

7. Poverty Bay and East Coast

The first fighting in the Poverty Bay and East Coast regions took place in 1865 at Tokomaru Bay, Waiapu and Hicks Bay, mostly between sections of the Ngāti Porou tribe (Cowan 1983 II: 117–123; Soutar 2000). On one side were Pai Marire ('Hau Hau') or 'Kingite' forces and on the other 'Queenite' Māori forces and allied Pākehā. There followed a six-day siege of the Pai Marire pā Waerenga-a-Hika in Poverty Bay in November 1865, resulting in surrender of the pā and the deaths of 11 men on the government side and more than 100 Pai Marire (Cowan 1983 II: 124–128).

On 10 July 1868, Te Kooti Arikirangi and 300 followers landed at Whareongaonga, south of Poverty Bay, having escaped from imprisonment on the Chatham Islands. This led to fighting in the next four years over much of the central and eastern North Island, with fortifications involved at Ngatapa (7.5), inland of Poverty Bay in December 1868 and January 1869, at Whakatane in March 1869 (5.31, 5.34), Mohaka in April 1869 (8.1, 8.6), and in October 1869 at Te Porere (6.15–16), south of Lake Taupo (Cowan 1983: II ; Binney 1995: 87–208).

Fortifications in this section are listed under:

- Poverty Bay
- East Coast

POVERTY BAY

7.1 Crow's Nest

X17/32 (2908600E 6288600N); recorded 1991, update 1999.

Ngatapa; 800 m east of Ngatapa Trig, on the crest of prominent ridge forming the right flank of the approach to Ngatapa pā (7.5).

Initial position used to mortar Ngatapa in December 1868 and January 1869 (Cowan 1983 II: 275, 277; Binney 1995: 135–147).

Curved c. 7 m long trench across ridge.

Under pasture in 1999; 1 m from top of bank to bottom of ditch.

7.2 Fort Richmond

X17/34 (2910300E 628700N); recorded 1991, update 1999.

Ngatapa; on the main east–west ridge north of Wharekopae River; 500 m east of high point of ridge marked '497 m' on the NZMS 260 map.

A lightly defended post used on the second approach to Ngatapa (7.5) at the end of December 1868 and in January 1869 (Cowan 1983 II: 270–284; Binney 1995: 131–147).

Scarped platform c. 14 × 10 m with two indistinct depressions.

Under pasture; in 1991 said by landowner to have been more distinct before being disced c. 30 years before; in 1999 the platform was defined by a slight ditch or scarp.

7.3 *Gisborne trench*

Y18/426 (2947200E 6269600N); recorded 1998.

Gisborne; from Police Station at the corner of Childers Road and Peel Street to PSIS building at the Gladstone Road and Lowe Street corner.

Military trench dug 19 April 1869 by volunteers from Poverty Bay Militia and Poverty Bay Mounted Rifles.

Archaeological excavations recorded a ditch 1.15 m deep at Childers Rd, and 600 mm wide, 800 mm deep at the PSIS corner.

All of the trench is now beneath roads, buildings and covered yards.

7.4 *Makaretu rifle-pits*

X17/33 (2912300E 6285300N); recorded 1991, update 1999.

Rere/ Makaretu; ridge c. 800 m southeast of Rere Falls and road junction, along 500 m of ridge above the Wharekopae Road.

Defensive positions on high ground commanding approach to Te Kooti's Te Karetu pā (7.7) near the river at Makaretu, November–December 1868. On 3 December Ngāti Kahungunu from Wairoa and Ngāti Porou drove Te Kooti's men from the Makaretu positions back to Te Karetu pā, which was also quickly abandoned. Te Kooti lost c. 60 men in the fight and withdrew to Ngatapa (7.5) c. 4 km northwest (Cowan 1983 II: 270–273; Binney 1995: 131–135).

Rifle-pits and trenches are in three or four groups over c. 500 m of curving ridgeline on the approach to Te Karetu.

Under pasture; some stock damage, erosion and bulldozing, the 1999 survey noted that features were further eroded since 1991.

7.5 *Ngatapa*

X17/1 (2907800E 6288800N); N97/6; recorded 1968, update 1990; Fig. 63.

