The South Africa Campaign of 1878/1879

By

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PART 1.

FOREWORD

This text is an extensively revised edition of *The South Africa Campaign 1879*, by J. P. Mackinnon and S.H. Shadbolt.

First published in 1880, *The South Africa Campaign 1879* was not so much a history of the Anglo-Zulu War as an eulogy for the British officers who died during the operations. While it included a brief summary of the campaign, the bulk of the contents consisted of biographical notes on every regular officer who died – in action or of disease – during the war. Inevitably, the book reflected the attitudes of those layers of Victorian society – the middle and upper classes – which had produced the officers themselves, and which comprised its potential readership. As a result it was uncritical of both British policy in southern Africa, the conduct of the war, and of the individuals concerned. In particular, while it relied heavily on the descriptions of fellow combatants as sources, those aspects of the book that dealt with deaths in action were heavily influenced by Victorian conventions of duty and heroism. In retrospect, these often had little in common with the violent realities of a particularly brutal colonial war, and some of the heroic vignettes described in the text are unsupportable in the light of modern research.

Nevertheless, *The South Africa Campaign 1879* includes a great deal of biographical information which is not readily available elsewhere – much of it gathered from family sources - and the object of the present editors was to update Mackinnon and Shadbolt’s approach. We have added a new Introduction, which sets the Anglo-Zulu War within the wider contexts of British intervention in southern Africa and the history of the Zulu kingdom, but have followed the authors’ original concept with regard to biographical detail. We have retained the original style, but have amended the content, however, where subsequent research has shown the original entries to be inaccurate or incomplete. Where the original edition merely listed entries by regimental precedence, we have re-arranged them according to the chronology of the war. We have also added details on several casualties who died after the war from the effects of disease incurred during the hostilities, but who were not included in the original volume. We have, however, retained the original editions’ anomalies, which were so much a part of its character; as a role of honour of British officer dead, it did not include officers of Colonial units who died during the war. One exception was the Hon. William Vereker, who held a command in the Natal Native Contingent, but whose aristocratic background presumably qualified him for inclusion according to the compilers’ social criteria. After careful consideration, we have decided to follow the original choice; we have neither discarded Vereker nor added other Colonial subjects. Similarly, we have retained Captain Walter Glyn Lawrell, despite the fact that he died not in the Anglo-Zulu War, but in the subsequent expedition against King Sekhukhune of the BaPedi people, in what was then the north-eastern Transvaal.

One extensive revision concerns updating the work on memorials to the dead in the UK, and in this regard we gratefully acknowledge the help of Tim Day, Ian Woodason and Rai England. Collectively known as the ‘Keynsham Light Horse’, these three have painstakingly amassed a huge database of information on memorials to Zulu War dead in the UK, which they have generously made available for this edition.

The original edition, of course, included no details of ordinary soldiers who died in the war. According to the official history, a total of 76 officers and 1,007 British and Colonial troops were killed in action, and 37 officers and 206 men wounded. At least 604 African auxiliaries were killed fighting for the British – a figure that is probably significantly under-estimated. A further 17 officers and 330 men died of disease during the war, and throughout 1879 a total of 99 officers and 1,286 men were invalided ‘from the command for causes incidental to the campaign.’

Zulu losses throughout the war are estimated to be in excess of 8000 men.

Adrian Greaves and Ian Knight. Revised May 2005

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INTRODUCTION

Origins of conflict in South Africa.

The origins of the human settlement of southern Africa are lost in the mists of time. Some of the oldest human remains in the world have been found in Africa, and for thousands of years the southern tip of the continent was populated by a stone-age people who survived into modern times as the Bushman. While archaeologists and historians still tend to regard today’s black African peoples as outsiders, who entered the region from the north, evidence from sites in KwaZulu-Natal suggests that Iron-Age communities were established in the region by AD 300. By about 1500, these groups were recognisably similar to the main cultural and linguistic groups who inhabit the area today, the Sotho/Tswana of the interior, and the Nguni of the eastern coastal strip. The growth of these robust cattle-owning societies had an inevitable impact on the indigenous hunter-gatherers, who gradually abandoned the fertile grasslands in favour of a more marginal environment, in mountain foothills, or on the fringes of arid semi-deserts. This pattern of human settlement, which had left Khoi (’Hottentot’) and Bushman groups in sole possession of only the most southern reaches of the continent, was already established before the first European explorers arrived at the Cape in the sixteenth century.

For the emerging empires in Europe, the Cape had little of interest to offer, beyond its geographical location. It was ideally suited as a watering point on the long haul round Africa to the Indies. In 1652 the Dutch East India Company established the first permanent white settlement in South Africa, a small enclave intended to provide fresh food and water to their passing ships. Although the Dutch easily displaced the indigenous Khoi inhabitants, they had no interest at first in extending their territorial claims, and it was not until the eighteenth century that the settlement began to expand eastwards, as the farming community drifted slowly into the belt of good grazing land which characterised the coastal strip. For a century or more, the impact of this white intrusion upon the wider African population was limited, but in the middle of the eighteenth century the settler movement came into contact with the foremost Nguni group – the amaXhosa – moving in the opposite direction. Since both parties were competing for the same natural resources, a pattern of conflict was soon established which was to shape the future of southern Africa into modern times.

The Zulu Kingdom emerged among the northern Nguni – several hundred miles beyond the Cape frontier – little more than a generation after the first conflicts between black and white. The area now known as KwaZulu-Natal lies on the eastern side of the Qhalamba (Drakensberg) mountains, bordering the Indian Ocean. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, it was populated by a patchwork of independent chiefdoms, who spoke broadly the same language, and who followed the same cultural practices. For reasons which historians still debate, these chiefdoms came under pressure at the turn of the century, and friction resulted in violence. Between 1816 and 1824 the Zulu people, whose traditional lands lay on the southern bank of the White Mfolozi River, came to dominate most of their neighbours, and their success was due to a powerful combination of astute diplomacy and ruthless military force applied by their legendary King, Shaka kaSenzangakhona.

By the time of Shaka’s death in 1828, the Zulu were the most powerful group in the coastal strip, and Shaka’s influence extended from the Phongolo River in the north to the Thukela in the south – the area generally regarded today as Zululand. Indeed, by the 1820s, many of the groups south of the Thukela had given Shaka their allegiance too.

At this point, the only Europeans known directly to the Zulu were the occasional shipwrecked sailors. Ironically, it was Shaka’s success at nation building that first attracted the attention of the outside world. The huge upheaval caused by the French Revolution and Napoleonic Wars in Europe had repercussions around the world, and at the beginning of the nineteenth-century possession of the white enclave at the Cape passed to the Dutch. The original Dutch settlers, who by now had grown into a distinct community, and called themselves by the Dutch word for farmers – Boers – soon came to resent British authority, and in the 1830s a large portion of the Boer population on the Eastern Cape frontier migrated into the interior in search of independence. This ‘Great Trek’ profoundly altered the patterns of human population, particularly in the interior, and added Anglo-Boer rivalry to the already potent mix of regional antagonisms.

Rumours of the rise – and supposed wealth – of Shaka’s kingdom filtered through to the Cape, and prompted the first European expedition to establish contact with the Zulu. In 1824, a group of predominantly British traders and adventurers braved the perils of the entrance to the Bay of Natal – modern Durban – and made their way to Shaka’s court. Shaka welcomed them as a source of exotic trade-goods – including firearms – and established them as a client chiefdom at the Bay. To this ramshackle beginning did all British claims to the region owe their origin. Eventually, the settlers grew to be conquerors, and the British settlement swallowed up the Zulu kingdom that had nurtured it.

In 1828, Shaka was assassinated by his brother, Dingane, and the following decades were marred by increased tension with white groups. In 1838, King Dingane fought a bloody war to prevent the Boer Voortrekkers settling in his country, but he ultimately suffered defeat. Nevertheless, the Zulu kingdom survived this catastrophe, and the relationship between the Zulu kings and the British authorities in South Africa
remained sympathetic. In 1842 the British formally took control of Natal, and white immigration into the area increased.

For much of the nineteenth-century, British policy in southern Africa was largely reactive, but in the 1870s it adopted a new forward policy, stimulated in part by the discovery of diamonds at Kimberley. Called Confederation, this policy attempted to bring an end to regional rivalries by superimposing over the various bickering British colonies, Boer republics and African states a layer of common British authority. With such an administration in place, common policies could be implemented to establish a regional infrastructure and trading pattern – with Britain’s benefit in mind. Similar schemes had been successfully introduced in the Leeward Islands and Canada, and it was hoped that Confederation would alleviate the heavy drain on the British exchequer that had hitherto characterised her involvement in southern Africa.

The threat of violence was inherent in Confederation theory, however, since many groups, both African and Boer, were opposed to British rule. In 1877, the British took advantage of internal difficulties amongst the Boers to annex the Transvaal republic; in doing so they inadvertently inherited a long-standing border dispute with the Zulu kingdom.

When the British had formally assumed control, they had arrived at an accord with the then Zulu king, Mpande kaSenzangakhona, which defined the lines of the Thukela and Mzinyathi rivers as the boundary between the two states. No such convenient physical obstacles fixed the borders between the Zulu kingdom and the Transvaal in the west, however, and throughout the 1850s and '60s Boer farmers steadily encroached on Zulu land. Hitherto, the British had supported the Zulu position, but with the annexation of the Transvaal, their own perspective changed. This was to prove a turning point in the relationship between the Zulu kingdom and the British – the first step towards open conflict.

A new British High Commissioner in Southern Africa, Sir Henry Bartle Frere, who was sent out in 1877 to accelerate the pace of Confederation, soon became convinced that the independence of the Zulu kingdom posed a threat to his policies. He interpreted the Zulu position over the ‘disputed territory’ as belligerence, and came to believe that a demonstration of force against the Zulu would not only intimidate broader opposition to the Confederation scheme, but also demonstrate British strength.

Frere seized on a number of minor border incidents, which took place in mid-1878 to provoke a quarrel with the Zulu king, Cetshwayo kaMpande; like his senior military commander, Lieutenant General Lord Chelmsford, Frere expected that the British army would easily be able to defeat the Zulus.

Such an attitude reflected a deep-seated confidence in British military might, which owed much to the apparent gulfs between the very different military systems of the two sides. The British army was a self-contained, full-time professional institution, quite separate from civilian society and governed by its own rules and codes, whereas the Zulu army was, in effect, the male part of the kingdom, gathered in arms to serve the king. The Zulu men were not full-time warriors in the British style, though military service was an integral part of the every-day life in the kingdom. Zulu men were required to serve in guilds known as amabutho (sing; ibutho) to offer a period of part-time national service to the state. Every few years, the king would call together all the young men who had reached the age of eighteen or nineteen and form them into an ibutho. Each ibutho was therefore composed of men of the same age group, and they would recognise their allegiance to that ibutho throughout their lives. Each ibutho was given a distinctive name and ceremonial uniform of feathers and furs, and – where cattle resources allowed it – their war-shields were of a matched colour.

An ibutho was only required to give primary service to the king until such time as the men married, when their primary duty reverted to their families and local chiefs. To maximise the time the young men were available to serve them, the Zulu kings often refused to allow a regiment to marry until the men were in their late '30s.

When each regiment assembled to answer the king’s call they were housed in royal homesteads, known as amakhanda, and fed at the king’s expense. Because it was logistically difficult to sustain such large concentrations of men for long periods, the amabutho were seldom mustered for more than a few weeks each year; for the most part, the men lived at home with their families, fulfilling the normal duties of their ordinary civilian lives.

For most of the nineteenth century the Zulus fought their battles with traditional weapons, which had remained unchanged since Shaka’s time. For protection, each warrior had a large cowhide shield (isihlangu), a number of light throwing spears (izijula), and a strong, short-hafted, broad-bladed stabbing spear (ikwa). High-ranking officers carried an axe with a long curved blade, which had a largely ceremonial significance, and many warriors carried polished, round-headed wooden clubs, or knobkerries (amawisa). Success in battle came from the Zulu army’s ability to advance rapidly to engage the enemy at close quarters, and the classic Zulu attack formation, izimpondo zankomo, the horns of the bull, was specifically designed to achieve this aim. While the main body, known as the isifuba, or chest, advanced straight at the enemy, the two flanks, the izimpondo, or horns, rushed out to surround the enemy on either side. A reserve, known as the umuva, or loins, was held back to seal any gaps that developed during the attack.
By 1879 the Zulu army also had access to a considerable number of European firearms. White traders had sold guns to the Zulus since the 1820s, and, although prohibited by the authorities in Natal, the trade had flourished with increased white penetration of the kingdom during the 1850s and '60s. By 1879, the British estimated that the Zulus possessed in access of 20,000 firearms. Most were obsolete by British standards, since it was the standard practise of European countries to dump outdated models on the international market. Many of the guns owned by the Zulus were smoothbore flintlocks that were 30 years out of date, while even the comparatively modern varieties were old-fashioned by British standards.

The British army, by contrast, was equipped with the most efficient weapons their advanced industrial economy could produce. The standard British infantry weapon was the single-shot breach-loading Martini-Henry rifle, which was the most effective firearm of the period. British soldiers were trained to fire up to 12 rounds a minute, although an average of half that rate was more common on the battlefield. At 400 yards a soldier could expect a significant proportion of hits, while at ranges of 200 yards or less, the Martini was particularly effective. The British forces in South Africa were also equipped with 7lb and 9lb muzzle-loading field guns, Gatling machine-guns, and rockets. The hand-cranked Gatling could spew out rounds at a hitherto unprecedented rate, while the rockets, which were fired from a metal trough or tube, were little more than giant fire-works, valued largely for their psychological and incendiary effect.

By comparison with the Zulu warriors, British soldiers were effectively excluded from civilian society. Soldiers lived under army law, were clothed, fed and housed by the army, and saw little of their families, even when stationed in barracks in Britain. They were expected to undertake long postings to Imperial garrisons overseas. Enlistment was voluntary, but until 1870 the periods of service were so long, and the conditions so harsh, that most joined only in desperation. The best recruiting sergeants were poverty and unemployment, and for much of the Victorian period the standing of the British soldier in civilian society was so low that service in the ranks was considered a worse fate than prison.

By 1879, successive reforms had marginally improved the lot of the common soldier, but while the worst excesses of army discipline had been outlawed, there were huge gulfs between the ordinary soldiers and their officers, which reflected their respective positions within civilian society. Most officers were still drawn from the middle and upper classes, and had little in common with the men under their command. To overcome such social divisions, the army encouraged a strong sense of regimental tradition and a common allegiance to the Crown, symbolised by the Colours, carried by each infantry battalion. To lose a Colour to the enemy in action was considered a regimental disgrace, to be avoided at all costs.

At the time of the Anglo Zulu war, the British infantry still went to war in scarlet tunics, although the practise would die out with the introduction of khaki over the following decade. Some units wore dark blue or green uniforms, but all wore a white sun helmet, one of the few concessions to service in a hot climate. Contrary to popular belief, troops in the field were allowed some latitude, and progressive commanders often allowed them to modify their uniforms to make them more comfortable or practical; most of the troops stained their helmets with tea to reduce the reflected glare of the African sun, which made them less obvious targets.

Lord Chelmsford was aware that his invasion force was too small to guarantee success. To augment their numbers he called upon the services of a number of small mounted units raised by the Natal settlers for their own protection. In addition to these, a number of Irregular units - raised from among settlers by the British, rather than Colonial, government for a particular period of service - were also established. Since these were still not enough, Chelmsford eventually persuaded the Natal authorities to raise an auxiliary unit among Natal's African population, the Natal Native Contingent (NNC). Many of the Natal chiefdoms had a history of resistance to rule by the Zulu Royal House, or were political refugees from the kingdom itself, and they were therefore prepared to fight for the British. In the event, there was insufficient time, funds and resources to equip and train the NNC along British lines, and most were called upon to fight with only their traditional spears, and led by unsympathetic officers.

When hostilities began, King Cetshwayo determined to fight a defensive campaign, and to respond only when the British invaded. This decision effectively allowed Lord Chelmsford to take the initiative. Chelmsford's original plan was to invade Zululand with five columns, converging on the cluster of royal settlements at Ulundi (also known as oNdini) which constituted the Zulu capital. In the event, it proved impossible to accumulate sufficient transport wagons to keep five columns in the field. Unlike the Zulu army, which was geared to short campaigns and to subsisting by foraging, the British army expected to remain in the field a long time, and had to carry all its supplies and equipment with it. Chelmsford decided instead to invade with three columns and keep the remaining two in reserve. The invading columns would start from the Lower Thukela Drift, from Rorke's Drift on the Mzinyathi, and from Utrecht, which was then in the British Transvaal. Throughout December 1878 British troops were assembled at their starting positions; on 11 January the British invasion began.
THE CENTRE COLUMN;
Isandlwana and Rorke’s Drift

Lord Chelmsford chose to accompany the centre column, which crossed into Zululand at Rorke’s Drift. Keen to demonstrate that he was in earnest, he immediately attacked and dispersed the followers of Chief Sihayo, who lived across his line of advance, on 12 January. This incident was to have a serious effect on the course of the war, for it shaped the Zulu strategic response. As soon as the British entered Zululand, Cetshwayo summoned his army to Ulundi and began to prepare them for war. Aware that he had insufficient troops to counter all the British threats, the king and his council had decided to wait to see which of the invading columns proved to be the most dangerous. Within days of Chelmsford’s attack on Sihayo, the main Zulu army set out towards Rorke’s Drift under the command of the king’s most trusted general, Ntshingwayo kaMahole, while smaller forces were sent to harass the flanking columns.

The Zulu army marched cautiously towards Rorke’s Drift, and by 20 January had advanced to within thirty miles of the border. That same day, Lord Chelmsford’s army moved forward from Rorke’s Drift to establish a camp beneath a distinctive hill called Isandlwana. The two armies were now only ten miles apart, but, while the Zulus had a good idea of the British movements, Lord Chelmsford was not aware that the Zulus were close. He was particularly worried about a line of hills – Malakatha and Hlazakazi – which shut in his view to the right of Isandlwana, and on the 21st he sent a strong force into these hills to look for the Zulus. That evening, above the Mangeni gorge at the far end of the range, the British ran into a strong Zulu force. In fact, these were the followers of local chiefs but, when news of their presence reached Chelmsford at Isandlwana at 2am on the morning of the 22nd, he assumed they were king Cetshwayo’s main army. He gave orders for half his command to march out immediately to attack the Zulus at dawn. Chelmsford commanded this force in person; he left the camp under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Pulleine, 24th Regiment, and as an afterthought ordered a small column of auxiliary troops under Colonel Durnford, which had been waiting at Rorke’s Drift, to move up to Isandlwana. By the time Chelmsford reached the Mangeni gorge, however, the Zulus had dispersed, and the General spent a frustrating day trying to hunt them down.

In fact, even as his men had been searching through the hills the day before, the main Zulu army had moved into the Ngwebeni valley, north of Isandlwana. Chelmsford was looking for them in the wrong place; the Zulu army was much closer to the camp than he realised. In fact, the Zulu army had no intention of fighting on the 22nd, as the coming night was the night of the new moon, a time of dark omens, and an inopportune moment to launch an attack.

Colonel Durnford’s column arrived at Isandlwana at about 10.30am on the 22nd. He expected to find further instructions from Lord Chelmsford, but there were none; instead, Pulleine reported a Zulu presence on the iNyoni ridge, north of the camp. Rather than remain in camp, Durnford decided to scout the iNyoni. He set out at about 11.30am, and half an hour later some of his horsemen spotted Zulu foragers driving a small herd of cattle across Mabaso hill, four or five miles from the camp. They gave chase, but reined in short as the ground fell away before them into the valley of the Ngwebeni stream beyond. Below them, sitting quietly, waiting for the day to pass, were 25,000 men of King Cetshwayo’s main army.

Caught by surprise, the nearest Zulu regiment rushed to attack, drawing the rest after them.

When news of the discovery of the Zulus reached Pulleine at Isandlwana, he ordered his guns and infantry out in extended line to cover the Zulu advance. As the Zulu attack developed, it soon became clear that the British position was too extended. Durnford himself had been several miles in front of the camp when he encountered the Zulu left horn, and he was forced to retreat until he made a stand in a donga in front of the camp. The British position was spread across nearly a mile of open country, and there was a gap of over 400 yards between Durnford and the nearest infantry positions. Despite this, the British fire was very heavy, and for a while the Zulu attack stalled. Fearing that they would be defeated, the Zulu commanders, who had taken up a position above a patch of rocks on the face of the iNyoni ridge, sent down an induna named Mkhosana kaMvundlana to rally their men. Mkhosana strode among the warriors who were lying sheltered in dongas or among the long grass, and called upon them in the name of the king to attack.

The ukhundempemvu regiment rose to its feet, and all along the line the Zulus responded. It was a critical moment in the battle; gaps were beginning to appear in the British line, while Durnford’s men were running out of ammunition. The British abandoned their positions and retired to take up a tighter formation closer to the camp, but the Zulus rushed in among them. The battle raged through the tents and across the foot of the mountain; the British tried to rally on the nek2 below Isandlwana, only to find that the Zulu right horn had

2 A shoulder of land linking two higher hills on either side; in this case, Isandlwana mountain and the ridge known variously as Mahlabamkhosi, Stoney Hill or Black’s Koppie.
already cut between them and the road to Rorke’s Drift. Many redcoats were killed in the desperate fighting below the mountain, and the rest were forced down into the Manzimnyama stream beyond, only to be overwhelmed in their turn. Those few that managed to escape did so while the Zulu ‘horns’ were preoccupied with overcoming the last organised resistance.

By mid-afternoon, British resistance had been wiped out, and the Zulus looted the camp and began to carry away their wounded. Some 1,300 British troops and their African allies had been killed; less than 400 escaped, most of them auxiliaries. Durnford was killed in front of the tents, where he had made a stand with a group of his Natal Volunteers. Pulleine’s body was found among the British dead on the nek itself. Estimates of the Zulu dead vary; at least 1,000 men were killed outright, and hundreds more mortally wounded.

It did not become apparent to Lord Chelmsford that anything had happened at Isandlwana until late in the afternoon. His command was scattered and his men tired, and by the time he managed to march them back to camp, it was dark and the battle was long over. Only the dead remained at Isandlwana.

King Cetshwayo had specifically ordered his commanders not to cross the border into Natal; he did not wish to provoke the British still further by invading British-controlled territory. During the battle at Isandlwana, the Zulu reserve, consisting of over 4,000 warriors, passed behind Isandlwana and harried the British survivors during their rout. The reserves had missed much of the fighting, and were keen to take advantage of the British collapse by raiding the exposed border. Led by Prince Dabulamanzi kaMpende, they disobeyed the king’s orders, crossed the river and moved upstream towards the British supply depot at Rorke’s Drift.

The post at Rorke’s Drift belonged to the Swedish Mission Society, but Lord Chelmsford had commandeered it to stockpile stores for the column. When news of the disaster reached the post, carried by survivors from Isandlwana, a unit of the NNC stationed at Rorke’s Drift fled, leaving less than 150 men, mostly of B Company 2/24th Regiment, to guard the post. The officers in charge, Lieutenants John Chard RE, and Gonville Bromhead 2/24th, decided that retreat was hopeless, and that they would use the sacks and boxes of supplies to barricade the post’s two buildings. They had barely completed the defences, when, at about 4.30 p.m., the Zulus arrived and advanced to attack.

The battle for Rorke’s Drift was to last, on and off, for ten hours. The full brunt of the Zulu attack fell on the building that the British had used as a makeshift hospital. The Zulus set the building on fire, and the defenders forced to retreat room by room. Since it was impossible to defend the entire perimeter against sustained attack, the garrison fell back to a small area in front of the remaining building. It was by this time dark, and it was unusual for the Zulus to fight at night, but victory seemed so close that they continued to assault the position until well after midnight. Nevertheless, the British remained secure behind their barricades, and the Zulu attacks lost momentum in the early hours of the morning. Before dawn on the 23rd, the main Zulu force had retreated back across the Mzinyathi.

As they retired from the border, they passed Lord Chelmsford’s demoralised men who were returning to Rorke’s Drift along the same track.

Over 400 Zulu bodies were found around the barricades, and many more lay out in the surrounding countryside. All in all, as many as 600 might have been killed altogether, with many more wounded. The British dead numbered just 17 - a testimony to the effectiveness of their barricades - although a number of the survivors were wounded. The defence of Rorke’s Drift was to pass into British folklore. The battle was all the more remarkable in the light of the disaster at Isandlwana that same day, and the courage of the garrison was rewarded by 11 Victoria Crosses, Britain’s highest award for bravery - a record number for a single action.

By contrast, the exhausted Zulus returned to the wrath of the king and derision of the nation, who mocked them for having provoked their own defeat; ‘You marched off,’ they said, ‘You went to dig little bits with your assegais out of the house of Jim [Rorke], that had never done you any harm!’
In Memoriam

STUART SMITH
BREVET-MAJOR, ROYAL ARTILLERY.

Major Stuart Smith, who was killed at Isandlwana on 22 January 1879, was the second son of the Rev. Stuart Smith, of Ballintemple, in the county of Cavan, and his wife Henrietta, daughter of William Graham, Esq., of Lisburn in the county of Antrim. He was born at Dumlion Cottage, Ballintemple, on October the 6th, 1844, and was educated at the Royal School of Cavan, Dr. Stackpoole’s school at Kingstown, co. Dublin, and the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, from which he obtained his commission on the 24th of March 1865.

In the following September he proceeded to India, where he served at various stations until 1876, when he returned to England with the A/A Battery, Royal Horse Artillery. On 1 October 1877, he obtained his company.

Early in 1878 Captain Stuart Smith was posted to the N/5 Battery, Royal Artillery, and went with it to the Cape, where he was employed in the Cape Frontier War of that year. During the operations in the field, his name was repeatedly mentioned in despatches. Upon one occasion he rallying a force that had got into an ambuscade and become disorganised, and covered it with the fire of two guns, of which he was in command, until it could reform. In the course of the war he led for some time a body of European volunteers, of which he was appointed commandant. In November 1878, Her Majesty conferred on him a brevet-majority for his distinguished services.

On the massing of the forces on the Natal frontier in view of the impending outbreak of the Zulu war, Major Stuart Smith proceeded with his company to the front, and, in command of two guns of the Royal Artillery, took part in the subsequent advance of Colonel Glyn’s column, in January 1879, into the enemy’s country. In the disastrous encounter with the enemy, which took place at Isandlwana on the 22nd, he commanded a two-gun section that had been left in the camp. When the line collapsed and the guns were in danger of being over-run, Major Smith ordered them to retreat. The limbers were, however, overtaken by the Zulus below Isandlwana nek, and the teams and crew killed. Major Smith himself was killed during the descent into the Mzinyathi valley. His body was later discovered by British burial details, and he was buried close to Fugitives’ Drift.

Major Smith is commemorated on the Royal Artillery memorial to the South African and Afghan campaigns, Woolwich.

FRANCIS BROADFOOT RUSSELL
BREVET-MAJOR, ROYAL ARTILLERY.

Major Francis Broadfoot Russell, who was killed at Isandlwana on 22 January 1879, was the eldest son of Lieutenant-Colonel F. Russell, of the Madras Infantry. He was born in India on 4 September 1842. In 1861 he entered the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, and, on 24 March 1865, obtained a commission in the Royal Artillery. He served in Malta and in Canada, and returning to England in 1869, passed through a course of gunnery instruction at Shoeburyness. In 1870 he proceeded to India, and thence to Aden, at which station he was placed in command of the Native Artillery. On the removal of that force to Upper Sind, he was appointed district-adjutant in Aden, and held the appointment for two years.

On obtaining his company in October 1877, Captain Russell was ordered to join his battery at Pietermaritzburg, and being at that time the senior officer present, held command of it for some months. In November 1878, he received his brevet-majority. Prior to the outbreak of the Zulu war he acted as district-adjutant on Colonel Pearson’s staff, and was about to proceed to the front in that capacity when Lord Chelmsford’s forces were massed on the Natal and Transvaal frontiers with a view to the invasion of Zululand; his services were, however, requisitioned to organise a rocket battery, in command of which he left Pietermaritzburg on 22nd December 1878, to join Colonel Durnford’s column.

Major Russell crossed the border into Zululand, with the rocket battery, on 21 January 1879, and arrived at the camp at Isandlwana on the morning of the 22nd, a short time after Colonel Durnford, who, with the rest of his force, had ridden on in advance. Immediately after his arrival in camp, Major Russell started in charge of his battery, escorted by a hundred Natal auxiliaries under Captain Nourse, with Colonel Durnford and his mounted men, to follow up the Zulus, who by that time had shown themselves in considerable force, and were slowly retiring. After the battery and its escort, distanced by the remainder of the force, had proceeded some three miles, Major Russell was apprised by one of the NNC that the enemy were forming upon some neighbouring
He immediately wheeled his battery round in the direction indicated, and, after ascending the hillside, brought it into action. At the first discharge of the rockets, however, immense numbers of the enemy sprang up from the surrounding bush, where they had lain, within a hundred and fifty yards, completely hidden, awaiting the signal for onslaught. Major Russell was one of the first to fall: he was shot at the head of his force.

