

# THE ASSEGAI

**The 1879 Group**



*Isandlwana & Rorke's Drift*

**AUTUMN 2016**

**News Sheet of the 1879 Group**

**The 1879 Group  
Isandlwana & Rorke's Drift  
Founded 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1998 at the Barracks, Brecon**

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# **The 1879 Group**

## **Patrons**

His Excellency Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi  
Mrs Nora Bunting

## **1879 Group Officers**

### **Honorary President**

Mr Douglas Bourne

### **Honorary Colonel**

Colonel TJ van Rees MBE

### **Chairman**

Mr Jimmy Reynolds

### **General Secretary**

Mr Danny Tully (01189 670104)

35 Westwood Road

Tilehurst

Reading RG31 5PL

### **Treasurer**

Mr Glynne Davies

### **Membership Secretary**

Ms Vivien Watkins (01630 620694)

### **Adjutant**

Mr Duncan McDonald (01982 553612)

### **Events Co-ordinator**

Mr. Russell Dunton

### **Assegai Editor**

Mr Bill Howells (01656 734779)

## **1879 Group Committee Members**

Mr Douglas Bourne

Mr Jimmy Reynolds

Mr Danny Tully

Mr Glynne Davies

Mr Roger Morgan

Mr Tony Burrows

Mr Jimmy Patterson

Mr Robert Coates

Mr Barrington Evans

Mr Bill Howells



## EDITORIAL

Many members will know that some years ago it was decided that some of the guidelines to which we operate were not comprehensive with a number of activities not fully defined and this together with some ad hoc arrangements led to a growing awareness for the need for a comprehensive constitution. There was at the time a form of operational guidelines but this was outdated and did not cover the needs of the group. As such the editor was actioned to produce a draft. This was duly completed and presented to the membership at the AGM of 2003 and approved. This has since been amended on a number of occasions in line with the changing dynamics of our activities and now is considered final. All committee members have a copy but very few of the general membership do not. To remedy this situation a full draft of the group's constitution is included in this issue as agreed at the AGM last April. All members are requested to retain this copy of the Assegai as their included personal copy of the constitution so that everyone can be fully aware of the regulations which cover our activities.

### RORKE'S DRIFT DINNER 2016

The dinner this year was again held at the Metropole hotel in Llandrindod Wells earlier than usual on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January. Some fifty members with wives and partners attended and which also included our friends from the Naval Brigade, many dressed in period costume with the ladies in particular looking splendid. Pre-drinks were held in the Spencer suite and following grace a full three course meal with wine was served. Roger Morgan acted as MC for the evening with speeches made by the Secretary, President and Chairman. Unfortunately our honorary colonel Tim Van-Rees had to withdraw at short notice. At the close of formal proceedings socialising continued in the bar.



Jimmy welcoming members and guests



Danny during his address.



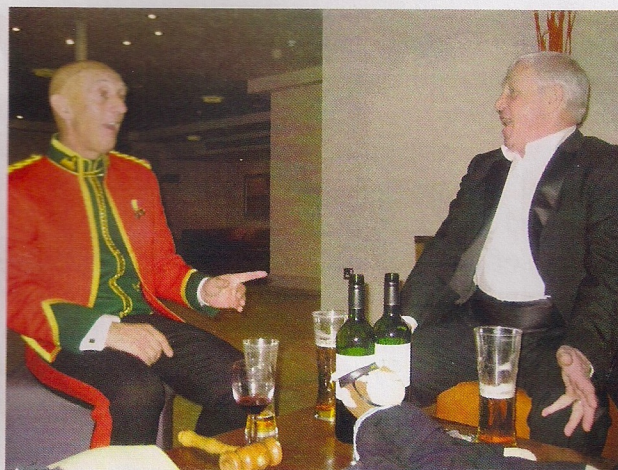
A big hand for Roger



Some of the ladies and their stunning dresses



### More pictures from the dinner



Danny and Tony serenading each other! Could this be the start of the 1879 Group male voice choir?

### Presentation of the Colours by the Queen 2015

Last year on 11<sup>th</sup> June the Queen presented new colours to the Royal Regiment of Wales at the Millenium Stadium, Cardiff (now the Principality stadium). With members of the Group present to form a historic timeline escort for her majesty this proved to be one of the highlights of the year. The event was reported in the previous issue of the Assegai. In appreciation of our support for the event the Royal Regiment later presented a framed commemoration plaque to the Group as shown below.



Pictured with the plaque are Duncan McDonald, Jimmy Reynolds, Douglas Bourne, Danny Tully and Roger Morgan. The plaque is currently held by the editor pending a decision on a final depository.



## MINUTES OF THE 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April at the Brecon museum of the Royal Welsh. With the Group Chairman being unavailable, Danny Tully took the chair and welcomed and thanked all 23 members who attended.

### 1. Minutes of the 2015 AGM

Following apologies for absentees, Bob Coates read out the 2015 AGM minutes and with no matters arising they were duly approved.

### 2. Secretary's Report

The chairman reported the deaths of two members during the year, first the sad passing of Janet Davies, wife of our Treasurer, and also Donald Orchard. Our sympathies were passed on. Alan Gibbs has suffered a minor stroke but is now recovering and hopes to be back in uniform soon.

