

Rorke's Drift



Figure 1 Rorke's Drift

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Introduction



Figure 2 Rorke's Drift

"Here they come, black as hell and thick as grass" Private Frederick Hitch ¹

General

The Battle of Rorke's Drift stands even today as an amazing feat of bravery and courage. Over a period of approximately twenty hours one hundred men of 'B' company of the second battalion twenty-fourth regiment of foot (2nd Warwickshires) and assorted other troops successfully held off a four thousand strong Zulu Impi force. The British soldiers had superior technology in the shape of Martini-Henry rifles. These had not saved the 1700 force at Isandhlwana that morning when Zulu courage and determination along with 20,000 strong Impi had defeated the force. Great courage and bravery was shown on both sides. This has been recognized in the fact that eleven Victoria crosses and five silver medals for distinguished conduct were awarded. Most people's exposure to Rorke's Drift will be from the film "Zulu!" with Sir Stanley Baker and Sir Michael Caine.

Background

"But I left 1,000 men to guard the camp" Lord Chelmsford ²

In 1879 Sir Henry Bartle Frere decided to pursue the confederation of Africa under the influence of the British Empire by presenting to Cetshwayo kaMpande the Zulu king a set of demands that could not be met. In anticipation of the Zulus not meeting his demands Bartle Frere directed Lord Chelmsford to proceed with a plan to invade Zululand. On 11th January 1879 the British invaded. On the morning of the 22nd January 1879 the central column of the invasion was camped at Isandhlwana, they blundered into the Zulu army (20,000 strong) and were massacred. Some survivors passed on the news to the outpost at Rorke's Drift while fleeing the scene. Four Zulu regiments who had been the rearguard at Isandhlwana had not taken part in the actions and were keen to fight and set off for Rorke's Drift. This set the stage for upcoming battle.

¹ Rorke's Drift Michael Glover Page 98

² Rorke's Drift Michael Glover Page 121

The Battle



Figure 3 Rorke's Drift

British Force

"Pinned like rats in a hole" British Defender Rorke's Drift

Initially the garrison was 600-700 strong made up of 400 native levies that fled at the first sign of the Zulus. 100 members of the Natal Native contingent who had fought at Isandhlwana of whom most broke after initial contact with the Zulus. 95 men were able for duty with 40 sick in the hospital. Lieutenant Chard was in charge by virtue of his seniority to Lieutenant Bromhead.

Zulus

"Usuthu!" Zulu War Cry

The Zulu force consists of four ibuthos (regiments) under Prince Dadulamanzi kaMpande. iNdluyengwe ibutho had 700 men³. Uthulwana, iNdlondlo, uDloko had 1000 men each⁴. All the regiments were led by an Induna (war leader) who were generally experienced battle leaders.

³ Osprey Campaign book 41 (Rorke's Drift by Ian Knight)

⁴ Osprey Campaign book 41 (Rorke's Drift by Ian Knight) all figures approx.

Timeline

22nd January 1879 12:00 distant gunfire is heard.
22nd January 1879 14:30 first survivors report the defeat at Isandhlwana.
22nd January 1879 15:00 Chard and Bromhead in consultation with Dalton begin fortification.
22nd January 1879 16:30 First Attack begins
22nd January 1879 18:00 desperate hand-to-hand fighting take place inside the compound
22nd January 1879 19:00 Defender withdraw to the "redoubt"
22nd January 1879 20:00 Defenders evacuate the hospital
22nd January 1879 22:30 Defenders evacuate the kraal.
22nd January 1879 23:45 Chard leads the sally for the water cart
23rd January 1879 02:30 Zulu Assault lose impetus
23rd January 1879 04:30 Zulus withdraw
23rd January 1879 07:00 Zulus return and watch before melting away
23rd January 1879 08:15 lord Chelmsford arrives to relieve the defenders

Outcome

"It's a miracle" Colour Sergeant Bourne

"If it's a miracle Colour Sergeant, it's a short chamber boxer Henry, point 4-5 caliber miracle"

Lieutenant Chard

"And a bayonet sir, with some guts behind it" Colour Sergeant Bourne⁵

The outcome of the battle was a complete reversal of fortunes for both sides. The Zulu had inflicted a tremendous bloody nose to the British Imperial Troops on the 22nd January and had they stopped at that point they could have capitalised upon it. Instead, the defeat of the Zulus at Rorke's Drift allowed the British to spin that tiny tactical victory into something of greater significance. The effect of the defeat on the Zulu was likened to a spear thrust to the belly by Ceteshawayo. The bravery and courage of both sides should never be doubted or questioned and the ferocity of the battle itself can be evidenced by the scenes of carnage that existed outside the tiny station afterward. The small group of British defenders were lauded by a grateful nation and military command (the latter because *"The army does not like more than one disaster in a day. It looks bad in the newspapers and upsets the civilians at breakfast"*) eleven Victoria crosses, five distinguished conduct medals and The grateful thanks of the House of Commons for the two subalterns. The Zulu regiments involved were accused of cowardice by their people and found it hard to live down the shame of the defeat. In terms of the overall Zulu war this action was a small tactical battle with little strategic value. It had however important impact on the home front. It ensured that Lord Chelmsford got the reinforcements he needed to complete the task and eventually defeat the Zulu.

