

Further mention of these districts was of Sub-inspector Thomas McDonnell who accompanied the expedition to the Firth of Thames, under the command of Brigadier General Carey. The plan was to cover the landing of the troops at Pukorokoro Creek (Miranda Creek).

The Kingiti Maoris in rebellion against the N.Z. Government managed to receive prior notice of the expedition through indiscreet articles appearing in the press and prepared to resist the landing.

They dug rifle pits along the shell beach foreshore and cut shrubs to conceal the rifle pits. Fortunately two thirds of the Ngatikpaoa Tribe were prepared to uphold the Treaty of Waitangi and took no part in the preparations to resist the landing of the troops.

A Maori named Apiha made a trip to Auckland and reported that the Pukorokoro Creek landing was held by an entrenched Maori garrison. The result — General Carey landed an advance company in the vicinity of the Hauarahi Creek near the present hotel and post office. The advance guard were guided over the foothills by Major Drummond Hay. The advance was made under cover of night and reached a position between the present Miranda School and Mr J.T. Perry's residence at daybreak.

The Miranda Engagement and Redoubt...

Meanwhile the Corvettes, "Miranda" and "Esk", commanded by Captain Jenkins R.N. and Captain Hamilton R.N. acting as escorts to the convoy, arrived in position for landing a portion of the 18th Royal Irish regiment and a company of the Forest Rangers.

The Maori garrison had taken up an entrenched position extending from Pukorokoro Creek (Miranda Creek) to a distance approximately opposite the Miranda Lime Works.

The Maoris, finding themselves nearly trapped, fled over the creek near the position of the Miranda wharf in canoes and escaped into the hinterland of Waitakaruru.

The landing of the expeditionary force was preceded by a bombardment of the surrounding hills. The erection of a redoubt and a commanding eminence was proceeded with and Armstrong 28 pounder guns were hauled into position.

The redoubt was named Miranda after the Corvette "Miranda". The District received its name from the redoubt, which is still in a good state of preservation after a period of 87 years.

The Miranda District was opened up for European settlement in approximately 1869. The exact date now can only be obtained by research in the records of the Lands and Survey Department, Auckland.

The first European to purchase land from Maori owners in the district was the late M.A. Graham of Auckland and Hamilton.

A further three properties were acquired by Messrs W. Findlay, G. McInnes and my father R.G. Findlay. The four settlers were the original founders of the Miranda District. Mr Hopkinson sold out at an early period. An English settler, Mr Bushby, purchased his farm and did much to help and improve the district.

Prior to settling on farms, Messrs R. Barnett, G. McInnes, W. Findlay and R.G. Findlay, all young men from Banfshire, Scotland, opened a General Store in the district.

The settlement of the Kaiaua district was started at a slightly earlier date as one block of 10,000 acres purchased by Captain Porter and Chamberlain and later another block of 1200 acres by the Smith Brothers, Thomas and Alfred. The farms owned by the Vining family was part of the estate and was purchased in 1872. Another portion of the Porter and Chamberlain property was sold to the late Mr R. W. Peters one of the earliest settlers in the Kaiaua district. The balance of 6500 was eventually held by the late R.T. Douglas and today is divided into about 18 farms.