

Editorial Journal 32.

This year has been fairly eventful. In April a visitor to the Society office walked off with two medals – this matter remains ‘live’ and details of the medals have been circulated far and wide. Sadly, according to the police, medal thefts are not uncommon due to their increasing values – during the same time, the Military Museum at Eastbourne lost 25 medals. This journal includes a most interesting article by Keith Reeves on this very subject.

Several years ago I pondered the possibility of looking at the Zulu campaign from the perspective of the Zulus. To broaden my Zulu source notes, I used material from the Zulu Royal Family and from the older generation at Rorke’s Drift. I prepared a list of relevant questions about the period which my Zulu friend, Emmanuel Mkhize, a Rorke’s Drift resident and manager of our Zulu Village, sought out the answers. The result is a book called *The Tribe that washed its Spears* and this will be published by Pen & Sword in March next year. Members will be given details in advance of its launch.

Over the years I have regularly been asked for information about the two Boer Wars, especially the first, the Transvaal rebellion, as this had much to do with the 1879 war against the Zulus. Having amassed much material, a month ago we formed the Boer War Historical Society. Full details can be found on-line at www.boerwarsociety.co.uk AZWHS members can have full and free access to this new site; if you are interested, please let me know by e mail and I’ll send you your password.

The increase in member numbers this year has mainly come from the USA and Australia. I presume the economic climate in the UK has damped down home applications although we continue to receive numerous requests for information, especially from UK universities. I’m pleased that a number of these institutions now include Queen Victoria’s colonial wars within their syllabi and the recommendation by Oxford University of the Society’s web site may well have played a part in the increase in academic enquiries.

Visitor numbers to the Society Zulu Village at Rorke’s Drift have held up during the year despite the big reduction of overall visitor numbers to the Zulu War battlefields. The new lodge at Rorke’s Drift has certainly helped the Zulu Village by recommending the village to its guests.

I wish all members a happy end to the year – and may we all look forward to a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Yours,

Adrian Greaves

Dr Adrian Greaves
Journal Editor.