The ‘List of Killed and Wounded at Te Ranga’ lists the names of members of two British regiments who were either killed or wounded in the Battle at Te Ranga while in engagement with the rebels.

The battle site of Te Ranga is near Pyes Pa Road just outside of Tauranga in the Bay of Plenty. [[1]](#footnote-1) Maori were defeated by British Troops on the 21st of June 1864. 600 British troops stormed Te Ranga where they found about 500-600 Maori working on defensive earthworks in the area. [[2]](#footnote-2)British enforcements were ordered in to ensure a successful battle. It is still said to be one of the bloodiest battles in the series of New Zealand wars as the British wanted to get revenge for the Maori victory at Gate Pa.[[3]](#footnote-3) British fought Maori troops hand-to-hand and were determined to be victorious.

Most Maori troops surrendered in July 1964 and a large chunk of the land in the Tauranga district was confiscated by the Crown as a result. [[4]](#footnote-4)This Battle was a big part of crushing Maori resistance.

The two regiments were the 43rd Light Infantry and the 68th Regiment. Only 9 people were killed out of 49 soldiers although the source notes that many were injured severely and also dangerously. On a whole, the causalities seem high. Although if you compare this to Maori casualties there were more than 100 Maori dead and 27 Maori severely injured.

This source was supplied by Dr Mouatt and was found in the Taranaki Herald dated the 2nd of July 1864. It was part of Volume XII, Issue 622 and found on page 3. This is important to note because it shows that it was public information and the deaths were recognised and honoured.

Most of the British troops were injured by gunshot wounds, although there were several injured by contusion, spear and bayonet wounds. From the wounds received by soldiers of the 43rd Regiment it is obvious that the Maori possessed a number of firearms and ammunition, although Maori were outnumbered by British troops and had more advanced weapons.

There were 6 officers and 43 soldiers who fought in the Battle and they were organised in a series of ranks such as captain, lieutenant, sergeant, private and ensign. None of the officers were killed, this shows that it was the foot soldiers who took most of the impact of the fighting.

The limitations of the source is that it doesn’t compare the number of soldiers and officers killed to the number of Maori troops who were killed. This would be an effective way to show what damage was done to both parties. More Maori would have been killed and injured than British troops. Also the 68th regiment doesn’t say how the soldiers were killed or injured. It would also be good to know more about each men such as what region they were from and their age. We don’t know how soon after Private G.Smith died of his injuries.

 Our group has arranged the document into a Microsoft spreadsheet in order to effectively display the data. This makes it accessible and searchable. We have made the categories clear. It is easy to see the name of the soldier, the regiment, the rank, the status of whether they were injured or killed and the type, location and severity of the injury.

Matt originally created the spreadsheet and put information on it and Gemma and Brittney added information to it. Gemma wrote the commentary and Matt and Brittney added to it. Brittney created the carte-de-viste. Our group communicated and worked together well. We all contributed some good ideas and input and shared the workload.

1. http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/te-ranga-nz-wars-memorial [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/te-ranga-nz-wars-memorial [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/te-ranga-nz-wars-memorial [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/te-ranga-nz-wars-memorial [↑](#footnote-ref-4)