Ngatapa; access from Patutahi via Wharekopae Road, visible to the north from Rere Falls as the central of three similar hills; Ngatapa Trig 703 m a.s.l.

Work began on re-fortifying the pre-European hill-top Ngatapa pā prior to the 3 December 1868 defeat at Te Karetu (7.7), after which Te Kooti moved all his force of c. 300 fighters plus women and children to Ngatapa. On 5 December, Ngatapa was attacked by Ngāti Porou and Ngāti Kahungunu from Wairoa following up from the Te Karetu fight, but the attack was called off after a day and a night. On 31 December a larger Armed Constabulary and Ngāti Porou force began an attack with occupation of the Crow's Nest (7.1) c. 800 m to the east. They soon took the two outer defensive lines on the Ngatapa hill-top, cutting off the water supply. Te Kooti withdrew on the night of 4 January 1869, but was followed up and 120 men were captured and shot by Ngāti Porou (Cowan 1983 II: 270–284; Binney 1995: 131–147).

Ngatapa pā took up a triangular hill-top plateau, c. 150 × 80 m, rising and narrowing to the west. At first, three trenches of the pre-European pā across the narrow upper part of the hill-top were strengthened. After the first attack of early December 1868, two outer defensive lines were added across the lower and broader part of the plateau.

In 1990 the site was mostly in good condition with grass and scrub covering the defensive lines, short sections of attacking trench and other features including what is said to be a church platform.

