

Military History Journal

Vol 13 No 3 - June 2005

UTRECHT DISTRICT and the ANGLO-ZULU WAR, 1879

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Wood's reports

After the successful repulse of the Zulu attack on the fortified camp at Khambula on the following day, Wood spent the time compiling reports that were a mixture of confusion and deception.

Mbilini ignored the activities of the *impi* and carried on with pre-arranged attacks heading north towards Dumbe Mountain with his own *impi*. Here small groups rendezvoused, were given orders and then split into two groups, one section moving up the Bhivane valley and the other up the Ntombe valley. Mbilini led the first group into the upper Phongolo basin, seizing some 3 000 head of cattle as he went. Several farms were attacked, including that of the Rathbones at Chorley Valley and those of the Kloppers, widow du Plessis and the Meyers. The other *impi* under Manyonyoba raided the Luneburg cattle kraal and burnt deserted houses including that of the Rabie family. The raiding lasted for several days until a British patrol from Luneburg intercepted a small group of Qulusi driving horses; in the pursuit, Mbilini was mortally wounded, but managed to reach his homestead at Mbongweni. Eventually, some burghers returned to Khambula where J A Rudolph was elected commandant, P L (Vaal Piet) Uys, Junior, having turned down his selection.

Aftermath

Chelmsford visited Utrecht in early May as he planned the second invasion of the Zulu country, but the focus of operations shifted southwards to Landman's Drift in northern Natal. The Burgher Force was posted to the Burgher's Laager to defend the area between Balte's Spruit and Luneburg. A composite WI battalion under White continued to serve with what now became known as Wood's Flying Column and participated in the battle of Ulundi on 4 July.

Although he sent a party to locate and bury Charles Potter's remains, Wood ignored the dead on Hlobane and it was left to J J (Kruppel Koos) Uys, his son Cornelius and P L Uys's youngest son, Dirk Cornelius, to climb on to Ntendeka to look for the remains of their relative in the following September. They found the skeleton, identified it by a waistcoat and knapsack, and brought it down to Wydgelegen for burial, later erecting a monument on the spot where he had fallen. Wood was, however, quick to initiate compensation for the Uys families on 13 April and title deeds to three farms in Wakkerstroom district were issued by Henrique Shepstone in February the following year. In 1883, a monument was erected in Utrecht from contributions made by burghers and soldiers who had fought in Wood's column. The end of the Anglo-Zulu War led not to peace in the area but to another tortuous phase in Transvaal-Zulu relations.