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War Office, September 22, 1864.

THE Queen has been graciously pleased to signify Her intention to confer the decoration of the Victoria Cross on the under-mentioned Officers and Drummer of Her Majesty's Army, whose claims to the same have been submitted for Her Majesty's approval, on account of Acts of Bravery performed by them in New Zealand, as stated against their names; viz:

Regiment.	Rank and Name.	Act of Bravery for which recommended.
57th Regiment ...	Ensign John Thornton Down and Drummer Dudley Stagpoole Date of Acts of Bravery, October 2nd, 1863.	<p>For their conduct at Pontoko, on the 2nd October, in rescuing a wounded comrade from the rebel Maories.</p> <p>They succeeded in bringing in the wounded man, who was lying at about fifty yards from the bush, although the enemy kept up a very heavy fire from the bush at short range, and also from behind fallen logs close at hand.</p> <p>The man had been wounded during an engagement with the rebel natives, and Ensign Down, and Drummer Stagpoole, responded to the call of the Officer commanding the detachment of the Regiment for volunteers to bring him in.</p> <p>The Medal for Distinguished Conduct in the Field has already been conferred on Drummer Stagpoole, for the energy and devotion which he displayed on the 25th September, 1863, at the affair near Kaipakopako, in having, though wounded in the head, twice volunteered and brought in wounded men.</p>