

= Charles Heaphy =

Charles Heaphy VC (1820 ? 3 August 1881) was an English @-@ born New Zealand explorer and recipient of the Victoria Cross (VC) , the highest military award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces . He was the first soldier of the New Zealand armed forces to be awarded the VC . He was also a noted artist and executed several works of early colonial life in New Zealand .

Born in England , Heaphy joined the New Zealand Company in 1839 . He arrived in New Zealand later that year and was commissioned to create art for advertising the country to potential English migrants . Much of the next two and half years was spent travelling and executing paintings of landscapes and life around the centre of the country . When his contract with the company ended in 1842 , he lived in Nelson for several years and explored large parts of the West Coast . He later moved north to Auckland to take up employment as a surveyor .

During the Invasion of the Waikato , his militia unit was mobilised and it was his conduct at Paterangi , where he rescued British soldiers under fire , that saw him awarded the VC . He was the first recipient of the VC to be a non @-@ regular soldier . After his military service ended , Heaphy served a term as Member of Parliament for Parnell . From 1870 to 1881 , he held a variety of civil service positions but his health declined and he moved to Queensland , in Australia , seeking a better climate in which to recover . He died a few months after his arrival .

= = Early life = =

Charles Heaphy was born sometime in 1820 in London , England . He was the youngest child of Thomas Heaphy , who was a professional painter and three of his siblings also became noted painters . His grandfather John Gerrard Heaphy was a merchant from Ireland . The family lived in St John 's Wood in north @-@ west London and enjoyed a comfortable , middle @-@ class existence although his mother died sometime during his early childhood . Thomas earned painting commissions from high society and in 1812 accompanied Arthur Wellesley , who was later to become the Duke of Wellington , as staff artist during the Peninsular War . Thomas died in 1835 and left the entire estate to his second wife , who he had married in 1833 . Charles , who had obtained work as a draughtsman at the London & Birmingham Railway Company , moved out of the family home soon after . As a child , Charles was taught to paint by his father and in December 1837 , sponsored by a family friend , he entered the Royal Academy school of painting . He was the only child of the Heaphy family to receive this level of education .

In May 1839 , after 18 months at the Royal Academy , Heaphy joined the New Zealand Company as a draughtsman . The company was established by Edward Wakefield as a private venture , to organise colonies in New Zealand and sought well @-@ educated men as staff for planning and surveying new settlements in the country . Heaphy sailed with William Wakefield , Edward 's brother , aboard the Tory on an expedition to purchase land suitable for settlement . In late 1839 , the Tory arrived in what became known as Wellington .

= = Service with the New Zealand Company = =

Heaphy 's contract with the company was for three years , primarily to create art that could be used as advertising for the company . In doing so he travelled extensively around the country and occasionally participated in overland treks , living out of a tent or staying with local M?ori . He also sailed around parts of the country aboard the Tory and learned surveying from its captain . Another employee of the company travelling on the Tory was Ernst Dieffenbach , who taught Heaphy basic geology .

Heaphy painted a variety of subjects including landscapes , flora and fauna and notable M?ori , including the chieftain Te Rauparaha . The success of the company depended on attracting emigrants to New Zealand so his work was almost always intended to present the country and its inhabitants in its best light . Heaphy was at times exposed to some danger ; on an expedition to the

Chatham Islands , his party intervened in a skirmish between two warring tribes and he was wounded in the leg . It was unlikely to have been a serious wound for a few weeks later , he went on a trek back in New Zealand to the Taranaki Region , where he produced some of his more notable landscapes .

From October 1840 , Heaphy was based in Wellington and with a friend built a small cottage , that allowed him to execute several views of Wellington Harbour , which was much used in advertising for the New Zealand Company . A few months later , in early 1841 , he joined Arthur Wakefield on the expedition that led to the founding of Nelson . Heaphy was among several employees of the New Zealand Company to scout the area around Tasman Bay , before the location for Nelson was decided and executed several paintings highlighting the quality of the land intended for settlement . By late 1841 , Heaphy 's services as an artist were no longer required , given the number of works that he had produced and Wakefield decided to send him to London , to make a report to the company directors . He took nearly six months to reach London , by which time his three @-@ year contract had expired . The directors were impressed with his report and it was published as a book entitled Narrative of a Residence in Various Parts of New Zealand .

= = Life in Nelson = =

Although no longer employed by the New Zealand Company , Heaphy , emboldened by the success of his report and the public reception to his paintings , sought further opportunities for similar work . From London , he wrote to the company secretary seeking support for exploration of the area inland of Nelson . The response was unenthusiastic , the company was concentrating on developing its settlements , rather than undertaking in further exploration of the country . Despite this , Heaphy returned to New Zealand and arrived in Nelson on 22 December 1842 .

