

# 1. ZULUS - 2. The Anglo Zulu War of 1879 - 3. The Zulu of South Africa

## ZULUS

- A. One of the main Bantu-speaking peoples of South Africa
  - 1. Most live in Natal
  - 2. Some in urban areas
  - 3. Others in Kwazulu (Zululand), a home land assigned to them by the S.A. government
  - 4. Suffered from severe discrimination under a policy of racial discrimination called apartheid
- B. Early 1800's – Boers Encroachment
  - 1. Clashed with Dutch settlers called the Boers (1838) – Zulu's defeated at Blood River
  - 2. Boers killed 3000 – beat back others
- C. Isandhlwana
  - 1. British – Zulu War
  - 2. 1/22/1879
  - 3. One of the British army's most terrible disasters
  - 4. See DVD – “Zulu Dawn”
  - 5. Zulu's massacred 6 companies of the 24<sup>th</sup> Foot Regiment with 2 guns and a small force of Natal volunteers
- D. Rorke's Drift
  - 1. British – Zulu War
  - 2. 1/22/1879
  - 3. Chief Cetawayo's 4000 Zulu warriors were told not to cross the Buffalo River – they did!
  - 4. Two lieutenants
    - a. Bromhead
    - b. Chard
  - 5. 137 men, mostly from the 24<sup>th</sup> Regiment
  - 6. Held out – night-long battle
  - 7. 400 Zulus killed
  - 8. Garrison – 25 men killed or wounded
  - 9. 11 Victoria crosses
  - 10. 10 distinguished conduct metals (most to date in history of single battles)
  - 11. See “Zulu” DVD

I. **Exhibit Authentic Artifacts**

**BOOKS & MOVIES**

Washing of the Spears by Donald L. Morris

Guide to the Anglo-Zulu War Battlefields + 10 hour tape by David Ratray

Bibliography – Brassey's Dictionary of Battles by John Laffin

The Zulu of South Africa – A pictorial guide to one of Africa's most significant cultures/Art publishers.

**The Anglo Zulu War of 1879**

- I. Humiliating Losses
  - a. 1/22/1879
  - b. 1,329 Officers & men killed
  - c. Isandlwana (map p.46)
  - d. Goal – to unite Britain's Southern African Colonies into a self-financing confederation
    - 1. 1867 – diamonds in the Boer Orange free state
    - 2. 1000's of prospectors from all over the world
    - 3. Whole area annexed including Basut Land
  - e. Zulus – 50,020 warriors
  - f. King – Cetshwayo
    - 1. Would possibly invade the Cape and developing British Colonies
    - 2. In reality – Zulus faithful allies for many years
- II. Britain
  - a. 1870's – life expectancy = 38 years for the working class (wealthy = mid 50's)
  - b. Widespread diseases
  - c. Don't despair – enlist!
    - 1. Average height – 5'4"
    - 2. Eating regularly – enormous attraction
    - 3. 20,000 soldiers – 545 flogged (25 lashes = norm)
  - d. Diseases
    - 1. Dysentery
    - 2. Enteric fever
    - 3. Tuberculosis
    - 4. Tapeworms (50%) +-
  - e. Zulu War – purchased commissions – the wealthy or land-owners
  - f. 24<sup>th</sup> Foot = Battalions (almost all killed at Isandlwana)
  - g. From
    - 1. England – majority

- 2. Ireland - next highest
  - 3. Wales (15%)
- III. King Shaka
  - a. 1780 – 1828
  - b. Short stabbing spear
  - c. “Horns of the Bull”
  - d. 1818 – 3000 warriors
  - e. Then later – 20,000
    - 1. From: Indian Ocean – Drakensberg – Pongola R. – Tugelar in the South
    - 2. By 1822 – empire to the Kalahari Desert – North to Lake Malawi & South to the East Cape
    - 3. Attempt on Shaka’s life and near death, Flyn saves him
    - 4. Farwell granted nearly 4000 Miles of land around Port Natal
    - 5. 1826 – Farwell & Flyn accompany Shaka’s army
      - A near total slaughter of the Ndwandwe Clan
      - 60,000 cattle captured
- IV. 1827
  - a. Nandi dies suddenly
  - b. Shaka - grief stricken punishes his people
  - c. Shaka – assassinated
- V. 1829
  - a. Farwell killed
  - b. 1838 – Zulus massacre 541 women, children, servants
  - c. Boer victory at Blood R. 1838
  - d. Dingane withdrew North
  - e. Boers cross the Drakensberg
- VI. “The Free Province of New Holland in S.E.A.” (Pietermaritzburq)
  - a. Portal Natal became Durban
  - b. Boers – settling Zulu territory – increasing numbers
  - c. 1843 - Natal became a British Colony
  - d. 1845 - was annexed into the Cape
  - e. Boers lost sovereignty over recently settled lands
  - f. European settlers continue to arrive
  - g. Durban Harbor dredged (Pietermaritzburq declines)
- VII. The power conflict
  - a. Mapande ages – 2 sons
    - 1. Cetshwayo – 20,000 warriors
    - 2. Mbuyazi – 30,000 warriors
    - 3. Bloody conflict
    - 4. 1 hour battle
    - 5. Cetshwayo wins – 1856
- VIII. Cetshwayo