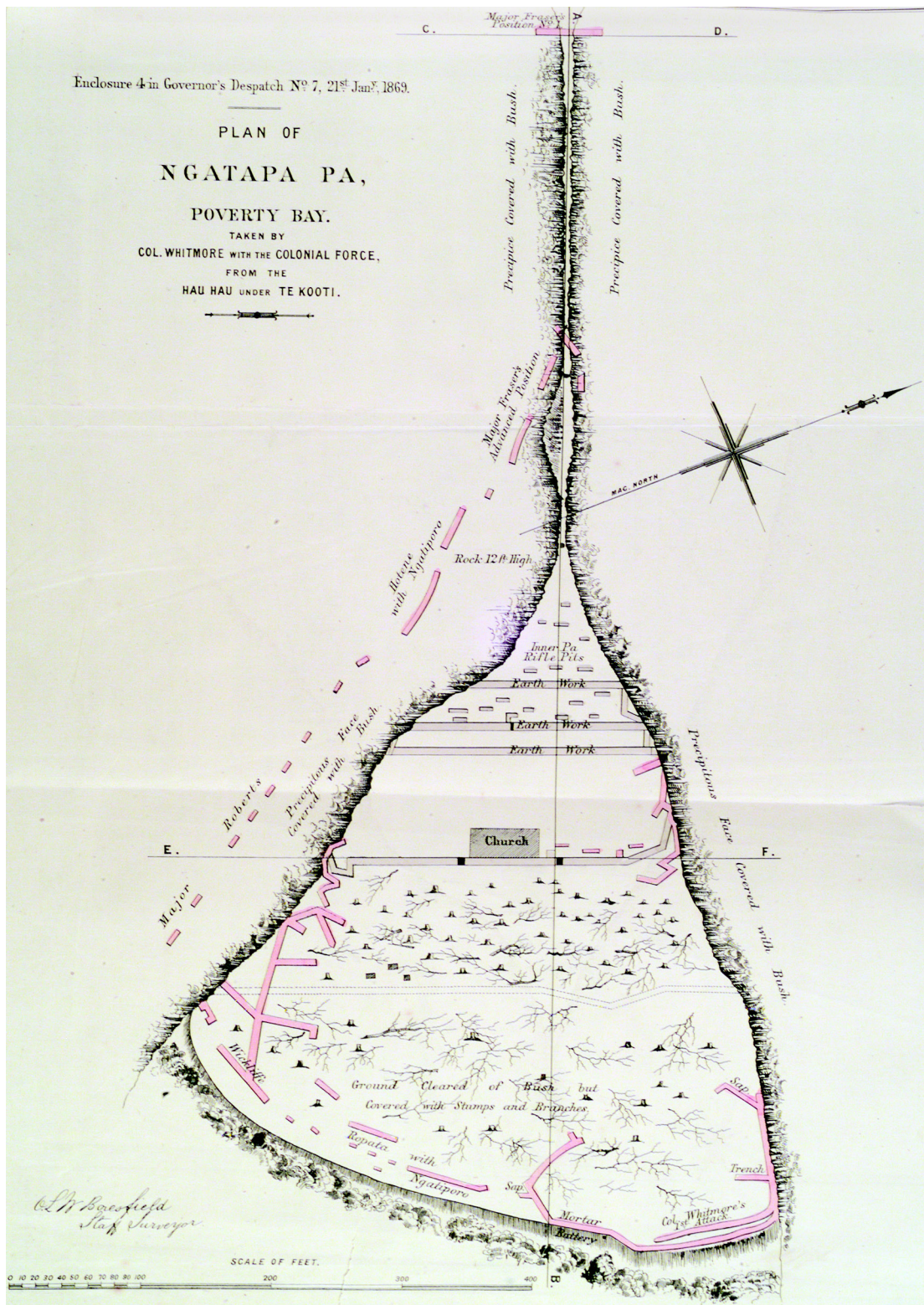


Figure 63. Ngatapa: a series of defensive lines cross the narrowing upper end of Te Kooti's hill-top pā. The plan also shows the disposition of troops in early January 1869 and trenches used by the attacking forces to get close to the defences. From GBPP 1868-69 xlv (307) p. 346.

7.6 Pukeamionga

Y18/135 (2935500E 6273750N); recorded 1985, update 1999.

Patutahi; 1 km south of the township on top of the largest of three hills; 500 m south of the intersection of Wharekopae and Kaimai Roads.

Pā built and occupied by Pai Marire supporters in spring 1865, at same time as Waerenga-a-Hika (Cowan 1983 II: 125).

Off-square pā, c. 60 × 40 m, with bank and interior ditch. Large terrace 20 m to the northeast and scattered depressions on the broad ridge 200–300 m to the west.

Poor condition under pasture; ditch and bank damaged by cultivation, especially at the west end of the earthwork which is largely destroyed.

7.7 Te Karetu

X17 (2912100E 6286250N); no site record, not located.

Rere/ Makaretu; from Wharekopae Road at Rere Falls, 500 m up Rere Farm Settlement Road, on a low hill on the left bank of Makaretu Stream.

This was Te Kooti's main camp in November–December 1868 (7.4). Attacked by Ngāti Kahungunu from Wairoa and Ngāti Porou on 3 December with some loss of life, Te Kooti then withdrawing to Ngatapa (7.5).

Described as a 'Canvas town' enclosed by large ditch and parapet (Binney 1995: 132).

Under pasture and trees; condition not known.

7.8 Waerenga-a-Hika

Y18/163 (2938750E 6277950N); recorded 1985, update 1999; Fig. 64.

Waerengaahika, Gisborne; SH2, from behind St Luke's Church to the scarp of an old Waipaoa River channel.

