

The Sacking of Kaia-pohia Pa

(Continued from page 1.)

had taken aim. This must have seriously hampered the defenders, had they been disposed to stand to their posts. But they were no longer animated so much by the desire to save the pa as to save themselves. Panic had now taken the place of heroism and despair had completely extinguished all idea of defence. The *saucy* *qui* *peut* of Napoleon became equally the policy of Ngai-Tahu, and from this point there was nothing heroic in the defence of Kaiapoi. In a marvellously short space of time the flames had completely enveloped the outer works; and, while they were eating their way through the wooden walls, many of the besiegers were indulging in the wild joy of the war-dance, which, according to one native chronicler, was so vigorously conducted that "the noise they made was like thunder, and the earth trembled." As soon as a breach had been made, the attacking force rushed between the burning palisades, and the massacre—for it can be described by no other word—commenced.

No semblance of resistance was offered except by a desperate few, and those who still lingered were either struck down by their infuriated pursuers or were captured and bound, to be spared or killed, as future circumstances might dictate.

At the time of the sacking the total population of Kaiapohia was about 1000 men, women and children. Some escaped in the confusion following the burning of the pa, many were killed, and a considerable number were taken to Kapiti.

As can readily be imagined, the Ngai-Tahu, as soon as they were sufficiently recovered from the terrible shock of the destruction of their pa, began to organise an expedition to avenge the defeat. Maoris throughout the South Island rallied to the cause, and a party of 270 warriors left for Cook Strait. Soon another party sailed and came within an ace of achieving its object. But the wily Te Rauparaha escaped during the conflict.

A few months later another expedition, numbering 400 warriors, started for Cook Strait in a flotilla of canoes and boats. Although it engaged Te Rauparaha's men, no definite decision was reached. Shortly afterwards hostilities between the two tribes ceased. Te Rauparaha's tribe quarrelled with its allies, the Ngatiawa, and fearing a coalition against him, the chief made peace with the Ngai-Tahu and returned several chiefs



TE ARI PITAMA

who will carry out the duties as Announcer for 3YA on Monday, October 26, when the proceedings in connection with the centenary commemorative celebrations at Kaiapohia Pa will be broadcast.

3YA listeners know Mr. Pitama well as a lecturer on Maori subjects, but, apart from his command of English and his radio personality, singular interest attaches to his association with the centenary celebrations. His great grandfather was the principal actor in a dramatic incident when the pa was sacked, and the event described by the late Rev. Canon J. W. Stack, a pioneer Anglican missionary and authority on the Maori, appears on this page.

whom he had captured at the sacking of Kaiapohia, and the other prisoners.

Since then the Ngai-Tahu have made no attempt to rebuild Kaiapohia, being content to settle at Tuahiwi. The site of the old pa is now a reserve, marked by the monument erected to its founder, Tarakautahi.

An Historic Association.

Mr. Te Ari Pitama, who will act as announcer for 3YA when the proceedings in connection with the celebrations are being broadcast, has an historic association with the famous event.

Among the captives taken from the Kaiapohians was a handsome lad named Pura (known to Lyttelton residents as Pitama), who took Te Rauparaha's fancy, and was led by him into his whare. To prevent his escaping during the night, the old chief tied a stout cord round the boy's body and fastened the end of it to his own wrist.

During the early part of the night Te Rauparaha was wakeful, and kept pulling the cord to assure himself that his prisoner was safe; but when sleep overpowered him the cord relaxed, and

the boy, who was watching for an opportunity to escape, successfully disengaged himself from his bonds, and having fastened the check string to a peg which he found in the floor, crept cautiously out of the hut.

It was too dark for him to distinguish anything, and as he passed out he overthrew a pile of brushwood, which slipped down and completely covered him.

Old Rauparaha, roused by the noise, sprang to his feet and immediately discovered the trick which had been played upon him. He at once gave the alarm, and roused the whole camp. Suddenly awakened from profound sleep induced by weariness after the violent exertion and excitement of the previous day, and by the sense of security ensured by victory, the northern warriors were in the condition to give way to panic, and it was well for them that the circumstance which caused the disturbance in their camp proved after all to be of such a trivial nature.

With shouts and cries the men rushed hither and thither in wild confusion, some calling out that the

prisoners had escaped, others that the camp was being attacked by their friends, who were attempting to rescue them. Torches were lit and seen flashing in all directions, guns were fired, and the greatest commotion prevailed everywhere.

All the time this uproar was going on, the cause of it was lying perfectly still under the fallen pile of brushwood, beside the commander-in-chief's hut. He knew that if discovered he would be immediately put to death, as it was an unpardonable offence for a prisoner to escape.

Escape, however, at such a moment was impossible, and poor Pura lay in the greatest state of terror and alarm, expecting every moment that his hiding place would be found out. Fortunately for him that was not to be; and when the alarm subsided and stillness once more reigned, he quietly extricated himself and groped his way out of the camp into the surrounding flax swamps, under cover of which he escaped. Journeying southward, he fell in with the main body of the fugitives, who were travelling on in the same direction till they reached a place of safety.

October "Radio Log"

DXERS will find this month's "Radio Log" of considerable interest. Probably what will appeal to them most is a complete list of Australian stations, together with a dxer's map of Australia. The list is up to date and sets out all the Australians operating on a regular schedule. The map shows the location of the stations listed.

There is also a list of the European stations with over 10 kilowatts of power, and this sets out the characteristic calls and signals used. In addition, there is a list of Mexican stations whose power exceeds 1 k.w. There is an interesting account of the new German station at Hellsberg recently been received in New Zealand, and gleanings from the American stations—many of these newsy paragraphs have been contributed by a DX member in America. Certain regulations of the DX Competition are under fire, and correspondents' views on this matter have been given full expression. There is a very useful wrinkle for extending the tuning range of your set, so that you can pick up the stations below 200 metres.

The "Log" will be on sale this week and can be obtained from all book-sellers and dealers, price 6d. a copy.

Sporting Relays

WITH the approach of summer, arrangements are being made for relaying a number of seasonal sporting events from 1YA, and sporting listeners are promised some first-class fare. Alf Mattson, the well-known dirt track rider, who has recently returned from England, is at present giving a series of talks on his tour abroad during the Friday evening sports session, and during the broadsiding season which opens in Auckland on December 4 it is expected that some of the racing will be relayed by 1YA. It is also hoped to relay some yacht racing this summer, and cricket, too, will have a place on the northern programmes. A tentative arrangement has been made to rebroadcast the Melbourne Cup on November 8.

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A 3YA Recital,

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