

## Report on the Musa raid

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At dawn, M. encampment passed by a large contingent in war canoes; went to the mouth of the river to pick up the Merrie England to pursue them

-- MacGregor had been making his way up the river when he sighted a large group of canoes pulled up to the bank; men there shouted "Orokaiva" and "wera" and other peaceful demonstrations

-- passed on the far side of the river while the constabulary got guns ready and some disappeared into the bush

"On the platform of the first canoe we passed, but partially concealed by a mat, there lay the dead body of a full-grown native man. As it was not yet absolutely clear what was the nature of this expedition, which, after all, might be proceeding to some great feast up the river, although we had seen no preparations there for anything of the kind, or might be a great hunting expedition at which a man had died or been killed by accident, we continued our way up the river, while I carefully examined with the glass each canoe we passed. Before we reached the highest canoe I had seen four dead human bodies on them, and, what was more decisive, parts of dead bodies. It was clear they had already surprised and massacred at least one community on the river. . . . The style of canoe, the shield, the dress and ornaments of the warriors seemed to show that they were from Collingwood Bay. This opinion was confirmed by some of them called out "Wera, wera," and by a man saying they were from Makimaki. They were evidently desirous of peace, and prepared to be friendly. They certainly knew perfectly well who we were, as I had already several times visited all the coast villages in Collingwood Bay and round Trafalgar, and had been at least twice at Makimaki with the steam launch.

-- chased them down the river to clear them from the area, but some pulled up and others impeded by snags in the river; decided to disable the canoes so that they would not be able to return on to their destination -- police got out, in face of 300 or so armed men in the bushes, to untie the canoes

-- part of Constabulary remained up river while the Merrie England continued the pursuit down toward the mouth

-- picked up a score of canoes at a creek near Mt. Victory, tied to launch & then got more later from along the bank -- eventually set some of these adrift on the Musa, camping about half a mile from the mouth

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-- estimated that at least 10 or 12 people had already been captured by the raiders before they were stopped

"There were, on as many separate canoes, four adult undivided dead bodies; on another there was the body of a little girl of seven or eight, still tied by the hands and feet to the pole on which her tender little body had been carried to camp. Some of the others had similar lashings still on their limbs, and one was bound on to a strong flat board laid under the back, and which had been used as a vehicle of transport. On the platforms of all the canoes were pots of clay, stone adzes, stone clubs, spears, mats, betel and lime gear, pig nets, and some of the new plane irons we had given to the people of Endari only two days previously. But in the midst of these miscellaneous articles, on a canoe platform, one could see here and there a

human foot projecting from the mass, or it might be a hand and arm, on which there still remained the rings of shell and other materials that were worn as ornaments during life.

"A nearer examination would then show that the member was detached, that it had been clumsily and unskilfully hacked from the body by an unexperienced hand, and that it was already half-cooked, probably in order to keep it longer sweet. On the platforms of the canoes were also little neatly made-up parcels and packets of human flesh, deftly enveloped in leaves and tied with bark. On some of the platforms were large and small uncovered pieces, some cooked and ready for the table, others apparently half-cooked, and corresponding exactly to what is known to the cook as a 'saddle.' In the holds of some of the canoes were coils of human intestine, sorted as one folds a fishing line, with a stick through the coil supporting it by resting on the edges of the canoe, so as to let the coil fall into the hold, but without the lower end reaching the bilge water in the canoe. When we approached them first the invaders made no attempt whatever to conceal the dead bodies, or the parts of them that were lying about. When they abandoned the canoes they left the unbroken ones and the whole limbs; but they carried off many smaller portions, to which they clung with such tenacity that when a party of them were encountered by the police next day they still bore with them some of these small parcels of human flesh, one of them dropping the breast of a woman only at the last moment when he was on the point of being captured, and had to put forth all his strength in order to escape. Everything on the first division of canoes went to the bottom of the river. From the canoes that got away down stream the occupants were able to remove the greater portion of their property; but pots, drums, nets, adzes, &c., could be found along the paths by which they had fled. There was little probability of our ever being able to get near those that had landed on the right bank of the river, but all those (nearly half) that had hurriedly and unwisely taken to the left bank, thus putting the river between themselves and home, were in some difficulty, as to cross the river by swimming is very dangerous on account of the great number of crocodiles in it. A detachment of the constabulary was sent up the river with the steam launch on the following morning under the orders of Mr. Moreton. They met and had a short conflict with a strong band of the fugitives, two of whom were shot dead on the spot. A third one they brought into camp in the boat. A bullet from a snider carbine had hit him on the right thigh, smashing the bone into a quantity of small fragments (sic). He was taken on board the "Merrie England" on the 22nd September, where his terrible wound was attended to by Mr. Symonds, the purser, until the 25th October.

-- returned this man to his own people, the "Mapuya", who lived on Mt. Trafalger -- reached through Portlock Bay and following up a stream -- none were arrested but presumed anyways that at least some of the participants had been Maisin from Makimaki & so a quick visit was paid to southern bay

"It was found that certain natives of Maisina have built half a dozen houses on the island of Sinapa, in Philip's Harbour, probably induced to do so as being convenient for trading with any vessel calling there. They were not afraid or mistrustful, and were, of course, quite friendly. We left one boat with the magistrate and commandant at Maisina while I proceeded in the other boat to Makimaki. They found the Maisina people friendly, and not nearly so boisterous, presuming, and unruly as formerly was the case. They did not carry arms. At Makimaki, a great part of the men on seeing our approach seated themselves

quietly on the sandy beach to wait for us. None of them had arms near them. We could hold only very limited colloquial communication with these people. The chief denied clearly and distinctly that they had been up the Musa, but he seemed embarrassed and disturbed by the question. It was also noticed that stone clubs were not, as used to be the case, offered for sale, and they did not seem to be rich in stone adzes. Several of them were in mourning, and they were making some new canoes, considerations that in the aggregate would seem to point to their participation in the late expedition. It will be necessary to arrest and punish the leaders in the raid; but this will require that one live in Collingwood Bay and on Trafalgar for two or three weeks first, in order to learn who they were. This had to be deferred for the present."