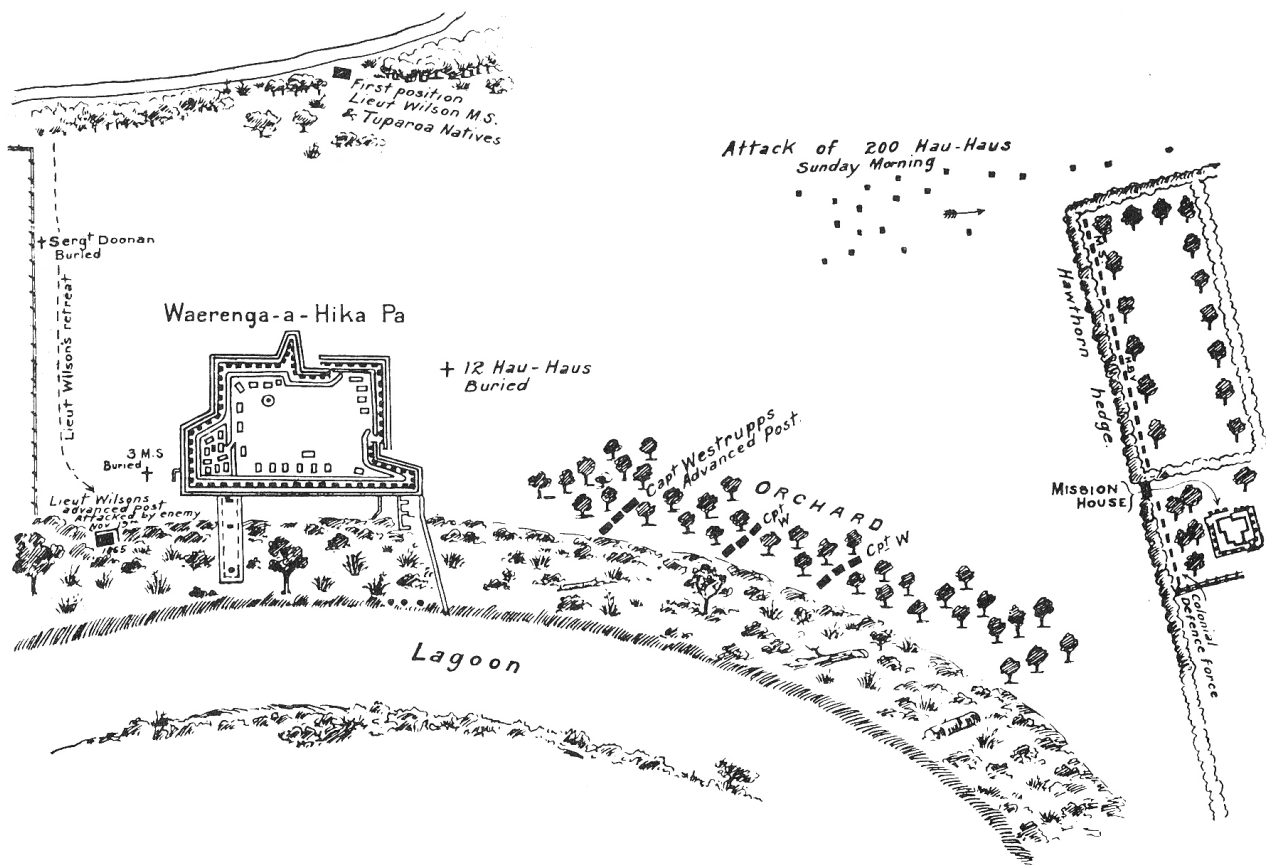


Figure 64. Waerenga-a-Hika. From Cowan 1983 II: 124

Pai Marire supporters fortified Waerenga-a-Hika pā at the terrace edge above an old channel of the river, 300 m from a mission house. A seven-day siege in November 1865 resulted in more than 100 defenders killed and 11 deaths among the attackers (Cowan 1983 II: 124–128).

A rectangular earthwork c. 120 × 50–60 m is clearly visible in a 1948 aerial photograph (Jones 1994: 151); some pā remains and the nearby two-storey mission house are shown in a photograph from shortly after the battle (see Prickett 2002: 129).

No remains visible in 1999 in the area behind the church; not visible on Google Earth (2010 image).

EAST COAST

7.9 Hungahungatoroa

Z14/91(2976400E 6380600N); N62/317; recorded 1979.

Te Araroa; north side of Karakatuwheroa River valley, c. 150 m a.s.l. on spur.

Pai Marire pā occupied after Pukemaire (7.15) was abandoned. On 11 October 1865, a combined Māori and Pākehā force under Rapata Wahawaha and Lieutenant Biggs occupied higher ground near the pā in the bush surrounded by cliffs and demanded its surrender. Ngāti Porou numbering 200 men and 300 women and children came out by hapu, c. 60 men of other tribes were not offered a chance to surrender and escaped into the bush (Cowan 1983 II: 121–122; Soutar 2000: 288–293).

7.10 Kotare

Z14; no site record, not located.

