hospital of thirty-four beds was established and to here all sick and wounded from the smaller field hospitals were evacuated. By late 1863 the size of this hospital had increased to 100 beds [2]. Once recovered, the sick rejoined their regiments but any long term sick were further evacuated to the general hospitals at New Plymouth and Wanganui. Boats in the form of steamers were also used to evacuate the wounded down the rivers, thus reducing the time spent awaiting definitive hospital treatment [3].

The health of the troops fighting in New Zealand was generally good. This was as a result of several factors; better rations, the healthy climate, more comfortable uniforms for the conditions prevailing - the red tunic had been replaced by a blue serge smock, flannel shirt, trousers and gaiters with a better boot being issued. In the summer a white cap cover was also issued [3]. A notable factor in the maintenance of the health of the force was the appointment of a Sanitary Officer to the staff of the Commander in Chief; Surgeon MacKinnon<sup>1</sup> toured the troop encampments advising on health and testing local water supplies [3,4].

Initially his recommendations went largely ignored but after the Commander in Chief ordered all commanding officers to co-

operate, his recommendations were complied with [3]. Amongst his other recommendations was that all refuse should be burnt, all soldiers to have a toothbrush, the issue of spirits should be controlled, salt meat to be replaced by preserved meat and the provision of fresh vegetables, cheese and butter [5].

## William Temple

William Temple was born at Monaghan, Ireland on 7 November 1833, the son of Doctor William Temple of The Terrace, Monaghan and Anne, the daughter of Hugh Hamill of Roosky, Ireland. William was educated privately at the Reverend John Bleckley's School, Monaghan and later at Trinity College Dublin. After qualifying, William Temple entered the army on 1 November 1858, as an Assistant Surgeon on the Staff and on 11th January 1859 was appointed Assistant Surgeon Royal Artillery [6]. In November 1860, he accompanied his regiment to New Zealand and soon after served in the Taranaki Campaign of 1860-61 and saw action at Teairei, Rangiriri and Rangiawhia. In October 1863 Temple found himself as part of the force engaging the Moaris on the right bank of the Waikato River, at Rangiriri, south of Auckland on the North Island. The Moaris offered strong resistance and erected a strong and formidable earthwork [7]. This earthwork was bombarded by gun-boats from the river and field guns of the Royal Artillery and then finally assaulted on 20 November. The outer works were taken but the inner redoubt resisted the British assault. Temple had gone forward to treat the wounds of a gunner who informed him that Captain Mercer, Royal Artillery, was also wounded and had in fact been shot through the jaw and tongue [8]. Temple observed Mercer crawling towards the gate of the earthworks, every man who attempted to cross this gate was wounded. Along with Lieutenant Arthur Frederick Pickard, Royal Artillery, Temple rendered assistance to the wounded, including Mercer, by dressing their wounds and providing water (Figure 1).



Assistant Surgeon Temple rescues Captain Mercer RA (AMS Museum)

<sup>1</sup>Alexander MacKinnon CB was born 27th June 1830. and joined the Assistant Surgeon Staff 18 Feb 1853. He served in the Crimean Campaign and Indian Mutiny and is reputed to have led a charge of the 57th Ft during the war after all the other officers of the Regiment became casualties. Awarded CB 1864, KCB 1891 and retired as Director General 1 May 1896. Died in London 28 Oct 1897

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The citation for the award of the Victoria Cross to both Temple and Pickard, published on 22 September 1864, states:

*For gallant conduct during the assault on the enemy's position at Rangiriri, in New Zealand, on 20th of November last, in exposing their lives to imminent danger, in crossing the entrance of the Maori keep, at a point upon which the enemy had concentrated their fire, with a view to render assistance to the wounded, and, more especially to the late Captain Mercer of the Royal Artillery. Lieutenant Pickard, it is stated, crossed, and re-crossed the parapet, to procure water for the wounded, when none of the men could be induced to perform this service, the space over which he traversed being exposed to a cross fire; and testimony is borne to the calmness displayed by him, and Assistant-Surgeon Temple, under the trying circumstances in which they were placed [9].*

It was not until the next morning that the Moaris surrendered, as the British force began to break into the Pa [8]. Losses for the action were two officers killed and 13 wounded, 37 men killed and 80 wounded [3].