A warning was given of the dangers of buying Zulu artefacts on the Ebay website as many fraudulent copies of genuine articles were now circulating at inflated prices.

The proposed trip to Zululand which had been postponed to January 2017 has again been re-scheduled, this time to 2019, due to difficulties with local transportation and finding a suitable battlefields guide. More details will become available during 2017.

### 3. Treasurer's Report

With the absence of Glynne, the chairman presented the financial account for 2014 – 2015 which confirmed the Group's finances were in good order. Following a brief discussion it was decided not to include the report in the Assegai but copies of the account are available to any member to view.

### 4. 2017 Rorke's Drift Dinner

The Group's annual dinner will again be held at the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January. Details will be included in the next issue of the Assegai.

### 5. The Assegai. Editor's Report

The editor reported that the Assegai continues to be published annually each Autumn with a news-sheet going out each Spring as advance information for the Summer events.

Last year 55 copies of the Assegai went out to 55 UK addresses with six overseas, 4 to South Africa, 1 to Australia and 1 to America all at a total cost of £156. The Spring issue news-sheet went to 55 UK addresses only at a cost of £41. The next Assegai will be published in the Autumn but the editor appealed for more articles particularly on historical data of the 1879 conflict, any family connections or ancestry or anything of suitable interest for publication.

### 6. Membership Report

The membership secretary reported that the email formatting of data was now much easier to process and that the payment of subscriptions had gone smoothly. A few members had left the Group but the vacancies had been more than filled by new members joining with membership now standing at 75.

Jimmy Patterson queried the situation with new members of the Living History branch which led to a general discussion.

### 7. Events Co-ordinator Report

A list of the 2016 events had been included in the Assegai Spring news-sheet and these were confirmed as follows : 21<sup>st</sup> May – Rorke's Drift rally at Brecon. 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> June – Northenden, Manchester Full Camp and Victorian evening. 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> August – Spetchley Park Worcester.

Tyntesfield was originally planned but then was cancelled. The Diehards eventually took over this event which triggered a lively debate on the reasons.

Duncan McDonald informed the meeting that there was now an extra event at Hay-on-Wye on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August to commemorate the WW1 Battle of the Somme when the uniformed branch will parade with the colours. At the request of members more information was then provided.

### 8. Election of Officers and Committee

As required under the Group's constitution the entire committee then stood down to allow the general membership to elect a new committee. The chairman then read out the names of all members who



offered themselves for re-election there being new no names volunteered with the exception of Russell Dunton who was proposed to take over the Events Co-ordinator role to allow the previous postholder, Danny to concentrate on his general Group Secretary's duties.

The President Douglas Bourne then congratulated all of the Committee Elect for their ongoing work on behalf of the Group and formally proposed the motion that they all be re-elected. Bob Howells seconded the motion confirming the election to serve for a further year.

#### 9. Any Other Business

Bill Cainan drew attention to two new books on the Zulu war, 'The Road to Ulundi' by Ken Gillings and 'Brutal Valour' by James Mace, both were recommended.

A discussion was held on the possibility of purchasing a new crown for the regimental colours which would be reviewed by the new committee.

Some queries raised at the meeting indicated that most members do not know the full details of how the Group is managed, the general administration of our aims, actions and objectives and how we are governed in meeting those aims. All this is set out in the Group's constitution and on the suggestion of the Assegai editor the full constitution will be included in the Autumn issue of the Assegai.

There being no further questions the chairman thanked everyone for attending and then formally closed the meeting.

### **REPORTS OF EVENTS**

#### Rorke's Drift Rally



The Rorke's Drift Rally at Brecon on 21<sup>st</sup> May went well with our gallant bunch of lads ably representing the Group. More Zulus were present than usual to join in the marching, which also included Duncan's Pipe band. There were even belly dancers on show and with Roger doing his usual splendid commentary on the PA system everyone was guaranteed a very enjoyable day.

For those of us who can't attend these events a camera is generally at hand to give a flavour of the activities and show how much living history weekends are appreciated by all who take part.

#### Northenden

On the 18/19th of June the group gathered at the Northenden social club near Manchester. Where a full camp took place. Some new techniques were learned and general information was pooled to give a fresh insight into the life of a Victorian soldier which was much appreciated by everyone present.

It proved to be a relaxing weekend overall however, part of the reason being the low attendance by the general public which gave ample time in the evenings to sample the hospitality of the social club.



## Hay-on-Wye

The on-going commemoration programme of the Battle of the Somme continued on 7<sup>th</sup> August at Hay when the Group was represented parading with Duncan leading the Swansea Pipe band.  
Spetchley Park

On 13<sup>th</sup> /14<sup>th</sup> August the Group took part in a multi-period event mixing freely with other living history groups ranging from ancient Greeks to World War two re-enactors. The turn out was good and the weather fair which ensured many activities were on view. We had one show in the arena and Roger took up the offer (or was persuaded?) to take on the role of officer commanding for the week-end which he did in his usual efficient manner. Thanks to everyone who took part especially Tony and Chris for handling all the camp equipment involved.



