

Snippits

By Adrian Greaves.

Did you know that..... ?

1. dyeing white helmets to darken them was official policy.

Regulations stated that; mixture for dyeing the white helmets of the troops in the field having been received, the Asst. Commissary General will cause the same to be at once distributed in proper proportions for the use of the different corps wherever now stationed, accompanied by specimen pieces of material giving the approved shade. Commanding Officers, on receipt thereof, will immediately cause every officer's and every man's helmets to be dyed according to the pattern shade. Reg 194 dated 15th November 1878

2. the services of Capt. Stevenson 2-3rd NNC (he fled Rorke's Drift with his men just before the Zulus attacked) were finally dispensed with on the grounds that his services were no longer required. Order 37 dated 19th Feb 1879

3. free rations for officers and men were only provided while such troops were engaged in the war.

Stoppages from pay for food would apply in the case of officers admitted to hospital at the rate of one shilling per day.
Order 83 dated 12th April 1879.

4. free trousers and a shirt were eventually authorised to be issued at Rorke's Drift but only where the commanding officer certified to those articles having been rendered unserviceable through labour.
Order 84 dated 13th April 1879.

With grateful acknowledgement to Keith Smith and his most useful book *Local Orders Relating to the Anglo Zulu War 1879*
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and finally,

5. although it is widely believed that flogging was abolished in the British Army after 1879 it was nevertheless used as an 'official' punishment for many years. Major Harford was obliged to witness the flogging of a British soldier in India as late as 1887 (Private Buttery H Company 99th Regiment) Peshawar. With grateful acknowledgement to David Payne, co author of *The Writings, Photographs and Sketches of Charles Harford*.