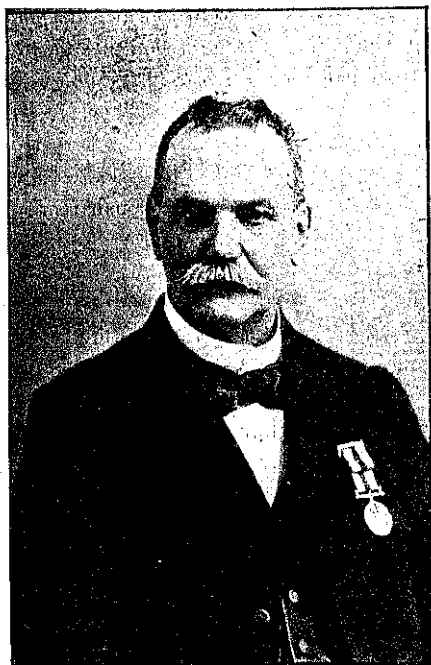


shape, with salient angles, and subsequently enclosed by a strong palisading—was covered with dense bush, the parish



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church lying scarcely a-quarter of a mile to the northwards. The ground to the east and south had been cleared of bush and was under grass, whilst the ground to the south-eastward of the stockade still had a good deal of standing timber faced by a thorn hedge. We were not long in taking up the quarters allotted to us within the quadrangle in company with a detachment of H.M. 65th Regiment—Royal Tigers—under Lieut. Chevalier, which was subsequently relieved by a detachment of H.M. 18th Royal Irish Regiment, under Lieut. Russell.

"For some considerable time after our arrival camp life was attended by the inevitable instruction parades, piquet duties, etc., until the afternoon of the 12th September, when we received the welcome intelligence through the medium of a friendly chief, who rejoiced in the sobriquet of "Long George," that the rebels had decided upon attacking the camp in three days afterwards—*vi et armis*. On the morning

of the 15th, whilst some of the men were indulging in a scratch game of cricket across the river, in the temporary company of a fatigue party—told off to procure some slab timber for use in the redoubt—two shots were fired in quick succession amongst them from the bridge adjoining the bush, at a distance of about a hundred and fifty yards from the stockade. It did not require a moment's reflection for the cricketers and fatigue party, who were unarmed, to betake themselves to the redoubt and stockade, from which the fire was quickly returned, and soon became of a very general character. The natives, however, not deeming it prudent to endeavour to carry the work by assault in the face of such a well sustained rifle fire, finally retired, the only casualty reported on our side from the operation being that of a slight wound occasioned to Ensign Johnson by a spent ball on one of



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his arms. A young lad of Mr Niccol's had a narrow escape, a ball having passed through his cap.