

Journal 24 Editorial

Dear members,

As the year draws it its close, so too does the Society's Zulu War exhibition at Eastbourne in Sussex. The museum authorities have been delighted with the public response to the exhibition and their visitor numbers have increased as a direct result. We cannot rest as, from the 11th January 2009, the exhibition resurfaces at the RLC Museum at Deepcut. If you didn't get to Eastbourne then Deepcut, with its own museum car park, might be easier. To be included at the RLC display will be material, recently discovered, about the young Swede, August Hammar, who was staying at Rorke's Drift with Otto Witt and who remained there after Witt left to find his wife. Curiously, Hammar watched the attack on Rorke's Drift from a nearby hillside before walking back to Durban where he joined Baker Horse for the remainder of the war. This begs the question, was it Hammar at Rorke's Drift prior to the Zulu attack or Witt? Neither spoke much English and I wonder if B Company merely presumed the Swede was Witt? Hammar later achieved considerable fame, firstly as a surveyor and latterly as a fine oil painter of landscapes; he made the first complete survey of the Victoria Falls area and then of South Africa's Indian Ocean coast line. This material only came to light in early 2008.

Please note that nominations for the 2009 prince Buthelezi awards can now be made, the presentation event will be held again at Deepcut where the Society is holding its 2009 exhibition. The committee will allocate one gold medal and two silver medals. Nominations can be forwarded directly to committee chairman, Dave Charles, in South Africa, or can be sent to me at the Society for onward transmission to Dave Charles. Nominations must be for 'Service to the Zulu People' and consideration will only be given to those who give their time and service freely to the cause rather than to people employed to provide such benefits. It would also assist the committee, which includes Prince Buthelezi, if the nomination briefly explains the reason for the submission and each nomination should be endorsed by one of the existing awardees, though this is not a specific requirement. Nominations can be made by e mail or personal letter to me at the Society or directly to Dave Charles, his e mail address is; dcharles@telcomsa.net

I wish you all a peaceful winter and an enjoyable Christmas. And please remember, visitors to Tenterden to view our medals and artefacts are very welcome, but please give me some warning so that I can be prepared.

With kindest regards,

Adrian Greaves

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Editor.