

# SKIRMISH WARGAME NO. # 31

## “The Last Napoleon – A Fatal Zulu Ambush in 1879”



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## The Last Napoleon – A Fatal Zulu Ambush on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1879

Shortly after 4 p.m. on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> of June 1879, in KwaZulu, an independent Kingdom in southern Africa, five European horsemen were riding pell-mell towards another small force of British soldiers, of the five men, one wears the uniform of a British officer, the others in the dress of locally recruited irregular volunteer cavalry. At the head of the other group, are two bearded veteran officers - Colonel Henry Evelyn Wood and Lieutenant-Colonel Redvers Buller, both men hold their country's highest award for bravery, the Victoria Cross. Buller exclaimed, "Why the man rides as if the whole kaffir impi were after him" The British officer reins in before the column. Buller, a bluff, forthright man, asked, "What the devil is the matter, Sir?" The British officer in a faltering voice replied, "The Prince... The Prince Imperial is killed." Buller interjected, "Where?" The officer pointed to a hill on the horizon, at which Wood and Buller raise their field glasses, and through them they saw some twenty Zulu warriors leading away three horses. Buller questioned the officer further, "Where are your men? How many did you lose?" The officer can only blurt out that he does not know. Buller can only reply in total disdain for the officer standing before him, "You deserve to be shot Sir...and I hope will be. I could shoot you myself." Wood and Buller in an almost pantomime gesture turn their backs on Lieutenant Jahleel Brenton Carey, of Her Majesty's 98th Regiment of Foot, not wishing to look upon a man they considered to be a coward, a man who would become the scapegoat for the death of the exiled heir to the French Imperial throne.

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The story of the life of the 'Last Napoleon' begins at 3 a.m. on the morning of 16th March 1856. The Empress Eugenie had been safely delivered of a son - His Imperial Highness Eugene Louis Jean Joseph Napoleon Bonaparte. The only legitimate son of Napoleon the III and designated successor Napoleon IV.

After the defeat of France in the Franco-Prussian War of 1871, the French Imperial family was exiled to Britain. Louis attended the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich from 1872-1875 from which he graduated with an honorary lieutenancy in the Royal Artillery.

Louis was fast becoming very popular in the right circles in England. A romance blossomed with the youngest daughter of Queen Victoria, Princess Beatrice. But he was restless - he yearned for action at least once before he settled into a life of privilege on one side or the other of the English Channel

A military record would endorse his claim to the French throne as nothing else could. Louis was to be permitted to go to the Zulu front as a "spectator" in a private capacity in March 1879.



*Picture 1 -Prince Imperial Louis "Napoleon IV"*

### Action in KwaZulu

Lord Chelmsford (Commander-in-Chief) invited Louis to be an extra aide de camp on his personal staff. Louis eventually made his way up country and on the 2nd of May 1879 at a camp named Khambula, he was reunited with two of his companions from Woolwich, Lieutenants Arthur Bigge and Frederick Slade.

Both these officers had fought in the action at Khambula, on 29th March, which had in fact proved the turning point in the campaign - Louis listened avidly as they recounted the battle, wondering when it would be his chance to see some action. Shortly after on the 8th May Chelmsford appointed Colonel Richard Harrison, Royal Engineers, as his Acting Quartermaster-General, despite his title Harrison's task was military intelligence, which to some would appear to be a contradiction in terms. Harrison's staff was limited, he had two officers, Brevet Major Francis Grenfell and Lieutenant Jahleel Carey, and one Lance Corporal, by the name of Martin. Chelmsford decided that a position on Harrison's staff would be an ideal billet for the Prince Imperial. Thereby permitting the General to stop being a royal tour guide, and get on with the matter in hand, defeat the Zulus. Thus Louis was appointed to the colonel's staff. He very quickly found a soul mate in Carey. Thirty-one year old Carey was the son of a Devon vicar, who had been educated at the Lycee Imperial in Paris and had served as a first

aid volunteer in the Franco-Prussian War. In addition he had previously seen active service in West Africa and Central America. Because of his Parisian education he affected certain French mannerisms, also well speaking the language with a marked Parisian accent.

The Prince Imperial had been permitted to be a first hand spectator and had embarked on a reconnaissance deeper into KwaZulu. Louis had been allowed, with Colonel Harrison's permission, to accompany a strong probing patrol, of some three hundred veteran volunteer horsemen, both European and African, to test the Zulu strength ahead of the line of march. Louis was in his element - the opportunity for action had at last come to him. On the 16th of May, as Zulu scouts were spotted on the ridge of the Itelezi Hill, on sighting the patrol they melted back from sight. The reconnaissance commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Redvers Buller V.C., turned to his imperial guest to point out the stealth of the Zulu warriors, only to see Louis draw his sword, which was the same sword that his great-uncle had carried at Austerlitz, and galloped headlong in pursuit of the Zulus, thus jeopardising the purpose of the mission. Buller dispatched troopers after the eager young man, who returned dejected he had not drawn blood. Buller asserted his authority over this spectator with extreme wrath - "Your Imperial Highness, this is a reconnaissance, not a Zulu hunt...- Under no circumstances will I permit such reckless action again. Do I make myself clear, Sir." Sheepishly, the young Bonaparte admitted his error. On his return to the British lines, Buller, brave, reckless Buller, who only weeks before had personally risked his own life to rescue, not once, but three times, unhorsed men from the very clutches of the Zulu, voiced his opinion to his own superior, and to Harrison of the Prince's behaviour.

Despite Buller's objections Louis was soon out again on patrol, this time with Captain William Molyneux, one of Lord Chelmsford's aide de camps. Molyneux asked Louis about his conduct during the previous patrol, enquiring if he thought that "by risking his life in order to get to grips with a few Zulus whose deaths, after all, would have made not the slightest difference to the outcome of the campaign." Louis replied, "You are right, I suppose, but I could not help it. I feel I must do something." As Louis spoke a shot rang out to their left, nothing was seen, save for a trooper calmly reloading his rifle and continuing with his pace. Molyneux concluded that the man had hit whatever he had been aiming at. Not so the Prince, who again drew his sword and rode at full tilt towards the trooper. Molyneux shouted, "Prince, I must order you to come back." Louis pulled up at once, and turned to face Molyneux, he saluted the officer with his sword, before returning it to its scabbard, then he let fly at the captain, "It seems I am never to be without a nurse."

Sullenly he returned to camp. On his arrival Colonel Henry Evelyn Wood, quipped to Louis, "Well Sir, I see you've not been assegaied yet." Louis replied, "Not yet, but while I have no desire to be killed, if I have to fall I should prefer an assegai to a bullet, for it would show that I had at least been at close quarters."

For his sins Louis was unofficially confined to camp, employed on the less than rigorous duty of drawing maps, a task which he seethed about, how could he accomplish his political purpose and re-establish the Napoleonic dynasty, armed only with mapping paper and a drawing pen?

