In drawing up the database on the Men who took their discharge and remained in New Zealand in the 68th regiment after fighting at the battle of Te Ranga, we first identified the distinguishing features within the list of names. The four categories we thought were most important were the military number, rank, name and whether they served with their regiment in the Crimea. These categories allowed us to separate the soldiers into defining groups to ensure the database was searchable by the relevant categories presented. This is important because the previous source only allowed for an alphabetical search by name.

We chose to keep the service numbers in the first column because it is an easy way to trace a soldier within a large regiment. We thought the service number was crucial to our database to prevent confusion over similar names and rank. We thought about ordering the database by service number, however decided against this because it is more likely for a user to know the name of the solider rather than their number. This makes our database more accessible for the user.

In the second column we have ordered the solider names into alphabetical order within our categorizations because we believe it is a strong point of the first source. Ordering it in alphabetical order allows the user to quickly skim through the list to find the solider they are looking for. We have split the database into whether or not the solider served in the Crimea. Within this, we have further order the soldiers into rank, with the highest rank at the top. We thought that the most distinguishing factor about these particular men was their service history, followed by their rank and other distinguishing factors. Organizing it by rank meant that the most prominent people are now first displayed. Unlike the current source we have also added additional information we thought would be of interest to a user of looking down the barrel of history, because it highlights any recognition these soldiers received and any defining features, also leaving room for further research on this group.

In conclusion, we feel that our revised database on the “Men who took their discharge and remained in New Zealand,” provides a sound base for a user to further research their person of interest in the 68th regiment per category. The categorization also provides a platform for further analysis and highlights gaps in the “other” column that could be filled with further research.

We worked really well as a group, meeting up before the holidays to decide how we would structure our database and the reasoning. We then divided the database into half for entering by two group members and the other member found the carte-de-visite. We then met again to consolidate our work and write the commentary collectively.