

## Lt. Adendorff NNC. Again, was he at Rorke's Drift?

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Much has been written about Adendorff and the subject was well aired in Journal No. 33 by Sam Stopps. The consensus appears to support the theory that Adendorff was present, possibly because authors who have committed themselves to the theory won't budge. By chance I was recently researching a member's medal query when I unexpectedly spotted Adendorff's name. I was using '*Forgotten Heroes*' by Roy Dutton – a detailed in-depth Anglo-Zulu War medal research publication first published in 2010 – and I quote....

### *Appendix 7 – Survivors from Isandlwana*

*Isandlwana survivors who reached Helpmekeer.* Page 449

Under the sub heading *NNC* is the name '*Lieutenant Adendorff*'.

In the only published history of the NNC, *The NNC in the Anglo Zulu War* by Professor Paul Thompson, Thompson states in the chapter covering Rorke's Drift ...

*Besides the Company commander, Captain Stephenson, only three corporals appear to have been with the company. No lieutenants and sergeants are mentioned in reports.*

and

*There was only one man of the Contingent involved in the battle at Rorke's Drift mission station. He was of the iziGqoza. He had been shot in the thigh in the Batshe fight.*

In *The Red Soldier* by Professor Frank Emery of Oxford University, there is no mention of Adendorff being part of the defence at Rorke's Drift in any of the letters or reports quoted; further, Adendorff is not recorded in the book's index. Even Donald Morris was convinced Adendorff wasn't present; late in life Morris claimed he had documentation to support his belief but died before presenting his evidence – which has not been found.

Author Lee Stevenson's original *Rorke's Drift - By those who were There* quotes from a letter published in *Reminiscences from the Zulu War* which confusingly refers to Adendorff;

*On his arrival at PMB, he (Higginson) and two others of the 3rd NNC who got out of the fight, Lts Vane and Adendorff, were placed under arrest and ordered back to RD.*

Personally, I find it curious that an NNC officer who stayed to fight at RD should not feature in the well researched *The NNC in the Anglo Zulu War* or in the accounts of those we know were present. It is totally possible that, having initially made his presence known to Chard, he then rode off and reported at Helpmekeer but then hid up overnight, as many NNC did, only to slip back before dawn to Rorke's Drift pretending their bravery - as confirmed in the new '*By Those Who Were There*'.( see p. 210). There or not, amidst the arrival of Chelmsford's column and with much post battle confusion and storytelling, Adendorff sought out his officer, Lt. Harford - who then sketched him with some of his NNC during their disbandment.

Curiously, during the remainder of his life, Adendorff never claimed any 'involvement'.

It is possible that evidence confirming his presence during the fighting exists - somewhere; if and when discovered it will truly make for fascinating reading.