

Profile – Jason Askew

By Adrian Greaves

Readers may remember seeing the half-page *Daily Telegraph* article, published last September, about Jason Askew, the noted South African equestrian and Boer War artist. Jason had just completed a commission for the Ghurkha regiment and, at the time, he was about to commence a series of six Zulu War paintings.

Jason was born in Johannesburg in 1966 and after attending a number of art colleges in South Africa, the British School in Rome and the London Art College, he returned to South Africa where he initially worked as an artist for the Star Newspaper. He soon became well known for his artistic impressions of famous people and incidents, including the Truth and Reconciliation Committee and Winnie Mandela, the SA Rugby Football trial, the Bronkhorst bank gunfight, anti-apartheid trials, the memorial to the Princess of Wales and other world icons.

He has also produced illustrations for various books including those of Ian Knight and for the University of Natal Press.

His painting commissions have been numerous; his first was from Sir Brinsley Ford, the buyer for the Prince of Wales, for the Royal Regiment of Wales. The Imperial Light Horse museum in Johannesburg, The Rand Light Infantry Museum in Johannesburg, The Australian Embassy – Pretoria, The Order of St. Lazarus in Johannesburg, RHQ King's Border Regiment in Carlisle and The Queen's Lancashire Regiment in Preston.

He has held numerous successful exhibitions in South Africa and his first major exhibition in the UK will be held at Brecon during the combined Museum and Society function on the weekend of the 29th and 30th June. This display will include the first public showing of Jason's six Zulu War paintings, a section of the first painting in the series appears on the cover of this edition of the Journal.

Prints of these six painting will be offered for sale at Brecon, the print run of each painting will be limited to 500 copies, each signed by the artist. Prints can be purchased 'on the day' at Brecon or, after the weekend, via the Society. Full details will be posted individually to all Society members at least one month before the remainder are offered for sale to the public.

The paintings that will comprise the Zulu War collection are:

1. *Hlobane - Trooper Mossop's leap with 'Warrior'*.
From the James Teacher collection.
2. *Isandlwana - Lt. Curling RA saving the guns.*
3. *Isandlwana - The death of Private William Griffiths VC.*
4. *Rorke's Drift – Defending the storehouse.*
5. *Rorke's Drift – Defending the hospital.*
6. *Ulundi - The 17th Lancers attacking from the square..*

n.b. The following paintings were commissioned in 2004.

7. *Ntombe – Sgt. Booth VC.*
8. *The defence of Khambula.*
9. *The mass Zulu approach to the British.*
10. *The relief of Rorke's Drift.*
11. *iNyezane – repulsing the Zulu attack.*
12. *Hlobane – Buller's flight*