ANTHONY WILLIAM DURNFORD
COLONEL, ROYAL ENGINEERS.

Colonel Anthony William Durnford, who was killed at Isandlwana on 22 January 1879, was the eldest son of General E.W. Durnford, Colonel Commandant, Royal Engineers. He was born on 24 May 1830, and was educated chiefly in Germany. He entered the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, in July 1846, and obtained a commission as second lieutenant in the Royal Engineers on 27 June 1848; from Woolwich he proceeded to Chatham, and remained there until December 1849, when he was ordered to Scotland, where he served at Edinburgh and Fort George. In October 1851, he embarked for Ceylon, and upon his arrival was stationed at Trincomalee; there he gave so much assistance to Admiral Sir F. Pellow, relative to the defenceless state of the harbour, that the services he rendered were brought to the notice of the Master-General of the Ordnance by the Lords of the Admiralty. In 1855 he entered upon civil in addition to military duties, being appointed Assistant Commissioner of Roads and Civil Engineer to the Colony. Early in 1856 he proceeded to Malta, and was employed there as Adjutant until February 1858, when he returned to England. After a short time spent at Chatham and Aldershot he proceeded to Gibraltar in December 1860, when he again returned to England. In the latter part of the same year he embarked for China, but was landed at Ceylon, suffering from heat apoplexy, and was invalided home. From May 1865, until 1870, he served at Devonport, and then for a short period at Dublin. At the end of 1871 he embarked for South Africa; upon his arrival he was employed for a short time at Cape Town and King William’s Town, and the proceeded to Natal, where he formed one of the expedition that accompanied the Minister for Native Affairs into Zululand to be present at the coronation of King Cetshwayo in August 1873. He subsequently acted as Colonial Engineer in addition to performing his own duties, and under his superintendence much valuable work was done for the Colony.

Colonel Durnford came prominently into public notice towards the close of 1873, at the time of the Langalibalele affair, when he was the senior officer of Royal Engineers in Natal. He was ordered to proceed by a forced night march into the Drakensberg Mountains to seize and hold the Bushman’s River Pass, to prevent the escape of Chief Langalibalele, who was wanted by the colonial authorities for allegedly failing to surrender firearms owned by his young men. Durnford supposed that he would be able to arrive there in one night, and he started at dark with the Karkloof Carbineers under Captain Barter, twenty men of the Natal Carbineers, and some twenty Basutos as guides. The greatest ignorance had prevailed as to the distance of the pass and the impracticability of the way. Major Durnford found he had to cross an almost inaccessible mountain range, over 9,000 feet high, and to move along dangerous and most difficult ground. Nothing daunted, however, he pushed on, and although he lost many men too exhausted to proceed, and nearly all the pack-horses with rations and ammunition, and met with an accident by which his shoulder was dislocated and his head and body injured from his horse falling over a precipice, he yet struggled on in the hope that he might arrive in time to effect his object. He succeeded in reaching his destination at 5.30 a.m. on 4th November 1873, having been dragged up on the Giant’s Castle Pass during the previous night by aid of a blanket, thirty-six hours instead of twelve after starting, with only thirty-eight rank and file left, and all exhausted from fatigue and want of food. No sooner had he formed across the mouth of the pass than he became aware that he was to late, and Langalibalele’s followers were not only in front of him, but also on either flank. His orders were “not to fire the first shot;” so, attended only by his interpreter; he went forward to endeavour to persuade them to return peaceably. This, however, they refused to do, and the volunteers wavered, he at last reluctantly directed an orderly retreat to higher ground, from which he could still command the pass. On a heavy fire being opened upon his force, the retreat became a stampede: three of the Carbineers and one Basuto fell, the horse of the interpreter was killed, and Major Durnford, while endeavouring to reach its rider by leaping over a deep gully, in order to lift him on to his own horse, was surrounded and left alone, the interpreter being killed by his side. Shooting his assailants, who had seized his horse’s bridle, he rode through the enemy, under a shower of bullets and assegais, receiving, besides several minor wounds, one from an assegai through the left arm, near the elbow, which severed the muscles and nerves, and from which he permanently lost the use of the limb. Rallying the Basutos and a few of the Carbineers, he covered the retreat of the force, which was pursued as far as the Giant’s Castle Pass. The headquarters camp was reached about 1 a.m. on the 5th. At 11 p.m. on that day, Major Durnford let out a
volunteer party (artillery with rockets, fifty men of the 75th Regiment, seven Carbineers, and thirty Basutos) to
the rescue of Captain Boyes, 75th Regiment, who had been sent out with a support were in danger, and he knew
the country, he determined to go. He was lifted on to his horse and left amid the cheers of the troops in camp.
Having marched all night – resting only from 3 to 5 a.m. – his force met that of Captain Boyes about mid-day.
For his conduct in this affair Major Durnford was thanked in Field Force Orders for his “courage and coolness.”

In 1874 he patrolled the country, and carried out by means of natives the demolition of the passes in the
Drakensberg Mountains in sever winter weather, restoring confidence among the colonists. For this service he
received the written thanks of the Local Government.

In July 1876, Colonel Durnford returned to England. He was mentioned in General Orders issued by
General Sir A. Cunynghame, on quitting the Cape; was thanked by the Colonial Office for his services in Natal,
and was recommended for a C.M.G. He was awarded a gratuity of one year’s pay as a Major for the wounds he
had received, and was subsequently granted a pension of £200 a year.

In February 1877, Colonel Durnford again embarked for Natal. He was one of the commissioners on the
disputed Zulu boundary, whose award restored to the Zulus a considerable portion of territory.

The engineer arrangements made before the commencement of the Zulu war, viz., raising, equipping, and
training three companies of African pioneers, organising two field parks, and providing complete bridge
equipment for crossing the Thukela, were all the work of Colonel Durnford, and show the same earnestness of
purpose and energy that have always distinguished him.

When war was declared against the Zulus, Colonel Durnford received the command of the No. 2
Column, consisting of three battalions Natal Native Contingent, of 1,000 men each, five troops of mounted
natives (the Natal Native Horse), and a rocket battery under Captain Russell, R.A.

In a letter from one of his brother officers, written from the Cape just before the receipt of the news of his
death, Colonel Durnford is thus alluded to: “From long residence in the Colony, and from having commanded
native contingents during former outbreaks, Colonel Durnford has great influence over the natives of Natal and
Basutoland, many men coming hundreds of miles to serve under him.”

The headquarters of No. 2 Column were at Fort Buckingham. On 16 January 1879, Colonel Durnford
was ordered to take a part of his force about thirty miles farther up the river to guard the frontier, as raids were
expected, and a few days later to move up to Rorke’s Drift. On 22 January he was ordered to move up to
Isandlwana, where the General had encamped on the 20th.

He arrived about 10.30 a.m. Zulus had been sighted moving about in the immediate neighbourhood of the
camp, and one column of their force was reported to be retiring in the direction in which Lord Chelmsford had
moved in the morning. Apprehending that this column was threatening to cut off the General’s force from his
camp, Colonel Durnford, with a portion of his mounted men, followed it. Two troops which he had previously
sent on to reconnoitre a range of hills on the left and the valley beyond, after proceeding about five miles, met
the Zulu army, numbering at least 20,000, and the officer in command at once rode back to warn the camp.
Colonel Durnford and the force with him slowly retired before the advancing horde, fighting, in good order, on
to broken ground and a watercourse in front of the camp, and formed to the right of the 24th Regiment. This
position was held as long as the ammunition lasted; when it failed, Colonel Durnford withdrew the mounted
men to the right of the camp, and galloped towards the 24th, to endeavour to concentrate the force. The Zulu
army at this moment, dashing forward in the most rapid manner, surrounded the regiment, and the survivors
retreated by the right rear. For months little was known of the later events of the fatal day, beyond the fact that
firing was seen up to nearly four o’clock. Colonel Durnford’s watch was by chance ta


His commissions bore date as follows: -

Second Lieutenant

First Lieutenant

Second Captain

First Captain

Major

Lieut.Colonel

Brevet-Colonel

June 27th 1848.

February 17th 1854.

March 18th 1858.

January 5th 1864.

July 5th 1872.

December 11th 1873.

December 11th 1878.
The following extract from a letter written a few days after the battle of Isandlwana, by Sir Henry Bulwer, the Lieutenant-Governor of Natal, shows the estimation in which Colonel Durnford was held by those who knew him:

“Colonel Durnford was a soldier of soldiers, with all his heart in his profession; keen, active-minded, indefatigable, unsparing of himself, and utterly fearless, honourable, loyal, of great kindness and goodness of heart.

“I speak of him as I knew him, and as all who knew him will speak of him.”

Colonel Durnford is commemorated in a memorial window at Rochester Cathedral.

FRANCIS HARTWELL MACDOWEL, LIEUTENANT, ROYAL ENGINEERS.

Lieutenant Francis Hartwell Macdowel, who was killed at Isandlwana on 22nd January 1879, was the second and youngest son of Professor Macdowel, M.D., of the University of Dublin, and grandson of the late Rev. Francis Brodrick Hartwell, Vicar-General of the Isle of Man, and formerly a Major in the 6th Dragoon Guards. He was educated by the Rev. Mr. Cook, and subsequently at Dr. Stackpoole’s at Kingstown. He possessed mathematical talents of a very high order, which were cultivated by Dr. Barry, a distinguished mathematical teacher in that school. Without any further special preparation he entered Woolwich as a cadet in 1868, at the age of seventeen years, obtaining eighth place in the list of successful competitors, out of 150 candidates. Passing out from the Academy in August 1871, he was gazetted a lieutenant in the Royal Engineers. In 1873 he was appointed to the C (mounted) troop of the corps, and served with it at Aldershot for three years under Sir Howard Elphinstone, VC; after being stationed for a year at Chatham, he was ordered to South Africa, and sailed from Dartmouth for the Cape in October 1877.

On his arrival in South Africa, Lieutenant Macdowel was sent by way of Durban to the Transvaal, and for two months was engaged in building a fort between Utrecht and Newcastle. In January 1878, he was employed with Captain Clarke, R.A., in an extensive survey of the disputed territory between the Blood and Buffalo Rivers, during which he mapped a large tract of country. In June and July he was at Pretoria, and was engaged with Lieutenant Bradshaw, 13th Light Infantry, in an extended surveying expedition about the amaSwazi border. In September he joined the force under Colonel Rowlands, VC, which was formed to operate against Sekhukhune and his people, and was attached to the smaller division under Major Russell, 12th Lancers. On the expedition being abandoned in consequence of the inadequacy of the force in point of numbers, Lieutenant Macdowel, with a command of eighty men, was left in charge of Burgher’s Fort for several weeks, in the vicinity of large bodies of the enemy. Almost all his horses having died, and fever having broken out amongst his men, he extricated his little force from its dangerous position, and, marching through the Waterfall Valley, ultimately reached Lydenburg. On 14 November he started to explore the Zulu border east of that town, and, after riding a distance of 250 miles in five days, and encountering considerable hardship, succeeded in bringing in much valuable information. Proceeding to Utrecht on his return, he was attached to Colonel Wood’s column, which was then in course of formation. On the day after his arrival he was sent with an interpreter to the Assegai River, to convey orders to the 13th Light Infantry: he was absent on this duty four days, riding 150 miles. On the day after his return he was sent to Helpmekaar, eighty miles distant, to inspect and report on some Royal Engineer stores, and on arriving at his destination, he found himself attached, in general orders, to Colonel Glyn’s Column.

Lieutenant Macdowel was now entrusted with the engineering operations necessary to enable the Headquarter Column to cross the Buffalo (Mzinyathi) River, and for the admirable way in which he carried these out in the face of great difficulties Lord Chelmsford complimented him in person. On the subsequent advance of the column into Zululand, he was sent on with it in compliance with his own request, instead of being left at Rorke’s Drift.

When Lord Chelmsford marched from Isandlwana before daybreak on 22 January to search for the Zulu force supposed to exist some miles off to his right front, Lieutenant Macdowel, who was on Colonel Glyn’s staff, was taken on with the advance; about eleven o’clock in the morning, however, he was sent back, with orders to the senior officer left in command, “to strike the camp and follow the General.”

Despite the developing Zulu attack, he reached the camp, and during the battle he was seen by Lieutenant Higginson fighting side by side with Colonel Durnford, R.E. It would appear that he later threw in his lot with the companies of the 24th Regiment, for in an official letter to his relatives it is stated that “when he (Lieutenant Macdowel) was last seen, he was getting bandsmen, gunners, and others, together, and bringing up reserve ammunition to the fighting line of the 24th Regiment. A Zulu fired at him at close quarters, and he fell between the General’s tent and the fighting line.”
Colonel Black, 24th Regiment, after his visit to the field for the purpose of interring the dead, wrote: “We found and buried a body with R.E. officer’s blue coat and trousers, unrecognisable otherwise. From the uniform I believe that this was the mortal part of that good young fellow Macdowel.”

HENRY BURMESTER PULLEINE
LIEUTENANT COLONEL, 24TH REGIMENT (2ND WARWICHSHIRE).

Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Burmester Pulleine, who was killed at Isandlwana on 22 January 1879, was the eldest son of the Rev. Robert Pulleine, rector of Kirkby Wiske, near Thirsk, Yorkshire, by his marriage with Susan, eldest daughter of H. Burmester, Esq., of Wandsworth, and grandson of Colonel Henry Percy Pulleine, of Crakehall, Yorkshire, of the Scots Greys. He was born at Spennithorne, Yorkshire, on 12 December 1838, and was educated at Marlborough College, Wilts, and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, where he obtained various prizes. On the 16 November 1855, he was gazetted to an ensigncy, without purchase, in the 30th Regiment, which he joined at Fermoy, in Ireland, and afterwards was quartered at Parkhurst, Isle of Man, Dublin, and other home stations. On leaving the Isle of Man he received a testimonial from the leading men in the island, expressing regret at the departure of the detachment under his command and commendation of the good behaviours of the men during their stay. In June 1858, he was gazetted to a lieutenancy in the 24th Battalion 24th Regiment (then being raised), and served at Sheffield, at Aldershot, and afterwards in Mauritius, where he became a captain by purchase in 1860. For nearly four years he held an appointment in the Commissariat Department, and was very highly spoken of by Commissary-General Routh and others for unusual ability and industry.

About this time the troubles in the Transkei, on the Eastern Cape frontier, first began, and in consequence of the estimation in which the abilities of Lieutenant-Colonel Pulleine were held by His Excellency General Sir A. Cunynghame, he was, on the occasion of the war in Gcalekaland, called upon to raise two frontier corps, one of infantry, subsequently called “Pulleine’s Rangers” (afterwards the Transkei Rifles), and the other of cavalry, subsequently called the Frontier Light Horse. So ably was this service executed, although under many difficulties, that both these corps, under the able officers appointed to command them, were brought to such a state of efficiency as to be enabled, in the short space of two months, to take the field. This was in no small degree owing to the zeal and assiduity of Lieutenant-Colonel Pulleine, and to his thorough knowledge of interior economy and the rules of the service, in addition to the peculiar qualities which he possessed of enjoying the good wished and feelings of the civil communities in whatever station he might be quartered.

Lieutenant-Colonel Pulleine served with his regiment in the Transkei for nearly three months, and then, in September 1878, in view of the impending hostilities with the Zulus, returned to embark for Natal; on arriving there he was selected to command at the city of Durban, an appointment of much difficulty, requiring not only the utmost zeal and energy, but great tact. He then succeeded Colonel Pearson as commandant at Pietermaritzburg, and for nearly two months was an energetic President of the Remount Depot, purchasing horses for the troops. These appointments, however, he relinquished, and applied to be allowed to rejoin his regiment, declining to act upon a suggestion of the General’s that he should retain them a short time longer; upon his so doing, Lord Chelmsford sent him a letter, thanking him for his services, and speaking in high terms of the way in which his duties had been performed.

Lieutenant-Colonel Pulleine set off in high spirits, riding with his groom and a packhorse, and by dint of covering long distances each day, succeeded in reaching the headquarter column at the camp on the Buffalo River on 17 of January 1879. On the morning of the 20th the column advanced to Isandlwana. In the disastrous encounter with the enemy that ensued on the 22nd, Lieutenant Colonel Pulleine fell doing his duty, endeavouring to his utmost to obey the orders he had received.

Lieutenant-Colonel Pulleine married, in 1866, Frances Katherine, daughter of Frederick Bell, Esq., J.P., of Fermoy, Ireland, and left a son and two daughters.

He is commemorated on a memorial headstone at his father’s parish of Thirby-on-the-Wiske, Yorkshire, and on the ‘South Africa 1879-80-81’ memorial at Sandhurst Military Academy Chapel.

WILLIAM DEGACHER
CAPTAIN, 24TH REGIMENT (2ND WARWICKSHIRE).

Captain William Degacher – whose family name was originally Hitchcock - was the third son of the late Walter Henry Degacher, Esq., of St. Omer, France. He was born on the 4th of April 1841, and was educated at the Imperial College, St. Omer, and Rugby. In May 1859, he was gazetted ensign to the 2nd Battalion of the 24th Regiment; became lieutenant in August 1862; and obtained his company in December 1868. He served with his battalion at various home stations, in Mauritius, at the Mediterranean stations, and in South Africa, where he took part in the expedition to the Diamond Fields, under Sir Arthur Cunynghame, in 1876. On returning to Cape Town at the latter end of the year he proceeded home on leave.

Shortly after arriving in England, Captain Degacher formed an intention to retire from the service. In consequence, however, of the Cape Frontier War breaking out about this time, he volunteered for active service; and, his request being acceded to, again embarked for South Africa.

In October 1878, in view of the impending outbreak of hostilities with the Zulu, the 24th Regiment was ordered to Natal to join the Headquarter Column of the army of invasion, then concentrating at Helpmekaar. Taking part in the subsequent advance of that force in January 1879, Captain Degacher commanded the 1st Battalion of the regiment of the crossing of the Buffalo on the 10th, and in the storming of Sihayo’s stronghold in the Batshe Valley on the 12th, -his eldest brother, Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Degacher, C.B., being at the same time, by a remarkable coincidence, in command of the 2nd Battalion. Captain Degacher subsequently advanced with the column to Isandlwana, and, in the disastrous encounter with the enemy which ensued on the 22nd, was in command of the battalion, Lieutenant-Colonel Pulleine being in command of the troops, no authentic record of his death exists – a fact from which it would seem probable that he fell shortly after the three companies were driven in, in the last despairing rally which took place before the retreat towards Fugitives’ Drift became defined. Of one thing his countrymen may rest assured – that he fell fighting gallantly to the last.

Captain Degacher married, in March 1877, Caroline, daughter of General Webber Smith, C.B.

WILLIAM ECCLES MOSTYN
CAPTAIN, 24TH REGIMENT (2ND WARWICKSHIRE).

Captain William Eccles Mostyn, who was killed at Isandlwana on 22 January 1879, was the only son of the late Rev. George Thornton Mostyn, MA, formerly Incumbent of St. Thomas’s, in the town of St. Helen’s, Lancashire, and afterwards of St. John’s, Kilburn, by his marriage with Charlotte, daughter of the late William Eccles, Esquire, of Glasgow. He was born in Glasgow on 27 November 1842, and was educated at Rugby. On 29 July 1862, he was gazetted to an ensigncy in the 24th Regiment, which he joined at Aldershot. He served with his battalion at various stations in Great Britain and Ireland, in British Burma, in India, at Malta, at Gibraltar, and at the Cape of Good Hope, where he acted for some time as Aide-de-Camp to General Cunynghame; and throughout the Cape Frontier War of 1878 he performed many arduous and important duties.

In November 1878, Captain Mostyn proceeded with the regiment to Natal, to join the force which, with a view to the impending invasion of Zululand, was then being concentrated on the frontier. On 9 January 1879, his company marched from Pietermaritzburg to join the Headquarters, which, six weeks earlier, had left the capital, and formed part of Glyn’s column at Helpmekaar. The company reached Isandlwana on the 21st. In the battle which ensued at that position on the 22nd, Captain Mostyn moved the men under his command out of camp to the support of another company of his battalion which, under Lieutenants Cavaye and Dyson, had engaged the enemy on a steep hill about a thousand yards distant, to the left. A few minutes after his arrival on the hill, his company extended and entered into action, supported on the right by a small body of the Native Infantry. Shortly afterwards, the enemy appeared in great force in the rear, and the two companies fell slowly back, keeping up firing. After descending the hill, which was rocky and precipitous, they formed in extended order at a distance of about four hundred yards from it; but their ammunition running short, and the enemy, heavily reinforced, pressing on rapidly, they continued to retire until within three hundred yards of the camp. When the line broke, the men scarcely had time to fix their bayonets, before the enemy was among them, using their assegais with fearful effect. Captain Mostyn fell fighting gallantly at the head of his company. In his death, those to whom he was known sustained a severe loss, his frank disposition and extreme amiability having much endeared him to all with which he had come in contact.

GEORGE VAUGHAN WARDELL
CAPTAIN, 24TH REGIMENT.

Captain George Vaughan Wardell, who was killed at Isandlwana on 22 January 1879, was the second son of Major Wardell, who served for forty-three years in the 66th Regiment, the 93rd Highlanders, and the Royal Canadian Rifles. He was born at Toronto, Canada, on 21 February 1840, and was educated in that country and in
England, passing the direct examination for a commission in the line from Kensington School. Gazetted to an ensigncy in the 2nd Battalion 24th Regiment, on 14 May 1858, he joined that corps at Bury, and, after serving at Sheffield and Aldershot, embarked with it for Mauritius in March 1860. He there became a lieutenant by purchase, on 23 July 1861, and there being a scarcity of officers of the Commissariat Department in the island, he acted for nearly two years as Deputy Assistant Commissary-General. In 1865 the battalion proceeded to Burma, where he remained with it until the middle of 1867, when he proceeded to England on leave, and was afterwards attached to the depot at Sheffield and Preston.

In 1870 Captain Wardell exchanged into the 1st battalion of his regiment, and served with it for three years at Malta and Gibraltar, obtaining his company on 10 January 1872. After being two years at the Brigade Depot at Brecon, he embarked in May 1875, in charge of drafts, to rejoin the headquarters of his regiment, which had been sent to the Cape of Good Hope. In 1876 he went in command of a detachment to St. Helena, where he was quartered more than a year; on his being recalled to the Cape, the governor of the island issued a general order expressing warm approval of the exemplary behaviour of the non-commissioned officers and men, against whom no single complaint had been made, and stating that by the departure of Captain Wardell he lost a valued friend. Rejoining his regiment in 1877, he accompanied it up the country to King William’s Town, and, on the Gcaleka outbreak taking place, was again detached with a hundred men of the 24th, with about three hundred Burghers, Mounted Police, and Natives, to guard the drift, or ford, across the Great Kei River at Mpethu. He there constructed a redoubt named by him Fort Warwick (in allusion to the county of his regiment), which afforded shelter to the neighbouring farmers and their families. After holding this post for three or four months, much harassed and more or less surrounded by the Xhosa, his communications were at last entirely cut, and he had to be relieved early in January 1878, by a strong force under Colonel Lambert, 88th Regiment. A sketch of this relief appeared in the “Illustrated London News.” For this service Captain Wardell received commendation from Sir Arthur Cunynghame, the Lieutenant-General Commanding, who appointed him commandant of the Kei Road and Kabousie stations, with a force of five hundred colonial troops under him. Besides keeping open the communications, he was there incessantly employed in forwarding supplies to the front. Upon the arrival of Lord Chelmsford to take command, he was superseded by a field officer of another regiment, and rejoined his own corps in the Transkei, where he served against the Gcalekas until they were completely subjugated.

In November 1878, the 24th Regiment was ordered to Natal, to join the force being prepared to act against the Zulus in the event of their refusing to comply with the terms of Sir Bartle Frere’s ultimatum. Disembarking at Durban, Captain Wardell marched with his company through Pietermaritzburg to Helpmekaar, where he was encamped for a month. Upon the expiration of the period of grace allowed to the Zulus, he was advanced, in command of two companies, to Rorke’s Drift, in order to cover the working parties employed in making the ford practicable for artillery and heavy ox-waggons, and in constructing pontoons for conveying the infantry across. On 11 January 1879 Colonel Glyn’s column, to which both battalions of the 24th Regiment belonged, crossed the Buffalo River into Zululand, and on the following day Captain Wardell, whose company had been the first to pass over, was engaged in a skirmish with outlying parties of the enemy. After being encamped at the Batshe Valley, the column advanced on January the 20th to a new position at the foot of the Isandlwana Hill. In the attack on the camp at that place on the 22nd, Captain Wardell was slain. Some Natal Carbineers who escaped from the massacre, reported that they saw him, surrounded by his company, making a most desperate stand against the enemy; and in Lieut. Colonel Black’s description of the field as he found it when he buried the dead five months afterwards, it is stated that over sixty men of the 24th Regiment were found in one spot, together with the remains of Captain Wardell and two other officers who could not be recognised.

Captain Wardell was a thorough soldier; strong, active, and fearless; beloved by his men, and of high repute amongst his brother officers. He married in 1867, at Mauritius, Lucy Anne Charlotte, daughter of Captain Russell RN His father, Major Wardell, served for five years in the Royal Navy before entering the army, and was present at the capture of Java (medal and clasp) in 1811; he also lost his right arm in 1820, from the effects of a wound received whilst in the naval service.

REGINALD YOUNGHUSBAND
CAPTAIN, 24th REGIMENT (2nd WARWICKSHIRE).

Captain Reginald Younghusband, who was killed at Isandlwana on 22 January 1879, was the fourth son of the late Thomas Younghusband, Esquire, formerly Captain H.E.I.C.S., and lately for very many years a resident of Weymouth, Dorset, by his marriage with Pascoa Georgina, only daughter and co-heiress of Joseph Barretto, of Calcutta, and Portland Place, Regent’s Park, London, Esquire. He was born on 16 January 1844, at Bath. Gazetted to an ensigncy in the 2nd Battalion of the 24th Regiment on 20 August 1862, he served with that corps in Mauritius; in Burma, where he accompanied the British expedition to Mandalay in September 1867;
and in India. He returned with his regiment to England in 1872, and shortly afterwards was appointed Instructor of Musketry, an appointment which he held for four years.

Having obtained his company on 14 March 1876, Captain Younghusband was ordered to the Cape, two months later, to join the 1st Battalion of his regiment. Early in 1878 he returned to England on leave, but embarked again for South Africa in the month of July to take part in the suppression of the Gcaleka outbreak. Shortly after his arrival at the Cape his regiment was ordered to Natal to join the force which, with a view to the impending invasion of Zululand, was being concentrated on the frontier.

Colonel Glyn’s column, to which both battalions of the 24th Regiment were attached, crossed the Buffalo River on 11 January 1879, and on the following day Captain Younghusband was engaged, with his company, in the reduction of Sihayo’s stronghold. Moving through the Batshe Valley, the column encamped, on the 20th of January under the Isandlwana Hill. In the disastrous encounter with the enemy that ensued at this position on the 22nd, Captain Younghusband was slain. A bandsman of the 24th Regiment, who escaped from the massacre, reported that he saw him making a desperate stand at the last. With three men of his company he turned a waggon into a rifle-pit, and defended it as long as his ammunition lasted. When the last cartridge was fired, Captain Younghusband shook hands with his men, and then made a desperate attempt to cut his way through the encircling horde of the savage foe. A son of the chieftain Sihayo, who surrendered at the close of the war, and who was interrogated as to the details of the battle, stated, with reference to what occurred in the neighbourhood of the wagons: “A very brave man was killed near one of them. I don’t know whether he was an officer of not, for when I saw him after he was killed his coat had been taken off him, but he had a red stripe on his trousers, and he had brown gaiters. He was a very tall man, and as we were rushing over the camp he jumped on to an empty waggon with a gun, and kept firing away first on one side and then on another, so that no one got near him. We all saw him and watched him, for he was high up on the waggon, and we all said what a brave man that was! I think he was an officer. All those who tried to stab him were knocked over at once or bayonetted. He kept his ground for a very long time; then someone shot him.” The informant added that those in camp best qualified to decide agreed that this officer was Captain Younghusband.

It is believed that the body of Captain Younghusband was recognised by Major Tongue, lying near to that of Major White. When Colonel Glyn temporarily reoccupied the ill-fated camp on the night of the battle; and the remains were identified and buried by Colonel Black, 24th Regiment, on his visit to the field five months afterwards.

Captain Younghusband married, in February 1878, Evelyn, second surviving daughter of Richard Davies, Esquire, of the “Vigia,” Madeira, and Jerez de la Frontera, Spain.

The family of Younghusband is of very old Northumbrian origin, having been located near Bamburgh before the Conquest. Tradition derives its name and descent from Oswald, the tenth son of Ida, the Flamebearer (AD 559). The prefix “Young” having been assumed at an early period by the descendants of the Saxon Oswalds, Os wys, and Osbans for the sake of distinction, the name gradually became corrupted – “Young-Oswin,” “Young-Osban,” “Younghosban,” to the present form of spelling it.

Captain Younghusband is commemorated in an inscription on the reverse of his father’s headstone at Melcombe Regis, in Dorset. Thomas Younghusband died in June 1879; his headstone takes the form of a cross on a rock. The rock bears a marked resemblance to some of the images of Isandlwana published in the British press at the time of the battle.

