



Cutting Down the Flagstaff at Kororareka

Soon after the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, Hone Heke, one of the most courageous and chivalrous of the early Maori leaders, desired to show his resentment at the growing influence of the white men over his people. Under the pretext of a personal insult, in the dark early hours of July 8th, 1844, Hone Heke with a band of followers commenced firing their muskets in the young town of Kororareka, or Russell as it is now known. They made their way to the flagstaff on a hill overlooking the town and the Bay of Islands. Here they performed a war dance, cut down the flagstaff and carried away the signal balls. Before their grievances were finally settled, the determined natives cut down the flagstaff no less than four times.

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