



THE BOMBARDMENT OF APIA, SAMOA, BY THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN VESSELS.

was announced that the Government wanted 400 men, but this is presumed to include the Permanent Force as well. The Permanent Force members who were in camp at Epsom were recalled, and left the camp at once for the North Shore.

On Saturday morning last mounted messengers were immediately despatched in all directions to bring in the troops again. The No. 1 Battalion had been marched out by the Renuera Road, and when the news reached them they were stationed at the corner of the road by the residence of Mr W. Crowther, M.H.R. The officer in command was instructed to march the men back to camp, and this was done without delay. All the forces had been recalled before lunch, and on being drawn up on the parade ground they were told to fall in at 2.45 p.m., when volunteers for Samoa would be enlisted. The announcement was received with suppressed excitement, and when the men were dismissed a buzz of eager chatter could be heard on every side. Everyone apparently was willing to volunteer; the only thing which made some hang back was the thought or the knowledge that they would be unable to get away from business. And the latter could easily be distinguished by their doleful looks and expressions of disappointment.

At a quarter to three the battalions fell in as ordered on the parade ground. After the brigade had been drawn up on three sides of a square, Colonel Pole-Penton addressed the men of the No. 1 Battalion. He mentioned that the offer of the battalion for service at Samoa had been accepted by the New Zealand Government, and said there was just a chance that he would need the men. He would want 80 volunteers who would be prepared to leave for Samoa at a few hours' notice, perhaps that evening; and 350 men who would be prepared to sail on Wednesday. If he did not get the full number from the No. 1 Battalion, the No. 2 would have the chance of filling up the vacancies; but as the services of the No. 1 had been offered in the first instance they would have the first chance of volunteering for service.

At the call for volunteers the whole battalion came to the front by companies. Colonel Penton then asked those who were prepared to leave at a few hours' notice to fall out on the left of the battalion. There was a ready response to the call, some companies sending over 20 men apiece, although it was announced that only about ten from each company would be required. The non-commissioned officers volunteered almost to a man, but only nine of them could be taken. These were chosen first, and then about 80 rank and file were picked. Great was the disappointment of those who were not chosen, some of the sergeants, indeed, begged to be allowed to go as privates, but this was not permitted. Their only consolation was the thought that they would go away with the 350 on the Wednesday. Nor were the No. 1 Battalion the only ones who wished to volunteer. Acting-Major White offered the services of the No. 2 Battalion to Colonel Penton, pointing out that most of the country men were hardy and well trained, and thoroughly fit for active service. The Colonel thanked the No. 2 Battalion for their offer. The 'A' Battery (through Captain O'Brien) and the Engineers (through Lieut. Walker) also offered themselves for service in the course of the afternoon, while on Sunday Acting-Major Reid handed in an offer on behalf of the mounted men.

After the first contingent had been selected, the men were marched across to the ambulance tent and formed up on three sides of a square in double line. A table was placed in the centre of the square, at which the men were to sign the agreement to enlist for special service and be subject to Imperial regulations. The declaration which the men signed ran as follows:

"We, the undersigned, hereby agree with the Defence Minister of the Colony of New Zealand to engage under "The Defence Act, 1886," for special service within or beyond the said colony until lawfully discharged by the said Minister; and we also agree to be subject to the provisions of the "Army Act, 1881," of the Imperial Parliament, as defined in the said Defence Act. The rate of pay to be in accordance with the scale specified in clause 132 of the Regulations of the Volunteer Force in New Zealand, made