Kawakawa (Hicks Bay); occupied by Pai Marire, taken August 1865 by Kohere and others (Soutar 2000: 276–277).

7.11 Makeronia

Z14/96 (2978200E 6390050N); N63/4; recorded 1978.

Hicks Bay; above the wharf at Wharekahika.

Makeronia (Macedonia) is said to have been an older pā modified for gun fighting, attacked by Pai Marire in August 1865 (Soutar 2000: 275).

7.12 Manawahikitia

Z14/102 (2979500E 6390000N); N63/10; recorded 1978; Fig. 65.

Hicks Bay; on terrace above 20 m sea cliff, 1.2 km east of the old Hicks Bay wharf.

One of two pā, with Makeronia (7.11) a few hundred metres west, of the chief Houkamau, attacked by Pai Marire in August 1865 (Soutar 2000: 275).

Perimeter bank defence, now 1–1.5 m high and 1.5 m wide at the base, except at the cliff edge, encloses a roughly pentagonal area of c. 1.2 ha. A rectangular banked enclosure c. 50 × 20 m at the inland (north) angle may have been a strong point. Outside the north and northwest sides is a line of 10–12 irregular rifle-pits.

Under gorse and pasture; ploughed interior but defensive banks in fair condition.

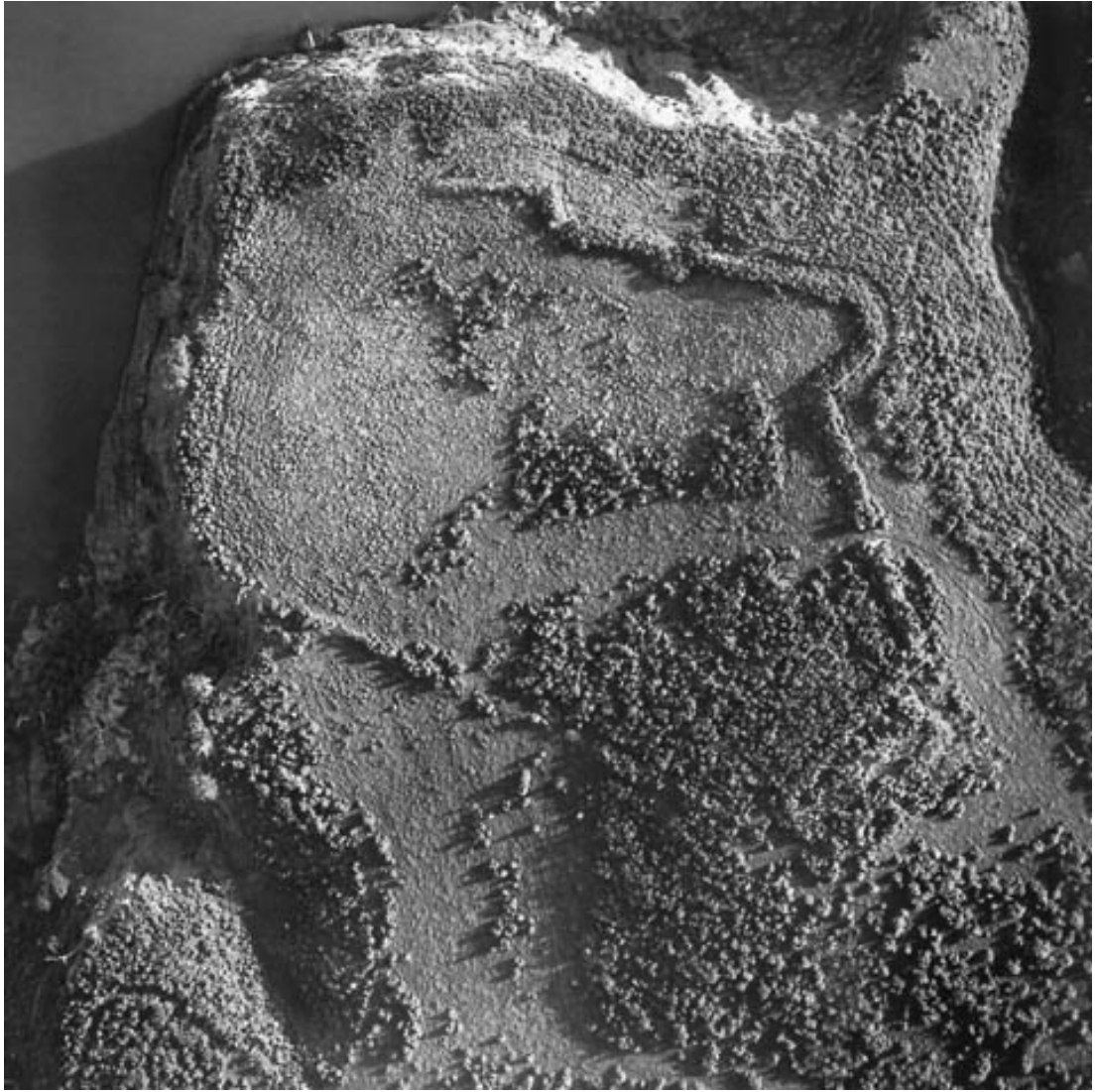


Fig. 65. Manawahikitia, Hicks Bay: earthwork bank encloses area c. 1.2 ha, 1865. *Photo: K.L. Jones, 1992.*

7.13 Pakairomiromi

Z15; no site record, not located.

East of Rangitukia, Waiapu (Soutar 2000: 267).

On 2 August 1865 the Pai Marire pā, Pakairomiromi, was attacked and taken by a largely European force under Major James Fraser, who came from Te Hatepe (7.19) south of Waiapu River, after which the pā was destroyed and the attackers returned to Hatepe (Cowan 1983 II: 119; Soutar 2000: 273–275).