TEIGNMOUTH MELVILL

LIEUTENANT AND ADJUTANT, 24TH REGIMENT (2ND WARWICKSHIRE).

Lieutenant and Adjutant Teignmouth Melvill, who was killed on the Natal shore of the Buffalo River, in the neighbourhood of Isandlwana, on 22 January 1879, was the younger son of Philip Melvill, Esq., late Secretary in the Military Department to the East India Company, by his marriage with Eliza, daughter of Colonel Sandys, of Lanarth, Helston. He was born in London on 8 September 1842, and was educated at Harrow, Cheltenham, and in Cambridge, where he graduated BA in February 1865. He entered the army in the same year, and on 2 December 1868, was gazetted to a lieutenancy in the 1st Battalion of the 24th Regiment. He joined that corps in Ireland, and afterwards proceeded with it to Malta, to Gibraltar, where he was appointed adjutant, and, in January 1875, to the Cape. Whilst in South Africa he passed the examination for entrance into the Staff College, and in January 1878, was ordered home to join that establishment.

On hearing of the outbreak of fresh hostilities on the Cape frontier, Lieutenant Melvill immediately expressed his willingness to rejoin his regiment: he was ordered out accordingly, and arrived at King William’s
Town at the end of February. He served with his corps through the whole of the suppression of the Gcaleka outbreak, performing many arduous and important duties.

Immediately prior to the outbreak of the Zulu war, Lieutenant Melvill proceeded with his regiment to join the Headquarters Column, which was then in course of formation on the Natal frontier. Taking part in its subsequent advance into Zululand, he was present at the reduction of Sihayo’s stronghold in the Batshe Valley, on 12 January 1879. The following account of the manner in which he met with his death on the day of the fatal attack on the camp at Isandlwana is taken from a special despatch written by Colonel Glyn, describing the saving of the colours of the 24th Regiment, bearing date February the 21st 1879:

“It would appear that, when the enemy had got into the camp, and when there was no longer any hope left of saving it, the Adjutant of the 1st Battalion of the 24th Regiment, Lieutenant Melvill, departed from the camp on horseback, carrying the colour with him in hope of being able to save it.

“The only road to Rorke’s Drift being already in possession of the enemy, Lieutenant Melvill and the few others who still remained alive struck across country for the Buffalo River, which it was necessary to cross to reach a point of safety. In taking this line, the only one possible, ground had to be gone over which, from its ruggedness and precipitous nature, would under normal circumstances, it is reported, be deemed almost utterly impassable for mounted men.

“During a distance of about six miles Lieutenant Melvill and his companions were closely pursued, or, more properly speaking, accompanied by a large number of the enemy, who, from their well-known agility in getting over rough ground, were able to keep up with our people though the latter were mounted; so that the enemy kept up a constant fire on them, and sometimes even got close enough to assegai the men and horses. Lieutenant Melvill reached the bank of the Buffalo, and at once plunged in, horse and all; but being encumbered with the colour, which is an awkward thing to carry even on foot, and the river being full and running rapidly, he appears to have got separated from his horse when he was about half-way across. He still, however, held on resolutely to the colour, and was being carried down stream when he was washed against a large rock in the middle of the river. Lieutenant Higginson, of the Natal Native Contingent, who had also lost his horse in the river, was clinging to this rock, and Lieutenant Melvill called to him to lay hold of the colour. This Lieutenant Higginson did, but the current was so strong that both officers with the colour were again washed away into still water. In the meantime, Lieutenant Coghill, 1st Battalion 24th Regiment, my orderly officer – who had been left in camp that morning, when the main body of the force moved out, on account of a severe injury to his knee, which rendered him unable to move without assistance – had also succeeded in gaining the river-bank in company with Lieutenant Melvill. He too had plunged at once into the river, and his horse carried him safely across; but on looking round for Lieutenant Melvill, and seeing him struggling to save the colour in the river, he at once turned his horse and rode back into the stream again to Lieutenant’s Melvill’s assistance.

“It would appear that now the enemy had assembled in considerable force along their own bank, and had opened a heavy fire on our people, directing it more especially on Lieutenant Melvill, who wore a red patrol jacket; so that when Lieutenant Coghill got into the river again his horse was almost immediately killed by a bullet. Lieutenant Coghill was thus cast loose in the stream, also, and notwithstanding the exertions of both these gallant officers, the colour was carried off from them, and they themselves gained the bank in a state of extreme exhaustion.

“It would appear that they now attempted to move up the hill from the river-bank towards Helpmekaar, but must have been too much exhausted to go on, as they were seen to sit down to rest again. This, I sorely regret to say, was the last time these two most gallant officers were seen alive.

“It was not for some days after the 22nd that I could gather any information as to the probable fate of these officers. But immediately I discovered in what direction those who had escaped from Isandlwana had crossed the Buffalo, I sent, under Major Black, 2nd Battalion 24th Regiment, a mounted party who volunteered for this service, to search for any trace that could be found of them. This search was successful, and both bodies were found where they were last seen, as above indicated. Several dead bodies of the enemy were found about them, so that they must have sold their lives dearly at the last.

“I cannot conclude this report without drawing attention of his Excellency the Lieutenant-General Commanding, in the most impressive manner which words can command, to the noble and heroic conduct of Lieutenant and Adjutant Melvill, who did not hesitate to encumber himself with the colour of the regiment, in his resolve to save it, at a time when the camp was in the hands of the enemy, and its gallant defenders killed to the last man in its defence; and when there appeared but little prospect that any exertions Lieutenant Melvill could make would enable him to save even his own life. Also, later on, to the noble perseverance with which, when struggling between life and death in the river, his chief thoughts to the last were bent on the saving of the colour.

“In conclusion, I would add that both these officers gave up their lives in the truly noble task of endeavouring to save from the enemy’s hands the Queen’s colour of their regiment; and, greatly though their sad end is to be deplored, their deaths could not have been more noble or more full of honour.”
The two bodies were buried where they were found, and a stone cross was erected over the spot by Sir Bartle Frere and the members of his staff, bearing the following inscription:

“In memory of Lt. and Adj. Teignmouth Melvill and Lt. Nevill J.A. Coghill, 1st Batt. 24th Regt., who died on this spot, 22nd Jany., 1879, to save the Queen’s Colour of their Regiment.” On the other face is inscribed: “For Queen and Country – Jesu, mercy.”

Immediately after the receipt of Colonel Glyn’s despatch in England, an official letter was sent to Mr. Melvill from the Horse Guards, expressing the sympathy of the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, and intimating that the Victoria Cross would have been conferred on Lieutenant Melvill had he survived his noble effort. The following notification appeared in a Supplement to the “London Gazette” of the 1st of May 1879:

“MEMORANDUM. Lieutenant Melvill, of the 1st Batt. 24th Foot, on account of the gallant efforts made by him to save the Queen’s Colour of his Regiment after the disaster of Isandlwana; and also Lieutenant Coghill, 1st Battalion 24th Foot, on account of his heroic conduct in endeavouring to save his brother officer’s life, would have been recommended to Her Majesty for the Victoria Cross had they survived.”

Lieutenant Melvill was married in February 1876, and left a widow and two sons. Lieutenant Melvill’s family home was at Ethy House, Lerryn, near Lostwithiel, Cornwall. A memorial window, placed in the parish church of St. Winnow by Melvill’s father, depicts a risen Christ carrying a standard, emerging from a rocky tomb next to a river.

FRANCIS PENDER PORTEOUS
LIEUTENANT, 24TH REGIMENT (2ND WARWICKSHIRE).

Lieutenant Francis Pender Porteous, who was killed at Isandlwana on 22 January 1879, was the eldest son of the late James Porteous, Esq., of Jamaica, by his marriage with Emily, daughter of G.S. Kemble, Esq. He was born on the 26th of March 1847, and was educated at the Rev. A. Jessop Helston’s, in Cornwall; Mount Radford School (Dr. Roper’s), Exeter; and Dr. Carter’s, in Jersey. Proceeding to Sandhurst, he passed through the prescribed course, and was gazetted, in March 1866, to the 1st Battalion of the 24th Foot: he joined the regiment at the Curragh, Ireland, and subsequently proceeded with it to Malta, to Gibraltar, and, in January 1875, to the Cape, having meanwhile, in December 1869, obtained his lieutenancy by purchase. In 1877 he was appointed instructor of musketry to his battalion. Throughout the Cape Frontier war of 1878 he served as garrison-adjutant at King William’s Town.

In November 1878, in view of the impending hostilities with the Zulus, the regiment was ordered to Natal, to join the Headquarters Column of the army of invasion, then concentrating at Helpmekaar. Taking part in the subsequent advance of that force, in January 1879, into the enemy’s country, Lieutenant Porteous was present at the reduction of Siyayo’s stronghold in the Batshe Valley, and afterwards proceeded with the column to Isandlwana; in the disastrous encounter with the enemy which ensued at that position on the 22nd, he fell fighting gallantly at the head of a company of which he had been temporarily placed in command.

Lieutenant Porteous was a thorough soldier, noble and generous in disposition, devoted to his profession. “He was a great favourite of mine, and much beloved by all in the regiment,” wrote his commanding officer. His loss was deeply mourned by all who knew him.

Lieutenant Porteous is commemorated on the ‘South Africa 1879-80-81’ memorial in the Sandhurst Chapel.

CHARLES D’AGUILAR POPE
LIEUTENANT, 24TH REGIMENT (2ND WARWICKSHIRE).

Lieutenant Charles D’aguilar Pope, eldest son of the Rev. J.P. Pope, Assistant Chaplain, H.E.I.C.S., was born on 23 August 1849. He was educated at Bath, where he obtained various certificates at the Oxford and Cambridge local examinations. In 1865 he entered Sandhurst, and passing out in 1868 was gazetted to the 2nd Battalion of the 24th Regiment. He became lieutenant in 1871, and shortly afterwards embarked for Madras, where he served for three years. Returning from India to England in 1876, he passed most creditably through a course of garrison and gunnery instruction, and from the School of Musketry at Hythe came out with an extra first-class certificate.
In February 1878, Lieutenant Pope embarked for South Africa, and, arriving at the Cape served with his battalion through the Cape Frontier War of that year. In the following November he proceeded with the regiment to Natal to join the force being prepared to act against the Zulus in the event of their not complying with the terms of Sir Bartle Frere’s ultimatum. He took part with the regiment in the subsequent advance of Colonel Glyn’s column in January 1879, into the enemy’s country, and was present at the reduction of Sihayo’s stronghold in the Batshe Valley. On the fatal 22 January the day on which he met with his death, Lieutenant Pope was on picquet duty, and commanded his company. The following extract from his diary, which, kept up to the very hour of his death, was subsequently picked up in the battlefield, speaks highly for his cool self-possession:—

“At 4 p.m. N.N.C. mounted troops and 4 guns off. Great firing—believed to be by 1/24th. Alarm sounded. Three columns Zulus and mounted men on hill. E. Turn out! 7,000 men E.N.E., 4,000 of whom go round Lion’s Kop. Durnford’s Basutos arrive and pursue with rocket battery. Zulus retire everywhere. Men fall out for dinner.”

And while the men fell out for dinner the right horn of the Zulu army, 7,000 strong, crept round the Kop, and the “three columns” swarmed down the face of it. Several survivors of the massacre which followed testify to the remarkable self-possession with which Lieutenant Pope encouraged his men, and restrained their wasteful fire when the trying order “to retire” was given; and the record of the part he played on the fatal day is supplemented by a statement made by an induna who was present at the slaughter. The Zulu reported that, when surrounding the 24th at the Neck of Isandlwana, two officers (subsequently ascertained to have been Lieutenants Pope and Godwin-Austen), with pieces of glass in their eye, came forward, shooting at him with their revolvers. One fell from a gunshot, and the other kept firing his revolver at the induna, grazing the right side of his neck with one bullet, the left side with another, and wounding him in the leg with the third. The induna then flung an assegai, which entered the officer’s breast. The officer, with a supreme effort, almost succeeded in pulling out the weapon (at this point in his statement the Zulu writhed his body in pantomime of the movements of the officer), but the induna fell on him, and instantaneously finished his work with another assegai.

Lieutenant Pope was a favourite with both officers and men. Besides being an excellent linguist, he was an accomplished draughtsman, and many of his sketches are to be seen in the pages of the “Graphic,” and on the walls of the officers’ guardroom at Chatham. On the spot at Isandlwana where he fell, which was first marked by a sergeant of the 2-24th Regiment with a meat-scale, and later replaced by an iron cross erected by the Bishop of Pietermaritzburg.

Lieutenant Pope is commemorated on the ‘South Africa 1879-80-81’ memorial in the Sandhurst Chapel.

CHARLES WALTER CAVAYE
LIEUTENANT, 24th REGIMENT (2ND WARWICKSHIRE).

Lieutenant Charles Walter Cavaye, who was killed at Isandlwana on 22 January 1879, was the third son of General Cavaye, H.M.I.F., by his marriage with Isabella, daughter of the late Major T.F. Hutchinson. He was born on 29 May 1849, at Rajkote, India, and was educated at the New Academy, Edinburgh, and afterwards at the University of that city, where he graduated MA in 1867. During 1871 he was at the Royal Military College at Sandhurst, and on the 30th of December of that year was gazetted sub-lieutenant to the 24th Regiment. Joining the 1st Battalion in March 1872, at Gibraltar, he served with it during the whole of the time it was at that place, and embarked with it, early in 1875, on its departure for the Cape of Good Hope. In 1876 he was with a detachment of the 1-24th at St. Helena; he remained at that station until 1877, when he rejoined the headquarters of the battalion. In the following year he served with his corps through the whole of its operations in the Cape Frontier War.

In November 1878, in view of the impending hostilities with the Zulus, the 24th Regiment was ordered to Natal, to join the Headquarters Column of the army of invasion, then concentrating at Helpmekaar. Taking part in the subsequent advance of that force, in January 1879, into the enemy’s country, Lieutenant Cavaye was present at the storming of Sihayo’s stronghold in the Batshe Valley, and afterwards proceeded with the column to Isandlwana. In the disastrous encounter with the enemy which ensued at that position on the 22nd, he was in command of the company which had been detached at 10 a.m., and which engaged the enemy on a steep hill about a thousand yards distant from, and to the left of, the camp. The enemy appearing in great force in the rear, the company, supported by Captain Mostyn’s slowly retired. About four hundred yards from the hill they again formed in extended order; but their ammunition running short, and the Zulus, heavily reinforced, pressing on rapidly, they continued to fall back until within three hundred yards of the position occupied by the Native Contingent. Shortly afterwards they were surrounded by large numbers of the enemy, and overwhelmed. It is believed to have been at his juncture that Lieutenant Cavaye fell: his remains were recognised on the return of the main body of the column to the camp on the night of the 22nd, and were subsequently interred with those of the eight hundred of his countrymen who shared his fate.
The last letter received from Lieutenant Cavaye by his family was one sent from Helpmekaar, bearing date 1 January written in the highest spirits, and testifying to his enjoyment of the hardships of campaigning. He was a promising and popular officer. Lieutenant Cavaye is commemorated on the ‘South Africa 1879-80-81’ memorial in the Sandhurst Chapel.

**EDGAR OLIPHANT ANSTEY**
**LIEUTENANT, 24TH REGIMENT (2ND WARWICKSHIRE).**

Lieutenant Edgar Oliphant Anstey, who was killed at Isandlwana on 22 January 1879, was the third son of G.A. Anstey, Esquire, of Harley Street, London. He was born at Highercombe, South Australia, on the 18th of March 1851, and was educated at Rugby. Proceeding to Sandhurst, he passed successfully through the prescribed course, and in March 1873, was gazetted to a lieutenancy in the 1st Battalion of the 24th Regiment. He joined the regiment at Aldershot; embarked with it in May 1874, for Gibraltar; and thence proceeded, six months later, to the Cape.

Lieutenant Anstey was engaged with his corps in the suppression of the Gcaleka outbreak, throughout which he performed distinguished service. He commanded his company in two several actions, and for his conduct on both occasions was mentioned in despatches. He was subsequently ordered to hold Pullen’s Farm and was enabled to successfully fortify that position.

In November 1878, Lieutenant Anstey proceeded with the regiment to Natal, to join the force then being concentrated on the frontier with a view to the impending invasion of Zululand. On 9 January 1879, Captain Mostyn’s company, to which he was attached, marched from Pietermaritzburg to join the headquarters, which, six weeks earlier, had left the capital, and formed part of Glyn’s column at Helpmekaar. The company reached Isandlwana on the 21st. In the disastrous encounter with the enemy that ensued at the position on the 22nd, Anstey was engaged, under Captain Mostyn, at the commencement of the engagement, on the hills to the left of the camp. From the position of his body, it appears that Lieutenant Anstey was among those who fell on the banks of the Manzimyama River.

Lieutenant Anstey’s remains were subsequently recovered from the battlefield by his brother, Captain Anstey, R.E., under whose superintendence they were conveyed to England, and interred in the family vault in Woking Cemetery. Lieutenant Anstey’s original memorial was vandalised in 1981, but in 1995 his name was added to the family memorial nearby.

He is also commemorated on the ‘South Africa 1879-80-81’ memorial in the Sandhurst Chapel.

**NEVILL JOSIAH AYLMER COGHELL**
**LIEUTENANT 24TH REGIMENT (2ND WARWICKSHIRE).**

Lieutenant Nevill Josiah Aylmer Coghill, who was killed on the Natal shore of the Buffalo River, in the neighbourhood of Isandlwana, on 22 January 1879, was the eldest son of Sir John Joselyn Coghill, Bart., of Drumcondra, county Dublin, and nephew of the Right Rev. Lord Punket, Bishop of Meath. He was born on 25 January 1852, in Dublin, and was educated at Haileybury, after which he was for two years in the County of Dublin Militia. Having passed the examination for direct appointment to the army in 1871, he received a commission in the 24th Regiment, passed through Sandhurst, and, after serving for a short time in England, went out with the regiment to Gibraltar. From Gibraltar he proceeded to the Cape, and was there appointed Aide-de-Camp to General Sir Arthur Cunynghame, with whom he shortly afterwards made a tour of inspection through the whole colony and the adjacent country, including Natal, Griqualand, the Orange Free State, and the Transvaal. Shortly after he returned to Cape Town and the Cape Frontier War was declared. He went through the whole of that campaign, still continuing as Aide-de-Camp to Sir Arthur Cunynghame, and was mentioned in despatches. He subsequently returned to England with his General on the latter being replaced by General Thesiger, afterwards Lord Chelmsford.

On preparations being made for the invasion of Zululand, Lieutenant Coghill at once hurried back to the Cape. Shortly after arriving there he was appointed Aide-de-Camp to Sir Bartle Frere, and travelled with him to Pietermaritzburg, where he obtained leave of absence to join his regiment at the front. He was there appointed extra Aide-de-Camp de Colonel Glyn, who was in command of the column to which the 24th Regiment was attached, and continued to hold the appointment until the day of his death. The last letter received from him by his family was written in the highest spirits, just after the successful attack upon Sihayo’s homestead; in it he
expressed the general opinion that, after all, the campaign would be a short one, and that in a month the war would be reduced to the proportions of mere guerrilla work – driving the beaten enemy from the bush. So far as can be gathered from official accounts, and from the letters received from his brother officers, Lieutenant Coghill’s share in the action which ensued at Isandlwana, was as follows: - Some days previously to 22 January he had strained an already injured knee, and when it was arranged that the reconnoitring force under Lord Chelmsford and Colonel Glyn should start early on the morning of that day, he was desired to remain quietly in camp, instead of accompanying the party as he would otherwise have done. In a letter received from Colonel Glyn, that officer wrote that he left him shortly before daybreak quietly sleeping in his tent. The next that is heard of him is in the account given by Captain Young, who, towards the end of the battle, succeeded in cutting his way through the encircling horde of the enemy. He saw Coghill, who was a splendid horseman and well mounted, desperately fighting, but unable to make his way through the opening through which he (Captain Young) escaped. It is clear, however, that he did manage to break through the line, for he was shortly afterwards seen by Lieutenant Higginson, of the Natal Native Contingent. That officer reported that while struggling in the Buffalo River, having lost his horse, he saw Lieutenant Melvill in the deep swift stream, with the colours. Higginson was at this time clinging to a rock, and contrived, by seizing the colours, to draw Melvill into calm water. At this moment Coghill, who had got out on the Natal side, and was breasting the hill, perceived their condition, and turning his horse rode back into the river to their assistance. Immediately afterwards his horse was shot; nevertheless the three contrived to reach the bank, and, according to Lieutenant Higginson’s report, “managed to get about 100 yards up the hill, when Coghill called out, ‘Here they are after us.’ They had both revolvers, and I had nothing to defend myself with, so I told them to fire. We waited till they got to about thirty paces, and then fired. Two men fell, who were in front. Then Melvill, who was very much done up, said he could go no farther, and Coghill said the same. I thought I would have one more struggle for life, though my horse had kicked me on the leg very badly, so I got past them, and got on top of the hill.”

A few days afterwards their dead bodies were discovered some distance from the river, behind some large boulders. They were buried where they lay, and a stone cross was erected over the spot by Sir Bartle Frere and the members of his staff, with the following inscription:

“In memory of Lt. And Adj. Teignmouth Melvill and Lt. Nevill J.A. Coghill, 1st Batt. 24th Regt., who died on this spot 22nd Jan., 1879, to save the Queen’s Colour of their Regiment.” On the other face is inscribed: “For Queen and Country – Jesu, mercy.”

The official despatch of Colonel Glyn to Lord Chelmsford, bearing date 21 February 1879, concludes with the following words: -

“Similarly would I draw his Excellency’s attention to the equally noble and gallant conduct of Lieutenant Coghill, who did not hesitate for an instant to return unsolicited, and ride again into the river under a heavy fire of the enemy, to the assistance of his friend, though at the time he was wholly incapacitated from walking, and but too well aware that any accident that might separate him from his horse must be fatal to him.

“In conclusion, I would add that both these officers gave up their lives in the truly noble task of endeavouring to save from the enemy’s hand the Queen’s colour of their regiment; and greatly though their sad end is to be deplored, their deaths could not have been more noble or more full of honour.”

An official letter, bearing date April the 21st, 1879, received by Sir Joscelyn Coghill from the Horse Guards, concludes as follows: -

“His Royal Highness (the Field-Marshall Commanding in Chief) in communicating this despatch to you desires me to assure you of his sincere sympathy with you in the loss of your son, whose gallant death in the successful endeavour to save the colour of his regiment has gained the admiration of the army.

“It is gratifying to his Royal Highness to inform you that if your son had survived his noble effort, it was her Majesty’s intention to confer upon him the Victoria Cross, and a notification to that effect will be made in the ‘London Gazette.’”

In a supplement to the “London Gazette” of the 1st of May 1879, the following notification appeared: -

“Memorandum. Lieutenant Melvill, of the 1st Battalion 24th Foot, on account of the gallant efforts made by him to save the Queen’s colour of his regiment after the disaster at Isandlwana, and also Lieutenant Coghill, 1st Battalion 24th Foot, on account of his heroic conduct in endeavouring to save his brother officer’s life, would have been recommended to her Majesty for the Victoria Cross had they survived.”

Lieutenant Coghill is commemorated in a memorial window at the Anglican Church in Castletownsend, Co. Cork, Eire, and on the ‘South Africa 1879-80-81’ memorial in the Sandhurst Chapel.
**JAMES PATRICK DALY**

LIEUTENANT, 24TH REGIMENT (2ND WARWICKSHIRE).

Lieutenant James Patrick Daly, who was killed at Isandlwana on 22 January 1879, was born in March 1855. He was educated at Oscott, and at the Rev. E. Barney’s establishment at Gosport. After leaving school he served for two successive years with the Galway Militia. On 28 February 1874 he was gazetted to a lieutenancy in the 1st Battalion of the 24th and, having joined that corps at Gibraltar, embarked with it at the latter end of the same year for the Cape.

Lieutenant Daly served with his battalion through the Cape Frontier campaign of 1877, performing many arduous duties. In November 1878, he proceeded with the regiment to Natal, to join the force then being prepared to act against the Zulus in the event of their refusing to comply with the terms of Sir Bartle Frere’s ultimatum. On 9 January 1879 Captain Mostyn’s company, to which, six weeks earlier, had left the capital, and formed part of Glyn’s column at Helpmekaar. The company reached Isandlwana on the 21st. In the disastrous encounter with the enemy that ensued at that position on the 22nd, Daly was engaged, under Captain Mostyn, at the commencement of the engagement, on the hills to the left of the camp. No accurate record of his death exists, but it is believed that he fell towards the latter end of the engagement, in the last desperate rally made by the three companies of his battalion to the east of the camp.

Lieutenant Daly was a most promising young officer. His genial disposition had endeared him to all who knew him.

**GEORGE FREDERICK JOHN HODSON**

LIEUTENANT, 24TH REGIMENT (2ND WARWICKSHIRE).

Lieutenant George Frederick John Hodson, who was killed at Isandlwana on 22 January 1879, was the second son of Sir George Hodson, Bart., of Holybrooke, Bray, County of Wicklow, and of Green Park, Westmeath. He was born in Dublin 26 November 1854, and was educated at Haileybury College, Hertfordshire. On 28 February 1874, he was gazetted to a lieutenancy in the 1st Battalion of the 24th Regiment, and joined that corps at Aldershot. In the following May he embarked with his regiment for Gibraltar, and thence proceeded, six months later, to the Cape.

Shortly after his arrival in South Africa, Lieutenant Hodson was appointed Aide-de-Camp to Sir Bartle Frere. He subsequently served as orderly officer to Colonel Glyn throughout the Cape Frontier campaign of 1877, during the arduous prosecution of which his name was more than once mentioned in despatched. At the conclusion of the campaign he returned to his duties with Sir Bartle Frere, and held his appointment until November 1878, when his regiment was ordered to Natal in view of the impending invasion of Zululand.

Lieutenant Hodson took part with his regiment in the subsequent advance of the Headquarter column, in January 1879, into the enemy’s country, and was present at the storming of Sihayo’s stronghold in the Batshe Valley on 12 January 1879. In the disastrous encounter which ensued at Isandlwana, on the 22nd, he was one of the first who fell, it is stated, in the last desperate rally made by the three companies of his battalion to the east of the camp.

**CHARLES JOHN ATKINSON**

LIEUTENANT, 24TH REGIMENT (2ND WARWICKSHIRE).

Lieutenant Charles John Atkinson, who was killed in action at Isandlwana, on 22 January 1879, was the eldest son of the late Adam Atkinson, Esq., of Lorbottle, Northumberland, and Charlotte Eustatia, his wife, only daughter of the late John Collett, Esq., sometime MP for Cashel, in Ireland. He was born on 27 May 1855, and was educated at Eton. Passing the examination for direct appointment he was gazetted, in February 1874, sub-lieutenant in the 1st Battalion of the 24th Regiment, and joining that corps at Aldershot he proceeded with it, in May to Gibraltar; there he served until the following December when he embarked with the battalion for the Cape. In February 1877, he was gazetted to a lieutenancy.

After being quartered for two years and a half in South Africa, Lieutenant Atkinson saw active service, the regiment being ordered to the front on the outbreak of the Cape Frontier War of 1877-78. He served with his corps through the whole of that campaign, performing many important duties, and assisting materially in the
arduous task of clearing the country of the enemy. At the action of Centane, on 7 February 1878, he commanded a company, and greatly distinguished himself. He was mentioned by Major Upcher, the officer in command, for his conduct on that occasion, and also by General Sir A. Cunynghame in his despatch of 28 March.

In November 1878, Lieutenant Atkinson proceeded with the regiment to Natal to join the force being prepared there to act against the Zulus in the event of their refusing to comply with the terms of Sir Bartle Frere’s ultimatum. He took part in the subsequent advance of Colonel Glyn’s column, in January 1879, into the enemy’s country, and was present at the storming of Sihayo’s stronghold in the Batshe Valley. He then proceeded with the column to Isandlwana, and in the disastrous encounter with the enemy at that position fell in the execution of his duty – it is believed, in the last desperate rally of the three companies to the left front of the camp.

Lieutenant Atkinson was a most promising young officer, a great and general favourite in the regiment, and well loved beyond it.

Lieutenant Atkinson is commemorated on the family memorial at Whittingham Parish Church, Northumberland.

HENRY JULIAN DYER

LIEUTENANT AND ADJUTANT, 24TH REGIMENT (2ND WARWICKSHIRE).

Lieutenant and Adjutant Henry Julian Dyer, who was killed at Isandlwana on 22 January 1879, was the eldest son of Henry Julian Dyer, Esquire, and Emma, his late wife, eldest daughter of the late Francis Glass, Esquire, of Beckenham, Kent; and Grandson of the late James Holland Dyer, Esquire, of Blackheath, Kent. He was born 21 October 1854, at Red Hill, Surrey, and was educated at the Institute Taplin, Lohnstein-on-Rhine. He entered the army in 1876, being gazetted to a Lieutenancy in the 2nd Battalion of the 24th Regiment of Foot in 1877, he joined that corps at Chatham, proceeded with it to South Africa, and served through the Cape Frontier War of 1878.

