

**AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT**

**LIEUTENANT-COLONEL WILLIAM TEMPLE**

**Papers, 1861-1916**

**Reel M679**

**New Zealand High Commission  
New Zealand House  
80 Haymarket  
London SW1Y 4TQ**

**National Library of Australia  
State Library of New South Wales**

**Filmed: 1967**

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

William Temple (1835-1919) was born in Monaghan, Ireland, and educated at a private school at Monaghan and Trinity College, Dublin. He enlisted in the British Army as an assistant surgeon in 1858 and was transferred to the Royal Artillery in 1859. He arrived in New Zealand in March 1861 with C Battery, 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Royal Artillery. In 1862 in Auckland he married Anne Mould, the daughter of Colonel Thomas R. Mould of the Royal Engineers.

Temple served in Taranaki in 1861 and in the Waikato campaign in 1863-65. In 1864 he and Lieutenant A.F. Pickard were both awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery in fighting at Rangiriri in the Waikato region on 20 November 1863. The citation referred to their 'gallant conduct ... in exposing their lives to imminent danger, in crossing the entrance of the Maori keep, at a point upon which the enemy had concentrated their fire, with a view to render assistance to the wounded, and, more especially, to the late Captain Mercer of the Royal Artillery'.

Temple returned to England in 1865. He was appointed a surgeon in the Army Medical Service in 1868. After being based in Portsmouth for several years, he went to India in 1884 and was secretary to the Surgeon-General of the Indian Army Medical Services. He became Brigade Surgeon, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, in 1885 and retired in 1889. He died at Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

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#### 1. Correspondence

William Temple (Auckland) to Jane (?), 4 Aug. 1861: wretched living conditions in a hut; purchase of an allotment at Otahuhu township; Mrs Harriet Gore Brown's 'at home'; imminent arrival of Sir George Grey as Governor; general expectation of peace; unable to take photographs on account of weather; establishment of a mess; garrison theatricals; mutual friends.

William Temple (Auckland) to Annie, 1 March 1863: loss of letters on the *Colombo*; wreck of HMS *Orpheus*; day of mourning.

? (Tauranga) to William Temple, 5 May 1864: request of officer commanding Royal Artillery for statement of Temple's observations of the assault on Rangiriri and the conduct of Lieut. Pickard and Surgeon Temple.

William Temple (Auckland) to ?, 10 May 1864: sends a statement on the assault on Rangiriri and the conduct of Lieut. Pickard.

William Temple (Auckland) to his brother James Temple, 7 July 1864: ill health; plans to send Rangiriri mat; engagement of Capt. Irwin; high cost of living in New Zealand; mutual friends.

W.F. Gordon (New Plymouth) to William Temple, 28 Oct. 1916: sale to the Dominion Museum in Wellington of Gordon's collection of photographs of officers and men who served in the Maori Wars.

#### 2. Plan of Rangiriri

Plan of the battle of Rangiriri, November 1863, and a draft statement on the conduct of Lieut. A.F. Pickard in the battle. (2pp)

#### 3. Photographs

Six photographs of soldiers, artillery and scenes during the campaign against the Maoris at Rangiriri. (poor reproduction)