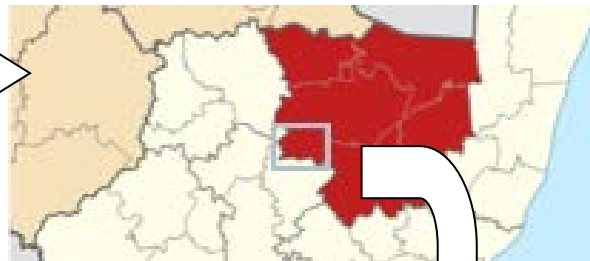
### **The Fatal Day**

On Sunday, 1st June, 1879, Harrison gave permission to Louis to verify some of the detail of his maps, by being allowed to traverse the ground in question, in order to select a spot for the camp to move on the following day. Jahleel Carey sought permission to accompany Louis, which was duly granted. Major Bettington's Troop of the Natal Volunteer Horse (established in Feb 1879 after the Isandlawana disaster) furnished an escort of six men. This consisted of Sergeant Robert Willis, Corporal James Grubb (a Natal farmer who understood the Zulu language and was a veteran of 16 years in the Royal Artillery), as well as four troopers namely Nicholas Le Tocq (a Guernsey islander who spoke French), William Abel, George Rogers and private Cochrane. In addition six African Basuto troopers of Captain Shepstone's Native Horse were also assigned to parade at 9.15 a.m., but due to a mistake they reported to the wrong tent. The Basutos were better scouts as they had a keener sense of sight and hearing than the Europeans. In addition a renegade Zulu was assigned as a guide who rode Louis' second horse called "Fate". Not to forget Louis' fox terrier "Nero" who followed along. Eager to be about his task Louis left without waiting for the extra men to appear. Major Francis Grenfell fell in with the group and travelled with them in the direction of the Blood River,

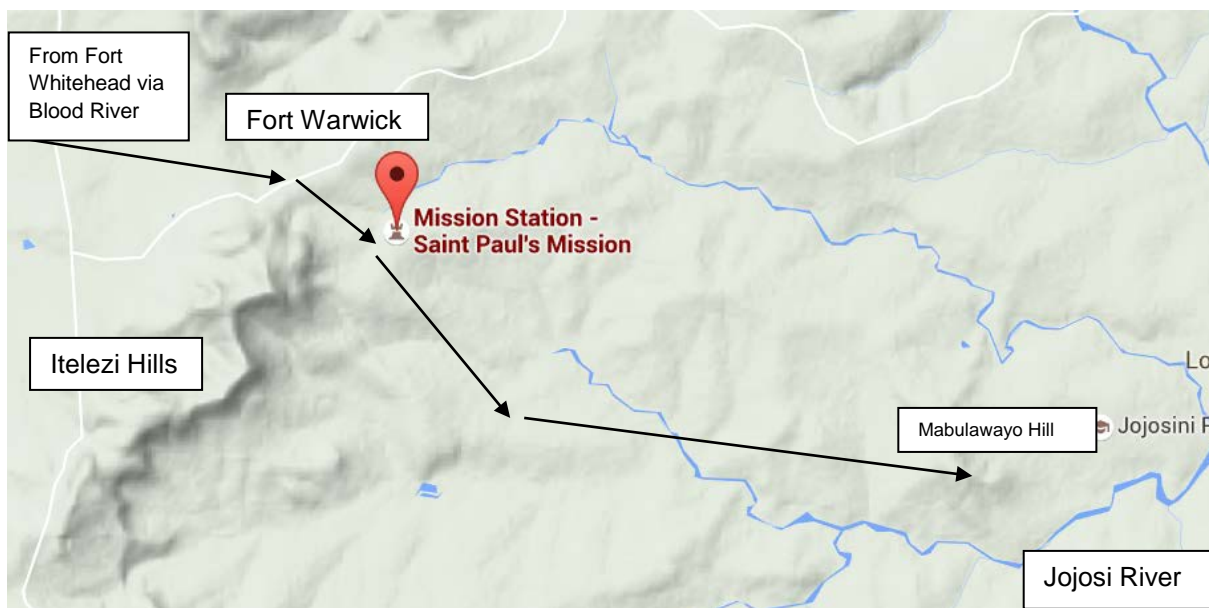
a little over twenty miles off to the east was Ulundi, the Zulu capital. Harrison who was on another mission in the same vicinity came upon the little party, he suggested that their numbers were insufficient, to which Louis replied, "Oh no, we are quite strong enough." Harrison could see other mounted units scouting on the nearby Itelezi Hills - he felt that there was no unnecessary reason to dispute the matter further. Harrison ordered Grenfell to return to camp with him, Grenfell turned in his saddle and said, "Take care of yourself, Prince, and don't get shot." The Prince, replied, pointing to Lieutenant Carey, "He'll take very good care that nothing happens to me."



**Map 1** - South Africa and Zululand (Red)



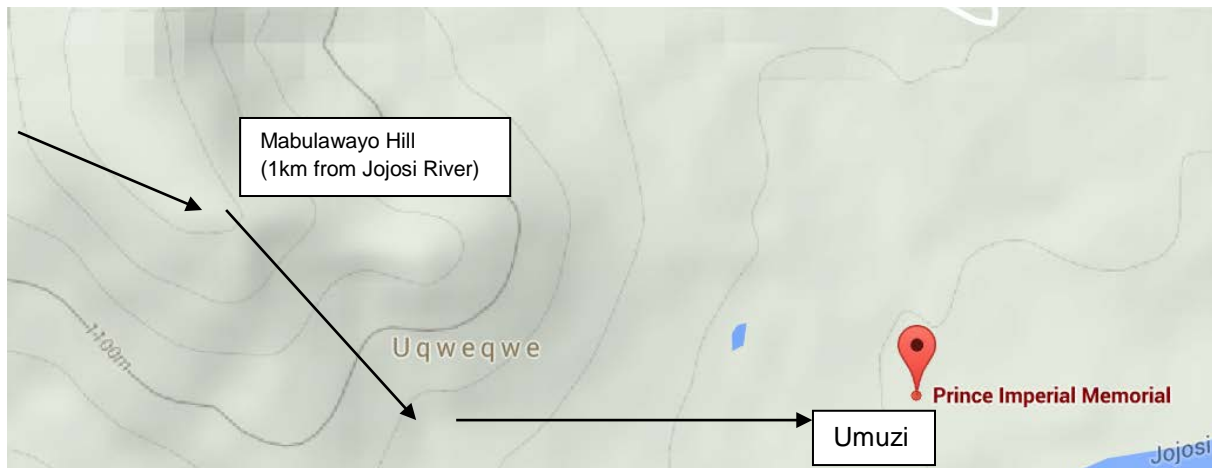
**Map 2** - Zululand with square indicating **Map 3** area



**Map 3** - Route of Louis and his entourage. After leaving Fort Whitehead at the foot of Koppie Alleen Hill at 9:15 a.m. they crossed Blood River and ascended the Itelezi Hills to Fort Warwick (camp for 2<sup>nd</sup> Division on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1879). They passed St. Paul's Mission and carried on along the eastern side of the Itelezi ridge until they had reached the summit of the flat topped Mabulawayo Hill at around 1:30 p.m., where Louis and Lt. Carey sketched the landscape.