In November 1878, Lieutenant Dyer proceeded with the regiment to Natal to join the force being prepared there to act against the Zulus in the event of their refusing to comply with the terms of Sir Bartle Frere’s ultimatum. While at Durban, he held an appointment as principal officer. He took part with the regiment in the subsequent advance of Colonel Glyn’s column into the enemy’s country in January 1879, and was present at the storming of Sihayo’s stronghold in the Batshe Valley. On the morning of 22 January he left Isandlwana with the main body of the column, under Lord Chelmsford; but subsequently rode back on special service with Major Smith, Captain Gardner, and Lieutenant Griffith, to convey the General’s order to advance the camp. Arriving at the very crises of the tragedy which was being enacted, Lieutenant Dyer yet managed to make his way to his company: he was seen on horseback, in the thick of the engagement, directing his men where to fire, and he fell doing his duty to the last. Colonel Degacher, 24th Regiment, in a letter written at Rorke’s Drift, bearing date 27 January 1879, making reference to the loss he had personally sustained on the fatal day, said: “They all (viz., his brother, Major Smith, Lieutenant Griffith, and Lieutenant Dyer) died like gentlemen: not one of the three was being enacted, Lieutenant Dyer yet managed to make his way to his company.”

In the death of Lieutenant Dyer a promising career was brought to an untimely close. “He would have done anything for his company: he was seen on horseback, in the thick of the engagement, directing his men where to fire, and he fell doing his duty to the last. Colonel Degacher, 24th Regiment, in a letter written at Rorke’s Drift, bearing date 27 January 1879, making reference to the loss he had personally sustained on the fatal day, said: “They all (viz., his brother, Major Smith, Lieutenant Griffith, and Lieutenant Dyer) died like gentlemen: not one of them, although they might have done so, left their men.” On revisiting the ill-fated camp five months after the battle, for the purpose of burying the dead, Colonel Black found Lieutenant Dyer’s body, pierced to the heart with an assegai, and lying in a group with those of sixty others who had formed a rallying-point in the retreat and fought desperately to the end.

In the death of Lieutenant Dyer a promising career was brought to an untimely close. “He would have made,” wrote one of his comrades, “a first-rate officer. The men of his regiment would have done anything for him.”

FREDERICK GODWIN-AUSTEN,
LIEUTENANT, 24TH REGIMENT (2ND WARWICKSHIRE).

Lieutenant Frederick Godwin-Austen, who was killed at Isandlwana on 22 January 1879, was the fourth surviving son of Robert Alfred Cloyne Godwin-Austen, Esq., D.L., J.P., F.R.S., of Shalford House, Surrey, and Maria Elizabeth his wife, only daughter of the late General Sir Henry Thomas Godwin, K.C.B. (Peninsula, Waterloo), of the 9th and 41st Regiments, commanding-in-chief in both the first and second Burmese wars. He was born on 3rd August 1853, at Chilworth Manor, Surrey, and was therefore in his twenty-sixth year at the time of his death. He entered the army in February 1875, and was first posted to the 2nd West India Regiment, with which he served in the West Indies and on the Gold Coast. Exchanging into the 2nd Battalion of the 24th Foot in 1877, he joined that corps at Chatham, proceeded with it to South Africa, and served through the Cape Frontier War of 1878.
Lieutenant Godwin-Austen proceeded with the 24th Regiment to Natal, to join the force being prepared to act against the Zulus in the event of their refusing to comply with the terms of Sir Bartle Frere’s ultimatum. He took part with the regiment in the subsequent advance of Colonel Glyn’s column, in January 1879, into the enemy’s country, and was present at the storming of Sihayo’s stronghold in the Batshe Valley. An induna who was present at the massacre at Isandlwana on the 22nd, subsequently gave a minute description of the deaths of two officers, since ascertained to have been Lieutenants Godwin-Austen and Pope, who fell on that fatal day. The Zulu stated that when surrounding the 24th Regiment at the nek at Isandlwana, two officers with pieces of glass in their eye came forward, shooting at him with their revolvers. One fell dead from a gunshot, and the other kept firing his revolver at the induna, grazing the right side of his neck with one bullet, the left side with another, and wounding him in the leg with a third. The induna then flung an assegai, which entered the officer’s breast. The officer, with a supreme effort, almost succeeded in pulling out the weapon (at this point in his statement the Zulu writhed his body in pantomime of the movements of the officer); but the induna fell on him, and finished his work with another assegai.

Lieutenant F. Godwin-Austen was the third of his name who has served in the 24th Regiment, his two elder brothers being Lieutenant-Colonel H.H. Godwin-Austen, who served in it from 1852 to 1861, and Captain A.G. Godwin-Austen, who was with it through the last Cape Frontier War, in which he was wounded.

Lieutenant Godwin-Austen is commemorated in a memorial window in the parish church of Shalford, Surrey.

THOMAS LLEWELYN GEORGE GRIFFITH
SUB-LIEUTENANT, 24TH REGIMENT (2ND WARWICKSHIRE).

Sub-Lieutenant Thomas Llewelyn George Griffith, who was killed at Isandlwana on 22 January 1879, at the age of twenty-one, was the eldest son of the Rev. Thomas Llewelyn Griffith, MA (of Pen y Nant, near Ruabon, North Wales, and Rector of Deal, Kent), and Mary Moncreiff, his wife, daughter of the late Brevet-Major George St. Vincent Whitmore, Royal Engineers.

He was born on 8 October 1857, at Chadlington, Oxon, of which village his father was then curate in charge; and was educated at Marlborough College. Belonging on his mother’s side to a family long well known in the army, he early showed a decided wish for a military life; and accordingly, having been prepared for its requirements at the Priory at Croydon, and having passed his Army examination successfully, as well as those at Sandhurst and Edinburgh, where he was temporarily attached to the 78th Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs), he was duly gazetted to a sub-lieutenancy in the 2nd Battalion 24th Regiment, in September 1877. His commission was antedated a twelvemonth, to September 1876, his name having been ninth on the list at the final Army Examination which entitled him to be placed on the second class in order of merit.

Joining his regiment at Chatham in October 1877, he afterwards embarked with it, on 1st February 1878, for the Cape. He served with his corps through the whole of its subsequent operations in the suppression of the outbreak on the Cape Frontier, seeing much service, and repeatedly winning the praise and commendation of his superior officers, as evincing much promise in all branches of his profession.

In November 1878, Lieutenant Griffith proceeded with the regiment to Natal, to join the force being prepared there to act against the Zulus in the event of their refusing to comply with the terms Sir Bartle Frere’s ultimatum. He took part with the regiment in the subsequent advance of Colonel Glyn’s column into the enemy’s country in January 1879; and was present at the storming of Sihayo’s stronghold in the Batshe Valley. On the morning of 22 January he left Isandlwana with the main body of the column under Lord Chelmsford, but subsequently rode back on special service with Major Smith, Captain Gardner, and Lieutenant Dyer, to convey the General’s order to advance the camp. Arriving at the very crisis of the tragedy that was being enacted, Lieutenant Griffith joined his company, and fell in the discharge of his duty. Colonel Black, visiting the battlefield five months afterwards for the purpose of burying the dead, found the bodies of some sixty officers and men lying in a group, giving evidence of their having gathered together and fought desperately to the last. Among them were the remains of Captain Wardell, Lieutenant Dyer, and a captain and subaltern of the 2-24th, the latter, it is believed, being the mortal part of young Griffith.

In addition to much real talent, Lieutenant Griffith possessed a disposition so bright and sunny, and was endowed with a helpfulness so ready and genial, that he was beloved by all who knew him; and his early death called forth a deep regret, more widely spread than could have been anticipated from the shortness of his life.

Lieutenant Griffith is commemorated on a family memorial tablet and by an impressive lectern, in the form of an eagle, in the parish church of St. Leonard’s, Deal, Kent. He is also commemorated on the ‘South Africa 1879-80-81’ memorial in the Sandhurst Chapel.

EDWARD HOPTON DYSON
Second Lieutenant Edwards Hopton Dyson, who was killed at Isandlwana on 22 January 1879, was the son of Major Edwards Dyson, of Denne Hill, Canterbury, by his marriage with Caroline Agnes, daughter of John Stuart Jerdan, Esq., of London. He was born on the 23rd of January 1858, and was educated in France, Germany, and at Wimbledon School. He subsequently entered the Royal Military College at Sandhurst, and passing out early in 1878 was gazetted to a 2nd lieutenancy in the 1st Battalion of the 24th Regiment, on 11 May of that year; he at once embarked for the Cape, and on his arrival joined his corps at King William’s Town.

In November 1878, Lieutenant Dyson proceeded with the regiment to Natal, and, disembarking at Durban, marched with it to Helpmekaar to join the force being prepared to act against the Zulus in the event of their refusing to comply with the terms of Sir Bartle Frere’s ultimatum. He took part with the regiment in the subsequent advance of Colonel Glyn’s column into the enemy’s country in January 1879, and was present at the storming of Sihayo’s stronghold in the Batshe Valley. He then accompanied the regiment to Isandlwana and, in the disastrous and untoward encounter with the Zulus that ensued on the 22nd shared the fate of the officers and men of the regiment who fell. The following extract from a private letter written to his father gives some clue to the manner in which he met his death:

“The last person who saw your son and escaped, that I can find, was Captain Essex, 75th Regiment, acting transport officer. He tells men that just before the Zulu horns got round our flanks and the last overwhelming rush was made, Dyson was with one section of his company, which was in skirmishing order to the left-front of the camp. He gave orders to retire, and I believe, from another witness, that he and all his company rejoined the main body without loss. The five companies were then together in line, giving volley after volley into dense masses of Zulus at only 150 yards’ range. The men were laughing and chatting, and thought they were giving the blacks an awful hammering, when suddenly the enemy came down an irresistible numbers from the rear; the left and right flanks came in with a rush, and in a few moments all was over.”

Second Lieutenant Dyson is commemorated in a pair of memorial windows, with corresponding brasses, in the chancel of the parish church of Womenswold, Kent. He is also commemorated on the ‘South Africa 1879-80-81’ memorial in the Sandhurst Chapel.

FRANCIS FREEMAN WHITE
PAYMASTER AND MAJOR, 24TH REGIMENT (2ND WARWICKSHIRE).

Major Francis Freeman White, who was killed at Isandlwana on 22 January 1879, was the second son of Benjamin Finch White, Esquire, of Rath Cahill, King’s County, Ireland. He was born on 5th February 1829, and was educated by the Rev. H. Tyrrel, curate of Shinrone, King’s County. He obtained a direct commission by purchase in February 1850, being gazetted to an ensigncy in the 1st Battalion of the 24th Regiment, and proceeded to the depot of the corps at Chatham in the following April; shortly afterwards he embarked for India to join the head-quarters of the regiment, then in Bengal. In May 1854, he became Lieutenant by purchase, and in July 1856, Paymaster. He served with the regiment through the Indian mutiny, performing many arduous and important duties, and subsequently obtained the medal. In 1859 he returned from India to England, where he remained until 1866, when he again proceeded abroad with the regiment; he was stationed with it for four years at Malta and Gibraltar, and embarked with it, at the latter end of 1874, for the Cape.

Major White served with his battalion in South Africa through the Cape Frontier campaign of 1877, from the commencement of the outbreak until its suppression. In November 1878, he proceeded with the regiment to Natal to join the force being prepared to act against the Zulus in the event of their refusing to comply with the terms of Sir Bartle Frere’s ultimatum. He took part with the regiment in the subsequent advance of Colonel Glyn’s column, in January 1879, into the enemy’s country, and was present at the storming of Sihayo’s stronghold in the Batshe Valley. He then accompanied the regiment to Isandlwana, and in the disastrous encounter with the enemy at that position on 22 January shared the fate of the bulk of his gallant corps: he fell in harness doing his duty in the fighting line of skirmishers, and much aiding in the defence by bringing ammunition to replenish the exhausted pouches.

In the death of Major White the country lost a gallant and able servant. He was the oldest officer in his battalion, having served with it without intermission, from 15th February 1850, till the day of his death, and he was justly beloved not only by his brother officers and the men of the regiment, but by all who knew him.

Major White married, in 1874, Agnes, daughter of the late Captain Tracey, R.A.

EDWARD BLOOMFIELD
QUARTERMASTER, 24TH REGIMENT (2ND WARWICKSHIRE).
Quartermaster Edward Bloomfield, who was killed at Isandlwana of 22 January 1879, was born on the 7th of November 1835, and was consequently in his forty-fourth year at the time of his death. When a lad of eleven years of age he enlisted in the Scots Fusilier Guards. He was transferred to the 2nd Battalion of the 24th Regiment on its formation, and accompanied it to Mauritius, to Burma, and to India. After twenty-two years’ honourable service, he was promoted, in 1868, from the rank of Colour-Sergeant to that of Sergeant-Major, an appointment which met with wide-spread satisfaction, and on the occasion of which his comrades took the opportunity of presenting to him some small token of their regard. “We have been in the company with you several years, and have never had cause to wish you aught but well,” wrote the men of the K Company, with other kindly words which appear to have come straight from their hearts as they went straight to his. He returned from India to England in 1873, when he obtained the good conduct medal, and in September of the same year was promoted from the rank of Sergeant Major to that of Quartermaster. On his promotion being announced in the “London Gazette,” the following paragraph appeared in the Battalion Orders of the regiment, bearing date September 26, 1873: “During the number of years Quartermaster Bloomfield has been in the Battalion, he has ever performed his duty with the greatest zeal and ability, and to the entire satisfaction of his commanding officers; and it is highly meritorious service which has secured for him such a distinguished mark of the Queen’s favour. He again embarked from England with the regiment in February 1878, for the Cape, and, after arriving there, served through the whole of the operations in connection with the suppression of the Gcaleka outbreak, performing the arduous duties which fell to his lot with the zeal and ability for which he was distinguished.

In November 1878, Quartermaster Bloomfield proceeded with the regiment to Natal to join the force being prepared to act against the Zulus in the event of their refusing to comply with the terms of Sir Bartle Frere’s ultimatum. He took part with the regiment in the subsequent advance of Colonel Glyn’s column, in January 1879, into the enemy’s country, and was present at the storming of Sihayo’s stronghold in the Batshe Valley. He the accompanied the regiment to Isandlwana, and in the disastrous encounter with the enemy at that position on 22 January shared the fate of the officers and men of the regiment who fell. He was killed while discharging his duty with the cool steadfastness which characterised him, being in the act of serving out to the men, in the thick of the engagement, the cartridges which enabled them to make their last desperate stand against the savage foe.

On the announcement of Quartermaster Bloomfield’s death being made, many letters from unexpected sources, testifying to his worth, and bearing record of his acts of simple, unostentatious kindness in the past were written, the burden of each and all being that those who had known him had never – to use words already quoted – had cause to wish him aught but well. “He was a stanch soldier, a warm-hearted friend, and a good husband and father,” wrote Captain St. Aubyn, late of the 2-24th, - a brief summary of his character which is supplemented by words written in a letter to the “Times” by Major-General Ross, during whose command the Quartermaster obtained his rank: “A more upright, conscientious man I am sure never existed.”

If one soldierly attribute may be said to have distinguished Bloomfield more than another, it is that he was intensely thorough: that which he laid his hand to, he did cheerfully and with all his might.

Quartermaster Bloomfield is commemorated on his widow and daughter’s headstone at Lorne Road Cemetery, Brentford, Essex.

JAMES PULLEN
QUARTERMASTER, 24th REGIMENT (2ND WARWICKSHIRE).

On accurate account of this officer’s antecedents prior to his entry into Her Majesty’s service can at present be obtained. He joined the 24th Regiment, as a private, in the year 1851. After nineteen years’ honourable service in various quarters of the globe, he was promoted, in 1870, whilst at Malta, to the rank of Colour-Sergeant; and in 1873, whilst at Gibraltar, was appointed Sergeant Instructor of Musketry.

Sergeant Pullen proceeded with the regiment at the latter end of 1874, to the Cape, and served with it at its various stations in the Colony. From May to November 1876, he acted as Sergeant Major to the detachment of his corps which formed part of the expedition to Griqualand West. In July 1877, he was promoted to the rank of Quartermaster, and served with his battalion in that capacity throughout the Cape Frontier War of 1877-1878.

In November 1878, he proceeded with the regiment to Natal, on its embarkation for that country in view of the impending hostilities with the Zulus. He took part, in January 1879, in the subsequent advance of Glyn’s column into the enemy’s country, and was present at the storming of Sihayo’s stronghold in the Batshe Valley. In the disastrous encounter with the enemy at Isandlwana on the 22nd, he was last seen leading a party of twenty men, and was heard to say: “Come on, my lads! Follow me, and let us turn their flank.” He went out with this party towards the hills to the left of the position, and steadfastly performed his duty of serving out ammunition until the line retired on the camp.
Quartermaster Pullen was a well-conducted, intelligent soldier, most zealous in the performance of his duties. He was a good shot and keen sportsman too – attributes which, perhaps, contributed not a little to the popularity that he enjoyed amongst his brother officers and his men.

THE HONOURABLE
STANDISH WILLIAM PRENDERGAST VEREKER.

Standish William Prendergast Vereker, who was killed at Isandlwana on 22 January 1879, was the third son of the present Viscount Gort, by his marriage with Caroline Harriet, daughter of Viscount Gage.

He was born on 23 February 1854, and was educated at Westminster School and Worcester College, Oxford. From Oxford he proceeded to the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester, and subsequently spent two years studying agricultural work and collateral subjects under practical farmers, chiefly on Mr. Horner’s estate at Athelhampton, near Dorchester.

On 22 July 1878, he embarked for South Africa, and a month later arrived at Cape Town. Finding the war with the Pedi kingdom still in progress on the Transvaal frontier, he and some friends who had travelled with him (one of whom was Metcalfe Smith, the young militia officer, for saving whose life Major Leet received, subsequently, his Victoria Cross) proceeded by way of Natal to that district, and there joined the Frontier Light Horse, under Colonel Redvers Buller; with that force he served for the remaining weeks during which the operations against Sekhukhune were continued.

On the reorganisation of the army in view of the impending invasion of Zululand, Vereker received a commission in the 3rd, or Lonsdale’s Regiment of the Natal Native Contingent, a corps belonging to the Head-quarter Column, then in course of concentration on the Buffalo River. He subsequently took part in the advance of that force, in January 1879, into the enemy’s country, and was present at the storming of Shayo’s stronghold, in the Bathe Valley. He accompanied the column to Isandlwana, and in the disastrous encounter with the enemy at that position on the 22nd – just six months from the day of his embarkation from England – closed the brief span of his life with an act of heroic and characteristic generosity.

Captain Raw, of the Native Contingent, who was one of the few who survived the fatal day, and afterward did good work against the Zulus, was fighting by his side until resistance was rendered hopeless by the slaughter of almost all our force, and the precipitous drift leading towards the Mzinyathi offered mounted men the best chance of escape. Vereker had lost his horse, and his friend succeeded in catching one and bringing it to him. “He saw him a few seconds before the retreat,” runs the brief record. “He got him a horse, which a native claimed, and which poor Vereker refused to deprive him of; he thus deprived himself of all chance of escape.”

Four months afterwards Vereker’s body was found on the field of battle by Captain Viscount Downe, still unstripped, and was easily identified. At his hands it received a soldier’s sepulture.

A memorial tablet in the church at East Cowes, Isle of Wight, commemorates Lieutenant Vereker.

PETER SHEPHERD, M.B.
SURGEON-MAJOR.

Dr. Peter Shepherd, who was killed at Isandlwana on 22 January 1879, was the second son of the late Peter Shepherd, farmer, of Craigmill, Leochel Cushnie, Aberdeenshire. He was born 25 August 1841, at Craigmill, and received the rudiments of his education at the local school, under Mr. William McRobert; from thence he passed, in 1860, to the Grammar School and University, Aberdeen. He graduated in April 1863, and entered the army in the same year.

His first foreign service was at Durban, Natal, where he joined the 99th Foot as Assistant-Surgeon, and subsequently proceeded with it to Maritzburg and Graham’s Town. He accompanied the regiment on its return to England in 1869, but shortly afterwards, in consequence of a desire to see more foreign service, exchanged from it and proceeded to India. He was next gazetted to the 4th Hussars, and continued with that regiment until 1873, when, on regimental appointments being abolished, he was transferred for duty to the 5th Lancers: in January 1874, he returned with that regiment to England.

For the next four years Dr. Shepherd did duty at Woolwich; in September 1876, he obtained his majority; early in 1878 he was detailed, by the War Office, Examiner to the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, with the ambulance classes of which he did much important work.

In November 1878, Dr. Shepherd was again sent out to Natal: on arriving, he was attached to the 24th Regiment, and subsequently took part with it in the advance of Glyn’s column, to which it belonged, into Zululand. In the disastrous encounter with the enemy that took place at Isandlwana on 22 January 1879, he shared the fate of the eight hundred of his countrymen who fell. The following is the sad history of his death, as related by an eyewitness, Mr. Muirhead, of the Natal Carbineers:

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"As we were riding for our lives, the Zulus pursuing us, my companion, a trooper named Kelly, staggered in his saddle, evidently hit with an assegai. I stopped my horse to see what was the matter, and tried to support him, but could not, and had to lift him off on to the ground.

"At that moment Dr. Shepherd came galloping past. I called out to him, and he dismounted to examine poor Kelly. After carefully examining him, he said: 'Ah, poor fellow! too late, too late!' I had just mounted my horse, and Dr. Shepherd was in the act of putting his foot into the stirrup, when he was struck fatally with an assegai."

Dr. Shepherd was an officer devoted to his profession; distinguished for a skill and tenderness even in that branch of the service to which he belonged. His friends and brother officers have resolved to perpetuate his memory by presenting to the Senatus of the Aberdeen University a gold medal for Surgery, to be called the "Shepherd Memorial Medal," to be given annually at the graduation to the student who shall excel in the principles and practice of Surgery. A marble tablet was erected to his memory in the parish church of Leochel Cushnie, and he is remembered on the family memorial in the churchyard. It is, perhaps, worthy of record that his last act prior to leaving England was to present to the Order of St. John, of which he was an honorary associate, the copyright on an ably written little handbook, compiled by him for the express use of the ambulance classes.

ARTHUR WILLIAM HALL,
LIEUTENANT OF ORDERLIES, ARMY HOSPITAL CORPS.

Lieutenant of Orderlies Arthur William Hall was the second son of Mr. Joshua Hall, coachbuilder, of Norwich, and was born 20 August 1841. He was educated at the Blue-Coat School of his native town, and afterwards, for a time, served at his father’s trade. He joined the ranks on 18 August 1858, enlisting in the 34th Regiment—in which corps he did good and faithful service, at home and in India, for a period of fifteen years.

His character and position are well attested by the following record of promotions—viz., to Corporal on 7 June 1860; to Sergeant on 14 April 1864; and to Hospital Sergeant on 31 October 1867; the latter most important appointment being held by him for a period of nearly six years, and up to the date of his transfer to the Army Hospital Corps, on the substitution of the present hospital system for that previously existing in the army.

Sergeant A.W. Hall was transferred to the Army Hospital on 13 July 1873, retaining his rank on transfer. He was subsequently promoted Colour-Sergeant on 23 August 1876, and was gazetted to Commissioned rank on 8 June 1877. On 1 May 1877, he was awarded the silver medal and gratuity for long service and meritorious conduct.

Lieutenant of Orderlies A.W. Hall continued to serve at the headquarters of the Army Hospital Corps until 30 July 1878, when he embarked for service in South Africa with a detachment of his regiment. On arrival at the Cape, he was without delay detailed for duty at the front, and served with Colonel Glyn’s column, then concentrating at Helpmekaar. He accompanied that force on its advance into the enemy’s country, sharing its perils and hardships, and rendering important service as officer in charge of stores and equipment; supervising the welfare, comfort, and safety of the soldier rendered helpless by sickness or wounds. He thus continued to perform his duties until the fatal day at Isandlwana, where he died with other brave officers and soldiers—died vainly fighting for life, but not in vain for honour or for country.

THE COASTAL COLUMN;
Nyezane, Eshowe and Gingindlovu

The defeat at Isandlwana effectively destroyed Lord Chelmsford’s Centre Column. Nevertheless, the two flanking columns were still operating inside Zululand. The Coastal Column, under the command of Colonel Charles Pearson, had crossed the Thukela at the Lower Drift. Its objectives were to occupy the deserted Norwegian mission at Eshowe and to establish a supply depot there. Pearson’s advance was carried out in the face of adverse weather conditions, hot days and sudden heavy downpours, which turned every stream into a formidable obstacle. The Zulu defence on this sector was in the hands of men living in local homesteads, reinforced by a contingent from Ulundi under the command of Chief Godide kaNdlela.

Godide’s men hoped to attack Pearson near kwaGingindlovu, but found that he had already advanced beyond it. Godide fell back to the heights above the Nyezane River. Early on 22 January—just a few hours before the attack on Isandlwana—as Pearson’s column began to cross the Nyezane, his scouts blundered into Godide’s ambush on the slopes of Wombane hill. As at Isandlwana, the Zulus immediately attacked. The Zulu left horn rushed out to attack Pearson’s column as they crossed the river, and Pearson was forced to throw out a line to protect his wagons. The British fire was so heavy—the Gatling machine-gun was used by the British in action for the first time at Nyezane—and the numerical superiority of the Zulus too small, with the result that the
warriors were not able to close with their enemy. After about 90 minutes they retired, leaving 600 dead on the field. The British casualties, 12 dead, were buried by the side of the road.

Pearson occupied Eshowe the following day. It had been intended as a temporary halt, until messengers arrived from Lord Chelmsford bearing the terrible news of Isandlwana. Reluctant to retreat, but feeling unable to advance, Pearson decided to fortify the position. His men hastily constructed an impressive earthwork around the mission buildings, and waited for the war to turn in their favour. Once the shock of the losses at Isandlwana and Nyezane had worn off, King Cetshwayo was greatly irritated that Pearson had taken up a position inside Zululand, as if it was already conquered. The king forbade his men to attack the post directly, but instead large numbers of Zulus camped in the valleys around the post, and daily-harassed British patrols thus making it impossible for them to stray far from their entrenchments. Life within the fort became increasingly unpleasant as the conditions became cramped and insanitary. Men slept on the wet ground at night, and food supplies ran short. Cut off from the nearest garrisons at the Thukela, Pearson’s men tried desperately to improvise a means of opening a communication with the outside world.

Towards the end of March Lord Chelmsford had assembled a column of reinforcements in order to march to Pearson’s relief. On the 29th he crossed the Thukela, and by 1st April he had reached a low rise near the ruins of the Gingindlovu ikhanda. The relaxed attitude of the early days of the war had given way to rigorous precautions and Chelmsford protected his bivouac by a wagon-laager and entrenchment. During the night, Zulu forces moved down from the hills around Eshowe and into the Nyezane valley. At dawn the following morning they moved out to attack. The Zulu attacks were bravely executed, but could make little headway in the teeth of terrible British firepower. The attacks collapsed close to the British lines, and the British mounted men chased them from the field. The following day Chelmsford marched to relieve the garrison at Eshowe. They had been under siege for 72 days, and had lost 31 men, mostly through disease. They had achieved little by it, for Chelmsford ordered his troops to retire back to more secure positions near the coast.

HERBERT JOHN MAINWARING WILLIAMS,
CAPTAIN, 3rd REGIMENT (THE BUFFS).

Captain Herbert John Mainwaring Williams, who died at Eshowe on 12 March 1879, was the second son of the Rev. Richard Williams, J.P., Rector of Roggiett with Llanvihangel Roggiett, Monmouthshire, his mother being the eldest daughter of Ambrose Philips Mainwaring, Esquire, of Chambers Court, Worcestershire. He was born at Leamington 28 September 1838, and was educated at Cheltenham, and by a private tutor. Obtaining his commission without purchase, he entered the army in 1859, being gazetted to an ensigncy in the 2nd Battalion of the 4th Regiment (King’s Own). He served with that corps at Corfu, at Malta, and in Canada, from whence he returned to England in 1867. In 1871 he retired on temporary half-pay.

Captain Williams was brought in again to serve in September 1877, joining the 41st Regiment (The Welsh). Being desirous to see more foreign service, and hoping to be enabled to take part in the Cape Frontier War, then in progress in South Africa, he exchanged, in August 1878, into the 2nd Battalion of the “Buff.” Before he arrived at the Cape, however, his regiment had been ordered to join the force which, with a view to the impending invasion of Zululand, was being massed on the Natal frontier. Joining his battalion at the Lower Thukela Drift, on the 2nd of December he proceeded with Colonel Pearson’s column, to which his regiment was attached, on its advance into Zululand on the 12th of January 1879. He was present at the battle of Nyezane on the morning of the 22nd, and marched into Eshowe on the following day. In the long and anxious time which succeeded the arrival of the column at this position, throughout the wearisome routine which fell to the lot of the beleaguered force, Captain Williams, though in indifferent health, pre-eminently distinguished himself by his kindly ways and cheerful demeanour. Enfeebled by exposure, and without medical necessaries, he was unable to rally against the fever with which he was stricken, and died while heliographic messages were being flashed to the garrison by the force preparing for its relief.