Myths

I would be remiss of me to let discuss Rorke's drift without mentioning some of the myths that have sprung up around it.

Zulu Rifles

In the film "Zulu!" it shows the Zulu force looting the dead for rifles and then leads you to believe that they were used against the defenders of Rorke's Drift. This was not true. The Zulu force at Rorke's Drift was made up from the unit that had been the rear guard at Isandhlwana and did not have a chance to take part in the fighting. They moved onto Rorke's Drift to get some glory and booty for themselves. The rifles and muskets they used against the defenders were already in the hands of the Zulu force before Isandhlwana.

⁵ From the Film "Zulu!"

Welsh Unit

*" This is a Welsh regiment, although there are some foreigners in it mind"*⁶

The film "Zulu!" leads you to believe that "B" company of the 2nd Battalion of 24th Regiment of foot was primarily full of brave and tuneful Welshmen. This is not quite true. Although the regiment became the South Wales Borderers at a later stage (two years later) it was made up of a fair cross section of British population.⁷

Zulu Salute of Brave defenders

This did not happen. On the morning of the 23rd January, a rearguard element of the Zulu Impi appeared and were contemplating an attack when they noticed the signs of the relief column in the distance (Lord Chelmsford) they withdrew from contact and headed home.

Henry Hook

In the film "Zulu!" Private Henry Hook was cast a drunkard, thief and generally a layabout, in reality nothing could be further from the truth. Hook was from a stable middle class family and an exemplary soldier with no record of misconduct. As the unit's cook he was responsible for meals and made tea before and after the action. He was the heroic defender of the hospital and instrumental in the perimeter defence.

Designer Notes

General

In recreating the battle at Rorke's Drift there are a number of problems to overcome. How do we represent the devastating firepower of the Martini-Henry rifle? How do we represent the courage and tenacity of both sides? How do we represent the desperate struggle to survive by the British troops? For the Martini-Henry rifles, they fired at 6 rounds a minute, which for a turn represents Rapid Fire 3. The Battle roll used, as the definitive representation is the one presented with the Osprey Campaign book 41 (Rorke's Drift by Ian Knight). For anyone wishing to recreate this or any other Zulu war action they could do no better then to use the accounts listed in the reference section.

Models

The models to represent the troops have come from a number of sources. "Old Glory" for the core of British and Zulu troops. "Redoubt" for British and Zulu characters. "The Scene" supplied the Scenery. The compound was built and painted by Tony Baker. Rob Jones painted the British troops. Tony Baker painted the Zulu Troops.

Wargaming

Setup

British Setup

The British force has sixty-three (63) combatants to defend the post. There are thirteen (13) characters (VC winners or characters of note from the defence). Three (3) characters are assigned to fight with the ten (10) sick members of the garrison in the hospital. They must stay in the Hospital until it is assaulted at which time they may withdraw to the main compound (in front of the storehouse).

This leaves fifty (50) troops to defend the post. These troops must be shared equally around the post (Half on one side and half on the other side). A ten (10) man flying picket may be formed in the center of the compound which can move as soon as the Zulus move. The picket will have a character in charge. The remaining character may be placed anywhere within the defences except for the hospital. Any character not armed (i.e. the figure is not armed) may have one pistol for self defence only.

⁶ From the film "Zulu!"

⁷ <http://www.rorkesdriftvc.com/myths/myths.htm>

Once the British have had at least twenty (20) casualties (dead, wounded or hospitalised) they may withdraw to the main compound. At this stage, they may add the final redoubt to their defences. When the storehouse is assaulted, the casualties within may defend themselves in close combat. They will need a 4,5,6 to hit and a 4,5,6, to wound.

Zulu Setup

Throughout the game, the Zulus will have ten (10) snipers firing from the Oskarberg Terrace. They will only fire at the garrison in the yard between the buildings. The Garrison may fire them upon but at the start of each assault phase the casualties are replaced (It is assumed that other Zulus have taken their place).

The Zulu attack was made in waves and was for the most part uncoordinated. The first Ibutho to attack was the iNdloyengwe (represented by 100 figures). They attacked the back of the post. This attack faltered with high casualties. The iNdloyengwe went to ground in the nearest cover, which was the ditches and cookhouse at the back of the post with some going to the garden at the front of the post.