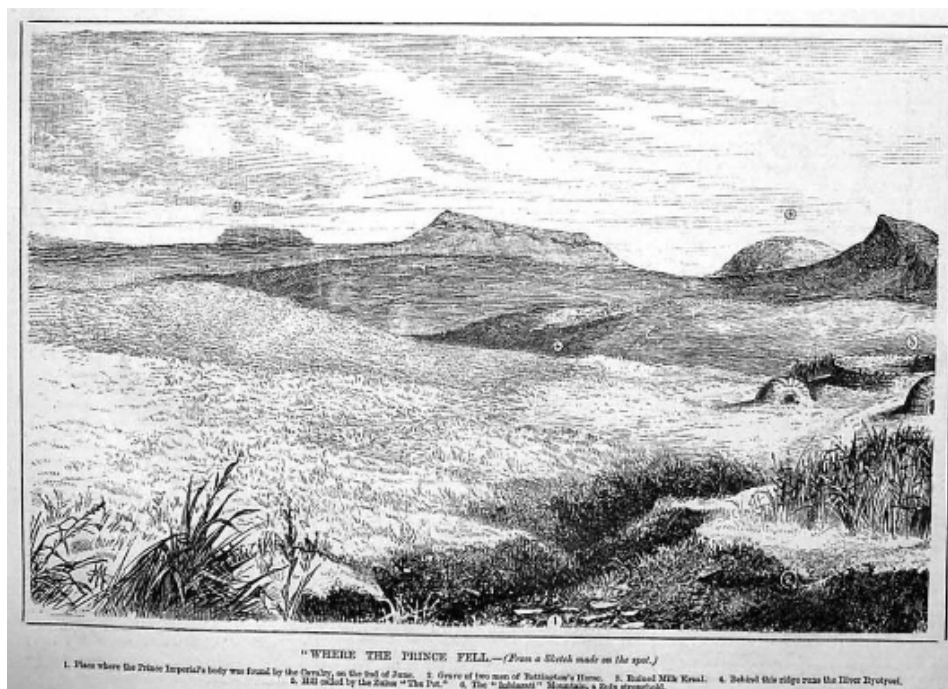
For hours the small band went about their task, with Louis sketching the localities, seeking an appropriate campsite for several thousand men and their impedimenta. At 3p.m. despite Jahleel Carey verbal misgivings, the patrol rode into a Zulu Umuzi, or Kraal, close to the banks of the Jojosi (or Ityoyozi) River.





**Map 4** – At about 2:30 p.m. the patrol left the Mabulawayo summit and descended towards the seemingly deserted Umuzi (Kraal) close to the Jojosi River, as Louis had promised his escort a coffee break.

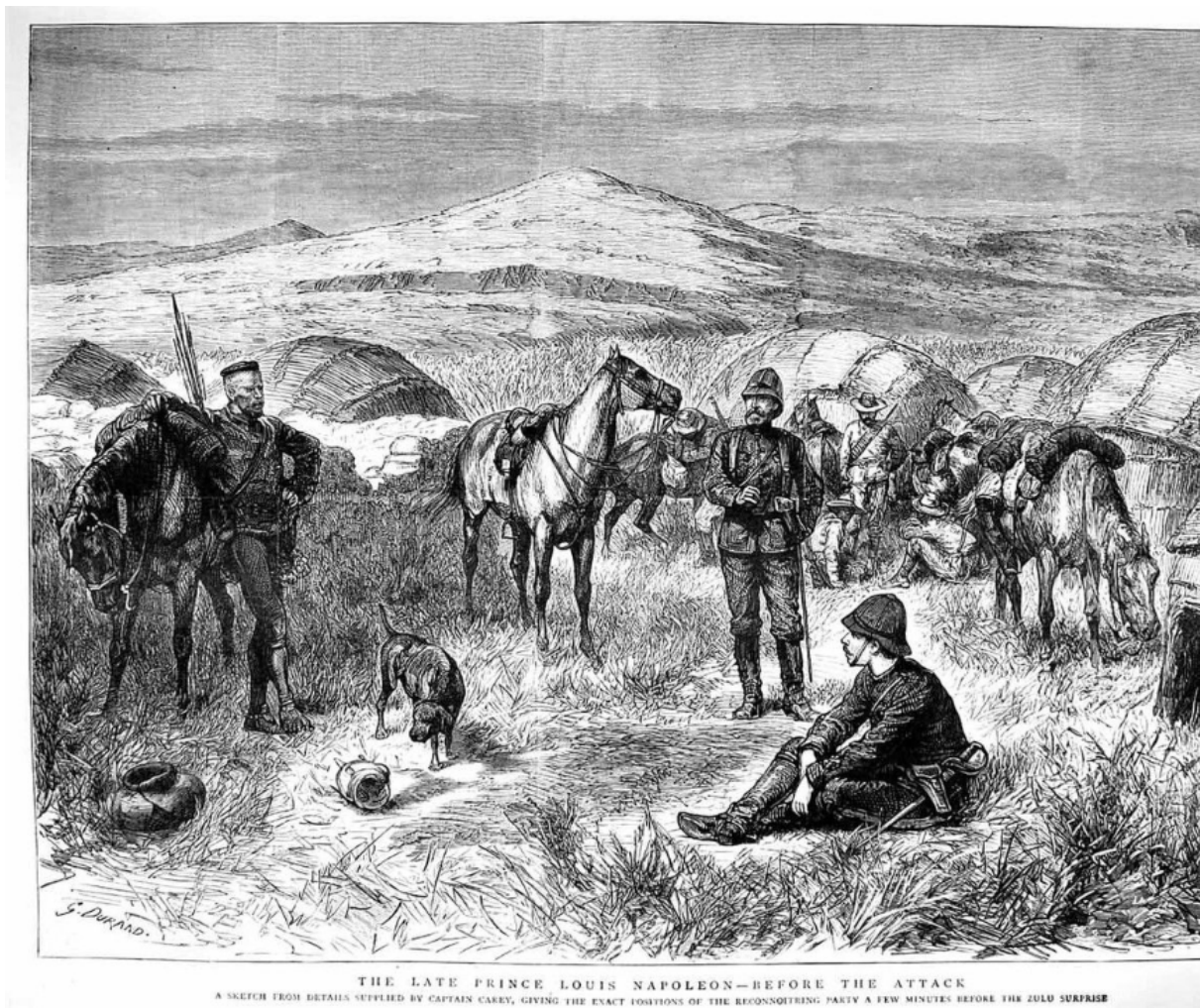
The beehive huts were deserted, but betrayed signs of recent habitation. Louis gave orders for the men to off-saddle their mounts and allow them to be grazed. Their Zulu guide was dispatched to fetch water so that the white men could have some coffee. Louis lay down beside one of the huts and relaxed, he was in his element, free from the constraints of being made to obey orders, he was now giving orders. Carey and Louis mused over the victories of the 1st Napoleon in Italy in 1796; Louis's mind was obviously wandering towards his own future. The men relaxed over their coffee, and enjoyed a pipe, but no one had deemed it necessary to set a guard.



