

## Editorial for Journal 44 December 2018.

Members will have seen the recent item in *The Times*, which I paraphrase here.

The battlefield of Isandlwana has changed little since 1879, when Zulu warriors inflicted the worst military defeat in British colonial history. Today animals graze among cairns marking mass graves on the slopes of a mountain long regarded as a natural cenotaph. Yet the peace of the landscape is threatened once more, this time by a development which critics fear will blight a pristine site sacred to the memory of soldiers from both sides. Commissioned by King Goodwill Zwelithini, the Zulu monarch, the plans envisage a 12-acre visitor complex that includes a conference centre, two museums and parking. However, an archaeological survey identified a grave with 11 bodies and plans were re-drawn.

We will continue to report on this but members will acknowledge that there is nothing we can do about it. There is some local input but we will have to await developments.

On a lighter note, there is still considerable interest in the history of the Anglo-Zulu War. Among the new books scheduled for release next year is one by Dr Ian Beckett, details to be announced. Prof. John Laband has a new book out: *The Eight Zulu Kings, From Shaka to Zwelithini* and Cam Simpson's book *The Frontier Light Horse* is available from Foxhole Militaria in Cape Town; link below.

A number of universities are currently supporting students researching the subject for their projects and theses. An example is reproduced in this Journal and I am pleased that the Society is regularly called upon to assist students with their research. At the other end of the scale, we continue to give talks and lectures to schools, the most recent was to a class of 11 year olds who were especially interested in seeing and handling artefacts, especially those which were sharp, pointed or war-like.

Our plan for an exhibition in Kent has been postponed until next Summer due to refurbishment of the host museum; details will be announced in the next Journal.

With this year now drawing to a close, I wish all our members a peaceful break over the Christmas and New Year period.

*Adrian Greaves*

Editor.

*The Frontier Light Horse* [https://www.foxhole.co.za/product/the-frontier-light-horse-in-the-anglo-zulu-war-1879/...](https://www.foxhole.co.za/product/the-frontier-light-horse-in-the-anglo-zulu-war-1879/)