There was little in way of work opportunities for Heaphy in Nelson and he based himself in Motueka . Here he farmed land with a friend , Frederick Moore and this took much of what little funds he had . His farming venture was hard work and not particularly successful . By late 1843 , the New Zealand Company was in need of good pastoral land around Nelson . It had clashed with M?ori in the Wairau Affray in the Wairau Valley , to the south @-@ east of Nelson and several company employees , including Arthur Wakefield , were killed . The company needed to scout the area to the south @-@ west and Heaphy finally got the chance to explore .

Wakefield 's replacement as resident agent in Nelson for the New Zealand Company , William Fox , was a keen advocate of expansion for settlement in the area around Nelson . Fox authorised Heaphy and a surveyor to scout south @-@ west to the Buller River in November 1843 . In December 1843 , Heaphy and two M?ori trekked to what is now known as Golden Bay , and returned to Motueka via the coast , a journey which he regarded as the most difficult he had undertaken . Both expeditions failed to locate suitable land for settlement as did an expedition back to the Buller River in March 1845 . Heaphy was reasonably well compensated for his exploration efforts and for additional funds , he undertook art commissions for Nelson 's more wealthy residents .

In February 1846 , Heaphy , accompanied by Fox and Thomas Brunner , another employee of the New Zealand Company , as well as a M?ori named Kehu , undertook another expedition to the south @-@ west . Difficult terrain faced them ; high mountain ranges topped with snow and ice , steep bush , numerous rivers and gorges . Food sources included roots and berries ; birds could be snared and eels caught from streams . Along the coast , shellfish and gull eggs added to the diet . The party , each carrying a load of 34 kilograms (75 lb) , trekked to the Buller River and walked its banks as far as the Maruia River . Here , believing themselves to be only 32 kilometres (20 mi) from the coast , dwindling provisions prevented them proceeding to the mouth of the Buller River . Guided by Kehu , the party traversed the Hope Saddle on their way back to Nelson , which they reached on 1 March .

Heaphy and Brunner were keen for further exploration and with Kehu , left Nelson on 17 March 1846 , to scout along the West Coast to the mouth of the Buller . The expedition traced the western coast of South Island as far south as the Arahura River . Their journey began from Golden Bay and

they made their way to West Wanganui where Etau , a local M?ori , was hired as a porter . The local chief barred their journey south but Heaphy and Brunner mollified him with some tobacco . They continued along the coast , climbing sometimes steep cliffs and fording rivers as they went and their movements were held up at times , due to rain and high tides . At night , they sheltered in small caves , augmented with a screen of Nikau palm leaves . They crossed the Karamea River on 20 April and reached the Buller River ten days later . This had to be crossed using an old canoe that was repaired by Kehu and Etau and after crossing , they stayed at the local p? (village) . In early May , they sighted the Southern Alps and at the Arahura River (a tributary of the Grey River) , the southernmost point of the expedition , they were hosted by the local Ng?i Tahu tribe at Taramakau P? . Poor weather plagued their return along the coast but they reached Nelson on 18 August . The harsh conditions that Heaphy had experienced during his travels , left him disillusioned with the potential prospects for settlements , along the West Coast region .

Life in Nelson remained difficult for Heaphy , who had by now lost his appetite for exploration . He eked out a living taking occasional jobs for the next six months . For much of 1847 , he undertook survey work around Tasman Bay and later in that year was the representative of the New Zealand Company , when the government investigated the amount of land set aside by the company for the local M?ori . Work had dried up by early 1848 and when he was offered employment with the Auckland Survey Office in April 1848 , he accepted .

= = Life in Auckland = =

Moving north to Auckland , Heaphy 's new role as the chief draughtsman for the Auckland Survey Office , kept him occupied with the preparation of maps and plans . After a few years , he began to spend a greater amount of time in the field , where he carried out survey work . As he had done when living in Nelson , he supplemented his income with commissioned artworks . He began to build on his geological knowledge , taking a particular interest in vulcanology and wrote an article on Auckland 's volcanoes for a geological journal in England . He completed several paintings of volcanoes as well as thermal attractions in the Bay of Plenty including the famous Pink and White Terraces . Hoping to raise his profile , he sent many of his works to London and some remain on display at the offices of the Geological Society .

When he was 30 , Heaphy met and began courting Kate Churton , the 21 @-@ year @-@ old daughter of a reverend . The couple were married on 30 October 1851 , at St Paul 's Church in Auckland . A year later , he was appointed " Commissioner of Gold Fields " at Coromandel , following the recent discovery of gold . His role required him to supervise claims made by miners and negotiate land sales with local M?ori . The gold rush in Coromandel soon petered out and he returned to his work at the Auckland Survey Office by mid @-@ 1853 .

