

A glossary of common Zulu words and British military terms encountered during the Anglo Zulu War of 1879

ZULU WORDS

Amabutho (s.ibutho) - guilds or regiments made up of Zulu warriors according to age groups.

Amakhanda (s.ikhanda) - the royal household

Assegai - term used originally to describe the assegai tree, more commonly used to describe the flat bladed spear made famous by Shaka.

Donga - a dry water gully or gully caused by erosion.

Drift - a shallow crossing point of a river i.e. Rorke's Drift.

Imizi (s.umuzi) - Zulu homestead, usually described as a 'krall'.

Impi - Zulu term for a group of warriors or commonly by the British during 1879 to describe the Zulu army.

Isigodlo - frequently misused term to describe the king's women or harem; its correct useage should denote the royal household.

ka - the son of, or to denote the surname i.e. Cetshwayo **ka**Mapande.

Kop - a hill i.e. Spion Kop, also Koppie.

kwa - a common Zulu prefix to mean 'of' or 'from' i.e. **kwa**Jimi = Jim's Place (from James Rorke of Rorke's drift).

Impondo Zankomo - the infamous 'horns of the buffalo' tactic of the Zulu in attack.

Induna - senior Zulu advisor

Sangoma - Zulu medicine man or woman, occasionally misused to denote a witchdoctor.

BRITISH MILITARY TERMS

Banquette - a step built inside a defensive rampart to enable troops to fire over the structure.

Brevet rank - an instant field promotion, usually for bravery which took precedence over his former rank. It did not attract the pay of the higher rank but gave priority for promotion.

Embrasure - an opening in a defensive position.

Laager - a term used by the Afrikaan trekkers for a defensive position made by a circle of wagons. used by the British for a fortified position.

Picket (or picquet) - a lookout or observer, usually placed in front of a defensive position.

Redoubt - a defensive position or fort, usually temporary.

Traverse - a wooden parapet between two positions to prevent enfilade fire by the Zulu.

Vedette - a mounted picket.

British Regiments and Corps involved during the Anglo Zulu War of 1879

1st King's Dragoon Guards, since 1959 The Queen's Dragoon Guards.

17th Lancers, since 1922 17th/21st Lancers.

The Royal Artillery

The Royal Engineers

The Royal Marines

The Royal Marines Artillery

3rd (East Kent) Regiment (Bufs), from 1881 Buffs (Royal East Kent) and from 1966 The Queen's Regiment.

4th (Kings Own) Regiment, from 1881 King's Own Royal Lancaster and from 1959 The King's Own Royal Border Regiment.

13th (Somersetshire) Light Infantry, from 1881 Somerset Light Infantry and then from 1968 The Light Infantry.

21st Royal Scots Fusiliers, from 1881 Royal Scots Fusiliers and from 1959 Royal Highland Fusiliers.

24th (2nd Warwickshire) Regiment, from 1881 The South Wales Borderers and from 1969 The Royal Regiment of Wales.

57th (West Middlesex) Regiment, after 1881 The 1st Middlesex, after 1966 The Queen's Regiment.

58th (Rutlandshire) Regiment, after 1881 The 2nd Northamptonshire, after 1964 The Royal Anglian Regiment.

60th King's Royal Rifle Corps, from 1881 the King's Royal Rifle Corps, from 1966 The Royal Green Jackets Regiment.

80th (Staffordshire Volunteer) after 1881 2nd South Staffordshire Regiment and from 1959 The Staffordshire Regiment.
 88th (Connaught Rangers) Regiment, after 1881 1st Connaught Rangers then disbanded in 1922.
 90th (Perthshire Volunteers) Light Infantry, after 1881 The 2nd Cameronians then disbanded in 1968.
 91st (Argyllshire) Highlanders then after 1881 The 1st Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
 94th Regiment, then the 2nd Connaught Rangers, disbanded in 1922.
 99th (Duke of Edinburgh's) Regiment, after 1881 The 2nd Wiltshire Regiment and from 1959 The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment.
 Transport Department became the Army Service Corps in 1888 and the Royal Corps of Transport in 1965.
 Army Medical Services became The Royal Army Medical Corps in 1898.
 Ordnance Services became The Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1922.

Irregular, Auxiliary and Volunteer Units involved during the Anglo Zulu War of 1879

Alexandra Mounted Rifles	Basutho Mounted Rifles
Bettington's Horse	Border Horse
Buffalo Border Guard	Cooke's Horse
Durban Volunteer Artillery	Frontier Light Horse
Lonsdale's Horse	Natal Carbineers
Natal Guides	Natal Light Horse
Natal Mounted Police	Newcastle Mounted Rifles
Schermbrucker's Horse	Wood's Irregulars

Zulu Regiments involved in the defence of Zululand 1879

isAngqu	Khandempemvu	iNdlondlo*
uDlambedlu	uMbonambi	iNdluyengwe*
uDloko*	umCijo	iNgobamakhosi
uDududu	iMube	iQwa
InGcugce	uMxapho	inSugamgeni
iziNgulube	umHlanga	umXapho
uNokhenkhe	uThulwana*	uVe

*Zulu units which briefly violated the Natal border at Rorke's Drift on the night of the 22nd January 1879

Victoria Cross Awards Anglo Zulu War of 1879

Chard, John Rouse Marriott	Bromhead, Gonville
Williams, John	Hook, Alfred Henry
Jones, William	Jones, Robert
Allen, William	Hitch, Frederick
Butler, Henry Redvers	Knox-Leet, William
Browne, Edward S	Reynolds, James Henry
Wassell, Samuel	Beresford, Lord William Leslie De La Poer
O'Toole, Edmund	D'Arcy, Cecil
Dalton, James	Schiess, Ferdinand C
Booth, Anthony	Lysons, Henry
Fowler, Edmund	Melville, Teignmouth
Coghill, Nevill Josian Aylmer	Brown, Peter