Temple had married Anne Theodosia Mould, the 24 year old fourth daughter of Colonel (later Major General TR Mould CB) Royal Engineers, on 21 October 1862, at St Paul's Church Auckland. They had six girls and four boys [10]; of which William Temple served as a Captain in command of C Company, 1st Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment during the early days of World War One. He died of wounds on 22 October 1914 after being hit in the lung and shoulder whilst attacking a farm, in the vicinity of Langemarck [11]. Two other sons reached General Officer rank in the Royal Marines.

William Temple returned to England and was appointed to the Staff on 26 June 1867 and promoted to Surgeon, Army Medical Department, 1 November 1868. On 18 October 1873 he was promoted to Surgeon Major and was in charge of the Station Hospital, Portsea. From 1884 to 1889 he served in India as Secretary to the Surgeon General of the Indian Medical Services, in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and in 1886 was appointed Honorary Surgeon to His Excellency, The Viceroy, in recognition of his services in India. Temple retired on 1 November 1889 and took up residence at 4 Medeira Park, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, where he died after a long illness, on 13 February 1919, aged 86 years. He was buried in the Highland Road Cemetery, Eastney, Hampshire five days later.

## William George Nicholas Manley

William Manley was born in Dublin on 17 December 1831, the son of the Reverend William Nicholas Manley and Elizabeth née Browne. His father died at the age of 32, when William was six months old. In 1833 his mother married again and moved to America leaving the children, including William, to be brought up by their grandparents, John and Martina Manley, in Dublin. In 1844 it is believed that he went and boarded with his uncle, Doctor John Manley, at Westbury House Barking. Whilst there, he attended Blackheath Proprietary School as a day pupil. His report for 1847 shows him as 'First class in Classics & Maths' [12]. About 1848 he commenced his medical studies under his uncle and then trained at St. Thomas Hospital and qualified MRCS (England) in 1853. After qualification, Manley went to sea as a ships doctor and travelled to many parts of the world including New Zealand but little would he realise that he would be back there just over ten years later and in different circumstances.

Manley was commissioned as an Assistant Surgeon in the Ordnance Medical Department on 3 March 1855 and reported to Woolwich where he served under the Principal Medical Officer Dr Halahan [13]. In May 1855 he embarked aboard the Medway and sailed for the Crimea, serving with the Royal Artillery and eventually being awarded the Crimean War Medal with clasp, Sebastopol and the Turkish Crimean Medal.

After the Crimean campaign Manley found himself in New Zealand from 1863-1866. In April 1864 the British forces were engaged with the Moaris in New Zealand and on 29 April the force

comprising 79 officers and 1616 men were attacking the stronghold known as Gate Pa, at Tauranga. Soon after day-break, the artillery and mortar batteries commenced firing on the enemy, the fire lasting for eight hours. By mid afternoon a breach had been made and the assault on the Pa began [3]. At the time Manley was attached to the 4th Foot and detailed to remain with the reserve but felt that he would be more useful with the attacking party. The assault was led by Lieutenant Colonel Booth, 43rd Regiment, accompanied by Commander Edward Hay RN, leading 150 seamen. Both officers were immediately mortally wounded and as other officers took over the assault they too fell under the heavy Moari fire. Just as it looked as if the attack would succeed the force suddenly fell back.

Manley was attending to the wounded outside the entrance to the Pa and when finding that his water bottle had dropped off, he went back into the Pa to find it. There he found Commander Hay, lying mortally wounded. With the aid of Samuel Mitchell, Captain of the Foretop of HMS Harrier he then removed him and dressed his wounds (Figure 2); Mitchell also received the VC for this action. He is credited with rescuing many others from within the Pa, always under heavy fire. Manley may have been the last to leave the Pa.



