

## **The Anglo Zulu War of 1879**

- I. Humiliating Losses
  - a. 1/22/1879
  - b. 1,329 Officers & men killed
  - c. Isandlwana (map p.46)
  - d. Goal – to unite Britain’s Southern African Colonies into a self-financing confederation
    - i. 1867 – diamonds in the Boer Orange free state
    - ii. 1000’s of prospectors from all over the world
    - iii. Whole area annexed including Basut Land
  - e. Zulus – 50,020 warriors
  - f. King – Cetshwayo
    - i. Would possibly invade the Cape and developing British Colonies
    - ii. In reality – Zulus faithful allies for many years
- II. Britain
  - a. 1870’s – life expectancy = 38 years for the working class (wealthy = mid 50’s)
  - b. Widespread diseases
  - c. Don’t despair – enlist!
    - i. Average height – 5’4”
    - ii. Eating regularly – enormous attraction
    - iii. 20,000 soldiers – 545 flogged (25 lashes = norm)
  - d. Diseases
    - i. Dysentery
    - ii. Enteric fever
    - iii. Tuberculosis
    - iv. Tapeworms (50%) +-
  - e. Zulu War – purchased commissions – the wealthy or land-owners
  - f. 24<sup>th</sup> Foot = Battalions (almost all killed at Isandlwana)
  - g. From
    - i. England – majority
    - ii. Ireland - next highest
    - iii. Wales (15%)
- III. King Shaka
  - a. 1780 – 1828
  - b. Short stabbing spear
  - c. “Horns of the Bull”
  - d. 1818 – 3000 warriors
  - e. Then later – 20,000
    - i. From: Indian Ocean – Drakensberg – Pongola R. – Tugelar in the South
    - ii. By 1822 – empire to the Kalahari Desert – North to Lake Malawi & South to the East Cape
    - iii. Attempt on Shaka’s life and near death, Flyn saves him

- iv. Farwell granted nearly 4000 Miles of land around Port Natal
  - v. 1826 – Farwell & Flyn accompany Shaka’s army
    - A near total slaughter of the Ndwandwe Clan
    - 60,000 cattle captured
- IV. 1827
  - a. Nandi dies suddenly
  - b. Shaka - grief stricken punishes his people
  - c. Shaka – assassinated
- V. 1829
  - a. Farwell killed
  - b. 1838 – Zulus massacre 541 women, children, servants
  - c. Boer victory at Blood R. 1838
  - d. Dingane withdrew North
  - e. Boers cross the Drakensberg
- VI. “The Free Province of New Holland in S.E.A.” (Pietermaritzburg)
  - a. Port Natal became Durban
  - b. Boers – settling Zulu territory – increasing numbers
  - c. 1843 - Natal became a British Colony
  - d. 1845 - was annexed into the Cape
  - e. Boers lost sovereignty over recently settled lands
  - f. European settlers continue to arrive
  - g. Durban Harbor dredged (Pietermaritzburg declines)
- VII. The power conflict
  - a. Mapande ages – 2 sons
    - i. Cetshwayo – 20,000 warriors
    - ii. Mbuyazi – 30,000 warriors
    - iii. Bloody conflict
    - iv. 1 hour battle
    - v. Cetshwayo wins – 1856
- VIII. Cetshwayo
  - a. Became friends with British
  - b. 32 years of peace
  - c. 1873 recognized as king of Zulus by British
  - d. Home = Ulundi
  - e. Believed Queen Victoria was his friend
  - f. Boers – streaming into the wedge or Zululand known as the “disputed territory” to the North of Rourke’s Drift
  - g. British – wanted economic development
    - i. Ready source of labor
  - h. Zulus = 40,000 warriors – never agree to surrender and to dissolve Zululand
  - i. British – needed an excuse to invade
  - j. False rumors spread of a bloodthirsty and defiant Zulu army plotting to invade Natal

- k. Chetshwayo – unaware of this subversive undercurrent
  - l. European hysteria mounting
  - m. Zulus – time was running out
- IX. Zulu Battle Tactics
  - a. Pre Shaka = “giya” a ritual process rather than combative
  - b. Shaka – “Horns of the Bull”
- X. Zulu Weapons
  - a. Short stabbing spear – 2’6” w (+)
  - b. Cowhide shield
  - c. Knob Kerrie
- XI. Shields soaked in water
  - a. Inclined at a 45° angle
    - i. Could deflect martini rounds at 200 yds +
    - ii. Bodies rarely found beyond 200 yds
    - iii. Fire commenced between 400-600 yds
- XII. Zulus
  - a. Also had obsolete European rifles
  - b. Ikwa or stabbing spear originated at time of Shaka – 18” blade
  - c. Throwing spears 5-6” blade
- XIII. Iron
  - a. Surface – collected
  - b. Smelted – clay forges
  - c. Skin bellows
  - d. Hammered into shape
  - e. Tempered with fat
  - f. Sharpened on special flat stones
  - g. Set into wooden shafts
  - h. Calf’s tail tube – over the joint and allowed to shrink
- XIV. British Fire Power
  - a. Martini – Henry rifle
    - i. Backbone of British firepower
    - ii. M-H Mark II – Zulu War
    - iii. 4’1 ½” L
    - iv. 9 lbs
    - v. Black powder 0.45 caliber
    - vi. 480 grain, center fire boxer cartridge – flat trajectory
    - vii. Sighted up to 1000 yds
    - viii. 300 yds – avg. accuracy
    - ix. Volley firing = 600 yds
    - x. 12 rounds per min. (5 rounds average)
    - xi. Equi angular bayonet
  - b. M-R Drawbacks

- i. Barrels hot (5-6 rounds)
    - ii. Kick – fearsome
    - iii. 20 rounds – black powder coated the inside of barrel (reduced the bore slightly)
    - iv. Flinching – reduced marksmanship
    - v. Rolled cartridges – stuck to chamber – ejectors tore off iron rim (had to be removed)
  - c. 7 lbs. rifled muzzle – loading gund – at Isandlwana (2)
    - i. Range = 3000 yds
    - ii. Haies rockets – not accurate
- XV. After Isandlwana
- a. British – re-invade Zululand 4/6/1879
    - i. Better equipped
    - ii. Greater strength
    - iii. Awareness enhanced
  - b. Zulus
    - i. Limited resistance
    - ii. Final battle = Ulundi
    - iii. Gatling guns though to compete against
    - iv. Army in disarray
    - v. Their nation never recovered from the war
    - vi. 10,000 Zulus killed and many more maimed on various fields of battle
    - vii. Zulu Empire – 63 years.