**Picture 2** - The Zulu Umuzi in the typical fashion with beehive huts around a circular stone wall for keeping the cattle. The Kraal was surrounded by 6-8ft. high Tambookie grass interspersed with Kafir Corn and Mealies, giving excellent coverage to anyone approaching secretly. Only the northeastern edge of the Umuzi was free of high grass (see donga in the foreground). In the background the flat topped Mabulawayo Hill from which Louis and Lt. Carey were sketching the landscape



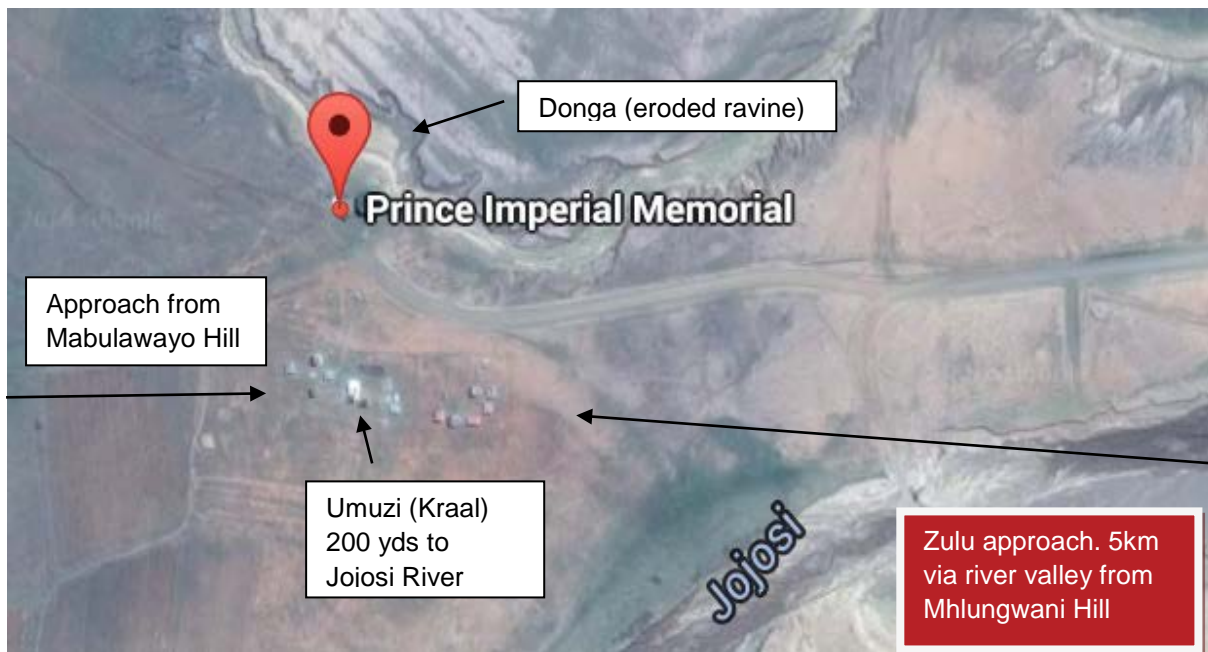
**Picture 3** – The Zulu guide had checked the huts for any sign of life but discovered none, except that the fire place showed some signs of warm ash, as if someone had been here shortly before. This was ignored as well as the fact that there were some dogs wandering around without their masters.



**Picture 4** – Picknick in Zululand. Sitting in the foreground is the Prince Imperial chatting in French with Lt. Carey about the ventures of his great-uncle Napoleon Bonaparte. The Zulu guide doesn't understand a word

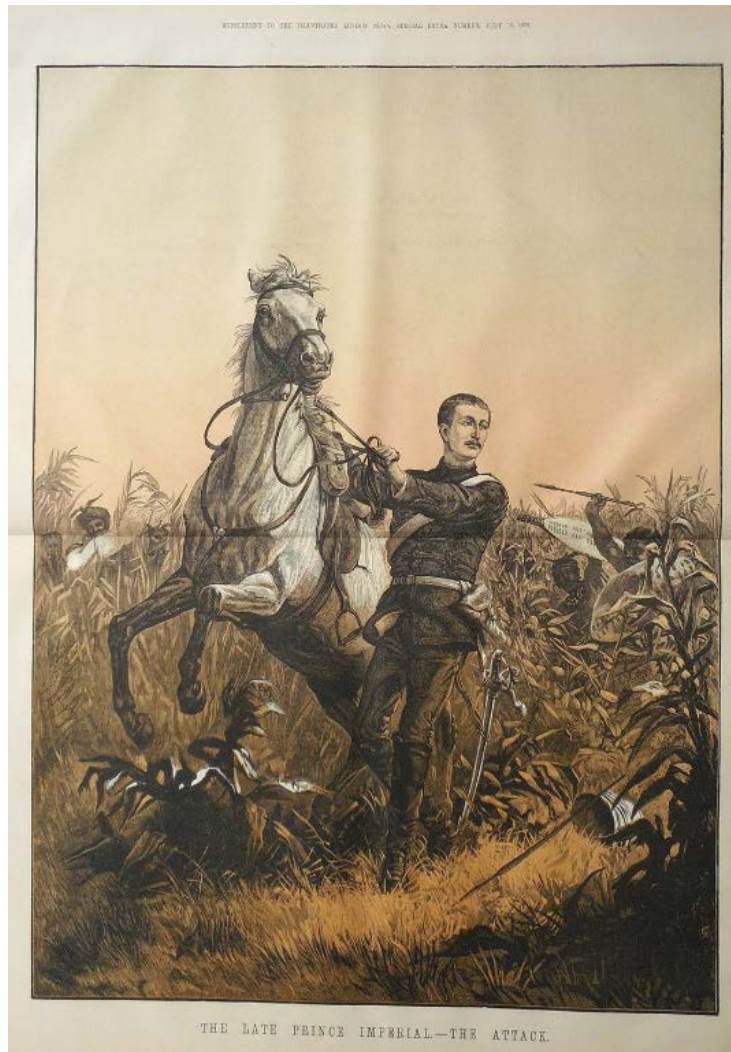


and soon gets ordered to fetch some water from the river for coffee. In the background Bettington's Natal Volunteers are pleased to have a rest after 25 km of patrolling that day. It seems, however, that Louis was missing the military prudence of his ancestor as grave mistakes had been made: (1) The location to rest was most inappropriate as surrounded by high grass and ideal for an ambush. Had they waited for the Basuto scouts, then this point would have been avoided for sure. (2) Lt. Carey was the highest ranking commissioned officer and should have taken proper command, which he, however, ceded to Louis probably out of deference to the high social rank of the Prince Imperial. (3) No guards were posted at all, believing that the area was safe and free of Zulus. This was rather naïve and gross negligent as the group had wandered about 8 miles into Zulu territory and actually beyond the furthest point they were ordered to go to. (4) A fire was made from the thatch of the huts to brew coffee with the smoke being seen from miles away. (5) The horses were unsaddled and knee-haltered and left to stray around in the high grass, which cost valuable 10 minutes to search for them before departure. (6) The Martini Henry carbines were unloaded which left the patrol defenseless in the vital moments of the attack. (7) When the native guide had spotted a Zulu warrior in the high grass and reported this to Louis (had to be translated by Corporal Grubb first) there was no immediate reaction and sense of the danger they were in.



**Photo 1** – Google satellite view of the area nowadays with Prince Imperial Memorial. Also today there is a little village at the location of the Umuzi in 1879. The Prince Imperial Memorial indicates the point to which Louis escaped before making his final stand close to the donga. The Zulus approached from the East.

