Hist 316 Group Project

Commentary

We decided that the best course of action was to input this primary source into Microsoft Excel so that each piece of information presented can be represented under a different column and make it much more accessible to locate. This also means the database that we have constructed is searchable not only by name (as shown by our print out) but could also be searchable by the division that the servicemen served in, their rank or even whether they were killed or wounded.

Information on some of the men who fought is not presented in the database and has been marked with a hyphen. This often showed up on participants who did not have a rank next to their name. It can be inferred that the information was either lost or they were not servicemen at all but civilians.

The layout of the original document is testament to what a military disaster the battle was, not just by showing the number of men killed and the severity of their wounds, but as at the top of every list, the main disaster is shown though the officer casualties. This was considered disproportionate, and blamed of men abandoning officers on the battlefield. When General Camron was successful at the minor battle the previous year at Koheroa in the Waikato, he led his rather nervous men into battle charging from the front, for which he was recommended for the Victoria Cross. This proposal was dismissed as it was considered out of order for an officer to put their own life in danger. This attitude surrounding the officer class and how causalities from it were the measure of failure and tragedy is an incarnation of a heavily routed class system which has been spread the whole Empire over. The men who fought were so caught up in this system, they seem more than willing to put their life in danger for the British Empire and with great contempt in ‘knowing their place’, in our table, we chose to list these men and officers initially by name before rank. The main limitation we found of this primary source in understanding the battle is the absence of Maori casualties.