Surgeon Manley rescues Commander Hay RN (AMS Museum)

The citation for the award of the Victoria Cross, which was notified in the London Gazette of 23 September 1864, states:

*William George Manley, Assistant Surgeon Royal Artillery. Date of act of bravery: 29 April 1864. For his conduct during the assault on the Rebel Pah near Tauranga, New Zealand, on the 29th April last, in most nobly risking his own life, according to the testimony of Commodore Sir William Wiseman Bart, CB, in his endeavour to save that of the late Commander Hay, of the Royal Navy, and others. Having volunteered to accompany the storming party into the pah, he attended on that officer when he was carried away mortally wounded, and then volunteered to return, in order to see if he could find any more wounded. It is stated that he was one of the last officers to leave the Pah.*

He was subsequently awarded the Royal Humane Society Bronze Medal in 1865 for an action he describes thus; whilst disembarking troops from a transport on the Waikato River a gunner fell overboard, Manley, despite being fully dressed including a frock coat, boots and spurs, jumped in to the river and rescued the gunner after first having to knock him out when he tried to climb onto Manley [14].

Before he left New Zealand he accompanied other expeditions against the Moaris for which he was Mentioned in Despatches and thanked in General Orders. He also found time to become a member of an Auckland Freemason Lodge. In October 1865 Manley was specially promoted to Surgeon on the Staff, for service in New Zealand. Barely three weeks later he was appointed Surgeon 12th Foot, staying with the regiment for two years until he once again, served with the Royal Artillery. On 9 February 1869

he married, at Sheerness, Kent, Maria Elizabeth, the 26 year old eldest daughter of Thomas Harwood Darton, of Temple Dursley, Hertfordshire. His eldest brother, the Reverend John Thomas Manley, the Vicar of Tonbridge, officiated. They set up their first home in Woolwich, where their first two sons were born.

In 1870-1871 Manley saw service in the Franco-Prussian war serving with the British Ambulance provided by the Order of St John of Jerusalem and the British Red Cross. On 18 November 1870, B Division of the British Field Ambulance was in support of the 22nd Prussian Division. The division met serious opposition between Chateaufort and Fontaine. On 8 December the division engaged the enemy near Villermain but was ordered to break off the action and march to Cravant which it took but was soon attacked by an overwhelming French force [15]. Manley was awarded the German Steel War Medal, the Bavarian Order of Merit and the Iron Cross Second Class, 'For his devoted and excellent conduct in seeking and caring for the wounded of the 22nd Division in the actions of Chateaufort and Bretoncelle on November 18 and 21, and the battles of Orleans and Cravant on December 10th 1870'. During the siege of Paris he received the Cross of the French Société de Secours aux Blessés, for his work in helping and organising help for the French wounded. He eventually returned home in 1872, where, over the next four years, four more children were born, sadly one dying soon after birth.

In January 1877 he left his home at 8 Yorke Crescent, Woolwich and sailed for India aboard the troopship Malabar, his family remaining in England but moving to 1 Hatherley Place, Cheltenham. In 1878 Manley served in Afghanistan with the Quetta Field Force and was present at the Relief of Khandahar and was Mentioned in Despatches and once again, promoted for his services. He was also awarded the campaign medal. In February 1879 he was invalided to India suffering from Dysentery contracted whilst on the march to Khandahar. In April he sailed aboard the troopship Malaba to England but his stay was to be short lived.

In August 1882 Manley was the Principal Medical Officer at the Herbert Hospital, Woolwich when a force set sail for Egypt. Manley went to Egypt as the Principal Medical Officer of the 22nd Division. He saw action at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir and was again Mentioned in Despatches. In 1882 he was given special promotion to Deputy Surgeon General in reward for his services in Egypt. He

was awarded the Egypt campaign medal with clasp for Tel-el-Kebir, the Order of the Osmanieh third class and the Khedives Star and was once again Mentioned in Despatches.

Manley retired in June 1884 in the honorary rank of Surgeon General and was awarded the Insignia of a Companion of the Most Excellent Order of the Bath by Queen Victoria in 1894. It is said that he refused a Knighthood. He set up residence at 3 Lansdown Terrace, Cheltenham. He was asked to assist the War Office during the Anglo-Boer War but with five sons serving in the armed forces, four of them on active service, Manley refused [14].

He died after a short illness, on 16 November 1901, at his home 3 Lansdown Terrace, Cheltenham, aged 70; He left a widow and large family. Probate was granted at Gloucester with an estate valued at £18,021-12s-6d. A memorial to him was erected in Cheltenham Cemetery, where he was buried [12]. After his death, Mrs Manley moved to 13 Montpellier Grove, Cheltenham, with the youngest son. She died on 3 May 1913 and was buried in her husband's grave three days later [14].

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