

From the February 1st edition of *The Natal Mercury*.

Boers v. British Tactics.

‘A friend in the Free State says:

It does seem incomprehensible to us that such a body of men, supported by two guns and a rocket battery, could not keep the Zulu hordes at arm’s length. We cannot help thinking that the British general has much to learn from the Africander farmers in this matter. The Emigrant Boers fortified their positions whenever an attack was to be apprehended, and this was the plan: Their wagons, closely arranged in a double circle, and well lashed together, with the interstices filled up with thorn bushes, formed a barricade which the savages could not force, and from behind which the fire of musketry came with deadly effect. It will be quite impossible for the British to carry on a war successfully in Zululand unless they properly entrench themselves.’

Lt. E.S. Browne VC. 1st 24th

Following correspondence with a member about where the action for this VC occurred, I have tended to follow the belief of modern historians and favoured Khambula on the 29th March 1879, the date on his citation, and the date for Khambula - as opposed to Hlobane having occurred the day before.

I was researching a totally different matter today when I came across the following from *The Natal Mercury* of the 17th June 1879. The section about Browne is listed alongside the VC awards from Hlobane.

The Victoria Cross
From ***The London Gazette***

Lieutenant Edward S Browne 1st 24th, for the gallant conduct, on the 29th March 1879, When the Mounted Infantry were being driven in by enemy at Zlobane, in galloping back and twice assisting on his horse (under heavy fire and within a few yards of the enemy, one of the mounted men, who must have otherwise fallen into the enemy's hands.