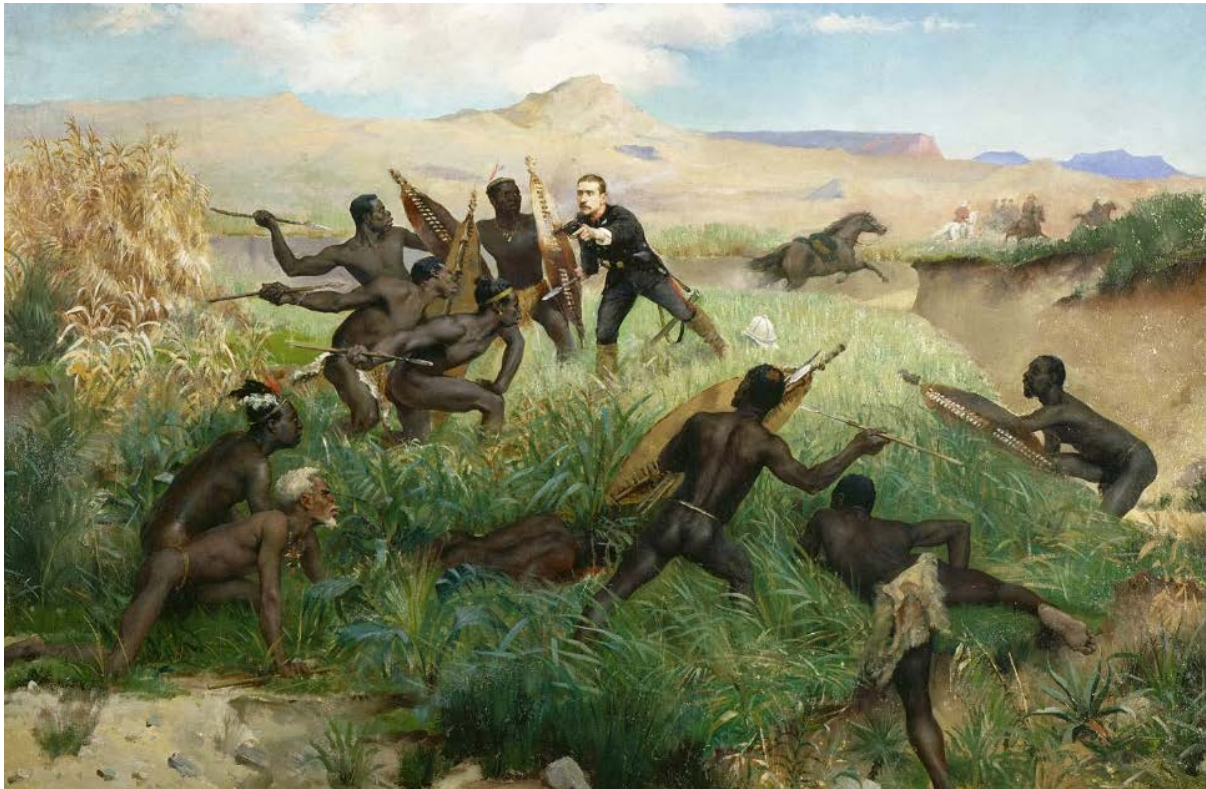
At 3.35 p.m. Carey suggested to Louis that they should saddle up, Louis replied, "Just another ten minutes." Almost simultaneously the Zulu guide reported that he had seen a lone Zulu on the rise above the kraal. The order was given to saddle-up, but some of the horses had strayed and it was a further ten minutes before all of them could be gathered and made ready. Jahleel Carey mounted independently to the others. The men stood by horses, with Louis facing them, he enquired of the other-ranks, "Are you all ready?" To which the men replied they were. Louis then gave the order "Prepare to mount", at which the men each put their left foot in the nearside stirrup - all were waiting for the Prince's next word of command. As the word "Mount" came from his lips it was drowned by a ragged volley of rifle fire from the surrounding bush, from which broke some forty or so Zulus, yelling their war cry, "Usuthu!" (kill) as they came.



**Picture 5** - *The surprise attack of the Zulus. From eyewitness reports obtained from the Zulu survivors after the Battle of Ulundi on 4<sup>th</sup> July who had participated in the ambush on the Prince Imperial, the following was derived: The British patrol had already been spotted by Zulu scouts from Mhlungwani Hill (5 km to the East down the Jojosi River valley) when Louis and escort descended Mabalawayo Hill at around 2:30 p.m. A Zulu ambush party speedily approached the Umuzi, well hidden in the river valley and then in the high Tambookie grass with the aim to fully surround their unsuspecting prey and spring the trap.*

Trooper George Rogers's horse bolted with the din, stranding him on foot, he managed to load and fire his carbine before falling to the assegais of the warriors named *Zubalo* and *Mshingishingi*. Carey and the others rode off towards the donga, but Trooper William Abel's flight was stopped by a bullet from a captured British rifle and fell from his mount. As for Louis, he struggled to mount his horse and in doing so his sword, Napoleon's sword from Austerlitz cluttered to the ground. His horse, that skittish grey, was dragging him along as he clutched to a saddle holster. He was passed at this point by Trooper Nicholas Le Tocq, the Guernsey man from Cobo Bay. Le Tocq was laying his stomach across the saddle of his galloping horse and could offer the prince no help, save for urging him in French to mount his horse. But fate intervened and the leather of the saddle holster tore, sending Louis crashing to the ground, injuring his right arm. Corporal James Grubb looked back to see Louis making off on foot pursued by about ten Zulus. The fleet-of-foot warriors gained on their prey and Louis who had run some three hundred yards turned to meet his destiny. One warrior hurled an assegai, which struck the Prince in the thigh. Louis plucked the spear from his leg, and drew his pistol from which he fired two shots, neither of which found a mark despite the close range. Another warrior threw a spear, which entered his left shoulder, and eventually he slumped to his knees. The Zulus closed in on him and he died under a flurry of assegai blades. No attempt by Carey or the others was made to rally and save Louis.





**Picture 6** – Last stand of the Prince Imperial at the edge of the donga. We learned from eyewitness reports that the Zulu assault group was commanded by an InDuna called Mnukwa, being an officer of the royal household of King Cetshwayo. The warrior Langalabele hit Louis with his spear in the thigh while Xabanga was the one who threw his spear at the Prince’s left shoulder and fatally assegaied him to the chest. Mwuuzane is the Zulu crouching from Louis’ two revolver shots (which all missed). Many of the 17 stab marks on his chest were post-mortem and consistent with the Zulu practice of hlomula, whereby each warrior marked this participation in the killing of a gallant foe (Louis was described as having fought like a lion). Later he was eviscerated with a cut through the stomach by the warrior Klabawathunga to free the spirit in order that it should not haunt the slayers. All clothing was taken and distributed among the warriors as it was tradition to wear a piece of clothing of the killed opponent until the ritual cleansing could take place.



**Picture 7** – Louis faces Zulus in Donga



**Picture 8** – Moment of ambush and flight.



**Photo 2** – Shows the route of escape towards the donga lying northeast of the Umuzi. Louis probably held on to the holster of his horse for half the distance and ran the remaining part pursued by the more athletic Zulus who eventually caught up with him. The survivors on horseback made their way through the donga and back to the British lines.