As soon as all the companies of the Ibutho have broken roll a d10, the result is the number of turns it takes for them to reform for a new attack. If the ibutho is split then, roll a d10 for each group. The Zulus will go to ground and as a result cannot be shot at..

The main body that had seen the fate of the earlier attack assaulted next from the gardens in front of the post (this will be 150 figures). Again as the attack falters, roll a d10 to decide how long a reform will take.

In total the iNdloyengwe will have 200 figures and the main body will have 1000 figures. Once the casualty rate of an ibutho reaches 25% then a morale test is taken on Dabulamanzi leadership rating of nine, (9) rolled on 2d6. If the unit fails, it withdraws from the fighting.

Figures

The scale for the encounter is 25mm. Each turn is therefore equal to 30 seconds of real time.

Turn Sequence

The Turn Sequence for the game will be as follows.

1. British Move
2. British Fire
3. Zulu Move
4. Zulu Fire
5. Close Combat
6. Morale
7. Remove Casualties
8. Check for events

Movement

All British Movement is at 6". Zulu's maximum movement will be 8" unless entering rough ground or if a Zulu company becomes shaken due to casualties in which case it will be 6" (See Morale). The Zulu movement is faster due to their legendary speed on open ground (a Zulu can outrun a horse on flat ground). When retreating using volley fire the British troops may only move 3".

Shooting Phase

The Garrison will need a 4,5,6 to hit and a 4,5,6 to wound. Each soldier will fire three (3) rounds per turn. Characters may re-roll first missed roll. Casualties that return to duty will need a 5,6 to hit and 5,6 to wound. Zulu snipers require a 5,6 to hit and a 5,6 to wound. Each Zulu sniper will fire once per turn.

Weapon Chart

Weapon	Range
Pistol	12"
Martini Henry Rifle	24"
Zulu Musket	24"
Assegai	Close Combat
Knobkerrie	Close Combat

Armour Saves

Only A Zulu may have an armour save (6+). This is only in close combat (Zulu Shield). All Zulu casualties (except for Indunas and Snipers) are to be removed from play once wounded. Indunas and Snipers are put to one side and will roll on the Zulu Survivability chart once the assault has ended. All garrison members roll on the British survivability chart once the assault has ended. Indunas and characters can only be killed in close combat unless they are the only targets in the shooting phase. Any hospitalised casualties may re-roll on the chart at the end of the next assault.

British Survivability Chart

Roll	Result
1	Dead
2	Wounded (Confined to Hospital)
3	Wounded (Confined to Hospital)
4	Slight Wound (Return to duty)
5	Slight Wound (Return to duty)
6	Slight Wound (Return to duty)

Induna Survivability Chart

Roll	Result
1	Dead
2	Dead
3	Dead
4	Slight Wound
5	Slight Wound
6	Slight Wound

Morale

The garrison is stubborn and will automatically pass all morale tests even if faced with a situation that would normally cause them to fall back. The Garrison may fall back from close combat and fire. However, if they do so, they may only move 3".

The Zulu's are organised into 25 man companies led by an Induna. Each ibuto will start taking morale checks as soon as it reaches 50% casualties with the modifiers listed below. If a company passes its morale check it automatically becomes shaken and will only move 6". If it fails it will effect all companies around it and they will need to take a morale test.

- -1 Below 50% of starting strength
- -1 outnumbered in assault
- +1 Zulu in close combat (with surviving Induna)
- -1 each Zulu company that falls back within line of sight of testing company

Each Zulu that makes it to the mealie bag barricade must take a bottle test to cross it (4,5,6 on a D6).

If the defenders have moved back from the mealie bags, the test is (2,3,4,5,6 on a D6).

Indunas are required to roll under 8 on 2D6 to pass morale.

Zulus are required to roll under 7 on 2D6 to pass morale.

The Hospital

A Zulu may only attempt to break in via doorways. A Zulu attempting to break in and defenders attempting to keep the Zulu out must roll the following. Zulu's count the number of Zulu's within 1" of doorway and add this to a D6. Defenders count number of defenders in the room and add to a D10.

Attackers score must beat the defenders by 2 to gain entry. This must be done for each defended doorway. Once the Zulus have broken in they will fight at close combat, from the doorway they may move in if they win the combat. Any defender killed in the hospital is killed unless a defender can pull them out. A defender may make a hole in the wall of any room without a suitable doorway. This takes 1 defender 2 turns or 2 defenders 1 turn. 1 defender may move through the resultant hole per turn. Zulus may attempt to follow.

Close Combat

Defenders always go first, Defenders need a 3,4,5,6, to hit and a 3,4,5,6 to wound a Zulu warrior.

The defenders need a 4,5,6 to wound an Induna. A Zulu needs a 4,5,6 to hit and 4,5,6 to wound.

