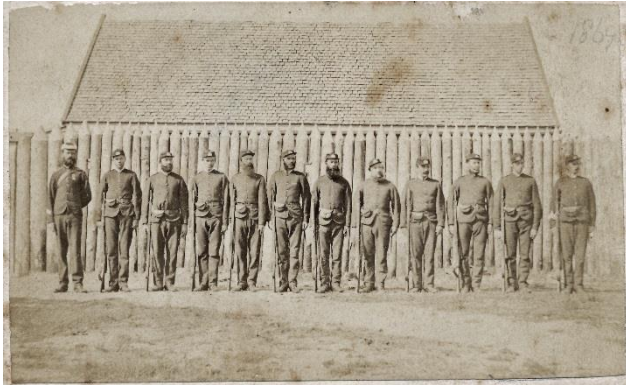


2. Dividing it up

The Waikato Militia was a special force raised in New Zealand and Australia. They were all promised one town acre plus 50 acres if they were a private, 60 for a corporal, 80 for a sergeant, 250 for a lieutenant, 300 for a captain and 400 for the higher ranks.

The town was surveyed and laid out in one acre lots and the surrounding land divided into farm sections. Of the eight companies in the 3rd Waikato Militia, four received land at Cambridge West (Leamington) and four at Cambridge East. The men would work on their land and be called to the Star Redoubt if there was any trouble.



Members of the Armed Constabulary outside the barracks in Cambridge in 1869.

Cambridge Museum collection



Ensign William George Jackson of the 3rd Waikato Militia
Cambridge Museum collection



Members of the Cambridge Cavalry volunteers.
Cambridge Museum collection



24 Victoria Street, Cambridge
admin@cambridgemuseum.org.nz | 07 827 3319
www.cambridgemuseum.org.nz

After the Waikato Wars



Map of the Cambridge area showing part of the Aukati line, and military allotments.

Cambridge Museum collection, original at National Archives.

By April 1864, the Waikato War was over – and the distribution of land to Pākeha began.

In December Governor Grey authorised the confiscation of 1,202,172 acres of Waikato land above a boundary known as the Aukati Line. There were many dispossessed Māori left homeless and without resources. Māori from around Cambridge moved over the Aukati line onto the other sides of Maungatautari and Maungakawa.

1. Camp Cambridge

North of the Aukati line, European settlers were still nervous and feared a new attack from the south. To protect the frontier, a series of redoubts were established in strategic locations including Alexandra (Pirongia) and Cambridge.

On July 14th 1864, Cambridge was selected as the camp for the 3rd Waikato Militia. It was chosen because it was as far up the Waikato River a steamer could easily go. They named it Camp Cambridge, after the Duke of Cambridge, who was the Commander in chief of the British Army at the time.

Near the end of 1864 the Star Redoubt was set up between Fort Street and this Museum. It overlooked the junction of the Karapiro Stream and the Waikato River. With views to Maungakawa, Maungatautari and Pukekura, it was centrally located between existing redoubts.



Camp Cambridge, drawn by Gustavus von Tempsky. It shows the fort on the hill top left, now the site of the Cambridge Museum. Photograph in Cambridge Museum collection

3. Giving it up

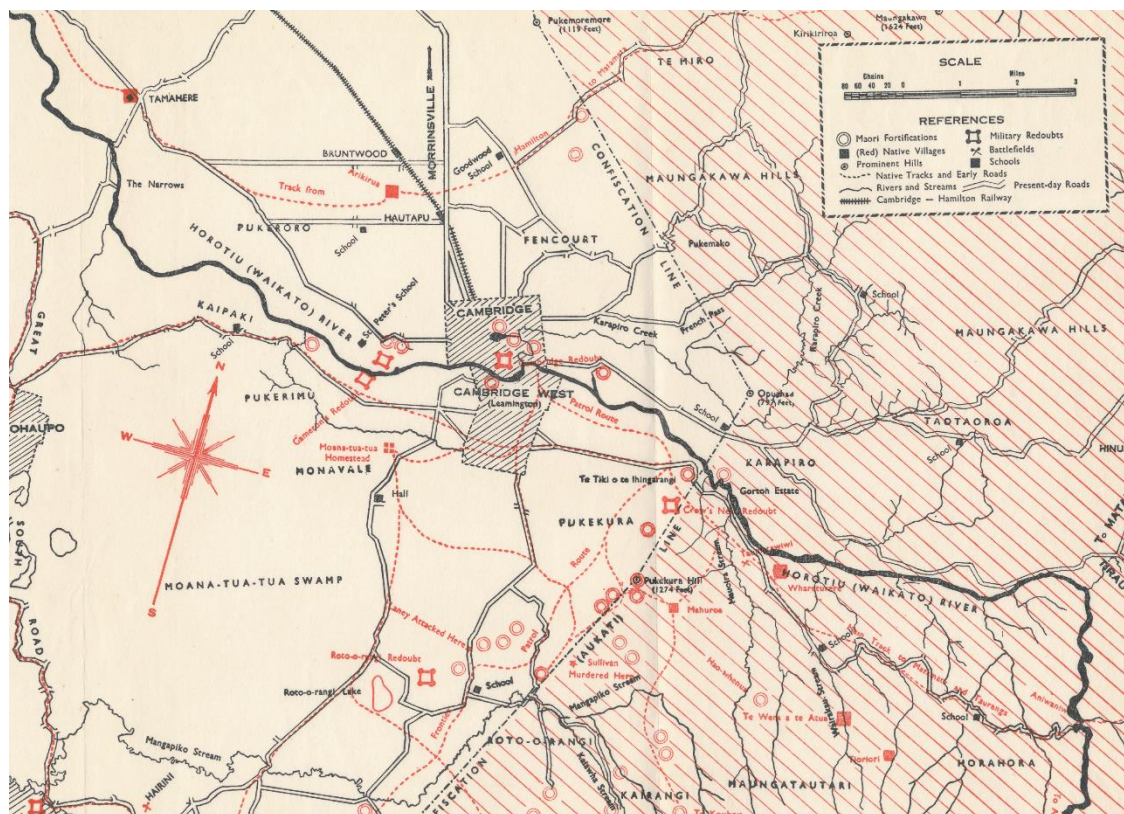
To these men, many of whom were just farm labourers, this was beyond their wildest dreams, but soon there were grumblings about the quality of land they had received. Much was swampy, covered in bush, and nutrient deficient. Many of them either never took up their allocation or found the going too hard and simply walked off the land.

Of the 700 men of the 3rd Waikato Regiment who were allocated land in and around Cambridge, there were only 200 left by 1867. The Government was now worried about lack of military backup in case of attack and so formed the Armed Constabulary. The 3rd Waikato Militia was disbanded in November 1867. The Armed Constabulary rebuilt and improved the Ten Star Redoubt and helped improve roads and infrastructure.

4. Cambridge Cavalry

This force of horse-borne volunteers was formed in 1871 and recruited from settlers from Cambridge, Te Awamutu and Hamilton. Their role was to act as a deterrent to any hostile actions from local Maori and to increase security for the Pākehā settlers.

The 60 active members were all supplied with a carbine revolver and sword and wore a uniform consisting of a blue tunic, cord breeches, leggings and forage caps. The motto of the troop was “Our hearths and our homes” and they carried a flag of pale pink and green. The troop was disbanded in 1883 after a falling off of interest and less need for protection.



Map of Cambridge district showing the aukati line. From ‘Such things were’ by C.W. Vennell.