

The sad death of Surgeon Major Shepherd at Isandlwana

The Lancet 8th March 1879

As related by an eye-witness, Mr Muirhead, Natal Carbineers.

“As Kelly and I were riding for our lives, the Zulus pursuing us, my companion – almost a boy, Trooper Kelley – staggered in his saddle, evidently hit. I stopped my horse to see what was the matter, and I tried to support him, but I couldn’t, and had to lift him off on to the ground. At that moment, Dr. Shepherd came galloping past. I called out to him, and he dismounted to examine poor Kelly. After carefully examining him he called out, “Ah! Poor fellow, too late”. I had just mounted my horse and Dr Shepherd was in the act of putting his foot into the stirrup, when some instinct warned me to look round. As I did so I saw an assegai coming straight towards me. I turned to the left in my saddle: at the same moment it passed close to my head, and unfortunately, struck Dr. Shepherd in the side. He immediately fell, and I put spurs to my horse, and galloped off as fast as the horse could go”.

Dr. Shepherd