Indunas need a 3,4,5,6 to hit and a 3,4,5,6 to wound. The winner of the combat may consolidate. . If the Zulus lose the combat, they must check morale by rolling 2D6 and getting under 8 for Induna and under 7 for Zulus. Any unit, which fails, must fall back 2D6".

Character List

British Characters

Lieutenant Chard is equipped with a sword and pistol and as long as he is unwounded he will get an extra attack in close combat.

Lieutenant Bromhead is equipped with a rifle and may reroll any missed to hit rolls as long as he is unwounded.

Lieutenant Ardendorf is equipped with a carbine pistol and sword and as long as he is unwounded he will get an extra attack in close combat.

Colour Sargeant Bourne is expert with a bayonet and will get an extra close combat attack.

Corporal Scheiss is considered to be a sniper (2+ to hit, 3+ to wound).

Corporal Allen handed out ammunition for most of the battle, as long as he receives no more wounds he his presence gives the nearest 3 riflemen one extra shot each.

Private Hitch may be considered a sniper (2+ to hit, 3+ to wound). When he is wounded he will use Lieutenant Bromhead's pistol and may pick one target per turn to shoot at

Private Hook any soldiers (including Hook) fighting in the same room as Hook may reroll any missed to hit close combat rolls.

Private Jones 716 is considered to be a sniper (2+ to hit, 3+ to wound).

Private Jones 593 may reroll all to hit rolls

Surgeon Reynolds is equipped with a pistol and may fire once per turn (in defence)

Chaplain Smith handed out ammunition for most of the battle his presence gives the nearest rifleman one extra shot.

Commissary Dalton is equipped with a pistol and may fire 1 extra shot per turn.

Zulu Characters

Prince Dadulamanzi kaMpande may attach himself to any Zulu iButho and reroll that iButho's morale tests. He also gets an extra attack in close combat.

Chief Zwelithini may reroll one (1) morale test (per game)

Chief Sigananda gets one extra attack in close combat

Chief Bambatha hits in close combat on a 2+ and wounds on a 3+.