With no chance to rally Carey and the others rode on, until they encountered Wood and his men, which takes us back to the beginning of our story. Due to the lateness of the hour, it was decided that it would have been futile to risk any further lives in the dwindling light of an African dusk. Carey and his men rode into camp that night and imparted their sorrowful news to General Lord Chelmsford. In the pre-dawn light of the following morning two regiments of regular British cavalry, several units of volunteer cavalry and a battalion of loyal African soldiers mustered to search for the



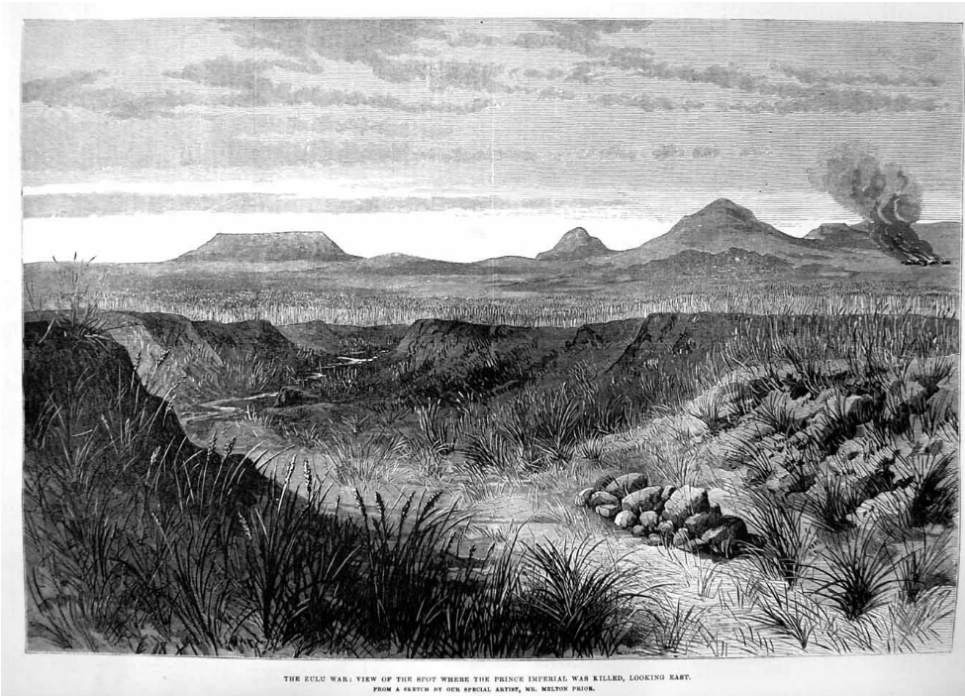
Prince Imperial. The correspondent from the Le Figaro, Paul Deleage, his eyes filled with tears yelled his abuse at the officers, with the words, "Yesterday the Prince left this camp with but seven companions. Today a thousand men will search for his body." The search party found his body, where he had died, stripped of all its clothing, the body bore seventeen spear wounds of which one of three could have proved fatal. All wounds were the front of his body showing that he had died facing the enemy. The body was borne away, and amid great ceremony it was taken back through Natal, and eventually to England. Where an almost state funeral took place at Chislehurst.



*Picture 9 – Search party finds Louis, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1879*

Jahleel Carey was found guilty of cowardice by a court-martial convened hurriedly in the field, but so hurriedly was the court convened that no one had thought to swear the members of the court in. Due to this oversight Carey was acquitted and the sentence of the trial overturned.

One year later the Empress Eugenie visited the place of her son's death, and found it marked by a simple cross. Eugenie left Chislehurst, for Farnborough in Hampshire in 1881, and moved the bodies of her husband and son from Chislehurst to a mausoleum she had erected there. Only a simple Celtic cross remains at Chislehurst as a memorial to Louis. Eugenie, herself, lived until 1920, obviously haunted by thoughts of what may have been.



THE ZULU WAR: VIEW OF THE SPOT WHERE THE PRINCE IMPERIAL WAS KILLED, LOOKING EAST.  
FROM A SKETCH BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST, MR. MELTON PRIOR.

*Picture 10 – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1879. View of the location in the donga where Louis Prince Imperial was killed. Looking towards the west one sees the Umuzi which was burnt down as a retaliation for the ambush.*

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## **The Skirmish Wargame and Rules**

Would it have been possible for Lt. Carey to save the Prince Imperial had he promptly rallied his patrol and immediately gone back across the donga to fight the Zulus? This question was pivotal during the court-martial of Lt. Carey and as he had not acted, he was found guilty of cowardice. He had not even attempted to bring back the Prince Imperial's body to prevent it from being mutilated by the African warriors. But would it have made a difference to confront the Zulu horde with just five men armed with four Martini Henry carbines and one revolver? Would it not have been suicidal to attack the Zulus with such a small troop with no avail as the Prince Imperial had already been killed with the highest likelihood? Or was there perhaps still a slight chance against all odds to achieve the impossible?

This wargame tries to simulate the last two and a half minutes of Louis' final struggle in 10 game moves each representing 15 seconds of the historical showdown. It is the attempt to test whether Lt. Carey and his four remaining Natal Volunteers could have saved Louis or truly were without a chance to achieve a rescue.

For the purpose of this game you need the following 17 figures which represent the actual number of soldiers/warriors who were within reach and could have taken part in the decisive fight during the final two and half minutes. Not to forget Louis' dog.