Captain Williams was a thorough soldier and a general favourite; ready to undergo any fatigue or hardship, self-sacrificing to a degree: he was a keen sportsman too, and readers of the “Field” will miss with regret the graphic accounts of his shooting expeditions in Canada and other quarters of the globe which he was in the habit of contributing to the pages of that Journal.

Captain Williams married, in February 1871, Wilhelmina, daughter of Thomas Brittain, Esquire, of Chester.

Captain Williams is commemorated on a memorial lectern at his father’s church at Llanfihangel, Roggiet, Gwent.
GEORGE ROWLEY JOHN EVELYN
SECOND LIEUTENANT, 3RD REGIMENT (THE BUFFS).

Second Lieutenant George Rowley John Evelyn, who died at Eshowe on 30th March 1879, was the eldest son of Colonel George P. Evelyn, of Hartley Manor, Dartford, Kent, by his marriage with Esther Emilene, daughter of Lewis Phillips, Esq., and grand-daughter of the Rev. Phillip Phillips, of Frankfort-on-the-Maine. He was born in London on 12August 1857, and was educated at the East Sheen School under Mr. Waterfield’s head-mastership, and at Mr. Brackenbury’s at Wimbledon; he also went through a course of instruction at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester. In 1875 he obtained a commission in the Royal Surrey Militia, and on the 24th of November 1877, was gazetted a second lieutenant in the “Buffs.”

Leaving England on 26 January 1878, he joined his regiment in Natal. After being for a few months with the head-quarters at Maritzburg, he was detailed to join the detachment then stationed at Mauritius: shortly after his arrival in the island, however, the detachment was ordered to rejoin the head-quarters, and he accompanied it back to Natal.

On arriving at Durban, Second Lieutenant Evelyn at once proceeded, with his company, to join Colonel Pearson’s column, which was then in course of formation on the Lower Thukela, and subsequently took part in the advance of that force into Zululand. He was present at the battle of Nyezane on the morning of 22 January and, on the following day, marched with his company into Eshowe. He served in the defence of that position until nearly the end of February when the fever and dysentery from which he had been for some days suffering mastered him, and he was obliged to go on the sick list. Without medicine or medical comforts, and with barely the necessaries of life, his recovery was hopeless; and he died on the evening of 30 March. He was buried on the following day in the small cemetery outside the fort. A wooden monument was erected at the head of his grave by the men of his company, by whom he was much beloved; and an inscription was cut in it by three officers of the regiment, who, in spite of hard duty, found time during the few remaining days of the siege to show this mark of esteem for their late comrade.

Second Lieutenant Evelyn was a very promising young officer, and devoted to his profession; fond of all field sports, in which he excelled; a bold rider; a skilful draughtsmen. He had endeared himself to all with whom, during his brief life, he had come in contact.

He is commemorated on an impressive memorial tablet at Wooton Parish Church, Surrey, which mentions his death under “the beleaguerment of the hostile Zulus”.

FRANCIS VERNON NORTHEY
LIEUTENANT COLONEL, 60TH RIFLES.

Lieutenant-Colonel Francis Vernon Northey, whose death, on 6th April 1879, was caused by a bullet-wound received in the battle of Gingindlovu, was the youngest surviving son of the late Edward Richard Northey, Esquire, of Woodcote House, Epsom, Surrey, by his marriage with Charlotte Isabella, second daughter of the late General Sir George Anson, M.P., K.C.B., niece of Viscount Anson, and first cousin of the first Earl of Lichfield. He was born in 1836, and was educated at Eton. Entering the army in March 1855, he was gazetted to an ensigncy in the 60th Rifles; and after serving at various stations in Great Britain, embarked with that regiment for India. He served throughout the Oude campaign of 1858, being present at the capture of Fort Mittowlie and the action of Biswah, for which he was granted a medal. He also served in the Red River expedition of 1870, under Sir Garnet Wolseley, and gained a brevet-majority for the manner in which he performed his arduous and important duties.

On the news of the disaster at Isandlwana reaching England, the 3rd Battalion of the 60th Rifles received orders to embark immediately for South Africa. Landing at Durban in the third week in March 1879, Lieutenant-Colonel Northey at once proceeded with his battalion to the front to join the Eshowe relieving column, then in course of formation on the Lower Thukela, and took part in the subsequent advance of that force into Zululand. In the action that ensued on the morning 2nd April at Gingindlovu, the 60th Rifles held the front face of the laager, and bore the brunt of the first desperate onslaught of the enemy. Lieutenant-Colonel Northey fell mortally wounded at the head of his battalion, shot through the shoulder, and, though treated with surgical skill, expired on the fourth day after the battle.

In the death of Lieutenant-Colonel Northey the country lost a most valuable officer. He was devoted to his profession, and in him were combined in a high degree the best qualities of an English soldier with a thorough knowledge of his work. Throughout the four battalions of his regiment he was loved and respected by officers and men alike. Strict, firm, and exceedingly just in all matter of discipline, he was ever ready with a word of sympathy and encouragement for any one who needed it, and by his gentle courtesy and kindly bearing he endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact. Fond of all manly sports, he was an excellent cricketer, having been captain of the Eton Eleven in 1854; he kept up his play to the last, and was well known in the army as one of the best captains of a team.
Lieutenant-Colonel Northey married, in 1869, Charlotte, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Gzowski, of Toronto, Canada, then A.D.C. to Her Majesty.

Lieutenant-Colonel Northey was originally buried at Gingindlovu, but his body was later exhumed at returned to the UK. He was interred in Epsom Cemetery on 9 December 1979, and is commemorated by a memorial plaque inside the church.

ARTHUR STEWART FIELINGEYDAVISON
LIEUT. AND ADJUTANT, 99TH REGIMENT (DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S)

Lieutenant and Adjutant Arthur Stewart Fielding Davison, who died at Eshowe on 27th March 1879, was the third son of Captain Davison, of Sedgefield, Durham, and of South Stoneham House, Hampshire, by his marriage with Louisa, daughter of T. Chambers, Esq., of Sheerness, Kent. He was born on 22 May 1856, and was educated at Harrow; leaving the school in 1873, he proceeded to Captain Massy's, at Croydon, to read for the Army Examination. He entered Sandhurst in 1874, and, passing out with a first class certificate, was gazetted to a Lieutenant in the 99th Foot; his commission being antedated a year in consequence of his success at the college. Joining the regiment at the Curragh, he served with it at that station, at Kilkenney, at Templemore, and at Chatham, passing most creditably, in the meantime, through a course of garrison instruction, and coming out from the School of Musketry at Hythe with a first-class certificate. In November 1878, while at Chatham, he received the appointment of Adjutant.

In December 1878, the 99th Regiment was ordered out to Natal, to join the force then being prepared to act against the Zulus in the event of their refusing to comply with the terms of Sir Bartle Frere’s ultimatum. Disembarking at Durban, Lieutenant Davison proceeded with the regiment to the Lower Thukela Drift, and took part in the subsequent advance of Colonel Pearson’s Column, in January 1879, into the enemy’s country. The last letter received from him by his family was one written in excellent spirits from Cape Town, bearing date 3 January. He was present at the battle of Nyezane on the morning of the 22nd, and at the subsequent occupation of Eshowe. In the protracted waiting-time, which succeeded the arrival of the column at that position, throughout the wearisome routine that fell to the lot of the beleaguered force, he distinguished himself by the gaiety of his spirits and by his thoughtfulness for others. The constant exposure to which the garrison was subjected proved, however, too much for his strength, and early in March he was stricken with typhoid fever; from the first days of his illness he continued to grow weaker and weaker, and eventually died just a week before the besieged garrison was relieved.

In a letter to Captain Davison, bearing date 10th April 1879, Colonel Welman wrote: “In your son we have lost a brave and skilful officer. He was a general favourite in the regiment.”

Lieutenant Davison is commemorated on the ‘South Africa 1879-80-81’ memorial in the Sandhurst Chapel.

GEORGE CHARLES JEFFERYES JOHNSON
LIEUTENANT, 99TH REGIMENT (DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S)

Lieutenant George Charles Jefferyes Johnson, who was killed in action at Gingindlovu on 2nd April 1879, was the second son of William Johnson, of Vosterberg, in the county of Cork, Esq., Deputy-Lieutenant of the county, High Sheriff in 1861, and a magistrate for both the city and county. He was born on 25th April 1850, at Woodlands, near Cork, and was educated at Cheltenham College. Leaving Cheltenham in August 1868, he proceeded to Northgrove House, Southsea, to read for the Army Examination, and subsequently taking a high place in the list of successful competitors, was appointed, in February 1872, to the 97th Regiment. Proceeding at once to Sandhurst, he applied himself zealously to the prosecution of his studies, and, passing out from the college at the end of the year obtained a first-class certificate. Joining the 99th Regiment - into which he had been exchanged while at Sandhurst – at Shorncliffe, he served with it at that station, at Fort George, at the Curragh, at Templemore, and at Chatham, passing most creditably, in the interval, through a course of garrison instruction, and coming out from the School of Musketry at Hythe with a first-class certificate. In February 1874, he succeeded to his Lieutenancy, his commission being antedated in consequence of his success at Sandhurst. While at Chatham he was appointed Instructor of Musketry to the regiment – an appointment that he held till the time of his death.

In December 1878, Lieutenant Johnson embarked with the regiment for Natal, and, arriving at Durban, immediately proceeded with it to the Lower Thukela Drift, to join the force then being concentrated there with a
view to the impending breaking-out of hostilities with the Zulus. He took part in the advance of Colonel Pearson’s column of the army of invasion, in January 1879, into the enemy’s country, and was present at the battle of Nyezane of the 22nd (when his colour-sergeant was shot by his side), and at the subsequent occupation of Eshowe. He returned to the Lower Thukela on the 29th, and being soon afterwards the senior officer present at Fort Pearson, commanded at that station for a period of six weeks, the garrison consisting of his own company of the 99th, a party of engineers, a detachment of artillery with two guns, and some native troops. His appearance was so extremely youthful as to attract the attention of Lord Chelmsford at this time, and to elicit an inquiry as to what service he might have seen.

On the formation of the Eshowe Relieving Column, Lieutenant Johnson was attached, with five companies of his regiment, to the 1st Brigade, and took part, in the last days of the march in the advance of the column to Gingindlovu. His captain having been promoted, he was in command of his company, which, on the night 1st April formed one of the outlying picquets, and which, being fired on by the enemy at earliest dawn on the morning of the 2nd, carried in to the column the intelligence that the Zulus were advancing to the attack. No sooner had the scouts and picquets entered the larger than the enemy commenced their desperate onslaught. Lieutenant Johnson, being a skilful marksman, had taken a rifle from the hand of one of the men for the purpose of firing at a concealed Zulu who was doing much mischief. An officer of the 99th Regiment, who was lying at his side, reports that “he was fighting manfully, as if he were at Rorke’s Drift fighting for his life.” He had fired the rifle several times, when, suddenly placing his hand to his breast, he exclaimed, “I am shot!” and, sinking to the ground instantly became insensible. He was at once removed to the hospital tent, and there, after the lapse of some ten minutes, during which he remained, apparently, still unconscious, his young life passed away.

Lieutenant Johnson was the life and soul of his regiment, which, as one of his superior officers declared, could have better spared an older man. “The 99th are proud of him,” wrote one of his comrades, interpreting the sentiment of all. In addition to his being a thorough soldier, he was an accomplished gentleman, a keen sportsman, and a very straight rider to hounds. The family to which he belonged is one of the oldest in Cork, having been located in the county for very many generations. One of his ancestors was Governor of Cork in the troubled period of the last century; and another, Lieutenant-Colonel Noble Johnson, of the 87th Royal Irish Fusiliers, was killed in action at Monte Video in 1805.

Lieutenant Johnson is commemorated on the ‘South Africa 1879-80-81’ memorial in the Sandhurst Chapel.

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**LEWIS CADWALLADER COKER**
**MIDSHIPMAN, ROYAL NAVY.**

Midshipman Lewis Cadwallader Coker, who died at Eshowe on 16th March 1879, was the youngest son of the Rev. Cadwallader and Emily Harriet Coker. He was born on 20 May 1860, at Shalstone Rectory, Bucks, and having commenced his education at Rugby (from whence he proceeded to Southsea) entered, in August 1872, the training-ship “Britannia.” His career on that vessel was a bright one: vigorous in health, popular among his comrades, applying the same ardent zeal to his work which he applied to his play, he passed through the various grades of school-office, and eventually attained the rank of chief captain on board. From the “Britannia,” he proceeded, in 1874, to the “Invincible,” in which he served during 1875 and 1876; and from the “Tourmaline,” to the “Active,” in which he served from 1876 to the end of 1878. Early in the latter year the “Active” was ordered to African waters, and was cruising in St. Simon’s Bay at the time of the massing of Lord Chelmsford’s forces on the Natal and Transvaal frontiers preparatory to the impending invasion of Zululand.

Midshipman Coker was selected to form one of that gallant Naval Brigade which was landed at Durban in November and placed at that General’s disposition by Commodore Sullivan, the officer commanding on the station. He proceeded with it immediately to the front to join Colonel Pearson’s column, then in course of formation on the Lower Thukela. Taking part in the subsequent advance of that force into Zululand, in January 1879, he was present at the battle of Nyezane on the morning of the 22nd. During the advance of the column from camp he was in command of the Gatling gun, and in a despatch written after the engagement – the first, it is believed, ever penned by a midshipman as a commanding officer – he related how he brought it into action, paying his tribute at the end of communication, in due course, to the steady behaviour of his men under fire. “Mr. L. Coker, midshipman, under considerable difficulties, brought his gun into action with promptitude, gallantry, and skill,” wrote Commodore Sullivan from the “Active,” in his official account of the affair, “and I learn from reliable sources did considerable execution with the Gatling under his charge.” The enemy repulsed, he marched in charge of his gun with the column into Eshowe, and formed one of the beleaguered garrison which so tenaciously, and for so long, held that strategically important position. There is something touching, viewed in the light of after events, in the devotion he displayed, throughout the siege, to the object of his charge.
“Coker thought that he should be always near his gun, and ready for action,” wrote Captain Pelly Clarke, Brigade Major at Eshowe, telling of how it was the lad’s habit to sleep through the night in the open air, for the sole reason that he might be close to it. The constant exposure proved too much, however, even for his hardy young frame, and in the early days of March he was stricken with dysentery: owing, to some extent, to the paucity of medical necessaries, and in spite of the tender care lavished on him by Dr. Norbury, of H.M.S. “Active,” and his comrade, he gradually grew weaker, and when the month was barely half spent, breather his last. “Humanly speaking, his life would have been spared had he not sacrificed himself to a sense of duty,” wrote General Pearson; and Sir Evelyn Wood, speaking at a banquet given in his honour at Chelmsford, after his return home, used the following words with reference to him: “You have all heard of the hard work they did in bridging over the Thukela, and of their determined conduct at the Nyezane and at Eshowe,” he said, in allusion to the service of the Naval Brigade. “but you have probably not heard of their patience in sickness, the brightest example, perhaps, of this English-like trait being Mr. Coker, who rest, alas! in the graveyard at Eshowe.”

The character young Coker earned himself in the gallant service to which he belonged is aptly summarised in the words of Commodore Sullivan, who, writing from the “Active” immediately after the receipt of the news of his death, paid the following tribute to his memory:

“I can hardly express adequately my poignant regret at losing so fine and promising a young officer. His manly, generous, and open character won the affection and esteem of all on board, from myself down to the youngest boy in the ship. Ever ready for any work, his zeal, combined with marvellous sweetness of temper, entire devotion to his duty, and utter abnegation of self, commanded the love, respect, and admiration of all with whom he came in contact. I only express the general feeling when I say that his loss is deplored by every officer and man in the ship, and by none more than myself.”

Midshipman Coker is commemorated on a memorial headstone in the church at Fringford, Oxfordshire (his father’s later parish), and is commemorated on a brass plaque below the family memorial inside the church.

THE NORTHERN COLUMN;
Hlobane and Khambula

In the weeks after Isandlwana, King Cetshwayo attempted to open negotiations with the British, hoping to bring the war to a negotiated settlement. Yet the disaster had hardened British attitudes, and Lord Chelmsford was determined to revenge his losses. Reinforcements were dispatched to Durban from around the British Empire, and, by the end of March the British were preparing to go onto the offensive. This was all too apparent to the Zulu royal council, who re-assembled the Zulu army in mid-March.

While Pearson’s column was neutralised at Eshowe, the remaining British column, Colonel Wood’s Northern Column had been engaged in constant raiding from its base at Khambula, near present-day Vryheid. Indeed, there had been a number of skirmishes in the north, and on 12 March local elements under the command of the Swazi prince, Mbilini, had over-run a stranded supply convoy of the 80th Regiment at the Ntombe river. Cetshwayo’s response to all this British activity was to reinforce his men in the coastal sector and launch his main army against Colonel Wood, hoping to pre-empt the threatened British offensive.

On 28th March, prompted by a request from Lord Chelmsford to mount diversionary attacks along the border, Colonel Wood led a raid on Hlobane mountain, a flat-topped plateau that was the stronghold of the abaQulusi, a section of the Zulu Royal House. The raid was ill planned and the abaQulusi succeeded in scattering the British forces. Simultaneously, the main Zulu army arrived in the area and turned the British retreat into a rout. The debacle at Hlobane alerted Colonel Wood to the Zulu presence, however, and allowed him to prepare his camp for defence. The British position was protected by two fortified laagers and an earthwork redoubt The Zulu army attacked Khambula throughout the afternoon of 29 March. The Zulus were unable to drive the British out but when they began to retire, Wood sent his mounted men to drive them off; the Zulu army collapsed in the face of a ruthless pursuit. As many as 2,000 Zulus were killed altogether, for the loss of just three officers and 25 men killed on the British side. The battle of Khambula would prove a turning point in the war. For the first time the Zulu army which had triumphed at Isandlwana had been checked, while the series of British reverses had been halted. Moreover, it was compounded by a further Zulu defeat at Gingindlovu, a few days later at the other end of the country.
In Memoriam

FREDERICK NICOLSON
LIEUTENANT, ROYAL ARTILLERY.

Lieutenant Frederick Nicolson, who died at Khambula, on 30th March 1879, from wounds received in action on the previous day, was the eldest son of Admiral Sir Frederick Nicolson, Bart., C.B., by his marriage with Clementina, daughter of the late James Loch, Esquire, M.P. He was born on 16 June 1848, and was educated at the Rev. J.M. Brackenbury’s school, at Wimbledon. In July 1866, he competed in the examination for admission into the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, and passed fifth out of a large number of candidates. On leaving the Academy at the end of his course, he elected to serve in the Artillery, and was gazetted to that regiment on the 13th of January 1869.

After serving for a few months at Woolwich, chiefly in the Riding Establishment, Lieutenant Nicolson sailed for Bombay, in November 1869, to join the D Battery of the 16th Brigade of Field Artillery. With this battery he served for about four years in India, and continued with it for some months after its return to England. In September 1874, he was appointed to the Horse Artillery, and served in the Riding Establishment at Woolwich until, two years later, he was transferred to the Chestnut Troop.

In April 1878, subalterns of Artillery were required for special service in South Africa, and a call was made from the Horse Guards for volunteers. Out of the large number of applicants who sent in their names, three were selected—Lieutenant Nicolson, Bigge, and Slade. On the arrival of these officers at the Cape, Lieutenant Nicolson was ordered to Natal, and thence to the Transvaal, where, in command of two seven-pounders, he took part in the expedition against Sekhukhune under Colonel Rowlands, VC. Through his exertions, the equipment and organisation of his guns, which were manned by artillerymen and men of the 80th Regiment, had been brought to a high state of efficiency, enabling them either to be carried on mule-back or drawn on wheels.

On the amalgamation of the two northern columns, shortly after the outbreak of the Zulu war, Lieutenant Nicolson joined Colonel Wood’s force, near Utrecht. This force formed an entrenched camp at Khambula, which was attacked by a large Zulu army for five hours on 29th March 1879. While directing the fire of his guns from the parapet of Major Leet’s redoubt, which was detached from the camp, Lieutenant Nicolson received the wound from the effects of which he died on the following day.

To the manner in which Lieutenant Nicolson did his duty until he fell, Colonel Wood’s despatch bears witness. The high estimation in which he was held by all who knew him is fitly expressed in a notice which appeared in “The Times” of 24th April 1879: “Many will be ready to testify that among the gallant men whose loss we are now deploring there was not one of more conspicuous bravery, of more untiring energy and devotion to duty, than Lieutenant Nicolson”.

Lieutenant Nicolson is commemorated on a marbled tile memorial in Kensington Church, London.

THE HON. RONALD GEORGE ELIDOR CAMPBELL
CAPTAIN, COLDSTREAM GUARDS.

Captain Ronald George Elidor Campbell, who was killed in action on the Hlobane Mountain 28th March 1879, was the second son of the Earl of Cawdor, by his marriage with Sarah Mary, second daughter of Lieutenant-General Cavendish. He was born on December 30th, 1848, and was educated at Eton. He entered the army in 1867, being gazetted to the Coldstream Guards as ensign on 25 December. In 1871 he became lieutenant and captain, and on 19 August in the same year was appointed adjutant, which appointment he held until October 1878.

Captain Campbell embarked for South Africa in November 1878 and on arriving there was appointed staff officer to Colonel Wood, whose column was at that time in course of formation on the Transvaal frontier, preparatory to the invasion of Zululand. Crossing the Blood River with this force on 6 January 1879, Captain Campbell was present throughout its various operations during the two months following, accompanying Colonel Wood, in his capacity of staff officer. On the morning of 28 March he took part in the attack on the Hlobane Mountain, and fell, gallantly fighting, in the assault. The following passage, taken from Colonel Wood’s despatch to Lord Chelmsford, describes the manner in which he met his death:

“We soon came under fire from an unseen enemy on our right, Ascending more rapidly than most of the Border Horse, who had got off the track, with my staff and escort I passed to the front, and, with half-a-dozen of
the Border Horse, when within a hundred feet of the summit, came under a well-directed fire from our front and both flanks, poured in from behind huge boulders and rocks. Mr. Lloyd fell mortally wounded at my side, and as Captain Campbell and one other escort were carrying him on a ledge rather lower, my horse was killed, falling on me. I directed Colonel Weatherley to dislodge one or two Zulus who were causing us most of the loss; but, as his men did not advance rapidly, Captain Campbell and Lieutenant Lysons, and three men of the 90th, jumping over a low wall, ran forward, and charged into a cave, when Captain Campbell, leading in the most determined and gallant manner, was shot dead...Mr. Lloyd was now dead, and we brought his body, and that of Captain Campbell, about half-way down the hill, where we buried them, still being under fire.”

In another of his official despatches Colonel Wood wrote of Captain Campbell: “He was an excellent staff officer, both in the field and as regards office work; and having shown the most brilliant courage, lost his life in performing a gallant feat.” Again, in a private letter, bearing date 29th January Colonel Wood wrote: “I never saw a man play a more heroic part that he did yesterday.”

Captain Campbell married, in 1872, Katherine, daughter of Bishop Claughton, Bishop of St. Albans.

Captain Campbell is commemorated in a marble memorial in Cawdor Kirk, raised to him by the Cawdor Estate Tenantry, and another at Stackpole Parish Church, Pembrokeshire, Wales, on the Campbell Welsh estates.

In May 1880 Katherine Campbell accompanied the Empress Eugénie’s pilgrimage to Zululand, during which a memorial cross was raised on Campbell’s grave on the slopes of Hlobane.

ROBERT JOHNSTON BARTON
CAPTAIN, COLDSTREAM GUARDS.

Captain Robert Johnston Barton, who was killed in action at the base of the Hlobane Mountain, on 28th March 1879, was the fourth son of the late T.J. Barton, Esquire, and D.L., of Glendalough, County Wicklow. He was born in Dublin, on 20th February 1849, and was brought up at first for the navy, passing through the prescribed course on board the “Britannia.” On leaving the training-ship he did not, however, enter the service, but continued his education at the Blackheath Proprietary School, from whence, after a few years, he proceeded to Sandhurst. On 14 September 1866, he obtained a commission in the 9th Lancers, then quartered at the Island Bridge Barracks, Dublin; was gazetted lieutenant on 2 May 1868; obtained his company on the 26th of March 1873; and in the following December exchanged into the Coldstream Guards. He was for four years aide-de-camp to the late Lieutenant-General Sir Hope Grant, while that distinguished officer was in command of the Aldershot Division, and was on terms of the closest intimacy with him until his death.

In February 1878, Captain Barton volunteered for the Cape Frontier campaign, then in progress, and was on the point of embarking for South Africa when permission was refused him in consequence of European complications. In the following May Lord Chelmsford applied for more officers to be sent out, mentioning, him, among others, by name: he again volunteered, and being one of those selected by the authorities at the Horse Guards, left England on the last day of the month. On arriving at Cape Town he was immediately appointed second in command of the Frontier Light Horse, which then consisted of 200 men; and from the say of his appointment to that of his death was the right-hand man of their gallant commander, Colonel Buller, VC.

In the various operations of his incessantly active corps throughout the earlier phases of the Zulu war, Captain Barton performed much distinguished service, being repeatedly marked out for special commendation in despatches. In the attack on the Hlobane, immediately after the summit of the mountain was carried, he was detached with thirty men to bury the body of an officer killed in the assault. Shortly afterwards an immense Zulu army crossed the flat to cut off the retreat of the main body of the column. Joined by about fifty-four of the Border Horse, Captain Barton and his party attempted to cut through the 20,000 men opposed to them, but failed, and beset by the enemy, the survivors lost most of their horses. Captain Barton, however, still mounted, with a few others, managed to make his way through the encircling horde and reach the flats, whence he might have made his escape had he not been to chivalrous to ride on while dismounted men were being assegiaed: though his horse was knocked up, and though he was warned of the danger he was incurring, he continued to carry a man whom he had taken up and place behind him, and was last seen alive so doing.

Captain Barton was a universal favourite, and his ultimately death caused the greatest grief in his regiment. On the 23rd of April the following regimental order was made: - “The commanding officer wished to express the sorrow which he and all ranks must have felt a hearing the loss the regiment has sustained by the deaths of Captains Campbell and Barton, killed in action at the Cape in the performance of that duty for which they had so gallantly volunteered. All who knew them are aware of their merits, and it is superfluous for the commanding officer to say how well they performed their professional duties, and how popular they were in the regiment.” Colonel Evelyn Wood in his despatch from Khambula, bearing date 30th March wrote: - “Captain Barton, commanding the Frontier light Horse, was always most forward in every fight, and was a humane as he
was brave. On the 20th of January one of Umsabe’s men, whom Captain Barton wished to take prisoner, fired at Captain Barton within two yards, the powder marking his face. When last seen on the 28th he was carrying on his horse a wounded man.” Colonel Buller, in his official account of the engagement, wrote: - “Captain Barton is also a great loss; active, energetic, and intrepid, he was an excellent officer, and devoted to his profession.” In a private letter, too, he briefly summarises the characteristics of his late comrade in the following words: “A more perfect gentleman, a more generous man, a braver soldier it has never been my lot to know.”

Captain Barton is commemorated on the ‘South Africa 1879-80-81’ memorial in the Sandhurst Chapel.

CECIL CHARLES WILLIAMS
LIEUTENANT, 58TH REGIMENT (RUTLANDSHIRE).

Lieutenant Cecil Charles Williams, who was killed in the retreat from the Hlobane Mountain, on 28th March 1879, was the third son of the late John Williams, Esquire, of the Cedars, Didsbury, Manchester. He was born on 28 July 1855, and was educated at Dr. Brackenbury’s Military School, at Wimbledon. Passing the examination for direct appointment in 1873, he was gazetted, in August to a lieutenancy in the 58th Regiment, then in India. He was sent temporarily to the 23rd Welsh Fusiliers, at Aldershot, where he remained until the 58th returned, when joining it at Portsmouth, he proceeded with it to Aldershot, and thence to Dover. While the regiment was quartered at that town he passed creditably through a course of musketry instruction at Hythe.

On preparations for the invasion of Zululand being hurried forward at the latter end of 1878, Lieutenant Williams succeeded in obtaining orders to proceed to South Africa. Leaving the regiment at Dover, he embarked for the Cape, from whence, after arriving, he proceeded to Natal and the Transvaal. He joined Colonel Wood’s column at Utrecht, and there remained for a time actively employed in discharging duties connected with the transport service. On 7th February 1879, he was nominated staff officer to Major W. Knox Leet, commandant of Wood’s Irregulars. Throughout the remainder of the month and during March he saw much service, accompanying his corps in the constantly recurring reconnaissances in which it was employed with the Mounted Volunteers, and winning golden opinions by the able manner in which he discharged the duties which fell to his lot. Colonel Buller, in a despatch to Lord Chelmsford reporting the operations in the Ntombe Valley, wrote: - “Wood’s Irregulars fought well, owing much, I think, to the admirable way in which they were led by Major Leet, Lieutenant Williams, and Captain Hook.”