Dinizula Sniper 2+ to hit 4+ to wound

Khoza Sniper 2+ to hit 4+ to wound

Maps

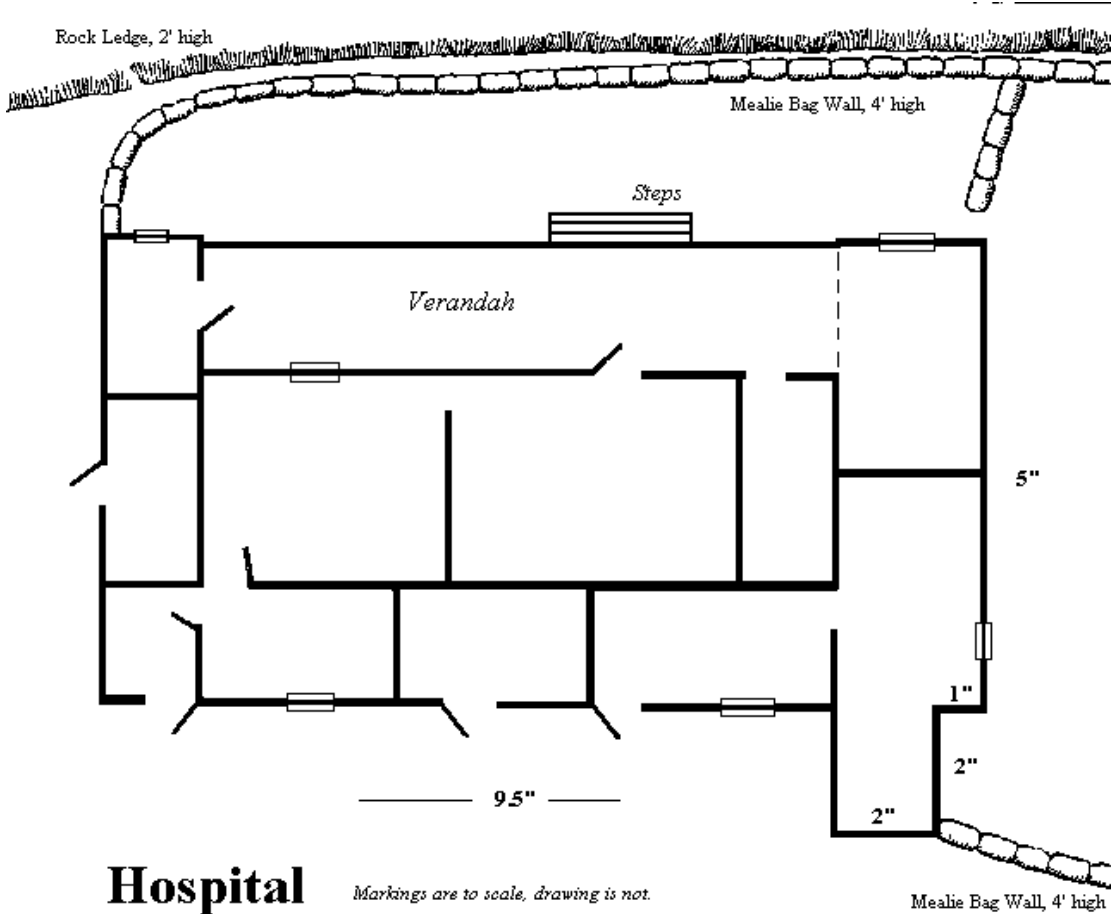


Figure 4 The Hospital

The Mission Station at Rorke's Drift

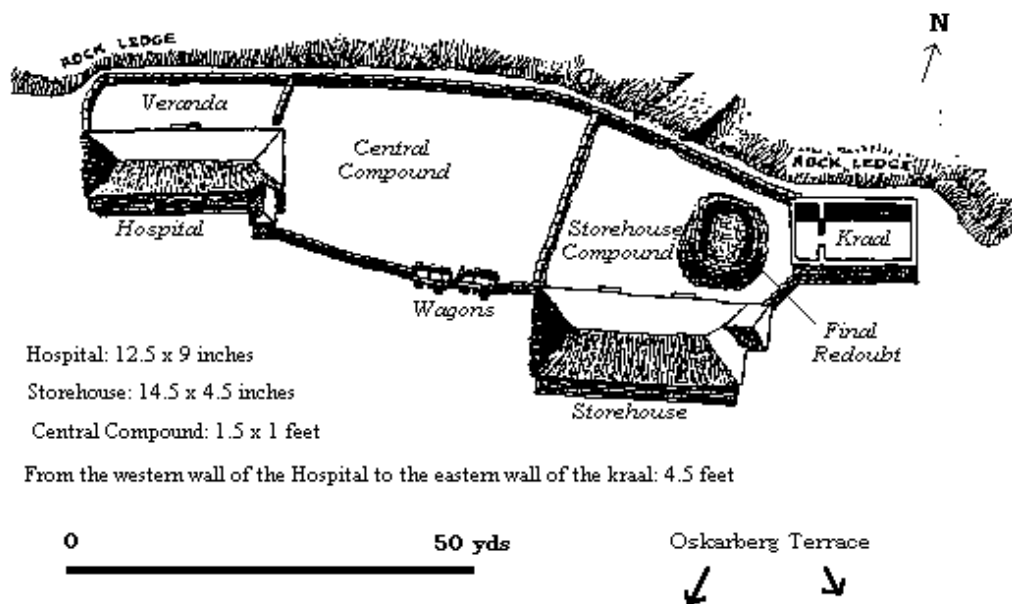


Figure 5 Mission Station at Rorkes Drift

Pictures



Figure 6 Colour Sergeant 2-24th Foot



Figure 7 Drummer



Figure 8 Zulus

References

This is by no means an exhaustive list of references about the action. We actively used these references in the research work for the scenario.

Books

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN
Rorke's Drift	Michael Glover	Wordsworth Military Lib	1853266736
Rorke's Drift 1879 (Campaign 41)	Ian Knight	Osprey	1855325063
Last Stand	Bryan Perret	Cassell	0304350559
Rorke's Drift	Adrian Greaves		
The 1879 Zulu War	Richard Tory	Tabletop Games	

Magazine

Title	Issue	Date of publication
Miniature Wargames	226	March 2002
Miniature Waragames	230	July 2002

Video

Title	ASIN
Zulu!	B00004CZR1
The Battle of Rorke's Drift	B00004CV3Z
Zulu Wars	B000059RET
Line of War: Rorke's Drift	B00004TXI1

Web

Title	URL
Royal Regiment of Wales	http://www.rrw.org.uk/
Victorian Voices	http://www.btinternet.com/~Albiecat/
Zulu War	http://www.harlequin-miniatures.com/zwart1.php?ctry=uk&lang=gb
Zulu Shields	http://www.harlequin-miniatures.com/zwart2.php?ctry=uk&lang=gb
Rorke's Drift	http://www.rorkesdriftvc.com
Zulu War 1879	http://raipttp.com/milhist/vol044gc.html
Zulu War 1879	http://www.kwazulu.co.uk/menu.html
Rorke's Drift	http://home.attbi.com/~tsrsteview/RorkDrft/zulupg.htm
The British Library	http://www.bl.uk/collections/warfare1.html
British Army Tactics	http://www.dnai.com/~soongliu/SavageAndSoldier/articles/Misc/TacticalNotesOnBrits.html
The Scene	http://www.thesceneuk.com

Appendix A: Lyrics for 'Men of Harlech'

The source for this material was the Royal Regiment of Wales museum for the South Wales Borderers Museum fact sheet number B6 (http://www.rrw.org.uk/museums/brecon/fact_sheets/6.htm)

Words to the Regimental March 'Men of Harlech'

March of the Men of Harlech

Old words (translated from Welsh)

Dauntless sons of Celtic sires whose souls the love of freedom fires; Hark!
Every harp to war inspires on bold Snowdonia's side!
Shall heart rending sounds of woe be heard where Conway's waters flow? Or
Shall a rude and ruthless foe a willing slave here find?