### **British:**

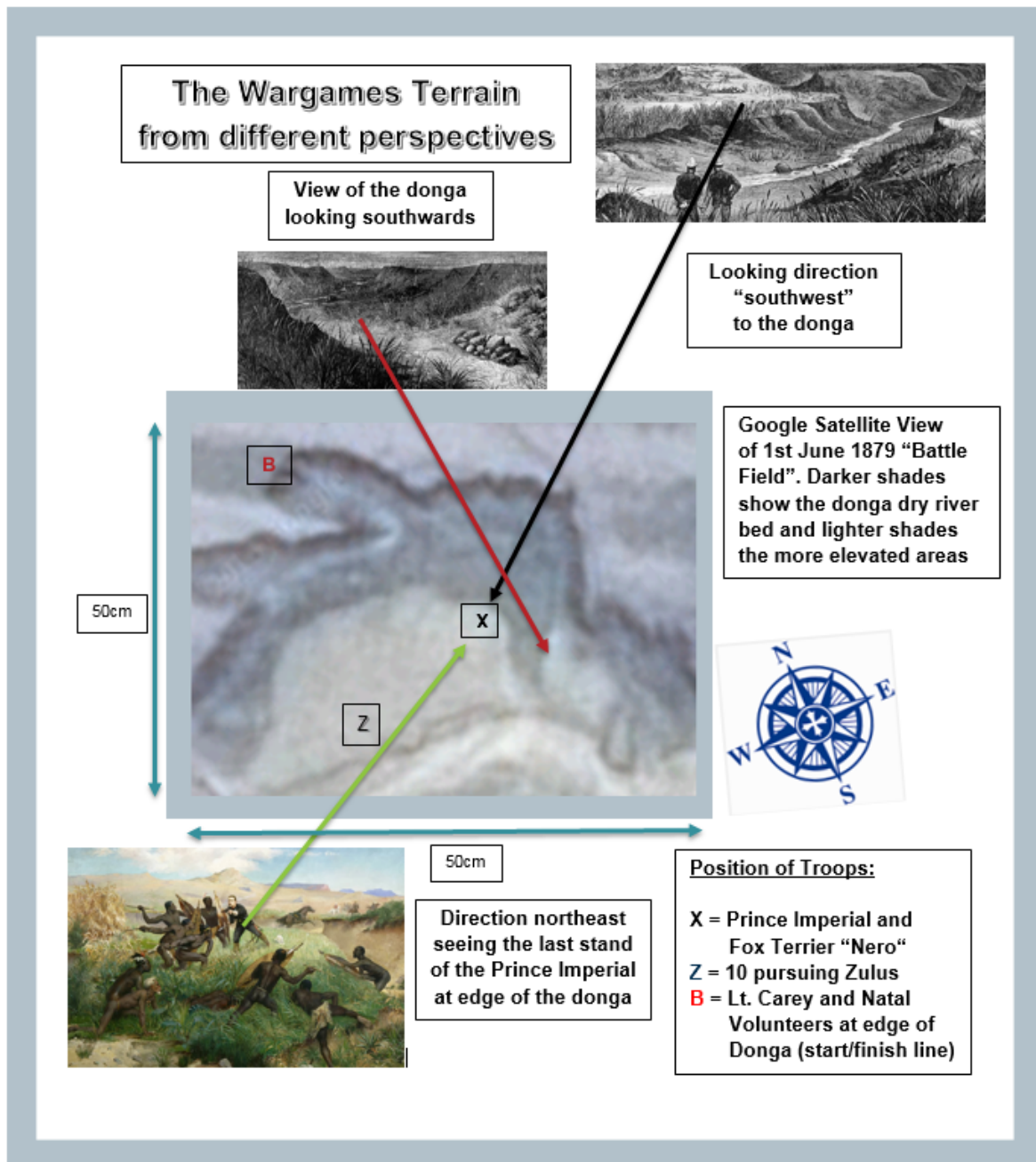
- 1) Prince Imperial Louis Napoleon on foot armed with a revolver.
- 2) Lt. Jahleel Carey (98<sup>th</sup> Regt.) on horse armed with revolver.
- 3) Sergeant Robert Willis armed with Martini Henry carbine
- 4) Corporal James Grubb armed with Martini Henry carbine
- 5) Trooper Nicholas Le Tocq unarmed as he lost his Martini Henry carbine during the flight (he probably had some sort of knife though)
- 6) Trooper Cochran armed with Martini Henry carbine
- 7) Fox Terrier "Nero" armed with sharp teeth and mighty courage to defend his master.

### **Zulu:**

- 1) Ten warriors who pursued the Prince Imperial armed with a mix of weapons: the *iklwa* stabbing spear or assegai for close combat, light javelins for throwing before closing in, a club called *iwisa* or known as knobkerrie, shields made of oxhide as well as captured Martini Henry rifles. This swift group which followed on Louis' heels is led by the two experienced warriors Xabanga and Langalabele. For the choice of figures I suggest 8 with traditional weapons and 2 carrying captured rifles.

### **Layout of Wargames Terrain /Starting Point of Troops:**

When playing this game I used an area of 50cm x 50cm with the donga in the middle and elevated ground on both sides (about to the height of a foot figure ca. 25mm). The starting point is when the Prince Imperial noticed he couldn't escape the Zulus and turned around to face them with drawn revolver in his left hand. Louis is standing exactly in the middle of the playing area with the Fox Terrier at his feet snarling at the pursuers. The 10 Zulus are following in a loose formation in a distance of 10cm to 20cm behind their prey. Lt. Carey and the four Natal Volunteers are in top left hand corner at the northern edge of the donga (see drawing below).



As this is a simulation of a possible rescue mission, there is of course some uncertainty as to whether Lt. Carey and the whole patrol will interfere immediately and in full strength or rather hesitantly and piecemeal. Therefore the cast of one die (6d) is required to determine the starting situation:

Number on die (6d)	Starting Situation
1	Lt. Carey can hardly motivate his troops to follow. Therefore it is only him and Sergeant Willis who intervene in game move no. 2. The other three will follow in game move no. 3.
2	Lt. Carey can hardly motivate his troops to follow. Therefore it is only him, Sergeant Willis and Corporal Grubb who intervene in game move no. 2. The other two will follow in game move no. 3.
3	After some debating Lt. Carey can motivate all his troops to follow him. Therefore it is all five of them who intervene in game move no. 2.
4	Lt. Carey and Sgt. Willis intervene in game move no. 1. The other three follow in game move no. 2
5	Lt. Carey, Sgt. Willis and Corporal Grubb intervene in game move no. 1. The other two follow in game move no. 2
6	They are all highly motivated to rescue the Prince and intervene in game move no. 1.

### **Sequence of Moves:**

All moves are simultaneous and strictly in the following order:

- 1) Firing of weapons (rifle, carbine and revolver) and throwing of spears. Determine casualties.
- 2) Movement of figures.
- 3) Combat. Determine casualties.
- 4) Check morale status.

Once all figures have fired and launched their spears, casualties are determined (either wounded or killed according to firing table below). Only when this action has been completely, will the second phase commence which is the movement of figures (according to movement table below). After all movement has been completed any figures who are touching base will enter into combat phase and casualties are determined again (either wounded or killed according to combat table below). Finally the morale status is checked. This signifies the end of the move and the same procedure will recommence for the following move.

### **Firing of Weapons / Throwing of Spears:**

- Effective Range: Rifle and Carbine 40cm / Revolver 20cm / Spear 20cm  
Frequency: Rifle and Carbine (1 shot per move) / Revolver (2 shots per move) / Spear (1 throw per move)  
Target: "Individual" figure or "Group" (Group = at least three figures standing together in line of fire with not more than 2cm distance between each figure)  
Hitting Target:  
1) Determine target either being an individual or a group  
2) Not more than 3 shots and/or spear throws at the same individual target  
3) Determine hit by the throw of a die (6d) according to table below:

<b>Target / Weapon</b>	<b>Carbine &amp; Revolver</b>	<b>Captured Rifle*</b>	<b>Zulu Spear</b>
<b>Individual</b>	5,6	5,6 (x2)	5,6
<b>Group</b>	4,5,6	4,5,6 (x2)	4,5,6

*\*Due to bad rifle marksmanship, Zulus need to cast two dice to obtain the needed results. This will reduce the likelihood of a hit considerably as was the case in reality.*

4) To determine which figure in a group got hit, a random method is applied. First count the figures and then throw one die (6d). Let's say there are three figures in a group then the first one would be hit with a 1 or 2, the second with a 3 or 4 and the third with a 5 or 6.

5) One saving throw (5 or 6) per figure "individual" or in "group" which got hit, shows that this figure only sustained wound and didn't get killed.

6) In order to avoid the administrative burden of counting shots and spears, we assume that each figure has sufficient ammunition and is carrying additional spears to fire/throw each move.



### **Movement Distances:**

Louis Prince Imperial: 10cm per move (as already exhausted from sprint to donga).