The pā was in the form of a large square with flanking bastions at two opposite corners; a 10 ft (3 m) high stockade was loopholed near the ground with a firing trench inside.

7.14 Pukeamaru

Z14; no site record, not located.

Kawakawa (Hicks Bay); an old pā surrounded by cliffs, re-used by Pai Marire in August 1865, attacked and taken by Kohere and others (Soutar 2000: 276).

7.15 Pukemaire

Z15; no site record, not located.

Waiapu; pā made up of two large fortified areas joined by a covered walkway, held by 400–500 Pai Marire, unsuccessfully attacked by Major Fraser and Rapata Wahawaha in bitter weather on 3 October 1865. A second attack on 8 or 9 October found the pā abandoned (Cowan 1983 II: 121; Soutar 2000: 284–288).

7.16 Pukepapa

Z16/112 (2973700E 6328400N); N81/73; recorded 1983, update 1996; Fig. 66.

Tokomaru Bay; now marked by a communication mast on top of a prominent hill, c. 2 km inland of the SH35 road bridge at Tokomaru Bay.

Pai Marire pā, abandoned in the face of an attack by Henare Potae and Rapata Wahawaha on 19 August 1865 (Cowan 1983 II: 119–120; Soutar 2000: 277, 279–280).

Fortification defined by a trench enclosing c. 60 × 30 m rectangle, without flanking defence, at top of hill.

Under pasture; the trenches were already largely infilled in 1983; one surviving terrace on the east side.

7.17 Tahutahupo

Z16; no site record, not located.

Hikuwai, inland southwest of Tokomaru Bay; Pai Marire pā attacked on 21 August 1865 (Soutar 2000: 280–281).