From the hill and valley, from the mountain hoary
From Plinlimon's haughty brow, around your prince ye rally!
Harlech! From thy frowning tow'rs pour forth thy never failing pow'rs rouse
Heroes! Glory shall be yours; March on, your country's pride

Now to battle they are going, every heart with courage flowing,
Pride and passion over flowing in the furious strive
Lo! the din of war enrages, vengeance crowns the hate of ages,
Sternly foe with foe engages, feeding death with life!

With their lances flashing, warriors wild are crashing,
Through the tyrants serried ranks, whilst onwards they are dashing
Now the enemy is flying, tramping on the dead and dying
Victory aloft is crying, Cambria wins the field.

Modern Words used by the Regimental Band

Tongues of fire on Idris flaring, news of foe-men near declaring,
to heroic deeds of daring, call you Harlech men

Shall the voice of wailing, now be unavailing,
You to rouse who never yet in battles hour were failing,
His our answer crowds down pouring swift as winter torrents roaring,
Not in vain the voice imploring, call on Harlech men

Groans of wounded peasants drying, wails of wives and children flying,
for the distant succour crying, call you Harlech men.

Loud the martial pipes are sounding every manly heart is bounding
As our trusted chief surrounding, march we Harlech men.

Mothers cease your weeping, calm may be your sleeping,
you and yours in safety now the Harlech men are keeping,
ere the sun is high in heaven they you fear by panic riven shall like frightened
sheep be driven, far by Harlech men

Short the sleep the foe is taking, ere the morrows morn is breaking,
They shall have a rude awaking, roused by Harlech men.

Special words created for the film 'Zulu' in 1964

Men of Harlech stop your dreaming
Can't you see their spear points gleaming
See their warrior's pennants streaming
To this battle field

Men of Harlech stand ye steady
It cannot be ever said ye
For the battle were not ready
Stand and never yield

Form the hills rebounding
Let this war cry sounding
Summon all at Cambria's call
The mighty force surrounding

Men of Harlech onto glory
This shall ever be your story
Keep these fighting words before ye
Cambria (Welshmen never) will not yield

Appendix B: The British Garrison

The Roll of those present at Rorke's Drift 22/23 January 1879

This Roll is compiled from research undertaken by Julian Whybra and Norman Holme and is largely based on the Chard and Bourne Rolls. Biographical notes on the soldiers of the 24th Foot who were present at Isandhlwana and Rorke's Drift 22/23 January 1879 are contained in '*The Noble 24th*' by Norman Holme, published in 1999 and obtainable from the South Wales Borderers' Museum, Brecon.

General's Staff

Maybin, G.W. Colour-Sergeant.

Royal Artillery N Battery 5th Brigade

Cantwell, John. Gunner 2076, awarded Distinguished Conduct Medal
Evans, Abraham. Gunner. 1643
Howard, Arthur. Gunner. 2077
Lewis, Thomas. Bombardier. 458

Royal Engineers 5th Company

Chard, John Rouse Merriott, Lieutenant, awarded Victoria Cross
Robson, Charles John, Driver. 12046

2nd Battalion, 3rd (East Kent) Regiment of Foot (The Buffs)

Milne, Frederick. Sergeant. 2260

1st Battalion, 24th (2nd Warwickshire) Regiment of Foot

Beckett, William. Private. 25B/135, died of wounds 23 January 1879
Desmond, Patrick. Private. 25B/568
Horrigan, William. Private. 1-24/1861, killed in action 22 January 1879
Jenkins, James. Private. 25B/841, killed in action 22 January 1879
Nicholas, Edward. Private. 25B/625, killed in action 22 January 1879
Payton, Thomas. Private. 25B/372
Roy, William. Private. 1-24/1542, awarded Distinguished Conduct Medal
Turner, Henry. Private. 25B/104
Waters, John. Private. 1-24/447
Wilson, Edward. Sergeant. 25B/56

