Discussion of Decisions Made in Constructing Database

We have decided to organise our sources by tribe, then possessions and finally by name based on what we understand to be most important. We have made this decision based on accessibility for future research of ancestral lines; from the broadest to the narrowest grouping of information. We assume that the tribe would be the most commonly known attribute of an ancestor, and an educated starting point for someone beginning research in this topic. Hence, we believe this is the most helpful way to structure the information for ease of research and extrapolation of information.

The source tells us that H. E. Rice compiled the list at Haeriui on the 24th July, 1864 and the fact that a list was created shows the importance of the surrender.

We can make assumptions from the source as to what role the individual had during the battle, indicative of their stated possessions. We are also told some of the tribes who were part of the battle. Overall the source gives a snapshot of a certain point in history; however this may not accurately reflect details of the battle that occurred over one month prior. The source gives the basic facts and we can infer and make assumptions, however overall there are many ambiguities.

However, although we are given a small insight to the individual, there are many limitations of the source primarily a lack of information about each individual. Such limitations include their status in the tribe, their age and gender, and their physical well-being. We are also unsure if all of the individuals on the list fought in the battle itself, or if they were just other members of the tribe; we have made this assumption because there are sick and elderly mentioned on the list. Other limitations include ambiguities around the spellings of the Māori names and whether these are first or last names. These limitations would prove difficult for the researcher as it makes it challenging to find specific, detailed information on those mentioned on the list. Furthermore, the ambiguities surrounding the recording of names, tribes, and possessions could compromise the usefulness and accessibility of the database as a reliable historical resource.