

TERROR AT TSHANENI

A very modified version of the Zulu battle of 5th June 1884.

This Zulu War battle was fought at Bacup on 03.10.99 between those old war horses Freiherr von Frettlöehr (British/Xosa) and Baron Barfoot of Ballygrainey (Zulu/Boer).

Following the death of King Cetshwayo and the terrible defeat at oNdini (21.06.1883), royal fortunes in Zululand were at their lowest ebb. The deliberately divisive policies of the British Government had succeeded to a degree which alarmed even them and resulted in much bloodshed. Although Cetshwayo was defeated by Zibhebhu the British were behind the defeat which resulted in the Zulu royal family being scattered throughout the land. At oNdini certain Boer factions approached Cetshwayo to destroy Zibhebhu but were politely turned down. Now, in their darkest hour, the Zulus turned to the Boers (whose real interest lay in the fertile cattle raising lands of Kwa Zulu) to help them fight the British and their old enemies the Xosa tribe of the Western Cape. A new King, Chief Mandela III (the Magnificent) was installed by the Boer faction leader Hansi (the Handsome). Across from the Kopie and the fertile Veldt below, the British forces under the command of Major Smythe (the Slayer) had joined forces with the Xenophobic Xosa Chief Butulesi (the Beautiful) whose people also wanted access to the fertile lands of Zululand.

With a sigh, Chief Mandela III arose at sunrise on the morning of 5th June 1884, leaving his nubile Namibian concubine, he prepared himself for battle. Together with his son (and Heir) Mandy (the Mouse) and their trusty tracker Trimbush, they made their way to the hut of the royal witch doctor (Black Death II) to receive his blessing for the battle. After drinking a half litre of lion's urine (for strength) they met with Hansi to observe the British/Xosa camp on the Kopie opposite .

The objective for the British/Xosa forces was to capture and set on fire Mandela's hut as this would symbolize the defeat of the Zulu Chief.

The Zulu/ Boer camp were after the life force of the enemy - a barrel of Glen Ollie, a potent brew donated by the Governor and regiment in residence at Fort Durban (the Royal Scots Guards) to aide their comrades in arms.

A fierce battle to the death ensued with the Zulu & Boers quickly descending from their Kopie stronghold to meet the enemy in a small copse of acacia trees. The Zulus proved no match for the Xosas (drunk with battle fever and Glen Ollie) and were quickly dealt with. The British/Xosa forces quickly rallied and marched up hill towards the Zulu/Boer stronghold. Those remaining Zulus were also quickly dispatched. Meanwhile across the Veldt a brave band of thirsty Boers had scaled the Frei Herr Hights and were poised to get their Afrikaner hands on the Barrel of Glen Ollie. Who would win this desperate battle ? A rear gunner, Major Ramsbottom tried and tried to evict the Chief and burn the Corral (thus gaining many brownie points) - indeed he could have been victorious but with a yell of "Ons voor het Transvaal" Hansie and friends staggered off the battle field with the barrel of Glen Ollie. Thus ending one of the most closely run battles in recent years. © Barfoot's Bloody Battles, Nov. 1999