2nd Battalion, 24th (2nd Warwickshire) Regiment of Foot

Adams, Robert. Private. 25B/987 D Company, killed in action 22 January 1879
Allen, William Wilson. Corporal. 2-24/1240, B Company, awarded Victoria Cross
Ashton, James. Private. 2-24/913, B Company
Barry, Thomas. Private. 25B/1381, B Company
Bennett, William Private. 25B/918, B Company
Bessell, William. Lance-Corporal. 25B/1287, B Company
Bly, John. Private. 2-24/2427, B Company
Bourne, Frank. Colour-Sergeant. 2-24/2459, B Company, awarded Distinguished Conduct Medal
Bromhead, Gonville. Lieutenant, B Company, awarded Victoria Cross
Bromwich, Joseph. Private. 25B/1524, B Company
Buckley, Thomas. Private. 25B/1184, B Company
Burke, Thomas. Private. 25B/1220, B Company
Bushe, James. Private. 2-24/2350, B Company
Camp, William Henry. Private. 25B/1181, B Company
Chester, Thomas. Private. 25B/1241, B Company

Chick, James. Private. 25B/1335 D Company, killed in action 22 January 1879
 Clayton, Thomas. Private. 25B/755, B Company
 Cole, Robert. Private. 25B/1459, F Company
 Cole, Thomas. Private. 25B/801 B Company, killed in action 22 January 1879
 Collins, Thomas. Private. 25B/1396, B Company
 Connolly, John. Private. 25B/906, C Company
 Connors, Anthony. Private. 2-24/2310, B Company
 Connors, Timothy. Private. 2-24/1323, B Company
 Cooper, William. Private. 2-24/2453, F Company
 Davies, George. Private. 25B/470, B Company
 Davis, William Henry. Private. 25B/1363, B Company
 Daw, Thomas. Private. 25B/1178, B Company
 Deacon, George. Private. 25B/1467, B Company, alias George D Power
 Deane, Michael. Private. 25B/1357, B Company
 Dick, James. Private. 2-24/1697, B Company
 Dicks, William. Private. 2-24/1634, B Company
 Driscoll, Thomas. Private. 25B/971, B Company
 Dunbar, James. Private. 25B/1421, B Company
 Edwards, George. Private. 25B/922, B Company, alias George Edward Orchard
 Evans, Frederick. Private. 25B/953, H Company
 Fagan, John. Private. 25B/969 B Company, killed in action 22 January 1879
 French, George. Corporal. 2-24/582, B Company
 Galgey, Patrick. Drummer 2-24/1713, D Company
 Gallagher, Henry. Sergeant. 25B/81, B Company
 Gee, Edward. Private. 2-24/2429, B Company
 Hagan, James. Private. 25B/978, B Company
 Halley, William. Lance-Corporal. 25B/1282, B Company
 Harris, John. Private. 25B/1062, B Company
 Hayden, Garret. Private. 2-24/1769 D Company, killed in action 22 January 1879
 Hayes, Patrick. Drummer 2-24/2067, B Company
 Hitch, Frederick. Private. 25B/1362, B Company, awarded Victoria Cross
 Hook, Alfred Henry. Private. 25B/1373, B Company, awarded Victoria Cross
 Jobbins, John. Private. 25B/1061, B Company
 Jones, Evan. Private. 25B/1428, B Company, alias Patrick Cosgrove
 Jones, John. Private. 25B/1179, B Company
 Jones, John. Private. 25B/970, B Company
 Jones, Robert. Private. 25B/716, B Company, awarded Victoria Cross
 Jones, William. Private. 2-24/593, B Company, awarded Victoria Cross
 Judge, Peter. Private. 2-24/2437, B Company
 Kears, Patrick. Private. 25B/972, B Company
 Keefe, James. Drummer. 2-24/2381, B Company
 Key, John. Corporal. 2-24/2389, B Company
 Kiley, Michael. Private. 25B/1386, B Company
 Lewis, David. Private. 25B/963, B Company, alias James Owen
 Lines, Henry. Private. 2-24/1528, B Company
 Lloyd, David. Private. 25B/1409, B Company
 Lockhart, Thomas. Private. 25B/1176, B Company
 Lodge, Joshua. Private. 25B/1304, B Company
 Lynch, Thomas Michael. Private. 25B/942, B Company
 Lyons, John. Corporal. 25B/1112, B Company
 Lyons, John. Private. 2-24/1441, A Company
 Manley, John. Private. 2-24/1731, A Company
 Marshall, James. Private. 25B/964, B Company
 Martin, Henry. Private. 25B/756, B Company
 Mason, Charles. Private. 25B/1284, B Company
 Maxfield, Robert. Sergeant. 25B/623 G Company, killed in action 22 January 1879