On 28th March Colonel Wood, carrying out Lord Chelmsford’s instructions to cause a diversion of the enemy’s attention from the Hlobane Mountain, on the morning of the 27th, Lieutenant Williams marched with it across the Zungwini hills, where it was joined by a force under Colonel Buller destined to ascend the eastern acclivity of the mountain. With this force the 2nd Battalion of the corps advanced, but Lieutenant Williams, in consequence of his intimate knowledge of the country, was left with the 1st Battalion and Prince Hamu Zulu’s men to act as a guide to a second body, under Lieutenant-Colonel Russell, of the 12th Lancers, shortly expected from Khambula. This force advanced at daybreak on the 28th, and succeeded in occupying the lower of the two eminences, which together form the Hlobane Mountain. While Hamu’s men, who were attached to the Irregulars, were proceeding with a large capture of cattle, in accordance with an order received, towards the Zungwini nek, their flank was laid open to the attack of an immense body of the enemy. In the desperate encounter that ensued, Lieutenant Williams, who had volunteered to accompany this party, fell fighting gallantly at the head of his men. In an official despatch bearing date 30th March Colonel Wood wrote: - “He evinced on this, as on other occasions, marked courage.”

Lieutenant William’s remains were found about six weeks afterwards where he fell, and were buried with military honours, Colonel Wood himself reading the funeral service at the grave.

DAVID BARRY MORIZARTY
CAPTAIN, 80TH REGIMENT (STAFFORDSHIRE).

Captain David Barry Moriarty, who was killed at Myer’s Drift on the Ntombe River on 12th March 1879, was the sixth son of James Moriarty, Esq., of the Grange, Kilmallock, county Limerick, and Mary Catherine Bridget Barry, his wife. He was born on 6th March 1837, and in the earliest years of his life it was his parents’ intention that he should eventually go to the bar; he early showed, however, a marked inclination for the sea, not withstanding which he accepted from the Earl of Harewood, when but sixteen years old, a lieutenancy in the 6th West York Militia. On 19 December 1857, he was gazetted to an ensigncy in the 2nd Battalion of the 6th
Regiment, which, with the co-operation of (now) General Fraser, had just been raised – Moriarty having materially assisted by bringing over more than a hundred men. In July 1859, he succeeded to his lieutenancy; and in April 1870, obtained an unattached company.

Captain Moriarty served with his regiment at the Mediterranean stations of Gibraltar, Corfu, and Zante; and subsequently at the dépôt for a period, after returning home. Just as he was on the point of leaving Colchester to rejoin the 2nd Battalion of the regiment, then in Jamaica, he was offered an exchange into the 1st which was under orders to proceed to Jersey; accepting the offer, he joined the Battalion at its destination, and served with it in the Channel Islands for a period of twelve months. The regiment subsequently proceeded to Ireland. In December 1867, he embarked at Queenstown with the 1st Battalion, under Colonel Creagh Osborne, for Bombay, and, arriving at that station, subsequently proceeded to Kurrachee, and up the Indus, via Mooltan and Lahore, to Rawul Pindee, Punjaub. In 1868 he was engaged in the Hazara campaign, and for his services obtained the medal and clasp.

In January 1876, Captain Moriarty was gazetted to the 80th, and joined that regiment at Singapore. Whilst stationed at Fort Canning he assisted in quelling a very serious riot among the Chinese. At the latter end of the year the officer commanding the regiment received intimation that three companies were to be held in readiness to proceed to Mauritius, to relieve the detachment of the Buffs, then stationed at that island. Captain Moriarty’s company was one of the three selected as being available on the conclusion of the Perak war, and subsequently embarked with two others under Colonel Amiel. On the detachment arriving at the island, however, the French authorities would not sanction its landing, in consequence of measles having broken out amongst the troops in the course of the voyage; it was, therefore, ordered on, by the Colonel in command of the station, to Port Natal. Arriving at the Bluff, it went through the form of fifteen days’ quarantine, and the, pending further orders, proceeded to Durban.

In the meantime the annexation of the Transvaal had been decided upon, and, in view of the proclamation to that effect being made, the three companies were ordered on to Newcastle. In December 1877, Captain Moriarty left Fort Amiel for Utrecht, the authorities deeming it necessary, in consequence of the disturbed state of political affairs in South Africa, to send part of the detachment to guard the Zulu border, and serve as a body-guard to the Administrator, Sir Theophilus Shepstone, who was at that time negotiating the boundary question with the Zulu king. In August 1878, Captain Moriarty proceeded to take part with his company in the Sekukhune campaign of that year, under Colonel Hugh Rowlands; and during the brief period for which hostilities were continued, did excellent service, holding an important post to the northwest of the enemy. On the suspension of operations in consequence of the lateness of the season, he proceeded with his own and another company to Derby, where he was joined by the other three companies of the 80th – the whole, under Major Tucker, forming a portion of the Transvaal column of the army of invasion, then being concentrated on the Zulu border. The column subsequently marched to Lüneberg, and there Captain Moriarty was selected for the perilous and important service of escorting convoys of stored, on their way from Derby, through that portion of the route which passes between the mountain fastnesses then occupied by Chief Manyonyoba, on the one side, and Prince Mbilini of the other. This duty he at first performed with – in addition to two companies of the 80th – a proportion of mounted men and auxiliaries; in the last days of February however, these latter were taken away to join Colonel Wood’s column, at Kambula. On 7 March he left Lüneburg, with the two companies, to escort a convoy of eighteen waggons, en route from Derby in the Transvaal, some of which were reported to be broken down on the further bank of the Ntombe. He reached the river the same day, but, in consequence of its flooded state, was unable to ferry across all the heavily laden vehicles by nightfall on the 11th. Before daybreak on the 12th the party was surprised and attacked by the enemy in overwhelming numbers and with disastrous effects. Captain Moriarty, emerging from his tent, made desperate efforts to cope with the vast horde with which he was instantly beset. He managed to slay three Zulus (Manyonyoba’s sons) before he was struck with an assegai, and then made his way, dealing death right and left with the three weapons which he had hastily snatched up, to the left face of the laager. There he received a rifle-ball in the chest, and, falling forward, was heard to exclaim, “I’m done” Fire away, my men!” A second assegai then finished off the dreadful work that the bullet had failed to complete.

On the afternoon of the day on which Captain Moriarty fell, his body was found by the detachment that was instantly despatched from Lüneburg on the news of the disaster reaching the station. It was stripped of clothing, but was in no way mutilated, and the face, which was turned to the ground, wore a perfectly calm and peaceful expression. The remains, together with those of the rest of the gallant band who fell, were subsequently removed to Lüneburg, and were there interred, with military honours, in the little cemetery which adjoins the German Missionary Station, two willows being planted to mark off the grave.

Captain Moriarty was a soldier of soldiers; braves, simple, and tender-hearted; well beloved by his men as by his brother officers. Socially he was of a somewhat reserved disposition, yet courteous to a degree, and never happier than when dispensing hospitality. His tall and commanding presence will long be missed in the places that knew it. His genial acts of kindness will not soon be forgotten by the many who received them at his hands.
Lieutenant Arthur Tyndall Bright, who died in camp at Khambula on 29th March 1879, from wounds received in action, was the third son of Tyndall Bright, Esquire, of Woodcote, Aigburth, Liverpool. He was born on 14th August 1857, and commenced his education under the Rev. T. Browning, at Thorpe Mandeville; thence he went to Eton in 1870, entering Mr. E.C. Austin Leigh’s house, and remained there until Christmas, 1875. His career at Eton was a bright one. “He seemed formed in nature for a public-school boy,” wrote the head of his house after the receipt of the news of his death, “because his principles were high, his sense of honour unblemished, and his love for liberty that he knew was given him to use and not to abuse unbounded…. For two years a member of the eight, second to none as a foot-ball player, a keen and excellent volunteer officer, a most promising artist, - loved by all who knew him in the school, and better loved by those who knew him better in his house – Eton was as dear to him as he was to Eton.” From Eton he proceeded to the Rev. E. Clayton’s at Blackheath, to read for the Army Examination. Taking a high place in the lost of successful candidates, he entered Sandhurst in February 1877, from whence he passed out in the following December taking honours in the final examination, and gaining a certificate of proficiency in Tactics, Fortification, Drill, Gymnastics, and Riding. The character he won for himself at Sandhurst is briefly epitomised by Major Williams, R.A., of the College, in the following words: “When Colonel, now General Sir Evelyn Wood asked me one day if I could name to him a lad for his regiment, than about to sail for the Cape, whose characteristics should be ‘perfect gentleman and keen soldier,’ I could and did without a moment’s hesitation answer, ‘Yes, Arthur Tyndall Bright.’” He was gazetted to the 90th Light Infantry, in January 1878, and a month later embarked for the Cape.

During this time Bright had been steadily pursuing the daily duties and routine of a soldier’s life, in which he displayed a special interest. He soon brought himself under the immediate notice of Colonel Wood by his talent as a draughtsman, substantial proof of which he gave in a carefully executed drawing of the Nhlanzatshe Mountain from details supplied by one who was familiar with its general situation. In the successful expedition undertaken by Colonel Wood into Zululand, for the purpose of affording protection to a tribe which had declared for British rule, Bright was selected to accompany his chief and sketch the Hlobane Mountain, that stronghold which was destined to be, a few weeks later, the scene of such stirring and tragic events. The attack of the column on the force that held its craggy precipices took place on 28th March and the enemy’s attack on the camp at Khambula followed on the 29th. On the latter occasion Captain Maud of the 90th was called upon to temporarily fill the place of Ronald Campbell, Wood’s gallant and valued staff officer, who had been slain on the previous day, and the command of the G Company devolved on Arthur Tyndall Bright. The enemy, flushed with their recent success, made the most determined onslaught, approaching again and again to within a few yards of the position held by the column. When for three long hours the defenders of the laager had stoutly resisted them, and dense masses still congregating in the valley beneath showed that a final effort would yet be made, Wood decided on making a counter attack. For this purpose two companies of the 90th were ordered to advance, and at the point of the bayonet force back the threatening impi. One of these two was the G Company, and those who knew Arthur Tyndall Bright can realise with what pride he placed himself in front of the advancing line. It was in this position, while gallantly leading and cheering on his men, that he was shot through the thighs. Though he was tenderly watched and cared for by the medical attendants, and by his faithful servant, he only lingered for a few hours, his name being added, ere the day was quite spent, to the glorious roll of those who have rendered up their lives for Queen and country.

General Sir Evelyn Wood, writing upon the life of Arthur Bright, says: -

“Arthur Tyndall Bright was a beautiful character, wrote a former comrade, when he heard that the brave young life had been given up on the very threshold of manhood. It was given up in the light of victory. He had sought the post of danger with honourable eagerness, and his unstained past fitted him to encounter sudden death, but it was hard for his surviving friend to realise that he was gone, for he was lively in the best sense of
the word. His high spirit, ballasted as it was by a conscientious firmness of mind not common at his age, his cheery grace of manner, his vigour in manly sports, all combined to make him one of those foremost figures in life’s groups that seem alike to impress and attract friends. He excelled, too, in the lighter accomplishments, and his sweet, clear voice was greatly appreciated by the soldiers, who used to take especial pleasure in hearing him sing such ballads as ‘Nancy Lee’ and ‘Far Away,’ for soldiers on active service delight in pathetic music, perhaps because there is a sense of impending farewell in times when no one knows what a day may bring forth. And when the day came that abruptly stilled the voice of the singer, everyone who had known, and therefore loved him, felt that the loss of Arthur Bright was not the loss only of his country, nor even of his personal friends, but that it was, too, a loss to everyone who had been brought into contact with him.”

There is in some men an indescribable charm that attracts others towards them, which induces a linking of arms and a few moments’ friendly chat even in the busiest times. This charm was in Arthur Tyndall Bright, and short as was his career there are many left behind who will cherish the recollection of him as that of an upright, noble, and affectionate comrade.

Lieutenant Bright is commemorated by a memorial in the church at Abbots Leigh, near Bristol, and on the ‘South Africa 1879-80-81’ memorial in the Sandhurst Chapel.

THE SECOND INVASION;
The Battle of Ulundi

The Zulu kingdom had suffered two devastating defeats at either end of the country, and the losses were staggering – over 4,000 Zulus lay dead and hundreds more had been severely injured in just a few days’ fighting. From that point on, the Zulu capacity to resist was so severely diminished that a British victory was inevitable.

The second invasion of Zululand began towards the end of May. This time Chelmsford was to make two main thrusts, one along the coastal region and the other from the Dundee area. King Cetshwayo was no longer able to defend both fronts, and the British coastal division advanced without opposition. Many of the chiefs living in that area were forced to surrender, realising that opposition was futile. The other column, again commanded by Lord Chelmsford himself, advanced in the face of constant skirmishing. In one early encounter on 1 June Prince Louis Napoleon, the exiled heir of the Bonaparte throne in France, had accompanied the British forces as an observer. He was killed in a skirmish when a British patrol was attacked in the Tshotshosi valley. Although the incident had no great significance in the course of the war, the news of the Prince’s death aroused more interest overseas than was caused by all previous campaign battles.

Cetshwayo made further attempts to open peace negotiations but was rebuffed. By the beginning of July Chelmsford had established a camp on the southern bank of the White Mfolozi, just across the river from Ulundi, the site of the Zulu capital. On 4 July he crossed the river and drew his forces up in a large rectangle on the Mahlabatini plain. Here the combined Zulu army gathered to make one last gesture in defence of their king and country. They attacked the square for 45 minutes, but defeated by artillery and rifle fire, and then driven from the field by a determined charge by British Lancers. At least 1,500 Zulus were killed at Ulundi; their bones were a feature of the battlefield for decades afterwards. A triumphant Chelmsford ordered the destruction of Ulundi then withdrew his troops.

For Lord Chelmsford, the victory at Ulundi had at last offset the disaster of Isandlwana; for the Zulus, it exposed them to the full consequences of defeat, and marked the beginning of the destruction of the old Zulu kingdom.

In Memoriam
THE HON. EDMUND VERNEY WYATT-EDGELL,
CAPTAIN, 17TH LANCERS.
Captain Edmund Verney Wyatt-Edgell, who was killed in action at Ulundi 4 July 1879, was the eldest son of the Rev. Edgell Wyatt-Edgell, by his marriage with Henrietta, fourth Baroness Braye; was grandson of Mr. Wyatt-Edgell, formerly of Milton Place, Egham, and of Great Missenden; was heir-apparent to the barony of Braye, and represented in his own person the ancient and political family of the Earls Verney (this earldom is extinct), and also the elder branch of the Caves, of Stanford Hall, Leicestershire. He was born on 16 August 1845, and was educated at Eton, and Christ Church, Oxford. He entered the army in 1866, being gazetted cornet in the 17th Lancers; became lieutenant, by purchase, in 1868; and obtained his troop in 1873. Captain Wyatt-Edgell spent much of his leisure time in study, especially of the Latin classics, of which he read even the most obscure; and he was considered one of the best French, as well as Latin scholars in the army. During a winter’s leave he rode through the whole length of Persia, and spent some time at Teheran; he completed his journey in safety, though quite unattended. On a vacancy occurring in the representation of the northern division of Northamptonshire, in 1877, through the death of Mr. Ward Hunt, he contested the seat in the Liberal interest, being opposed by Lord Burghley, who was returned. In February 1879, he entered the Staff College, where, however, he was only destined to spend a fortnight.

Captain Wyatt-Edgell embarked with the 17th Lancers for Natal in the last days of the same February. Shortly after the news of the disaster at Isandlwana reached England. He landed at Durban soon after the battle of Gingindlovu and the evacuation of Eshowe, and, on the return of Lord Chelmsford with the relieving column to Natal, proceeded with the Lancers into the interior. With the right wing of the regiment, under Colonel Drury Lowe, he joined General Newdigate’s division, then in course of formation, at Conference Hill, on 11 May and subsequently served with his troop through the whole of the reconnoitring and other important duty on which it was employed during the advance of that force into the enemy’s country.

On the morning of 4 July the 17th Lancers covered the rear and flanks of the advancing column, and on the force being attacked by the enemy, passed into the hollow square in which it was formed. When the fire of the enemy slackened, Colonel Drury Lowe received order to take out the regiment to strike the then wavering line. Passing through the rear face of the square, the regiment rode towards the kwaNodwengu royal homestead, where Lt. Captain Edgell, gallantly leading his troop, was shot through the head.

“The country has lost a very gallant officer.” Such were the words of the Secretary of State for War when he announced to the House of Commons the victory at Ulundi; and the feeling which they expressed has found an echo in the hearts of all to whom Wyatt-Edgell was known. “A more gallant leader,” wrote Colonel Drury Lowe, in his official account of the engagement, “never rode in a charge.” He will long be remembered in the 17th Lancers for his genial kindness and manly bearing, and the wide circle of friends to whom he had endeared himself will be slow to forget the pleasantness of his ways.

Captain Wyatt-Edgell was by no means the first of his race who has met a soldier’s death. At the battle of Edge Hill one of his ancestors, Sir Edmund Verney, standard-bearer to Charles I., was killed; and so firmly did he grasp the staff in death, that the had had to be amputate before the flag could be released. John, second Lord Braye, fought at the battle of St. Quintin, and died, aged thirty-three, in 1557, from the wounds and exhaustion he had sustained; he was buried with much ceremony in Chelsea Church, where the tomb is still shown. Captain Wyatt-Edgell, had he survived five months, would have succeeded to the barony of Braye as fifth Lord – his mother dying on 14th November 1879.

Captain Wyatt-Edgell’s remains were exhumed from the field of Ulundi, and returned to the UK in December 1879. He is remembered in two memorials in Britain; by an impressive effigy in the chapel of the Braye family hall, Stanford Hall, near Rugby, and by a plaque in the Braye Chapel Chantry, in St. George’s Chapel, Windsor.

FREDERICK JOHN COKAYNE FRITH
LIEUTENANT AND ADJUTANT, 17TH LANCERS.

Lieutenant Frederick John Cokayne Frith, who was killed at the eZungeni hill, near the Poko River, Zululand, on 5 June 1879, was the second son of Major Cokayne Frith, of Dover, by his marriage with Amelia, daughter of Christopher Kane, M.D., Surgeon-General in the Honourable East India Company’s Service, and widow of John S. Denis de Vitré, of the Bombay Civil Service.

He was born at Oban, Argyllshire, on 22 September 1858, and was educated at Mr. Harrison’s school at Dunchurch, Warwickshire; and afterwards at Haileybury College, until 1874, when he was prepared for the examination for the army by Mr. John Le Fleming, of Tunbridge.
At the examination in December 1875, he passed twelfth in the list of successful candidates; and joining the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, as sub-lieutenant, at the age of seventeen, he passed out in the first class in the following year, and was gazetted on 16 of February to the 17th Lancers. He had previously received a commission as sub-lieutenant in the Argyll and Bute Artillery Militia in November 1875, which regiment, however, he never joined, owing to his having passed the army examination direct for Sandhurst in the following month. On succeeding to a lieutenancy in his regiment in 1878, his commission was antedated two years, in consequence of his having obtained a first-class certificate at Sandhurst.

In May 1878, he joined the School of Musketry at Hythe, and there obtained a first-class certificate. On 12th February 1879, within two years after joining, he was appointed adjutant of his regiment.

On reinforcement being sent out to South Africa, when the news of the disaster at Isandlwana was received, Lieutenant Cokayne Frith embarked with his regiment at Southampton, in the SS “England,” on 26th February 1879, for Natal. Landing at Durban, the 17th Lancers joined the forces under Lord Chelmsford, and advanced into Zululand with General Newdigate’s column.

On 5 June a portion of the regiment, under Colonel Drury-Lowe, was engaged in their first skirmish with the enemy at the eZungeni hill, near the Poko River, during which, while in the act of turning his horse at the side of his Colonel, Lieutenant Cokayne Frith was shot through the heart. His body was taken into the camp on the Nondweni River, and buried the same evening, followed to the grave “by all his brother officers, and by most of the officers in camp, Lord Chelmsford, General Newdigate, and staff included.”

Lieutenant Cokayne Frith was a young officer of much promise; active, hard-working, genial, and kind-hearted; he was a general favourite, not only with his brother officers, but with all who knew him; whilst to his own family the loss of so exemplary a son and brother is irremediable.

Lieutenant Frith is commemorated on a memorial tablet at St. Andrew’s Church, Buckland-in-Dover, Kent, and on the ‘South Africa 1879-80-81’ memorial in the Sandhurst Chapel.

GEORGE ASTELL PARDOE

LIEUTENANT, 13TH LIGHT INFANTRY.

Lieutenant George Astell Pardoe, who died in General Newdigate’s camp on the Mhlatuze River, on 14 July 1879, of wounds received at the battle of Ulundi, was the second son of Edward Pardoe, Esq., of Amberwood, Christchurch, Hampshire, formerly Captain 15th and 82nd Regiments, and his wife Harriet, daughter of William Astell, Esquire, M.P., of Everton, Bedfordshire. He was born on 5 September 1855, at Brighton and was educated at Cowes, Isle of Wight, under the Rev. Arthur Watson, MA, and at Eton. He passed the competitive examination for entrance to the Royal Military College at Sandhurst, on 11th February 1875, taking a high place, and obtaining his commission, at the same date, on the unattached list. After a year spent at Sandhurst he was gazetted to the 13th Light Infantry, and in May 1876, joined the 1st Battalion of that regiment in South Africa. Lieutenant Pardoe carried the colours of the 13th Light Infantry at Pretoria, when the reading of the Queen’s proclamation on the annexation of the Transvaal took place. Soon afterwards he was invalidated home in consequence of a dangerous illness, but rejoined his regiment in South Africa before the commencement of the campaign against Sekukhune in 1878, in which it served, and in which he twice narrowly escaped being shot in the bush.

Lieutenant Pardoe was with Colonel Evelyn Wood’s column throughout the whole of its operations on the Transvaal frontier, and during its subsequent advance into Zululand. At the very commencement of the battle of Ulundi, he was shot in both thighs. Though most skilfully and tenderly treated and nursed both by the surgeons and his brother officers, haemorrhage recommended at the end of ten days, and amputation of the left leg became the only possible means of saving his life. The shock was, however, too great for his system: he never rallied afterwards, but died on his way to the base hospital at Utrecht. His body was carried to Fort Marshall, and was there buried on the day after his death. By the thoughtful kindness of those in command at the Transvaal he was gazetted to the 13th Light Infantry, and in May 1876, joined the 1st Battalion of that regiment in South Africa. Lieutenant Pardoe carried the colours of the 13th Light Infantry at Pretoria, when the reading of the Queen’s proclamation on the annexation of the Transvaal took place. Soon afterwards he was invalidated home in consequence of a dangerous illness, but rejoined his regiment in South Africa before the commencement of the campaign against Sekukhune in 1878, in which it served, and in which he twice narrowly escaped being shot in the bush.

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Descended from an Essex family, Lieutenant Pardoe is the third of his name who during the present century has died on active service. In 1810, George Pardoe, Royal Navy, fell in an engagement off Palamos on the Spanish main, and in 1814 his brother, Ensign Edward Pardoe, Grenadier Guards, was severely wounded at the siege of Bergen-op-Zoom, and in the following year killed at the battle of Waterloo.
Lieutenant Pardoe is also commemorated on the ‘South Africa 1879-80-81’ memorial in the Sandhurst Chapel.

JAMES HENRY SCOTT DOUGLAS,
LIEUTENANT, 21st ROYAL SCOTS FUSILIERS.

Lieutenant James Henry Scott Douglas, who was slain at kwaMagwaza, Zululand, on 30 June 1879, was the eldest son of Sir George Henry Scott Douglas, of Springwood Park, Kelso, Baronet, and M.P. for Roxburghshire, and Doña Mariquita Juana Petronila Sanchez de Piña, his wife. He was born at Edinburgh on 27 May 1853, and passed his early years at Springwood Park. In 1864 he went to school at Blackheath, under Mr. R.C. Powles, and thence proceeded to St. Leonards, where he was prepared by the Rev. J. Wright for Winchester. He entered Winchester early in 1869, and whilst these became a member of the school corps of Rifle Volunteers; thence he proceeded to Llanwenorth, where he was prepared by the Rev. G. Faithfull for the University. On 29th February 1872, he received from the Duke of Buccleuch a commission as Lieutenant in the Queen’s Regiment of Light Infantry Militia, which he joined at Dalkeith for the training of that year. In October he began his studies at Trinity College, Cambridge, and in the following spring passed his previous examination, thereby qualifying himself for a commission in the army as University Candidate; having, however, commenced to read for the Historical Tripos, and being anxious to more effectually complete his education, he abstained from availing himself of the qualification. About this time he enrolled himself in the University Volunteers, and shortly afterwards became a Sergeant of that corps. At the close of the long vacation of 1875 he had the misfortune to meet with a severe fall from his horse, which brought on concussion of the brain; he was thereby prevented from taking part in the final examination for the Tripos, but the examiners were so convinced, by his previous work, of his attainments, that they conferred on him the BA degree with honours.

On April 1, 1875, he was gazetted to the 19th Regiment, but being anxious to serve with a Scottish corps, he was transferred to the 21st Royal North British Fusiliers, joining that regiment at Portsmouth in January 1876. Shortly afterwards he passed most creditably through a course of garrison instruction, his commanding officer testifying to the manner in which he excelled in tactics and military law. From the School of Musketry at Hythe he came out with an extra first-class certificate; he also obtained a first-class instructor’s certificate at the School of Army Signalling at Aldershot; and on his return to his regiment, performed the duty of officer-instructor to it.

Lieutenant Scott Douglas, accompanying his regiment, left Queenstown for Zululand in February 1879, and arrived at Durban on 29 March. Proceeding to the front, he was appointed Chief to the Signalling Staff of the 2nd Division of the Field Force, and, applying himself ardently to his difficult and important duties, he succeeded in a short time in establishing a line of communication, by means of flags and the heliograph, from the most advanced post to the rearmost. On the morning of June 30, he was employed with his signalling party at Mthonjaneni: before noon a mist came on which obscured the sun and prevented the working of the heliograph, and shortly afterwards an important message arrived which Lord Chelmsford was desirous to have forwarded to Sir Garnet Wolseley. Lieutenant Scott Douglas, with his signalling party and an escort, immediately set out to carry it to Fort Evelyn, twenty miles distant; but finding the condition of the horses to be so bad as to preclude the possibility of escape in the event of the enemy being met with in force, he decided not to risk the safety of so large a party, and rode on with only his orderly, Corporal Cotter of the 17th Lancers. Upon his arrival at the fort, the officer who commanded it, observing the fatigued condition of the horses and the unsettled appearance of the weather, urged him to pass the night there; but knowing, by the nature of the messages he had forwarded, that the army was to march for Ulundi at daybreak on the following morning, he preferred to return. The start for Mthonjaneni was made at 3 p.m., and about an hour afterwards a dense fog came on and shrouded the surrounding country. The track, at all times difficult to follow, branches off towards the deserted mission-station of kwaMagwaza: in the obscurity the two horsemen accidentally took the wrong path, and it was not until they arrived at the mission-station that they discovered their mistake. Hard by this spot, where they dismounted to refresh their horses, they were observed and surprised by a body of some five hundred Zulus, who were marching to join Cetshwayo at Ulundi. Lieutenant Scott Douglas was able to discharge five chambers of his revolver, and then fell pierced to the heart by an assegai. His body was found some days afterwards by Brigadier-General Wood, lying near to that of Corporal Cotter, who had also stood his ground most gallantly: the two were buried, with military honours, side by side, in graves marked by crosses and sheltered by a luxuriant growth of the wild cactus.

“Of the soldierlike, manly bearing and social virtues of Lieutenant Scott Douglas,” wrote Colonel Collingwood, 21st Royal Scots Fusiliers, “I, his commanding officer, cannot speak too highly. He was the ideal type of an officer and a gentleman in the highest sense in which that term an be applied.”
General Sir Garnet Wolseley took over command from Lord Chelmsford who returned to England. Over the next few weeks, the British eliminated what little resistance remained in Zululand. On 28 August King Cetshwayo was captured by British Dragoons in the Ngome forest and taken to Port Durnford where he was put on a boat for Cape Town. The British imprisoned him in the old castle at Cape Town.

The Zulu war heralded the end of Confederation that had contributed to the war in the first place. The British government, worried by the cost of Frere’s policies, refused to annex Zululand and Wolseley was left to devise a suitable settlement. He divided Zululand among thirteen newly appointed chiefs, some of whom had been overtly sympathetic to the British cause while others were openly hostile to the Cetshwayo’s Royal House. Wolseley’s plan was to divide the Zulu people against themselves, to prevent them uniting to threaten British interests. This policy unleashed powerful destructive forces within the kingdom; it resulted in a decade of violence and civil war that more effectively destroyed the basis of Zulu royal power than the British invasion.