- a. Became friends with British
  - b. 32 years of peace
  - c. 1873 recognized as king of Zulus by British
  - d. Home = Ulundi
  - e. Believed Queen Victoria was his friend
  - f. Boers – streaming into the wedge or Zululand known as the “disputed territory” to the North of Rourke’s Drift
  - g. British – wanted economic development
    - 1. Ready source of labor
  - h. Zulus = 40,000 warriors – never agree to surrender and to dissolve Zululand
  - i. British – needed an excuse to invade
  - j. False rumors spread of a bloodthirsty and defiant Zulu army plotting to invade Natal
  - k. Chetshwayo – unaware of this subversive undercurrent
  - l. European hysteria mounting
  - m. Zulus – time was running out
- IX. Zulu Battle Tactics
- a. Pre Shaka = “giya” a ritual process rather than combative
  - b. Shaka – “Horns of the Bull”
- X. Zulu Weapons
- a. Short stabbing spear – 2’6” w (+)
  - b. Cowhide shield
  - c. Knob Kerrie
- XI. Shields soaked in water
- a. Inclined at a 45° angle
    - i. Could deflect martini rounds at 200 yds +
    - ii. Bodies rarely found beyond 200 yds
    - iii. Fire commenced between 400-600 yds
- XII. Zulus
- a. Also had obsolete European rifles
  - b. Ikwa or stabbing spear originated at time of Shaka – 18” blade
  - c. Throwing spears 5-6” blade
- XIII. Iron
- a. Surface – collected
  - b. Smelted – clay forges
  - c. Skin bellows
  - d. Hammered into shape
  - e. Tempered with fat
  - f. Sharpened on special flat stones
  - g. Set into wooden shafts
  - h. Calf’s tail tube – over the joint and allowed to shrink
- XIV. British Fire Power
- a. Martini – Henry rifle

1. Backbone of British firepower
  2. M-H Mark II – Zulu War
  3. 4'1 ½" L
  4. 9 lbs
  5. Black powder 0.45 caliber
  6. 480 grain, center fire boxer cartridge – flat trajectory
  7. Sighted up to 1000 yds
  8. 300 yds – avg. accuracy
  9. Volley firing = 600 yds
  10. 12 rounds per min. (5 rounds average)
  11. Equi angular bayonet
- b. M-R Drawbacks
1. Barrels hot (5-6 rounds)
  2. Kick – fearsome
  3. 20 rounds – black powder coated the inside of barrel (reduced the bore slightly)
  4. Flinching – reduced marksmanship
  5. Rolled cartridges – stuck to chamber – ejectors tore off iron rim (had to be removed)
- c. 7 lbs. rifled muzzle – loading gund – at Isandlwana (2)
1. Range = 3000 yds
  2. Haies rockets – not accurate
- XV. After Isandlwana
- a. British – re-invade Zululand 4/6/1879
1. Better equipped
  2. Greater strength
  3. Awareness enhanced
- b. Zulus
1. Limited resistance
  2. Final battle = Ulundi
  3. Gatling guns though to compete against
  4. Army in disarray
  5. Their nation never recovered from the war
  6. 10,000 Zulus killed and many more maimed on various fields of battle
  7. Zulu Empire – 63 years.

## **The Zulu of South Africa**

Personal notes from David Ratray – Murdered January 26, 2007 at Rorkes Drift

Art Publishers – Show PowerPoint

- II. **Origins**
  - a. From Central E. Africa
  - b. Settled in Zululand in Natal
  - c. Late 16<sup>th</sup> Century
  - d. Drove away Bushmen
  - e. Independent clans
  - f. Fought among themselves
- III. **1785**
  - a. Descendants called themselves Abakwa Zulu (People of Heaven)
  - b. Later ruled by Shaka
    - 1. Defeated and absorbed other chiefdoms
    - 2. Renowned as one of the most formidable military forces in Africa
    - 3. Today the land is known as KwaZulu
- IV. **1838 Zulus defeated by Afrikaners (outnumbered)**
  - a. December 16, 1838
  - b. Battle of Blood River
    - 1. Opened land South of Tuglea R. to free settlement
  - c. This day is still a public holiday in South Africa
- V. **January 22, 1879**
  - a. The Battle of Isandlwana
  - b. Cetshwayo's Zulu impis victory – humiliating
  - c. Movie "Zulu Dawn"
- VI. **Roarks Drift**
  - a. Same day
  - b. British survived
  - c. Supply depot
  - d. Movie "Zulu"
- VII. **Shaka – Movie "Shaka" (the mini-series, not the short version)**
  - a. Most revered Zulu King
  - b. 1500 people under his command
  - c. In 11 years, had 50,000 warriors
  - d. Warriors walked barefoot across thorn – if they cried out, they were put to death
  - e. Developed the short spear
  - f. Perfected the "Bull horn" Battle
  - g. Regiments of 2000
    - 1. Experienced veterans flanked by younger more agile warriors
    - 2. Enemy trapped towards veterans and butchered
- VIII. **Houses**
  - a. Igloo type
  - b. Cattle dung and termite mound soil
  - c. Long grasses
  - d. Wood rods