Meehan, John. Drummer. 2-24/2383, A Company
Minehan, Michael. Private. 2-24/1527, B Company
Moffatt, Thomas. Private. 25B/968, B Company
Morris, Augustus. Private. 25B/1342, B Company
Morris, Frederick. Private. 25B/525, B Company
Morrison, Thomas. Private. 25B/1371, B Company
Murphy, John. Private. 25B/662, B Company
Neville, William. Private. 25B/1279, B Company
Norris, Robert. Private. 25B/1257, B Company
Osborne, William. Private. 25B/1480, B Company
Parry, Samuel. Private. 25B/1399, B Company
Partridge, William. Private. 25B/1410, G Company
Pitt, Samuel. Private. 25B/1186, B Company
Robinson, Edward. Private. 25B/1286, B Company
Ruck, James. Private. 25B/1065, B Company
Savage, Edward. Private. 25B/1185, B Company
Saxty, Alfred. Corporal. 25B/849, B Company
Scanlon, John. Private. 25B/1051 A Company, killed in action 22 January 1879
Sears, Arthur. Private. 2-24/2404, A Company
Shearman, George. Private. 2-24/1618, B Company
Shergold, John. Private. 2-24/914, B Company
Smith, George. Sergeant. 2-24/1387, B Company
Smith, John. Private. 25B/1005, B Company
Stevens, Thomas. Private. 25B/777, B Company
Tasker, William. Private. 2-24/1812, B Company
Taylor, Frederick. Private. 25B/973, B Company
Taylor, James. Lance-Sergeant. 25B/82, E Company
Taylor, Thomas Edward. Private. 25B/889, B Company
Thomas, John. Private. 25B/1280, B Company, alias Peter Sawyer
Thompson, John. Private. 25B/1394, B Company
Tobin, Michael. Private. 25B/879, B Company
Tobin, Patrick. Private. 25B/641, B Company
Todd, William John. Private. 25B/1281, B Company
Tongue, Robert. Private. 25B/1315, B Company
Wall, John. Private. 25B/1497, B Company
Whetton, Alfred. Private. 2-24/977, B Company
Wilcox, William. Private. 25B/1187, B Company
Williams, John. Private. 25B/1395, B Company, awarded Victoria Cross, alias John Fielding
Williams, John. Private. 25B/934, E Company
Williams, Joseph. Private. 25B/1398 B Company, killed in action 22 January 1879
Williams, Thomas. Lance-Sergeant. 25B/1328, died of wounds 23 January 1879
Windridge, Joseph. Sergeant. 2-24/735, B Company
Woods, Caleb. Private. 25B/1316, B Company

90th Light Infantry

Graham, James. Corporal. 1123, alias Daniel Sheehan

Army Service Corps

Attwood, Francis. Second Corporal. 24692, awarded Distinguished Conduct Medal

Army Commissariat and Transport Department

Byrne, Louis Alexander. Acting Storekeeper, (civilian attachment), killed in action 22 January 1879

Dalton, James Langley. Acting Assistant Commissary, awarded Victoria Cross

Dunne, Walter Alphonsus. Assistant. Commissary

Army Medical Department and Army Hospital Corps

Reynolds, James Henry. Surgeon. BA MB ChB, awarded Victoria Cross

Pearse, Mr., Surg. Reynolds's servant

Ludding, Thomas. Private.

McMahon, Michael. Private. 3359, awarded Distinguished Conduct Medal

Miller, Robert. Corporal.

1st Battalion 3rd Regiment Natal Native Contingent

Adendorff, James. Lieutenant

Mayer, Jessy H. Corporal.

a native of Mkungo's tribe, killed in action 22 January 1879

2nd Battalion 3rd Regiment Natal Native Contingent

Anderson, Michael. Corporal. , killed in action 22 January 1879

Doughty, William. Corporal.

Scammell, Carl. Corporal.

Schiess, Ferdinand Christian. Corporal., awarded Victoria Cross

Wilson, John. Corporal.

Natal Mounted Police

Green, Robert S. Trooper.

Hunter, Sydney H. Trooper., killed in action 22 January 1879

Lugg, Henry. Trooper.

Acting Chaplain to the Volunteers

Smith, George. The Reverend

The Rev Smith's native servant

Daniels, Mr

Notes:

Not included in these figures are those who did not remain to assist in the defence viz. Stevenson's Natal Native Contingent detachment, Henderson's fugitive Natal Native Horse from Isandhlwana, Otto Witt and his native companion, Lieutenant Thomas Purvis 1st Battalion, 3rd Regiment, Natal Native Contingent - a hospital patient - who accompanied Witt to safety, Chard's native voodooper, Chard's native waggon driver who hid in a cave on the Oscarberg throughout the attack, and all those fugitives from Isandhlwana who stopped to give a warning and rode on. Of all the latter only Adendorff remained to assist in the defence and is thus the only man to have fought in both the Isandhlwana and Rorke's Drift actions.

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Denis Jackman and Tony Baker