

advice, but was glad to find shortly afterward that the order had been countermanded. Walker & all the leading men of his party were much opposed to the [step]* and the former gave the C to understand that he & his men did not intend to follow his example.

2. *Turnbull MS – CMS version*: Went to the Camp this morning found the Colonel had decided upon returning here to wait for more assistance or further orders. Walker and all the leading men were opposed — they were well aware the confidence such a step would give the party in the Pa and most probably add to their numbers, whereas a steady resistance notwithstanding the loss they have sustained would inspire the enemy with fear and very shortly to desert their Pa should an opportunity offer. The Natives have not ceased to wonder & talk at the determined manner in which the Soldiers attacked them some calling them very courageous others terming it madness. One remarked they were *devils* and not men to rush up in the manner they did.

3. *Published version*: Left early for the camp. On my arrival I was met by Captain Wilmot, of the Artillery, and Mr Clendon, Magistrate of the Hokianga District, who informed me that the whole force was about to be withdrawn to the Waimate, there to wait for reinforcements from Sydney and Melbourne. Captain Wilmot pressed me to use my influence with the colonel to prevent such a step. I went, as usual, to report myself to the colonel, accompanied by Mr Clendon. On our way to the tent we noticed nearly the whole camp busy in preparing for a move. After the usual salutations the colonel told us his intentions. Mr Clendon, who had been primed beforehand, ventured to give it as his opinion that the withdrawal from the situation, leaving the rebels in the pa, would add greatly to their numbers, and enable them to take to the bush and do much mischief. Colonel Despard, who was suffering very much at the time from neuralgia, and had been for several days, replied, 'What am I to do? Quite one-third of my men are either killed or disabled; if the rebels from the pa were to come out in force and line the bush all round, I have not sufficient men to go out against them.' The reply to this was, 'You have Waka here with his men for such work as that should it be needed, but the rebels are not likely to leave their pa in any force to attack you so long as you are here.' The Colonel was now informed that Waka meant to remain even if the troops were withdrawn, and what he would ask for would be some help in strengthening the stockade his men had put up on the flat a little way to the rear of the camp. Colonel Despard was further informed that it was reported on very good authority that a proposition had been made by Kawiti to desert the present pa, and withdraw to the neighbourhood of Ruapekapeka. It was also suggested to the colonel by Mr Clendon that the 32 lb gun, lately brought in the *North Star*, might be so placed as to do much more execution than it had hitherto done. After some further conversation we withdrew, and immediately afterward the order to strike tents, etc. was countermanded. During the day the gun was dragged some way further up Waka's hill, and a steady fire from thence opened upon the pa. At my suggestion the few wounded, who were still in the camp, were removed to the Waimate. We numbered now altogether about 30 in hospital. The drays have been sent to Kerikeri for further supplies of ammunition, etc.

* Word omitted in the Turnbull MS, but supplied in Carleton's transcription.

From internal evidence it seems not improbable that the variation between the versions for the entry of 7 July are typical of the period 3 March – 20 July. The Turnbull MS-CMS version states the facts briefly but includes a spattering of explanatory notes. The published *Diary* is a free-flowing narrative unlike the sort of jottings of which journals are usually composed. This is the pattern for 7 July. In the Turnbull MS four lines out of fifteen summarise the information given