Zulus: 20cm per move (athletic chaps who don't get tired that quickly).

Mounted British: 30cm per move (horses are fit after the one hour rest they just had).

Special rules: Movement distance is reduced by 5cm when mounting sides of donga.  
To mount a horse requires one move / To load body onto a horse two moves.  
Horse carrying two riders covers a distance of only 20cm per move.  
For each wound sustained the movement distance is reduced by 5cm  
(e.g. 1<sup>st</sup> wound 5cm / 2<sup>nd</sup> wound 10cm reduction of movement distance, etc.)

### **Combat Points:**

Combat is carried out between two figures when their bases touch or they are within reach of their weapons. One die (6d) is cast per figure to determine the combat result. If it is a draw (same number on dice) then figures remain interlocked and fight continues next round. If difference is one, then the figure with lower number gets wounded and falls back. If difference is two or more then loser is killed.

In order to cater for special fighting skills such as veteran, elite, officer, NCO, and outstanding courage/bravery, the following points are added to the above score:

<b>Personality</b>	<b>Additional Combat Points</b>
Louis Prince Imperial ("fights like a lion")	+2
Lt. Carey, Sgt. Willis, Corp. Grubb	+1
Troopers Le Tocq and Cochrane	0
Zulu warriors: Xabanga and Langalabele	+2
All other Zulu warriors	+1

**Special "Fox Terrier" Combat Rule: Only once per move will the cast of a 4,5 or 6 on a 6d die distract only one Zulu warrior from attacking Louis Prince Imperial during that move.**

There are also two cases when combat points get subtracted (i.e. when fighting against uneven odds and when one or more wounds have been sustained). This applies equally to anyone figure.

<b>Situation</b>	<b>Deducted Combat Points</b>
One figure might face up to a max. of three enemies in a combat during one move. This means there will three combat evaluations:	1 <sup>st</sup> fight – no points deducted 2 <sup>nd</sup> fight – one point deducted 3 <sup>rd</sup> fight – two points deducted
A figure might sustain a wound either by missile or in combat, which reduces the combat abilities. Therefore the following deductions will apply:	1 <sup>st</sup> wound – one point deducted 2 <sup>nd</sup> wound – two points deducted 3 <sup>rd</sup> wound – three points deducted The 4 <sup>th</sup> wound is fatal

In order to have some record on wounds sustained and deducted combat points and reduced movement distances the following markers (see below and cut out) have turned out to be quite useful and avoid too much admin at the side. Best is to print out the table, cut out the markers and place next to figure in question. Even if a figure gets wounded it can rejoin the combat in the next move.

1 <sup>st</sup> wound -1pt./-5cm	1 <sup>st</sup> wound -1pt./-5cm	1 <sup>st</sup> wound -1pt./-5cm	1 <sup>st</sup> wound -1pt./-5cm	1 <sup>st</sup> wound -1pt./-5cm	1 <sup>st</sup> wound -1pt./-5cm	1 <sup>st</sup> wound -1pt./-5cm	1 <sup>st</sup> wound -1pt./-5cm
1 <sup>st</sup> wound -1pt./-5cm	1 <sup>st</sup> wound -1pt./-5cm	1 <sup>st</sup> wound -1pt./-5cm	1 <sup>st</sup> wound -1pt./-5cm	1 <sup>st</sup> wound -1pt./-5cm	1 <sup>st</sup> wound -1pt./-5cm	1 <sup>st</sup> wound -1pt./-5cm	1 <sup>st</sup> wound -1pt./-5cm
2 <sup>nd</sup> wound -2pt./-10cm	2 <sup>nd</sup> wound -2pt./-10cm	2 <sup>nd</sup> wound -2pt./-10cm	2 <sup>nd</sup> wound -2pt./-10cm	2 <sup>nd</sup> wound -2pt./-10cm	2 <sup>nd</sup> wound -2pt./-10cm	2 <sup>nd</sup> wound -2pt./-10cm	2 <sup>nd</sup> wound -2pt./-10cm
2 <sup>nd</sup> wound -2pt./-10cm	2 <sup>nd</sup> wound -2pt./-10cm	2 <sup>nd</sup> wound -2pt./-10cm	2 <sup>nd</sup> wound -2pt./-10cm	2 <sup>nd</sup> wound -2pt./-10cm	2 <sup>nd</sup> wound -2pt./-10cm	2 <sup>nd</sup> wound -2pt./-10cm	2 <sup>nd</sup> wound -2pt./-10cm
3 <sup>rd</sup> wound -3pt./-15cm	3 <sup>rd</sup> wound -3pt./-15cm	3 <sup>rd</sup> wound -3pt./-15cm	3 <sup>rd</sup> wound -3pt./-15cm	3 <sup>rd</sup> wound -3pt./-15cm	3 <sup>rd</sup> wound -3pt./-15cm	3 <sup>rd</sup> wound -3pt./-15cm	3 <sup>rd</sup> wound -3pt./-15cm
3 <sup>rd</sup> wound -3pt./-15cm	3 <sup>rd</sup> wound -3pt./-15cm	3 <sup>rd</sup> wound -3pt./-15cm	3 <sup>rd</sup> wound -3pt./-15cm	3 <sup>rd</sup> wound -3pt./-15cm	3 <sup>rd</sup> wound -3pt./-15cm	3 <sup>rd</sup> wound -3pt./-15cm	3 <sup>rd</sup> wound -3pt./-15cm

### Check of Morale Status:

British: In this game the rallying of the patrol and the rescue mission is all based on the initiative of Lt. Jahleel Carey. If he gets killed the remaining Natal Volunteers will break off the mission and retreat to the eastern edge of the donga during the movement phase of the next move.

Zulus: The Zulus are very brave and will fight to almost the last man. Only in the case that the leaders Xabanga and Langalabele have been killed and there are only three Zulus left, then these three will retreat donga during the movement phase of the next move. Otherwise (i.e. leader remaining, even if wounded) they will fight to the last man as they do not want to be seen as cowards in the eyes of their comrades.

### Victory Conditions:

Max. **100 points** available. The party with the most points wins this skirmish wargame.

Available points are as follows:

British	Points	Zulu	Points
Save the Prince Imperial alive	50	Kill the Prince Imperial and eviscerate him	50
At least bring back the body of Louis	25	Kill the Prince, but his body is snatched away	25
For every Zulu killed or wounded	5 points each	For every British killed	10 points each

**Special Rule:** As we expect that Zulu reinforcements will come rushing from the Umuzi when they hear the fighting, any British who has not passed the starting/finish line at the northern edge of the donga at the end of game move no. 10, is considered as captured and lost.

### Author's Note:

I have played this game at least three times and in the end the Zulus always won, which probably reflects a realistic outcome. Only once was it a close match when the Prince Imperial and the British had some good shots and decimated the Zulus. However, when entering into close combat the Zulus prevailed at the end. The other two games saw Louis Napoleon being slaughtered quickly before the rescue time arrived. During the Zulu War the British were victorious in the end because they successfully exploited their two great advantages: (1) fire power to keep the Zulus at a distance and prevent them from closing-in for hand-to-hand combat. (2) Mobility and speed on horseback to outmaneuver the Zulu foot warriors.

Let me know if you manage a British victory!

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