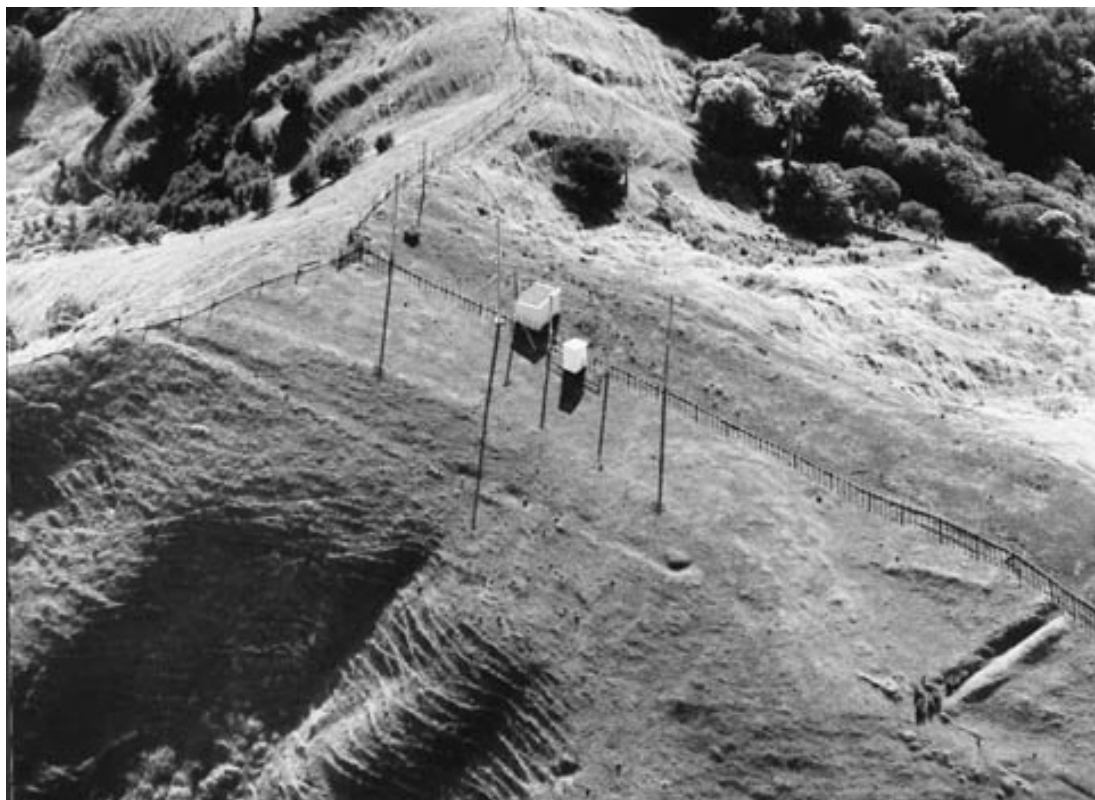


Figure 66. Pukepapa, Tokomaru Bay: 1865 rectangular earthwork c. 60 × 30 m. Photo: K.L. Jones, 1992.

7.18 Tautini

Z16; no site record, not located.

Tokomaru Bay, on the ridge leading up to Pukepapa (7.16) from the bay; Pai Marire pā attacked and taken in August 1865 by Henare Potae and Rapata Wahawaha (Cowan 1983 II: 119–120; Soutar 2000: 279).

7.19 Te Hatepe

Z15; no site record, not located.

Lower Waiapu valley, near the sea, north of the river; pā of Mokena Kohere and ‘Queenite’ Ngāti Porou, in July 1865 reinforced by 100 militia under Major James Fraser (Cowan 1983 II: 118–119). Te Hatepe was at the centre of fighting in the district until the nearby Pai Marire pā, Pakairomiromi (7.13), was taken in early August 1865 (Soutar 2000: 268–270).

7.20 Te Mawhai

Z16; no site record, not located.

Tokomaru Bay; in late winter 1865 under Henare Potae c. 200 ‘Queenite’ men, women and children, plus some Pākehā whalers from the nearby shore station, fortified an old pā on Te Mawhai Point at the south end of the bay. On 27 September 1865 the pā was unsuccessfully attacked by Pai Marire, despite most of the men being away (Cowan 1983 II: 119–120; Soutar 2000: 282–284).

7.21 Tikapa

Z15; no site record, not located.

Waiapu, south side of river; taken by Pai Marire then retaken by Rapata Wahawaha, 30–31 July 1865.

7.22 Tikitiki

Z15; no site record, not located.

Waiapu; Pai Marire pā found abandoned on 10 June 1865 and occupied by Mokena Kohere and his people from Te Hatepe (7.19; Soutar 2000: 250, 252). On 27 June, recaptured by Pai Marire from Pukemaire (7.15) when most of Kohere’s force was away (Soutar 2000: 266).