e. Ropes of split reeds

**IX. Society**

- a. Patriarchal
- b. Leopard skin = Seniority
- c. Induna – judge over a district
- d. Chiefs
- e. “Supreme Court”
- f. The Royal House = ultimate seat of power
- g. Women = subordinate
- h. Polygamy = normal
- i. Women = inferior in status (not ill treated) performs domestic and general chores
- j. Extended family ties
- k. A social etiquette hierarchy of respect
  - 1. Ancestral acknowledgement – i.e. drinking

**X. Dress**

- a. Skins, feathers, beadwork
- b. Tufts of cows
  - 1. Upper arms
  - 2. Below the knees
- c. Front apron
  - 1. Skin – tassels to cover the genitals
  - 2. Calf skin – buttocks
- d. Many leopard skins = very high status
- e. Single women – short skirts only
- f. Engaged women – cover their breasts
- g. Married woman = hat & covering her body
- h. Beads – color
  - 1. Purity – white
  - 2. Red – passion & love
  - 3. Green – jealousy
  - 4. Convey messages

**XI. Pottery**

- a. Clay – ground finely
- b. No potters wheel
- c. Rolled into strips
- d. Spiraled on top of each other
- e. Smoothed with a blunt object
- f. Fired in open pit
- g. A smoky grass gives them color – black

**XII. Baskets**

- a. Split strips of dried grass
- b. Palm leaves

- c. Beer baskets
  1. Inside pores coated with moist maize flour – this causes the basket to swell and seal the inside drinking vessel

- d. All natural colors

**XIII. Diet**

- a. Maize
- b. Pumpkins
- c. Sweet potatoes
- d. Vegetables
- e. Sorghum
- f. Meat – a luxury
- g. A curdled milk – a delicacy (only food not shared outside the family)
- h. Beer – brewed daily
  1. Water
  2. Malt
  3. Ground sorghum
  4. Maize
  5. Cooked until the mixture has a thick, porridge consistency
  6. Left in pots to cool
  7. Malt added
  8. Fermented 3-5 days
  9. Filtered w/grass sieve
  10. Served in a clay pot covered with grass lid
  11. Woman who prepares the brew always take the 1<sup>st</sup> drink to prove that is not poisoned.

**XIV. Dagga**

- a. Illegal in S.Africa
- b. Pre-dates European arrival
- c. Part of Zulu custom
- d. Smoked in moderation
- e. 2007 (March) Baron saw huge crops growing around Zulu dwellings – probably cash crops (50% unemployment, 2007 Baron)

**XV. Sangomas**

- a. Healers
- b. Communicate w/ancestors
- c. 3 year apprenticeship
- d. Distinctive garb
- e. Carry a wildebeest tail – fly whisk
- f. Séances, bow throwing, animal sacrifices
- g. Work with traditional healers
  1. With plants
  2. Roots

3. Knowledge
  - i. Passed from generations
  - ii. Barks
  - iii. Fruits
  - iv. Leaves
  - v. Dried snakes
  - vi. Dripping animal innards
  - vii. Make potent medicine called “mutchi”
  - viii. Shells – also thrown by diverers

**XVI. Religion**

- a. Animism interwoven with Christian beliefs
- b. Witchcraft
- c. Curses
- d. A higher being called Kulunkulu “The Greatest of all Great”
- e. Animal sacrifices to spirits of fore fathers
  1. Rain
  2. Harvest
  3. Protection
  4. Illness

**XVII. Death**

- a. Body buried with ancestral spirits in the cattle byre
- b. Away from home
  1. Fetched soul
  2. Buffalo thorn tree
    - i. Treats the branch like it is a living person
  3. Power to draw the spirit into it
    1. Talks to it all the way home
    2. Cannot converse with anyone else\
    3. Spirits may slip away
    4. Places branch in cattle byre where all the patria chards are buried
    5. It is eaten so that the soul is absorbed on the home ground