In November 1853 , Sir George Grey ended his first term as Governor of New Zealand and sailed to the islands around New Caledonia , to indulge his interest in languages . He also wanted to investigate French claims on the islands . Heaphy accompanied him as his private secretary and took the opportunity to execute artworks of the islands he visited and their inhabitants . He gave some of his works to Grey , who took them back to England in December 1853 and donated them to the British Museum .

Heaphy and his wife moved north of Auckland to what is now known as Warkworth in early 1854 , following his appointment as district surveyor for the Mahurangi Peninsula , which was being opened for settlement . For two years , Heaphy surveyed the plots of land that were to be sold to people moving to the area . In 1856 he became Auckland 's provincial surveyor following the retirement of his predecessor . He moved back to Auckland and took up residence in Parnell . Surveying kept him busy for the next few years but in early 1859 , he accompanied Ferdinand von Hochstetter , who had been invited by the government to make a report on a coalfield discovered south of Auckland . The two became friendly and Hochstetter was impressed with Heaphy 's bush skills , although privately did not accord him much respect for his scientific knowledge . When Hochstetter left for Europe later in the year , he took with him many examples of Heaphy 's artwork . The two later fell out , when Heaphy had an article published in a geological journal . Hochstetter felt usurped by

someone he considered an inferior scholar and publicly questioned Heaphy 's credentials . He also made allegations that Heaphy had plagiarised portions of his work on the coalfields . Heaphy mounted a spirited defence and generally had the sympathy of the public . The dispute did not stop Hochstetter from using Heaphy 's artwork in a book he published on New Zealand 's geology .

= = Military career = =

Soon after returning to Auckland in 1856 , Heaphy joined a militia unit , the Auckland Rifle Volunteers , with the rank of private . In 1863 , his unit was mobilised and Heaphy commissioned as an officer . Later that year he was appointed captain of the Parnell Company . During the Invasion of the Waikato (a campaign of the New Zealand Wars) , he was sent to survey the military road being constructed into the Waikato as well as charting the river ways , as pilot of the gunboat Pioneer . He was present at the Battle of Rangiriri and later made a sketch of the action , which unusually for him , included representations of British casualties . He was later attached to the staff of Lieutenant Colonel Henry Havelock as the British advanced deeper into the Waikato .

The Waikato M?ori had withdrawn to fortified positions at Pikopiko and Paterangi by early 1864 . While their positions were under siege , war parties would mount raids on small groups of British soldiers . On 11 February , soldiers of the 40th Regiment of Foot were bathing in the Mangapiko Stream near Paterangi and were ambushed by a raiding party . Heaphy , commanding some men of the 50th Regiment of Foot , came to the aid of the defenders and moved to cut off the M?ori line of retreat . He then overcame the M?ori reserve , before leading his men to the ambush site , to assist the British soldiers . Despite being outnumbered , the British repulsed the M?ori and began to pursue them into the bush . A soldier was wounded and Heaphy and three others went to his aid but Heaphy and one of the others were wounded and a third was killed . Unable to extricate themselves , Heaphy and the remaining fit soldier provided cover to prevent the wounded men from being axed by the M?ori . They were eventually relieved by reinforcements but the two wounded men that Heaphy and the soldier were trying to protect , died of their wounds . Despite injuries to his arm , hip and ribs , Heaphy remained in the field for much of the remainder of the day , until the ambushed party was relieved . Following the action at Paterangi , Heaphy was promoted to major ; a month later , with the end of the war in the Waikato , he ceased active duty and returned to civilian life .

= = = Victoria Cross = = =

In late 1864 , Major General Thomas Galloway , the commander of the New Zealand colonial forces , recommended Heaphy for the Victoria Cross (VC) for his actions at Peterangi . The recommendation was supported by Sir George Grey (serving a second term as the Governor of New Zealand) , despite knowing that Heaphy and another man recommended for the VC , for an action earlier in the campaign , was not in the British Army or Royal Navy . At the time , only personnel from the regular British military could be awarded the VC and thus Heaphy , as a militiaman , was not eligible . Grey argued that as Heaphy was under the effective command of British officers he should be made an exception . In London , the authorities disagreed and the recommendation was turned down . Heaphy refused to accept this and began to agitate , with support from Grey , Havelock , and General Duncan Cameron , commander of British forces in New Zealand , with the British government . He was eventually successful and on 8 February 1867 , Queen Victoria made a declaration that the local forces of New Zealand would be eligible for the VC . That day , the award of a VC to Heaphy , the first to a New Zealander and also to a non @-@ regular soldier , was gazetted . The citation read :

For his gallant conduct at the skirmish on the banks of the Mangapiko River , in New Zealand , on the 11th of February , 1864 , in assisting a wounded soldier of the 40th Regiment , who had fallen into a hollow among the thickest of the concealed Maories . Whilst doing so , he became the target for a volley at a few feet distant . Five balls pierced his clothes and cap , and he was wounded in three places . Although hurt , he continued to aid the wounded until the end of the day . Major Heaphy was at the time in charge of a party of soldiers of the 40th and 50th Regiments , under the

orders of Lieutenant @-@ Colonel Sir Henry Marshman Havelock , Bart. , V.C. , G.C.B , D.L. the Senior Officer on the spot , who had moved rapidly down to the place where the troops were hotly engaged and pressed .