From Cape Town, King Cetshwayo repeatedly sought to be allowed to return to Zululand. Worried that the escalating violence in Zululand might spill over into Natal, the government eventually agreed to restore Cetshwayo to part of his old territory, but with severe constraints. He returned to Zululand in February 1883 following a visit to England and a meeting with Queen Victoria. During his absence, his supporters had quarrelled with his kinsman, Zibhebhu kaMaphitha, who had been one of the most daring commanders in 1879, but who had accepted a post in Wolseley’s settlement. A protracted civil war then broke out and in July 1883 Zibhebhu launched a surprise attack on Cetshwayo’s rebuilt Ulundi homestead. The royalists were heavily defeated and over 60 of the most important chiefs loyal to Cetshwayo were killed. These included Ntshingwayo, who had commanded at Isandlwana and Kambula, and Sihayo, whose sons had precipitated the British ultimatum.

King Cetshwayo was wounded in the fighting and took refuge with the British Resident at Eshowe. A broken soul, he died in February 1884, probably the victim of poison. His son, King Dinuzulu, desperately attempted to salvage the royalist cause. Sporadic violence continued for four more years, during which Dinuzulu secured Boer help to defeat Zibhebhu, but which cost the lives of a number of the prominent supporters of the old order. The Boers murdered Prince Dabulamanzi, who had commanded at Rorke’s Drift, in 1884. Dinuzulu, continually harassed by the colonial authorities, was eventually goaded into leading armed resistance against the British in 1888. He was defeated, and sent into exile on St. Helena.

The traditions of the Zulu amabutho continued to shape the defiant attitudes of the Zulus towards colonial authority well into the 20th century. In 1906, Africans living in Natal took up arms to protest at the harsh levels of taxation imposed upon them, one of the few Zulu chiefs to openly support them was Mehlokazulu kaSihayo. Mehlokazulu had served throughout the Anglo Zulu War as an officer in the iNqobamakhosi regiment, and, in 1906, he threw in his lot with the rebel leader Bambatha. But the balance of power had swung even more in favour of the Europeans, and the rebel army was crushed at the battle of Mome Gorge, where both Bambatha and Mehlokazulu were killed.

Lord Chelmsford, favourite of Queen Victoria, returned to England as the victor of Ulundi rather than the vanquished of Isandlwana. He was presented with a number of prestigious honours, but never allowed to command British troops in the field. In 1905 he died during a billiards match at his club in London. Chard and Bromhead enjoyed considerable fame as heroes of Rorke’s Drift throughout their lives; Bromhead died in India in 1891 and Chard in England in 1897. Colour-Sergeant Bourne, who had won the DCM during the battle, lived to see the fall of Hitler’s Germany and died in 1945.

The Anglo Zulu war of 1879 left many marks on the Zululand landscape. The British dead lay buried at Isandlwana for nearly four months until the first patrols attempted to bury them. Those hasty first burials were so ineffective that several further visits were necessary before the end of 1879, and thorough interments were not completed until 1884. The whitewashed cairns so characteristic of the battlefield today mark the approximate positions of the British graves. The enormous amount of debris scattered across the veld during the Zulu looting of the camp continued to surface well into the twentieth century, attracting in more recent time the unwelcome attention of souvenir hunters.

Nothing remains of the original buildings at Rorke’s Drift. The Swedish Mission Society reoccupied its property once the war was over, and tore down the ruins of the old buildings. However, two of the present-day buildings, which stand on the site, are built on original foundations.

The coastal sites of Gingindlovu and Nyezane have long been covered in sugar cane, which was introduced by European settlers in the early part of the 20th century. Nevertheless, the remains of Pearson’s entrenchments are still visible at Eshowe, while in the northern sector the battlefields of Hlobane, Kambula and Ntombe remain unaltered.
The clay hut floors of King Cetshwayo’s royal settlements, baked to brick when the British razed the complex, have survived, and around these the isiGodlo area, the king’s private quarter, has been reconstructed. It is a phoenix risen from the ashes and today the site is a fitting memorial to the pride of the old Zulu kingdom.

Research into the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879 has radically altered perceptions of the conflict in recent times. Over the last 10 years perceptions of the broader threads of South African history have begun to develop. To the British at the time, the war seemed to be a triumph of European civilisation over African savagery; now, the war can be seen within the context of the systematic reduction of independent African groups in South Africa in the face of expanding power of the developing settler economy.

Modern writers’ interpretations of the war have reflected these changes. The shock felt by the British at the Zulu victory at Isandlwana created a particular image of the Zulu people in British folklore. It is only in the last twenty years that scholars have come to understand something of the Zulu perspective of the events of 1879. Today’s histories of the Anglo-Zulu War present a more even-handed view of the conflict. Many issues remain unresolved, and historians remain divided, especially regarding the war on the ground. Isandlwana attracts particular controversy, mainly because the battle created an aura of mystery by the lack of surviving accounts from British sources.

The first feature film about the Anglo Zulu War, Symbol of Sacrifice, was made in 1918 and recreated many of the events of 1879 in a way designed to arouse a patriotic response from its audiences. The film was unusual for its time in that its plots included both British and Zulu characters; it was not until the 1980s that dramas such as Shaka Zulu again portrayed Zulu characters at the centre of their own history. In 1964 the popular feature film Zulu, based on the events at Rorke’s Drift, was released. In 1979 Zulu Dawn expanded on this view, presenting the battle of Isandlwana as a classic example of British Imperial folly, but the film lacked the power of its predecessor.

The Anglo Zulu War of 1879 was, in retrospect, a particularly brutal struggle aimed at breaking up an African political system to pave the way for the exploitation of its land and people. As such, it was utterly destructive to the Zulu people. The general public knew almost nothing of Britain’s situation in South Africa. The British military defeat at Isandlwana differentiated the Anglo-Zulu War from the other “little wars” of British imperialism during Queen Victoria’s reign. When the news of the “reverse” reached London’s newspapers in the second week of February the British public responded with shock, sorrow, and even terror. Britain had never received a military loss of the same magnitude since the Crimean War, and at the time it appeared that Natal, the British colony of South Africa, and Britain’s colonial pre-eminence in Africa, was in peril. The country feared not only King Cetshwayo’s advancing Zulu warriors, but also a massive uprising of the entire black majority in South Africa. Isandlwana created a sensation out of a small-scale war and turned what would have been another colonial incident into a public concern, an issue of national honour, and ultimately a point of debate about the notion of fair war and the justifications of Imperialism.

For several months after the disaster, newspapers and periodicals gave priority to reports from the front-line, news of reinforcements heading for the war, and anecdotes about feats of glory, bravery, and honour. The public was swept along by a tidal wave of nationalism and what may even be called jingoism. After the subsequent military defeat of the Zulus, Britain regained control in South Africa.

Darker questions then loomed large: why did the disaster occur, but more importantly, why had Britain fought an expensive war against brave, organised, maybe even noble and blameless Africans at all? Discourses of debate criss-crossed the public forum, and a defined polarisation formed. The opposition’s strong and rational evidence was never mighty enough to sway public opinion, although it brought about a change of government, Disraeli being replaced by Gladstone. For a public that had already crossed the Imperialist threshold years before, a feeling for the necessary perpetuation of British progress, Christianity, and civilisation was too strong. The Zulu War, although not the starting point, can be seen as the turning point for late Victorian Imperialism. In the three decades that followed, the legacy of the Zulu War permeated the culture of an expanding British Empire.

In Memoriam

The Following Officers Died from the Effects of Disease or Accident During the Anglo-Zulu War;

WARREN RICHARD COLVIN WYNNE
BREVET-MAJOR, ROYAL ENGINEERS.

Major Warren Richard Colvin Wynne, who died at Fort Pearson, on the Natal frontier, on the 9th of April 1879, was the eldest surviving son of Captain John Wynne, Royal Horse Artillery, of Wynnestay, county Dublin, by his marriage with Anne, daughter of Admiral Sir Samuel Warren, K.C.B., G.C.H. He was born on 9th April 1843, at Collon House, County Louth, and was educated at the Royal Naval School, New Cross, where he carried off numerous prizes, including two silver medals for Classics and Mathematics. He passed out from the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, fourth on the list of successful candidates, and elected to serve in the Royal Engineers. On 25 June 1862, he was gazetted to a Lieutenancy in this corps. His first foreign service was at Gibraltar, where he remained for five years, and was appointed Acting Adjutant, and appointment that he held for four years. On his return to England he was appointed to the Ordnance Survey in December 1871, and stationed at Guildford, from whence he was removed to Reading in November 1875. In December 1878, at a day’s notice, he was given the command of the 2nd Field Company; then stationed at Shorncliffe, and under orders to proceed on active service to Natal, in view of the impending invasion of Zululand.

Captain Wynne embarked with his company on 2 December and, on arriving at Durban, at once proceeded to the Thukela mouth tojoin Colonel Pearson’s column. The river having been crossed on 12 January 1879, Captain Wynne laid out and built Fort Tenedos, a strong earthwork commenced on the 15th, and completed on the 17th, of January. He afterwards proceeded with the No. 1 column to Eshowe, taking part in the engagement on the Inyezane River, where his company was employed as light infantry. The following is an extract from his Diary, written at Eshowe:

“28th January - At 10 a.m., telegram received from General Lord Chelmsford, stating that he had found it necessary to retire to the frontier, that all former plans were given up, and that he left it entirely to Colonel Pearson’s own discretion to retire upon the Thukela, or to hold his position. At a meeting of commanding officers, to which I was called, I found it had been pretty well determined to retreat at once, leaving all standing. The Fort being in a tolerably advanced state, I could not concur in this decision, looking upon such a retreat as hazardous in itself, and the moral effect of it much to be deprecated. I, therefore, was in favour of remaining and strengthening the position to the utmost. It was, however, a question of provision and ammunition, and about the sufficiency of these for holding out there was some uncertainty. At this point Colonel Walker, A.A.G., and Captain MacGregor, D.A.Q.M.G., came in, and, being decidedly of the same opinion as myself, it was determined to remain.”

So that to Captain Wynne in no small degree it was due that Fort Eshowe was held and a firm front shown to the Zulu forces for so many weeks, when a retreat to the Thukela mouth would have involved a deplorable loss of prestige to the British arms, and invited that invasion of Natal which it was the first object to prevent, and which another gallant Engineer Officer, Major Chard, has so effectively checked on the Buffalo River.

This view is confirmed by Colonel Pearson, who in his despatch wrote as follows:

“I am much indebted to Colonel Pearson for so tenaciously holding on to Eshowe after the bad news of the Isandlwana affair had reached him. The occupation of the Fort...had, no doubt, a very powerful moral effect throughout South Africa.”

The report drawn up by Captain Courtney from the diary of Captain Wynne, which appeared in despatched, bears testimony to the admirable manner in which the latter discharged his duties as Commanding Royal Engineer of the 1st Column, to the energy with which he set about the construction of the Fort, and the ready resource which met all difficulties as they arose, while he managed, in addition, to make a trigonometrical survey of the position. Captain MacGregor wrote from Eshowe: - “Wynne, our C.R.E., works from morning till night, always ready and cheerful, and making the best of the means at hand.”

On 12 March he was taken ill with fever and was placed on the sick list, but he continued hopeful and patient, ever ready with his advice and suggestions.

On the relief of Eshowe he was moved in a cart to the Thukela River, but the frightful jolting over the rough roads proved too much for him, and he died near Fort Pearson on the anniversary of his birthday, at the age of thirty-six. He was buried on a hillside cemetery overlooking the river and Fort Tenedos. A non-commissioned officer of the company, in a letter to his wife, wrote:

“Every man in the company deeply regrets his death. I can safely say there is not a man but would have done anything for him; he was so respected by them. It was a bad sight to see our men standing over his grave
with tears in their eyes. Captain Courtney was the only officer present (the others being up the country), and he was so deeply cut up that he could hardly read the burial service.”

Captain Courtney wrote from the Thukela camp:

“His work at Eshowe will not soon be forgotten, and the enclosed extract from his diary will show that the stand made there was mainly due to his advice. That stand cost him his life, humanly speaking, and he has died a soldier’s death as truly as any man ever did. I have been under fire with him twice, and he was always cool and collected. He was only too devoted to his work, and on the 11th March the morning after the attack mentioned in his diary, he had a walk of six miles and more in the hot sun, and I fear we must attribute his illness, partly at least, to this.”

In the course of a speech made at Yeovil, shortly after his return to England, Colonel Pearson said:

“I have been given credit for my skill in rendering our fort at Eshowe impregnable, but it was made so by Captain Wynne, my Commanding Engineer, and his brother officers, under whose directions we all worked. Captain Wynne died of an illness brought on by exposure, and by unflinchingly remaining at his duty when almost incapable of performing it.”

The following announcement appeared in the “London Gazette” of 5 May 1880:

“Captain Warren Richard Colvin Wynne, Royal Engineers, to be Major, in recognition of his distinguished services during the Zulu campaign of 1878-1879. Dated 2nd April 1879. Since deceased.”

Major Wynne was twice married: first in 1872, to Eleanor, seventh daughter of J.B. Turbett, Esq., of Woenstown, Dublin (who died in 1873); and, secondly, in 1876, to Lucy, eldest daughter of Captain Alfred Parish, R.N.R.

CAPTAIN THE HON. H. RODOLPH GOUGH.

Captain Hugh Rodolph Gough, who died in the Military Hospital at Herwen on 19th April 1879, was the third son of the Right Honourable Viscount Gough, of Lough Cutra Castle, county Galway, and a grandson of the hero of Goojerat. He was born in Ireland on 11 January 1856, and was educated for the army. A commission in the Coldstream Guards being given by Sir William Codrington, he entered that regiment in 1875, and served with it until the latter end of 1878.

On preparations being hastened forward at that time with a view to the impending invasion of Zululand, he embarked for South Africa, and reaching Cape Town early in December at once proceeded to Natal. Shortly after arriving there, he was offered by Commandant Nettleton a captain’s commission in the 2nd Regiment of the Natal Native Contingent - a corps recently raised by that gallant officer in the Cape Colony, and destined to form part of Colonel Pearson’s column of the army of invasion, then in course formation at the Lower Thukela Drift. He at once accepted the offer, and joining the 2nd Battalion of the regiment at Durban on the day of its disembarkation, proceeded with it in its march to the frontier.

Captain Gough took part in the advance of the column, in January 1879, into the enemy’s country, and was present at the battle of Nyezane on the morning of the 22nd, and the subsequent occupation of Eshowe. When the news of the disaster at Isandlwana reached the garrison on the 28th, the entrenchment’s were far advanced: they were, however, of but limited extent, being intended for only 1,000 infantry, and there being consequently, no space either for the mounted troops or the two battalions of the 2nd Regiment Natal Native Contingent, they were ordered back to the Thukela at an hour’s notice. The country was of the roughest description; the distance to be covered forty miles, and the probability of an attack being made by an overwhelming force of the enemy, considerable. It is perhaps worthy of record that Gough, with characteristic generosity, gave up his horse on the way to non-commissioned officers, marching more than half the distance. The journey was accomplished in less than fifteen hours, the little force reaching the Thukela at 2.30 a.m. on the 29th.

In the month of February Captain Gough, having pressing business to transact, obtained six days’ leave of absence while the regiment was being reorganised, and proceeded to Durban: there he fell ill, and was laid up for several weeks. Before he should have left his bed he was met in Durban, and remonstrated with, by General Lord Chelmsford, who, arriving at Stanger shortly afterwards, informed Commandant Nettleton that “young Gough was going about too early.” The Commandant immediately wrote to him, telling him not to think of rejoining the regiment until his strength was restored, and shortly afterwards bade him follow the advice of the
medical officers and go to Pinetown to recruit. At that time preparation for the departure of the force destined for the relief of Eshowe were being rapidly pushed forward.

The column commenced its advance on 29th March and reached the Nyoni River on the evening of that day. To the astonishment of their commanding officer, Gough, Davis (who had also been sick at Durban), and Dawnnay arrived at the camp at dusk, having ridden through from Durban - a distance of eighty-two miles - in less than two days. Gough, who had suffered badly en route, was not allowed to take duty, much as he desired to. On 31 March he was again severely attacked with dysentery, and at the instance of his commanding officer was ordered to take to one of the waggons; there he remained until the column reached the Gingindlovu stream, all that was possible to be done for his comfort being done. On the morning of the battle which ensued at the position taken up by the column – 2 April - it so happened his company was, with part of the 91st Highlanders, close to the wagon in which he was sheltered. “The moment the alarm sounded,” wrote Commandant Nettleton, in a letter to Viscount Gough, bearing date 15 June “the Poor fellow, weak as he was, staggered out and took command of the company. I need not say how he behaved, but I was astonished to learn after the action that he had actually led his men over the shelter-trench, when the cheer was started and the charge sounded. My own post was some hundred yards to the right of the ground covered by his company, so that until the action was over and the regiment had returned from pursuit, I had not the least notion that he had even left the wagon.”

The excitement and exertion proved too much for his enfeebled frame, and utter collapse followed. He was moved in the first week in April with the sick and wounded, to the Lower Thukela, and thence to the Base Hospital at Herwen, some twelve miles inland: there he grew worse and worse, and in spite of tender nursing, and the solicitous care of Surgeon-Major Dudley, the medical officer who attended him, he died on 19 April.

“Throughout the force,” wrote Commandant Nettleton in his letter to Viscount Gough, “all who knew my late friend felt most forcibly that they had lost a right good fellow and pleasant companion, whilst the service had lost a splendid soldier. That was the universal opinion. He was more than true to the soldierly instincts of his race. I never met a man so wedded to the army service, and had his sad fate been a different one, he must have made his mark during this campaign, which affords such scope for dash and gallantry.”

Captain Gough’s remains were interred in the cemetery at Stanger, a spot where those of many of his comrades had already found a last resting-place. He is commemorated on the ‘South Africa 1879-80-81’ memorial in the Sandhurst Chapel.

REGINALD WILLIAM FRANKLIN
LIEUTENANT, 24TH REGIMENT (2ND WARWICKSHIRE).

Lieutenant Reginald William Franklin, who died at Helpmekaar on 20th February 1879, was the youngest son of Major-General C.T. Franklin, C.B., late R.A. He was born on 23rd October 1859, and was educated at Cheltenham College. He entered Sandhurst in February 1878, and in the following May was gazetted to the 2nd Battalion of the 24th Regiment, which he joined shortly afterwards at the Cape.

In November 1878, Lieutenant Franklin proceeded with his regiment to Natal, to join the force being prepared to act against the Zulus in the event of their refusing to comply with the terms of Sir Bartle Frere’s ultimatum. He took part in the subsequent advance of Colonel Glyn’s column into the enemy’s country in January 1879, and was present at the storming of Sihayo’s stronghold in the Batshe Valley. On the morning of the 22nd he was absent from Isandlwana with the main body of the column under Lord Chelmsford. On the return of that force to the devastated camp on the evening of the same day, he “led the company,” to use the words of his captain, “as steadily as if he had been an old soldier although an attack was momentarily expected, and few hoped to save their lives.” A fortnight later Lieutenant Franklin was attacked with fever: he was moved to Helpmekaar, in the hope that change and a purer atmosphere might restore him; but his strength had been too severely tried by the hardships and fatigue of the preceding weeks, and on the night of 20 February he passed peacefully away.

Though not dying in the field of battle, Lieutenant Franklin none the less gave up his life in the service of his country. After his death his Colonel wrote a letter very strongly in his praise, assuring his father that he had lost a splendid soldier. That was the universal opinion. He was more than true to the soldierly instincts of his late friend felt most forcibly that they had lost a right good fellow and pleasant companion, whilst the service had lost a splendid soldier. That was the universal opinion. He was more than true to the soldierly instincts of
window in the parish church of Wigmore, Herefordshire, and on the ‘South Africa 1879-80-81’ memorial and lectern in the Sandhurst Chapel.

**ARTHUR CLYNTON BASKERVILLE MYNORS,**
2nd LIEUTENANT, 60TH REGIMENT (KING’S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS).

Second Lieutenant Arthur Clynton Baskerville Mynors, who died at Fort Pearson, Natal, on 25th April 1879, was the second son of Robert Baskerville Mynors, Esq., of Evancoyd, Kington, Hertfordshire, by his marriage with Ellen Gray, daughter of the Rev. Edward Higgins, of Bosbury House. He was born on the 17th August 1856, at Evancoyd. His education was commenced at Cheam, Surrey, under the head-mastership of the Rev. R.S. Tabor; and from thence he proceeded, in January 1870, to Eton. The subjoined record, extracted from the “Eton College Chronicle” of 20 June 1879, furnishes the main features of his subsequent short career:

“In Memoriam.

“Never has it befallen us to have to record, in such quick succession, the loss of those, alas! the memory of whose school lives is still fresh amongst us. For none of these will more keen regret be felt than for Arthur Clynton Baskerville Mynors, Lieutenant, 3rd Battalion 60th Rifles, who succumbed to dysentery on April 25th, at Fort Pearson, Natal. He had been present at the battle of Gingindlovu and the relief of Eshowe. On the 14th of April he was seized with dysentery, which never quitted its hold upon him. On the 23rd he was sent up to Fort Pearson on the Thukela, in hopes that the change might benefit him; but he sank on the 25th, and died at 7 p.m. on that day in the tent of Colonel Hopton, of the 88th Regiment, tended in his last moments by friendly hands, and, as recorded by one who was present, ‘With a bright smile on his face, and the hope of heaven on his lips.’
His was a loving, bright nature, and a simple faith: a combination of qualities that makes it possible for joy to dwell in the soul amidst the torture of such a terrible disease as dysentery, and in the very presence of death itself. His life here was always joyous – a fearless, keen boyhood, spent sans peur et sans reproche. He came to Eton in January 1870. Many will remember him as, fleet of foot and of lasting powers, winning the Mile and the Steeplechase in 1874, and the Walking Race in 1875. As master of the Beagles in 1875 he showed himself to possess all the qualities of a keen sportsman, with an instinctive knowledge of the craft. He left at Election, 1875. He afterwards joined the Oxford Militia, and at the beginning of 1878 obtained a commission in the 60th Rifles. During the short year that he had been with his battalion he had become a general favourite with both officers and men; for he had all the qualities of a good soldier and a leader of men, combined with a perfect temper, thorough unselfishness, and a genial, cheery manner. Truly a son of whom, while thus mourning his early death, Eton may speak with tenderness and pride. His grave is on a grassy slope, amid some waving palm-trees, looking down towards the seam over the lovely valley of the Thukela.”

Second Lieutenant Mynors is remembered by an inscription in the church at Evenjobb, Wales.

**MARMADUKE STOURTON**
CAPTAIN, 63RD REGIMENT (WEST SUFFOLK).

Captain Marmaduke Stourton, who died at Pietermaritzburg, on 18th April 1879, was the eldest son of the late Hon. William Stourton, of Yorkshire, by his marriage with Catherine, daughter of Edmund Scully, Esq., of Bloomfield, co. Tipperary. He was born on 14 January 1840, and was educated at Downside College, near Bath; at Namur, in Belgium; and at Stonyhurst College, Lancashire. Entering the army in May 1861, he was gazetted to an ensigncy in the 8th Foot, and served with that regiment at Malta, at Gibraltar, in India, and at the depot in England. He became Lieutenant in 1864, and obtained his company in 1870, in which year he exchanged into the 63rd Regiment. He shortly afterwards embarked with that corps for India, and served there at various stations for several years.

On the news of the disaster at Isandlwana reaching England in February 1879, Captain Stourton was at the depot of his regiment at Ashton-under-Lyne, immediately volunteered for South Africa. He was selected as a special service officer to take up duty with the 24th Regiment, and was sent out, on 1st March in the transport “Clyde.” The vessel was wrecked in St. Simon’s Bay but owing to the admirable discipline that prevailed, no lives were lost, and all the troops were safely landed on the coast. Arriving shortly afterwards at Durban, Captain Stourton proceeded in charge of drafts of the 24th Regiment to Pietermaritzburg. During the
morning 18 April he marched a distance of twelve miles, and was the cheeriest of the party – singing, bugling, and keeping up the spirits of the men in every possible way; but the afternoon’s advance commenced with an exceedingly steep ascent, on surmounting which he gasped for breath. Turning to an officer of the Artillery, he said: “I feel my life-blood ebbing away. I am nearly done.” Instead of falling out, he continued with the column in its march up another trying hill to the camp. When the bugle sounded “Halt,” he had just sufficient strength left to give his word of command, and then fell fainting to the ground. Within an hour afterwards, in spite of every exertion made by his comrades, his prophecy had been fulfilled, and his gallant spirit had passed away.

Though Captain Stourton’s death did not take place in the battlefield, he none the less rendered up his life in the service of his country. In spite of physical weakness he struggled on, a brave example to his men; and when his work was accomplished, he simply lay down and died. His remains were buried, with military honours, in the camp cemetery at Pietermaritzburg. The officers and men of the draft with which he had served erected a stone over the grave.

Captain Stourton married, in 1870, Marie, daughter of William Franks, Esq.

JOHN THIRKILL
LIEUTENANT, 88TH REGIMENT (CONNAUGHT RANGERS).

Lieutenant John Thirkill, who died at Herwen, Natal, on 22nd April 1879, was the only son of the late Rev. Thomas P. Thirkill, MA, and the last of his name. He was born in Ireland on 25 June 1851, and was educated at the Somersetshire College, Bath, and Clifton College. He passed the examination for direct commission in July 1870, and, after serving for two years in the Monmouthshire Militia, joined the Connaught Rangers at Aldershot in the spring of 1872. When the regiment proceeded to the Cape, he was stationed chiefly at Wynberg, where he fulfilled his duties as Instructor of Musketry – an appointment for which he had previously qualified at Hythe. He first saw active service in 1877, taking part in the Cape Frontier campaign of that year, and behaving throughout, according to the testimony of those present with great gallantry.

On preparations being commenced in 1878 for the prosecution of the impending Zulu war, Lieutenant Thirkill, fearing that his own regiment might not be engaged in active service, endeavoured by every means in his power to procure some appointment that would take him to the front. Through the interest of Colonel Bellairs, Deputy Adjutant-General, he was appointed, in December 1878, transport officer, and was sent immediately to Durban: there he fulfilled the difficult duties awarded to him until early in January 1879, when he joined Colonel Pearson’s column at the Lower Thukela. He took part in the subsequent advance of that force into Zululand, and was present at the battle of Nyezane on 22 January and at the entry of the column into Eshowe on the following day. During the siege he earned golden opinions from all by his carefulness and perseverance in the performance of his duties, and his unflagging energy and cheerfulness under the most trying circumstances. Lord Chelmsford mentioned him in despatches, and Colonel Pearson and other officers bore testimony to his unceasing attention and efficiency. Though he had been for some time previously in failing health, it was not until the day of the relief that he consented to go upon the sick list. On leaving Eshowe he nevertheless remained in charge of transport wagons, and was in consequence obliged to travel very slowly under a burning sun. One of the vehicles broke down in a drift, and he insisted on remaining behind to see it properly extricated. The prolonged exposure to the heat proved too much for his enfeebled frame: he was stricken with fever, and a fortnight afterwards, in spite of the tender nursing of his soldier servant, and the care lavished on him by his comrades, passed away quietly at the hospital at Herwen, to the heartfelt grief of his brother officers and of all who knew him.

Naturally brave, generous, and devoted, very fond of his profession, and a most promising young officer, Lieutenant Thirkill was universally and deservedly popular. “He was beloved by all,” wrote on of his comrades; “he has been mourned as having been one of the most popular and beloved officers that ever joined the Rangers.” Colonel Pearson, besides testifying to his public worth in his official report on Eshowe, wrote, in a private letter, as follows: -

“The poor boy Thirkill, whom you mention, was as gallant a young fellow as ever wore the British uniform. From all I heard he must have been a great favourite in his regiment, as he was with us all at Eshowe.”

The officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the Connaught Rangers erected a monumental tablet to the memory of Lieutenant Thirkill in the parish church of Ross, Herefordshire. He is also commemorated on the ‘South Africa 1879-80-81’ memorial in the Sandhurst Chapel.

GEORGE SANDHAM
CAPTAIN, 90TH LIGHT INFANTRY.
Captain George Sandham, who died in camp at Kambula, Zululand, on 31st March 1879, was the eldest son of Lieutenant-General Sandham, late of the Royal Artillery; of Rowdell, Pulborough, Sussex, by his marriage with Mary Georgina, daughter of Robert Gear, Esquire, of Oxford Square, Hyde Park; and grandson of Major Sandham, late of the Royal Artillery, an officer who shared in the glories of Waterloo. He was born on 21 September 1847, and was educated at Bradfield College, near Reading. In 1867 he obtained a cadetship at the Royal Military College, where his gentlemanly bearing and kindly nature caused him to be generally liked. It was a source of satisfaction to all connected with the establishment when, at the end of the prescribed course of study, his name appeared second in the A list.

Soon after leaving the College, Sandham was gazetted to the 90th Light Infantry; and, the regiment being in India, joined the depot, then at Preston. On the return of the 90th, at the end of 1869, he joined the headquarters and proceeded to Edinburgh. In October 1871, he obtained his lieutenancy (by selection), and in March 1877, was appointed Instructor of Musketry to the regiment.

In January 1878, the 90th, being one of the first regiments on the roster for foreign service, was ordered to the Cape in consequence of a sudden call for troops occasioned by the rising of the Ngqika and Gcaleka Xhosa. Throughout the campaign of the year Sandham had charge of a company, and was frequently entrusted with detached commands, on each occasion winning the approval of his commanding officer. On 30th April he was present at the attack on the Thaba Nqoda, which the Xhosa held with the courage of despair. In this engagement Lieutenant Saltmarshe of the 90th was killed, and Captain Stevens, of the same regiment, severely wounded.

