

Editorial to the 28<sup>th</sup> Journal.

The last six months have continued to be busy. Ian Knight has published his new book *Zulu Rising* which was well received by the *Sunday Times*. Ian's work is a weighty project and it gives an impressive account of events, especially from the Zulus side.

The RGS hosted two separate lectures on military themes of Zululand; the first was by Ray Heron from the Spion Kop Lodge located near Ladysmith talking about the Boer War and the roles of Churchill, Ghandi and Buller. Member's reporting back spoke of a fine and well illustrated presentation that was enjoyed by all, especially as it contained new material about the role played in the war by these three famous people. The second talk was by Rob Caskie from Fugitives Drift Lodge. Members' reports agreed that it was a very successful evening from the sponsors' point of view, but that the talk, without illustrations, had been directed at the 'front row' of VIPs and was an imitation of the popular account that made David Rattray so well known. As one member said, 'it made you realise how good David was'.

As all members well know, the Society publishes its journals 'on line' which is, by and large, acceptable to most members. I get occasional requests for printed copies and several members have suggested that the journals could be printed as two volumes. To this effect, I have spent the last 18 months reviewing the 28 journals published to bring them up-to-date with all the latest research. When the project has been completed, towards the end of this year, it will then be properly costed by a bespoke printer so that members can be advised of the cost for the two volume set; these sets will be individually published 'to order' with members able to order covers of their choice (leather, part leather or card) and colour. Having the volumes published 'to order' will also mean they have a commercial value! By having the two volumes individually bound, they will be stronger than most large books to enable them to be used for research without weakening the spines.

My *Rorke's Drift* book continues to sell well and, in consequence, I have just accepted a contract to re-write my *Isandlwana* book as a companion to *Rorke's Drift*. The new *Isandlwana* will be right up-to-date and contains much new material and some surprising conclusions. When these two projects are complete, members will be individually notified by post.

Reports coming back from Emmanuel at the Society's Zulu Village at Rorke's Drift continue to bring positive news. The financial slump has hit tourism to the area so the village has extended its boundary and built a camping area complete with washing and shower facilities. This facility is already being used successfully and a number of athletic and cycling organisations have already used the village as a base.

I hope you find this Journal interesting and I wish all members the best of health and good fortune in the New Year.

*Adrian Greaves*

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Editor.