Heaphy was presented with his VC at a parade at Albert Barracks in Auckland on 11 May 1867 . The medal is now on display at the Auckland War Memorial Museum .

= = Later life = =

After the cessation of hostilities , Heaphy was contracted as the " Chief Surveyor to the General Government of New Zealand " and surveyed much of the land seized from the Waikato M?ori by the British , which included that on which the towns of Hamilton and Cambridge were established . In Hamilton , Heaphy Terrace , a thoroughfare in the suburb of Claudelands , is named after him . His contract ended in early 1866 and he was reinstated to his pre @-@ war position as Auckland 's provincial surveyor .

In April 1867 , Frederick Whitaker resigned his posts as Superintendent of the Auckland Province and Member of Parliament for the Parnell electorate in Auckland . Whitaker 's resignation became known soon after Heaphy 's award of the VC was announced and Heaphy declared his candidacy for the vacant seat . The publicity around his award of the VC helped raise his profile and when the nomination meeting for the 1867 by @-@ election was held at the Parnell Hall on 6 June , he was returned unopposed as the electorate 's representative in the New Zealand Parliament . Although he was a hard working representative for the people of the Parnell electorate , Heaphy 's time in parliament was undistinguished . A parliamentary colleague was William Fox , an old acquaintance from Heaphy 's days in Nelson . When Fox became Premier of New Zealand in June 1869 , Heaphy was a supporter . Offered the position of " Commissioner of Native Reserves " by the Fox administration , he resigned from parliament on 13 April 1870 .

As Commissioner , Heaphy 's role was to administer native reserves set aside by the government and to determine areas of land that could be opened to migrants . His work took him up and down the country , inspecting land and negotiating with M?ori landowners , a process he did not always enjoy . He still advocated for aggrieved M?ori , whose land had been stolen by colonials . An added stress in Heaphy 's first year as Commissioner , was an enquiry into his conduct during the period he was " Chief Surveyor to the General Government of New Zealand " and working in the Waikato . Allegations had been raised that he took bribes , for illegally adjusting land boundaries . The enquiry cleared Heaphy of corruption although he was criticised for taking payments from young trainee surveyors , in return for work . In 1872 , he and his wife moved to Wellington , which was more centrally located and thus convenient for his work , which now included an appointment as ' Trust Commissioner for the Wellington District ' , dealing with land fraud .

By 1875 , Heaphy , beginning to suffer from rheumatism , had reduced the amount of time he spent in the field for his work on native reserves and it ended altogether in 1880 . In the interim , he picked up more civil service work ; he became a justice of the peace and presided over cases of petty crime brought to the Resident Magistrates Court in Wellington . In April 1878 he was appointed " Government Insurance Commissioner " and later that year became a judge of the Native Land Court .

= = Death and legacy = =

By May 1881 , Heaphy 's health was in severe decline , still affected by his rheumatism , he caught tuberculosis . He resigned from all his civil service positions the following month and with his wife , moved to Brisbane , in Queensland , Australia . They hoped the warmer climate would help with Heaphy 's health but Heaphy died on 3 August 1881 . Survived by his wife (the couple had no children) , he was buried at Toowong Cemetery , formerly the Brisbane General Cemetery . His grave , located in Portion 1 of the cemetery , approximately 20 m (22 yd) north @-@ east up the hill from the " 8th Avenue " roadway , was at first marked with a numbered plaque and became overgrown . A descendant of his wife discovered the burial site in 1960 and a headstone was

erected by the New Zealand Government . The inscription reads : He served New Zealand in peace and war as artist , explorer and member of parliament . He was the first non @-@ regular soldier to be awarded the Victoria Cross .

As well as the first New Zealander to be awarded the Victoria Cross , Heaphy was an accomplished artist . His watercolours , mostly produced between 1841 and 1855 , are an important record of many scenes in the early days of European settlement in New Zealand . Many of his works have been published in histories of New Zealand but his name is best known now through the Heaphy Track in the north @-@ west corner of the South Island . He and Brunner were probably the first Europeans to walk through this area of the South Island and the Heaphy Track , though he never followed its route , is named in his honour .