

AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT

SUFFOLK REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

Records, 1972-74

Reel M973

**Suffolk Regiment Association
The Keep
Gibraltar Barracks
Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP33 3RN**

**National Library of Australia
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Filmed: 1976

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Suffolk Regiment was raised by the Duke of Norfolk in 1685 to combat the Monmouth Rebellion and comprised men from the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk. Originally known as the Duke of Norfolk's Regiment of Foot, it was renamed the 12th Regiment of Foot in 1751. In 1782 it was called the 12th (East Suffolk) Regiment of Foot and in 1880 it became the 12th (Suffolk) Regiment. It saw action in Ireland (1689-91) and in Europe in the War of Austrian Succession (1742-45) and the Seven Years War (1758-62). During the Napoleonic Wars it served in the West Indies, India and Mauritius.

In 1854 the 1st Battalion of the 12th Regiment sailed to Australia, where it was based at Sydney. Shortly after its arrival, a detachment was sent to Port Phillip and it took part in the fighting at the Eureka Stockade in Ballarat on 3 December 1854. During their time in Australia, soldiers of the 12th Regiment often acted as convict guards. In April 1860 two companies of the 12th Regiment and half a battery of artillery were sent to New Zealand, where they served under Major General Thomas Pratt in fighting against Maori forces. In 1862 the headquarters of the battalion were transferred to Auckland and the remaining companies moved from Australia to New Zealand. Under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel H.M. Hamilton, detachments fought at the battles of Gate Pa (29 April 1864) and Te Ranga (21 June 1864). A detachment that had remained at Moreton Bay joined the rest of the Regiment in New Zealand in 1866. Some soldiers were discharged in New Zealand and settled in the colony. In May 1867 the ten companies of the 1st Battalion, comprising 22 officers and 591 men left New Zealand and returned to England.

In 1959 the Suffolk Regiment amalgamated with the Royal Norfolk Regiment and in 1964 it became part of the Royal Anglian Regiment.

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Note: The records were filmed from right to left on the reel, with the title page and list appearing at the end of the reel.

B1/21 The Medal for New Zealand (Maori Wars), 1860-66, vol. 1 (pp 1-11)

Based on records held in the Public Record Office (W.O. 100/18), the typescript list records the officers and soldiers of the Suffolk Regiment who were awarded the New Zealand War Medal on 30 March 1870. The entries (numbered 1-204) are arranged by rank, and then alphabetically within the rank, and give the rank, name, rank at the period in which the medal was earned, the date range of actions (eg. 1863-66), and remarks. The entries are numbered 1-204.

B1/21a The New Zealand War Medal, 1860-66, vol. 2 (pp12-30)

The second volume contains entries numbered 204-449 and lists privates in alphabetical order, from Fortune to Yates. The format is the same as in the first volume. There are a few inserts:

‘The action at Gate Pa’, Tauranga, 29 April 1864.

A newspaper cutting on the death of Private Albert Matthews, April 1928.

Brief extracts from the *History of the 12th Regiment*.

‘The last resting place’, an extract from Gilbert Mair, *The story of Gate Pa* (1926).

The volume was compiled by Canon W.M. Lummis of Norwich, who presumably compiled volume 1 as well.

B1/21b The New Zealand War Medal, 1860-66 (26pp)

Sub-titled ‘Claims of non-effective officers, NCOs and men of the 1st Battalion, 12th Regiment’, the typescript listing was compiled by Canon Lummis from records at the Public Record Office (W.O. 100/18). It gives similar details as in the other two volumes, but provides additional information about the dates of death, discharge or retirement of the recipients of the medal.

B.C. Faulconbridge. The New Zealand War Medal, 1845-1866, Part 4, final part, December 1974. (typescript, 16pp)

Canon W.M. Lummis (Norwich) to ‘Tiny’, 3 March 1972: corrections to several entries.

Corrections received from A.W. Cooper (Orpington), 9 Oct. 1974. (typescript, 2pp)