On the termination of hostilities Sandham proceeded with the headquarters and five companies of the regiment, which, together with Harness’s battery were placed under the command of Colonel Evelyn Wood, with orders to march overland to Natal. After six weeks’ marching, broken by a halt of one month at Kokstad, East Griqualand, Wood’s force reached Pietermaritzburg. Here the 90th remained until 20 October when it was ordered to concentrate at Utrecht, Transvaal, the future base of operations of Wood’s Column; it was there encamped after its arrival, until the early days of 1879, when a general move was made towards the Zulu frontier.

Captain Sandham, who had recently obtained his company, took part in the subsequent advance of the column into the enemy’s country, and served with it throughout its various operations during the earlier phases of the war. About the middle of March his health began to fail, and shortly afterwards he fell a victim to enteric fever, dying in camp at Kambula on the last day of March 1879, two days after the gallant repulse of the enemy at that position by the column.

Captain Sandham is commemorated by a pair of memorial windows in the parish church in Washington, Sussex, and on the ‘South Africa 1879-80-81’ memorial in the Sandhurst Chapel.

HENRY JOHN HARDY

LIEUTENANT, RIFLE BRIGADE (PRINCE CONSORT’S OWN).

Lieutenant Henry John Hardy, who died at Landman’s Drift, Natal, on 4 October 1879, was the second son of Sir John Hardy, Baronet, of Dunstall Hall, Staffordshire, by his marriage with Laura, daughter of the late William Holbech, Esq., of Farnborough. He was born at Oldbury Hall, Warwickshire, on 12 December 1850, and was educated at Eton. Entering the army in December he was gazetted to an Ensigncy in the 1st Battalion of the Rifle Brigade, and in October 1871, became Lieutenant. In 1873 he proceeded with his battalion to India, and, during the visit of the Prince of Wales to that dependency, was appointed Aid-de-Camp to Lord Northbrook. He returned to England with the Viceroy in 1876, and shortly afterwards exchanged into the 3rd Battalion of the Brigade.

At the latter end of May 1879, Lieutenant Hardy was sent out on special service to Natal. Landing at Durban early in July he joined the staff of Sir Garnet Wolseley, and was appointed orderly officer to General Colley, C.B. He accompanied the generals and staff in a tour to Fort Pearson and Mhlatuze (where Dabulamanzi, the king’s brother, and minor chiefs, declared their submission); Pietermaritzburg, Rorke’s Drift, and Isandlwana were visited; and Ulundi was reached on 10 August. Patrols were immediately despatched in search of King Cetshwayo; and Lieutenant Hardy, with others of the staff, accompanied Lord Gifford, and was in hot pursuit for five days and nights; in another patrol, under Major Nourse, he was out for six days, and assisted in driving in between two and three thousand cattle. The work was most severe, the food and water were bad and insufficient, and the exposure – in consequence of no tents being taken – was considerable. On 30 August Lieutenant Hardy was employed to escort Cetshwayo into Ulundi, and kept guard over his tent during the two hours the King remained there. On 3 September Sir Garnet Wolseley and his staff left Ulundi for Pretoria.

Lord Gifford had been sent home with despatches, and Lieutenant Hardy was appointed Aide-de-Camp to Sir Garnet Wolseley in his place, as also Camp Commandant. The night march from Ulundi was a severe one,
and a halt was not made until noon on the following day. On the 6th Captain Hardy was taken ill, at the Nhlazatshe Mission Station, with a very severe attack of dysentery, and was conveyed in a waggon to Conference Hill; being too weak to continue the journey to Pretoria, he was placed in the hospital marquee, and remained there for three weeks. The weather during this period was most stormy and the dampness of the tent, caused by the heavy rain, brought on a severe relapse. As soon as it was possible to remove him, he was taken to a farm-house at Landman’s Drift, and at first seems a little better for the change: he was most carefully nursed by his friend, Captain Herbert Stewart, and by his faithful servant, Private Augustus Underwood, but never really rallied, and at length died on 4th October. His remained were taken to the cemetery at Ladysmith, and were there interred, with military honours, on the 7th.

In announcing Captain Hardy’s death, Sir Garnet Wolseley wrote: - “He was a first rate aide-de-camp, and a very good officer – in every way a man after my own heart, and I had looked forward to having him always with me in any further employment. The service has lost a first-rate soldier, and his death has cast a gloom over us all.”

Captain Hardy is commemorated by a memorial window in the chancel of the parish church of Dunstall, Staffordshire.

WILLIAM IRVINE D’ARCY
2ND LIEUTENANT, 99TH REGIMENT (DUKE OD EDINBURGH’S).

Second Lieutenant William Irvine D’Arcy, who died in the Military Hospital at Durban on 23 September 1879, was the eldest son of William D’Arcy, Esquire, late Captain, 67th Regiment, of Castle Irvine, Fermanagh, Ireland, by his marriage with Louisa, daughter of John Cockburn, Esquire, Royal Horse Artillery. He was born on 24th April 1859, at Dover, and was educated at Mr. R.H. Hammond’s, at Ewell, near Dover. On 9th February 1877, he was appointed Sib-Lieutenant in the Fermanagh Light Infantry Militia, and in the first training acquitted himself so creditably as to cause him being recommended for a line commission. “He is a very zealous and intelligent officer,” wrote his Colonel, “and has conducted himself in a manner highly commendable.” He was gazetted to the 99th Regiment on 4 December 1878, and receiving orders to sail for the Cape, embarked, a month later, on board the “Nyanza” at Southampton. Arriving at Durban at the end of January 1879, he was at once sent to the front to join the portion of his regiment that was stationed on the Lower Thukela – the headquarters being at that time shut up in Eshowe.

Lieutenant D’Arcy served for two months on the Natal frontier. On the formation of the Eshowe relieving column, he was attached with the five companies of the 99th to its 1st Brigade, and took part in its advance, in the last days of May into Zululand. He was present at the battle of Gingindlovu on 3 April (within four months of his being gazetted), and subsequently accompanied the regiment in its march back to the frontier. A few weeks afterwards his health became slightly impaired, apparently from the violent alternations of temperature to which he had been exposed in so short a period, and in the last week in June he went into hospital at Fort Pearson. There he contracted typhoid fever, from which, however, under skilful treatment and tender nursing, he recovered sufficiently to enable his being removed to Durban. His letters from that town, written to his family, were of the most cheerful description, telling of his hopes, amongst others, of returning home on six months’ leave. “I feel all right in my health, but cannot walk much,” he wrote in a letter dated 15 September and borne home in the very packet which brought tidings of his death. Four days after penning the above words, in consequence of a sudden fall in the temperature, he contracted a slight cold, and within a week passed quietly away.

Sprung from a branch of the old family of the D’Arcy Irvines, of Castle Irvine, Fermanagh, Lieutenant D’Arcy was not the first of his name who has rendered up his life in the service of his country. By his comrades of the 99th – to whom, notwithstanding the shortness of his sojourn with them, he had greatly endeared himself – a monument to his memory has been erected over his grave in the military cemetery at Durban.

THOMAS ALDERTON
ASSISTANT COMMISSARY, COMMISSARIAT AND TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

Assistant Commissary Thomas Alderton, Adjutant of the Army Service Corps, who was drowned in crossing a river in the Orange Free State, near Bethlehem, on 5th April 1879, was a native of Hastings, Sussex; his father being in trade in that town at the time of his birth. He was born in the year 1833, and at an early age was apprenticed to a grocer in Lewes. He entered the army in the spring of 1854, enlisting in the Scots Fusilier Guards; was promoted Sergeant in a very short time; joined the regiment in the Crimea just after the fall of Sevastopol, and shared its perils and hardships through the severe winter which followed. At the expiration of the war he was transferred to the Military Train as pay-sergeant at the depot; shortly afterwards he became
Troop Sergeant Major, and in 1860, Quartermaster Sergeant. In February 1870, he obtained his commission in the Army Service Corps, and from that date until 1878 fulfilled his duties as an energetic officer at Portsmouth, Aldershot, and Dublin.

On 3 October 1878, Alderton left Dublin to embark for South Africa. Arriving at Natal, he was there attached to the Commissariat under General Strickland, as Adjutant, until February 1879, when he was sent by the General to the Orange Free State to purchase horses for the force. He arrived at the Itholy Heights, Basutoland, on the evening of April 1st and put up at the house of Dr. Taylor. On the following day he was occupied with his duties; he was then apparently in the enjoyment of good health, but during the night he became feverish, and, by the advice of his host, remained in bed throughout the succeeding day. On the 3rd he was considerably better, but at the doctor’s request abstained from quitting the house, occupying himself with writing and with inspecting horses from the veranda of his room. Characteristically desirous to perform his duty at all hazards, he started off, contrary to the doctor’s advice, on the morning of the 4th, on a ride of sixty miles, accompanied by two Europeans – his destination being the little town of Bethlehem, in the Orange Free State. About sundown he reached the house of a Dutch farmer, with whom Dr. Taylor had recommended him to put up, who advised him not to attempt to cross any of the streams, which were much swollen with rain, at night. In a letter written to Mrs. Alderton, bearing date 11th April 1879, Dr. Taylor gives the following account of the manner in which he met his death:

“He said he must go to Bethlehem that night, and rode away, having with him two white men who went about with him and collected the horses as he brought them. They came to the edge of the stream after dark, through the moon was up, and then one of the men told him the water was dangerous, and said they had better remain on the bank till the morning; but the Captain said he was anxious to get on, and they must go through.

“The man accordingly went through first, riding one horse and leading the others, and got safely up the opposite bank.

“The Captain and the other man now rode into the water together, and were crossing side by side when, suddenly, the Captain’s horse started in front of his servant’s, and he fell of the horse backwards into the water with a cry, and was gone. All the men saw of him was his two hands held out of the water above his head for an instant, and then he was hurried away by the current. They both jumped into the water, and dived and searched in all directions, but uselessly, the darkness hiding all objects from view. It is surmised that his spurs coming in contact with the horse’s flanks made it start forward suddenly, and throw its rider off backwards. Such is the sad story of his sudden death, which has cast a gloom over all of us here.”

The body was subsequently recovered and conveyed to St. Augustine’s Vicarage, Bethlehem, where it received Christian burial, the British flag its pall.

“It will be a great source of comfort to you,” continues Dr. Taylor’s letter, “To know that your husband met his death in consequence of his anxiety to do his duty; the reason why he was in such haste being not from a desire to get into Bethlehem for his own personal convenience or comfort, but that he might pay off and discharge some men he had hired, in order that they should not be drawing pay from the Government after their services were no longer required.”

Assistant Commissary Alderton was a zealous and energetic officer, popular not only in the corps, but beyond it. His capacity for work was great, his perseverance such as was well calculated to overcome the innumerable difficulties which beset the path of the officer in the department of the service to which he belonged. His loss is deeply mourned by all that knew him: his death has caused a void that will not readily be filled up.

STEPHEN THORNTON PHILLIMORE
DEPUTY COMMISSARY, ORDNANCE STORE DEPARTMENT.

Deputy Commissary Stephen Thornton Phillimore, who died at Utrecht on 7th April 1879, was the third surviving son of the Rev. George Phillimore, rector of Rednage, Bucks. He was born on 15 August 1853, and was educated at Christ’s College, Finchley. In April 1872, he entered the Ordnance Store Department (Called at that time the “Control”), taking fourth place in order of merit among forty successful candidates at the competitive examination. He served at home station for a period of some five years, being quartered at Chatham, Woolwich, Devonport, and Edinburgh, until 1877; in the month of February of that year he embarked for South Africa.

He remained stationed at Cape Town from the date of his arrival till the following July when, in consequence of the illness of one of his colleagues, he received order to proceed to Natal. Arriving at Pietermaritzburg, he was appointed senior officer in charge, and discharged the arduous double duties of that post for a period of six months. In January 1878, he was released from the appointment in order that he might return to his original station, Cape Town; owing, however, to the outbreak of the Cape Frontier War, he was
detained at King William’s Town, where there was a heavy strain on the Department; and eventually, in February received orders from General Sir A. Cunynghame to proceed direct to Iketa, in the Transkei. There he remained until July having the entire charge of the ordnance stores, and the heavy responsibilities incident thereto, living under canvas, and seeing a good deal of the surrounding country in various expeditions on duty.

In July 1878, in view of the impending invasion of Zululand, he returned to Natal and the Transvaal, and being attached to General Wood’s column from the time of its formation, remained on active service as long as his strength lasted. On 14 January 1879, the “temporary rank during the hostilities” of Deputy Commissary was conferred upon him, in recognition of his services. The difficulties in the way of transport inherent to the prosecution of the campaign rendered the strain on his department incessant and sever. Unsparing of self and devoted to his work, he suffered from the consequences, and early in March he was placed on the sick list at Utrecht. After several weeks of illness, through which he was attended with unceasing care by his friend Surgeon-Major Cuffe, C.B., and tenderly nursed by his soldier servant, Leece, of the 90th, he died at Utrecht, on 7th April of the enteric fever with which he had been stricken while faithfully discharging his duty.

The following extracts from two out of many letters testifying to his worth will serve to show the estimation in which Phillimore was held by those with whom he came in contact: - “I desire,” wrote General Wood, “to record my warm appreciation of this officer’s devoted energy while under my command. Though he was most careful to guard against any unauthorised or unnecessary expenditure, he exerted every effort to supply all my demands, smoothing over difficulties to the best of his ability;” and Deputy Commissary-General Wright, in a letter to the Rev. G. Phillimore, bearing date 21st April 1879, from Natal, wrote: “The feeling of regret for the loss of your son in universal in these parts. He had made himself a favourite with all whom he met, and I can personally, as his senior officer, vouch for his ability, zeal, and anxiety at all times in the performance of his duties.”

Over his grave at Utrecht a headstone has been erected by his family, and a tablet has been placed by his brother officers to his memory in the parish church of Radnage, Bucks.

JOHN ALFRED GISSING
LIEUTENANT OF ORDERLIES, ARMY HOSPITAL CORPS.

Lieutenant of Orderlies John Alfred Gissing, who died on board the steam-ship “Roman,” in Mossell Bay, South Africa, on 3 January 1879, was the son of Mr. F.J. Gissing of the Wickham Skeith Abbey, Norfolk. He was born in 1841, and was educated in London. On 9 December 1861, at the age of twenty years, he entered Her Majesty’s service as a private, joining the dépôt of the 30th Regiment at Parkhurst Barracks, Isle of Wight. He was promoted to the rank of Corporal in October 1863; and to that of Sergeant in March 1865. On the occasion of the arrival of the Prince of Wales at Cowes, after his marriage, Sergeant Gissing formed one of the guards of honour.

In 1865 he proceeded to Canada to join the head-quarters of the 30th, then at Montreal: he served with the regiment at that city at Quebec (where he attended at the great fire in the Lower Town, in 1866); at Point Lewis; at Halifax, Nova Scotia; and at the little village of Camperdown, where he acted as Director of Signals. Shortly afterwards he was appointed Hospital Sergeant to the regiment – an appointment which he retained until, in 1874, he was transferred to the Army Hospital Corps.

Returning home with the regiment, he arrived in Ireland on 1 June 1869, and served for two years at Waterford and Dublin. In 1871 he proceeded with the regiment to Jersey; from thence, in 1872, to Aldershot; and from thence, in 1873, to the forts on Portsdown Hills, near Portsmouth. Early in the following year he was transferred to the Army Hospital Corps. His comrades took advantage of the occasion of his leaving them to bestow on him some small token of their regards, and at a meeting of the mess, held in his honour, his brother sergeants testified, in many kindly phrases, to the high estimation in which they held him. He was ordered to the Hilsea Station Hospital, and there took over the duties of compounder, and, subsequently, those of ward master and steward; in the tenure of these appointments he acquitted himself so creditably as to win the approbation of all with whom he was thrown in contact, and 9 June 1877, his zeal and ability were rewarded by Commissioned rank being bestowed upon him. He was shortly afterwards ordered to Aldershot, where, on his arrival, he took over the duties of paymaster; proceeding, subsequently, to Preston, he was appointed officer in charge of the hospital, and district visiting officer.

In October 1878, Lieutenant Gissing was ordered out to South Africa, in view of the impending hostilities with the Zulus. Passing through Aldershot, he proceeded, with a detachment of the corps, to Southampton; embarked with it at that port early in November and arrived at Cape Town at the end of the month. His health, which for some time had been failing, now became seriously impaired, notwithstanding which, he begged earnestly to be allowed to proceed to the front. His request being compiled with, he embarked for Natal, and landed at Durban on 12th December. The barracks lay two miles distant from the landing stage, and over a portion of the route he had to be supported in the arms of his comrades. No sooner had he arrived that his case was found to be so serious as to necessitated his being at once invalided home. He was accordingly
taken back to Durban, and seen on board the steam-ship “Roman,” by one of his friends, on the last day of the year; there, in spite of the strenuous efforts made on his behalf by Dr. Taylor, the surgeon of the vessel, and tender nursing on the part of the stewardess, he gradually sank, and finally expired on the fourth day after his arriving on board. His remains were carried on to Cape Town, and were there interred with military honours.

Lieutenant Gissing married, in 1865, Phoebe, youngest daughter of Mr. W. White, of Newport, Isle of Wight, and had issue of the marriage nine children, six of whom survive. He was a good husband and father, truehearted as he was hard working and gentle as he was brave.

JEREMIAH TROY
LIEUTENANT OF ORDERLIES, ARMY HOSPITAL CORPS.

Lieutenant Troy’s early life remains obscure. He joined the 8th Hussars as a private soldier 24 August 1855, and two years later landed with his regiment in Bombay. He was present at the siege and capture of Kotah on 30th March 1858, and afterwards served in Benares and Kooshana, and other stations, until his regiment again returned to England. He was transferred to the Army Hospital Corps on 1st January 1866, and served at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley; Nerbert Hospital, Woolwich; and Headquarters of the Army Hospital Corps, London.

Promotion in his new corps, in the various non-commissioned grades, sufficiently indicated his career as being that of a well conducted, intelligent soldier, whose service were utilised and appreciated accordingly. He attained the rank of Corporal on 1st April 1866; that of Sergeant 9th November 1866; and that of Colour-Sergeant on 9th June 1877.

From October 1874, to March 1878, he was posted for duty a Halifax, Nova Scotia. He was promoted to Her Majesty’s Commission in the latter month, and after a brief period of service at home, embarked at Portsmouth on 29th May 1879, en route for active service in South Africa, in charge of a detachment of his corps, together with stores and appliances intended for service of the troops in the field and hospital.

Lieutenant Troy’s hitherto unassuming but valuable services, as above recorded, were now shortly to be brought to a close. Exposure to climate under trying circumstances rapidly told upon his health, and at Durban, on 8th October 1879, he fell a victim to disease that terminated fatally, thus bringing to conclusion a service of twenty-four years.

This officer was in possession of the silver medal for long and meritorious service.

The following officers died after the close of hostilities, from illness contracted during the campaign;

JOHN HARDWICK
ASSISTANT PAYMASTER, ARMY PAY DEPARTMENT.

Lieutenant John Hardwick, who died in London 1st December 1879, from consumption of the lungs brought on by exposure and fatigue during the Zulu war, was the only son of the late John Hardwick, Esquire, D.C.L., F.R.S., for thirty-five years Metropolitan Police Magistrate at Marlborough Street, his mother being Charlotte, daughter of Colonel de Beton, of Sweden. He was born on 1st June 1851, and was educated at Eton. Entering the army in November 1875, he was stationed from that time at Manchester till July 1878, when he was ordered to South Africa. He arrived at Cape Town a month later and at once proceeded to Pietermaritzburg.

Throughout the period during which Lieutenant Hardwick was present in Natal, his duties, in consequence of the heavy pressure of work on his department, were of a very arduous character, and there are few placed at which our troops were stationed over a very wide extent of territory that he was not obliged to visit. In September he was sent to Newcastle and Utrecht in charge of specie, and throughout the journey was obliged to pass his nights in the open air. In October he proceeded to organise and take charge of the Army Pay Department at Durban, Thring’s Post, and the Lower Thukela – a duty that involved constant riding between the two latter positions – a distance of seventy miles. At the latter end of December he had an attack of intermittent fever. Four days later he was ordered to proceed at once to take charge of the department at Helpmekaar, a hundred and sixty miles distant. He made the journey in five days on horseback, under continuous rain,
swimming rivers, and sleeping three nights in the open in damp clothes, with nothing but biscuits to eat and muddy water to drink. The consequence was that on arriving at Helpmekaar he was again attacked with fever, complicated with bronchitis and rheumatism. On the arrival of Surgeon-Major Shepherd he was pronounced unfit to advance with Glyn’s column, to which he was attached, into Zululand, and was sent back to Pietermaritzburg to be placed on the sick list. On arriving there, however, he was ordered to proceed to Durban, and take charge of the department there. In February 1879, he was sent to take charge of the pay duties of the advance column, Lower Thukela, Fort Tenedos, and St. Andrew’s, Zululand. This involved riding between the different stations in all weathers. He had intended proceeding with the relief column to Eshowe, but, in consequence of his bronchitis being still severe, he was unable to do so, and returned to Durban on 5th April.

The fatigue and exposure to which he was subjected proved too much for his already enfeebled frame and three days after his arrival he was again stricken with fever. He rallied sufficiently to admit of his being invalided home in the month of June but reached England only to die. Gradually sinking from the hour of his arrival, he finally expired on 1st December. His remained were interred at Hove Church, Brighton, where those of his father had already found a last resting-place, but his grave is now unmarked.

Lieutenant Hardwick, whose loss is deeply deplored by the wide circle of friends to whom his kindness of heart and geniality of manner had endeared him, had married, only in September 1877, Agnes Alyne Georgiana, only daughter of the late Rev. Arthur Hyde Hulton, B.A., of Bardsley House, Lancashire, and niece of the Hon. And Right Rev. Henry Montague Villiers, D.D., late Bishop of Durham.

JOHN CLARKE
Lieutenant, Royal Engineers

Lieutenant Clarke was the younger son of William Nelson Clarke of Ardington, now in Oxfordshire. He died of disease in Pietermaritzburg on 11th June 1879, and is buried next to Colonel Durnford in the Fort Napier Cemetery.

JAMES FENCOTT JAMES
CAPTAIN, 13th LIGHT INFANTRY

Captain James served with his battalion throughout the war, and was second senior officer at the battle of Ulundi. He died on 24th February 1880 as a result of ill health brought about by his exertions during the campaign. He is buried at Ford Park Cemetery, Plymouth, and his headstone was erected by his brother officers. He is also commemorated on the Regimental Memorial, Wells Cathedral, Somerset.

WILLIAM PRISGOOD GURNEY
BREVET LIEUTENANT-COLONEL, 91st HIGHLANDERS

Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Gurney served with the regiment throughout the war. He was present at the battle of Gingindlovu and the relief of Eshowe, and subsequently commanded convoys during the advance of the 1st Division. He died on 27th January at Moka, Mauritius, “from the lingering effects of fever contracted during the Zulu campaign … aged 45”.

JOHN BURLTON BENETT
LIEUTENANT, RN, HMS BOADICEA

Lieutenant Benett was the son of William Morgan Benett of Fritham, Hampshire, and Barbara Sarah, daughter of Captain Waring, RN, of Lyme Regis, Dorset. Lieutenant Benett joined HMS Boadicea’s crew with effect from 7th July 1878. He served on land as part of the Naval Brigade contingent from 19th March to 9th June 1879, during which time he served with the Eshowe Relief Column, and was present at the battle of Gingindlovu. He later accompanied the Brigade when a landing depot was established at Port Durnford. Lieutenant Benett was invalided home on 3rd November 1879, and died at Haslar Naval Hospital on 12th

4 The Times, 30th February 1880.
August 1880. He was buried at Bramshaw in the New Forest, and his headstone states that he ‘died from hardships endured in the Zulu War of 1879’. He is also mentioned on the ship’s memorial for the period 1878-82 in Clayhall Naval Cemetery, Haslar, Hampshire.

Postscript;

THE ANGLO-PEDI EXPEDITIONS

Many contemporary British commentators – including Mackinnon and Shadbolt – persisted in regarding the expedition against King Sekhukhune of the Pedi as an adjunct to the Zulu War. In fact, the Pedi kingdom was completely independent of Zulu influence, and geographically separated from Zululand; the only common threads were the shared motor of Confederation, and the fact that, for the most part, the same British troops were employed in both theatres.

The Pedi kingdom had emerged as a conglomeration of northern Sotho groups early in the nineteenth-century, and its heartland lay to the north-east of what would become the Transvaal Republic. The kingdom managed to retain much of its geographical integrity following the establishment of Boer rule in the region in the 1830s and ‘40s, but throughout the 1870s the Republic’s land hunger led to a growing tension with the Pedi. King Sekhukhune wouSekwati refused to acknowledge Boer territorial claims in his districts, or to recognise Boer authority by paying taxes. As a result, the Republic mounted a campaign against the Pedi in 1876. The Pedi, who were extensively armed with guns obtained by migrant labourers working at the diamond fields in Kimberley, avoided battle in the open, and instead retired to a series of defended hill-top strongholds. The Boer commandos proved reluctant to mount frontal assaults on these positions, and the Republic was forced to abandon the campaign.

When, in 1877, the British annexed the Transvaal, they inherited the dispute with King Sekhukhune. Despite the fact that the British had hitherto denied the Republic’s claims on Pedi territory, they now felt the need to force Sekhukhune to acknowledge British authority, as part of the wider progress towards Confederation. In October 1878 a small British force – less than 500 men - under Colonel Hugh Rowlands set out to march towards the main Pedi settlements in the Leolu Mountains. Rowland’s force proved inadequate for the task, however, and he was forced to retire in the face of water shortages, difficult terrain, and an outbreak of horse-sickness.

The outbreak of the Anglo-Zulu War prevented the British from resuming the campaign. When the war in Zululand released troops for a fresh expedition, however, Sir Garnet Wolseley marched several infantry battalions – chiefly the 21st, 80th and 94th Regiments – to the north-eastern Transvaal. Supported by mounted irregulars, by 3,500 local African auxiliaries, and by 8000 warriors supplied by the Swazi kingdom, Wolseley invaded the Pedi kingdom in November 1879. The Pedi – who throughout the campaign probably never managed to field an army of more than 4000 men – retired on their capital Tsate. Here they made a stand on a fortified hill close to the town, which the British christened the ‘Fighting Kop’. Wolseley assaulted Tsate early on the morning of 28 November 1879. The town itself was stormed by the Swazi contingent, and while British troops over-ran the ‘Fighting Kop’, isolated pockets of Pedi held out throughout the day, and some managed to escape the British cordon during a thunderstorm the following night. The remainder, however, had little option but to surrender. Total European casualties amounted to thirteen killed and thirty-five wounded; the Swazi lost between 500 and 600 men. Pedi losses were estimated at 1,000. Sekhukhune himself went into hiding, but was captured on 2nd December. The battle marked the passing of the Pedi as an effective force on the north-eastern Transvaal borders.

In Memoriam

WALTER GLYN LAWRELL
CAPTAIN, 4TH HUSSARS.
Captain Walter Glyn Lawrell, who was killed at the storming of Sekhukhune’s stronghold, South Africa, on 28th November 1879, was the eldest son of the Rev. John Lawrell, of Hampshire. He was born on 10th April 1844, near Christchurch, and was educated at Charterhouse. Subsequently to his leaving school he obtained, and held for a short period, an appointment in the War Office. Competing at the Army Examination for direct commissions, he passed first in the list of successful candidates, and on 8th December 1865, was gazetted to a cornetcy in the 9th Lancers. Her served with that regiment at various home stations. In July 1870, he obtained his troop.

In December 1871, Captain Lawrell exchanged into the 4th Hussars, then stationed at Delhi. After serving in India for a period of seven years, he returned with the regiment, in January 1879, to England. On the news of the disaster at Isandlwana reaching this country in February he immediately volunteered for the Cape: it was not, however, until three months later that his services were accepted. He embarked for South Africa at the latter end of June but reached his destination too late to admit of his taking in active part in the Zulu war. Shortly after his arrival he was appointed orderly officer to Sir Baker Russell, a column under whom had been formed by Sir Garnet Wolseley to carry on hostile operations against the rebel chief Sekhukhune, who, from his almost inaccessible fastness in the Transvaal, was defying the authority of the Government. In the successful assault made upon this stronghold on 28th November Captain Lawrell, clambering over the jagged and boulder-strewn heights, had succeeded in reaching a ledge almost opposite to the mouth of the cave into which the enemy had retired, when a bullet struck him in the throat, killing him almost instantaneously.

In Captain Lawrell the service lost a most brave and valued officer; his brother officers, a well-loved companion; his men, a true friend and stanch reporter; and society, a gentleman of sense and honour, whose amiability and moral rectitude had gained for him the esteem of all.

Captain Lawrell married, in December 1874, Mary, daughter of John Hamilton, Esq., of Tyne Court, Somersetshire.

1) Zulu oral folklore.

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