Photo-shoot. Roger proudly leading the parade. On patrol in deepest Worcestershire. Enemy identified. One casualty down and receiving attention. Retaliating fire commenced.

## ANGLO-ZULU WAR CHRONOLOGY

- |                                |                                                               |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| December 11 <sup>th</sup> 1878 | Ultimatum sent to King Cetshwayo.                             |
| January 6 <sup>th</sup> 1879   | No.4 Column crosses the river Ncome into Zululand.            |
| January 11 <sup>th</sup>       | The ultimatum expires.                                        |
| January 11 <sup>th</sup>       | No.3 Column crosses the river at Rorke's Drift into Zululand. |
| January 12 <sup>th</sup>       | No.1 Column crosses Lower Thukela into Zululand.              |
| January 12 <sup>th</sup>       | No.3 Column attacks Sihayo's stronghold.                      |
| January 17 <sup>th</sup>       | Main Zulu army leaves Ulundi to attack No.3 Column.           |
| January 18 <sup>th</sup>       | No.1 Column advances to Eshowe mission station.               |



January 20 <sup>th</sup>	No.4 Column makes base at Fort Thinta.
January 20 <sup>th</sup>	No.3 Column makes camp at Isandlwana.
January 22 <sup>nd</sup>	No.1 Column fights off attack by 6000 Zulus at Nyezane.
January 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Battle of Isandlwana. 25000 Zulus attack and destroy the camp.
January 22 <sup>nd</sup> /23 <sup>rd</sup>	Battle and defence of Rorke's Drift.
January 24 <sup>th</sup>	No.4 Column hears of Isandlwana defeat.
January 27 <sup>th</sup>	No.1 Column hears of Isandlwana defeat.
January 28 <sup>th</sup>	No.1 Column decides to hold its position at Eshowe.
January 31 <sup>st</sup>	Column No.4 moves camp to Khambula Hill.
February 11 <sup>th</sup>	Lord Chelmsford dispatch detailing the Isandlwana defeat reaches London.
February 11 <sup>th</sup>	Eshowe besieged and all communications stop.
March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Heliographic communication made with Eshowe.
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	First of the reinforcements arrive from England.
March 12 <sup>th</sup>	Wagon train escorted by soldiers of the 80 <sup>th</sup> Regiment attacked at Ntombe Drift and nearly wiped by the abaQulusi.
March 28 <sup>th</sup>	Mounted troops of No.4 Column attacked and defeated at Hlobane.
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Relief Column sets out for Eshowe.
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Elements of the main Zulu army attack No.4 Column at Khambula Hill and are severely beaten. This is considered to be the turning point of the war.
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	The Prince Imperial arrives from England to join Lord Chelmsford's staff.
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	The Eshowe relief column defeats a large Zulu army at Gingindlovu.
April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Eshowe relieved.
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	Lord Chelmsford's main reinforcements arrive from England.
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	Lord Chelmsford reorganizes army into a 1 <sup>st</sup> Division, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Division and a Flying Column.
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	A large force goes to Isandlwana to check the camp and bury the bodies except for those of the 24 <sup>th</sup> who are left with members of the 24 <sup>th</sup> to handle at a later date. All wagons found are recovered.
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Division crosses into Zululand.
June 1 <sup>st</sup>	The Prince Imperial is killed whilst on patrol.
June 16 <sup>th</sup>	Lord Chelmsford receives news that he is to be replaced by Sir Garnet Wolseley.
June 17 <sup>th</sup>	The Second Division and Flying Column link to advance on Ulundi.
June 20 <sup>th</sup>	The First Division advances from depots in the south.
June 20 <sup>th</sup>	Bodies of members of the 24 <sup>th</sup> are buried at Isandlwana.
June 27 <sup>th</sup>	The Second Division and Flying Column arrive at Mthonjaneni Heights for the final move on Ulundi.
June 28 <sup>th</sup>	Sir Garnet Wolseley arrives in Durban.
July 1 <sup>st</sup>	The Second Division and Flying Column make camp on White Mfolzi river.
July 4 <sup>th</sup>	The main Zulu army attacks the British at Ulundi and is destroyed.
July 8 <sup>th</sup>	Lord Chelmsford resigns.
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	Lord Chelmsford hands over command to Sir Garnet Wolseley.
August 28 <sup>th</sup>	King Cetshwayo is captured.

## THE VICTORIAN VIEW OF THE ZULU WAR

Following the death of Queen Victoria in 1901, the 'Illustrated London News Record' produced a celebration account and record titled 'The Glorious Reign of Queen Victoria 1837 – 1901, the 'Life and Accession of King Edward VII' and the 'Life of Queen Alexandra'.

It contained numerous 'India Proof and other Photogravures' of the Queen and her family over her long reign. Also included were detailed and illustrated subsections titled 'The Art of the Victorian



Era, The Literature, The Religion, The Science, The Stage, The Navy in the Victorian Era, The Army in the Victorian Era, and Travel and Politics in the Victorian Era.

Under 'The Army in the Victorian Era' accounts of all the colonial wars are included together with tributes to all the major military figures, generals, admirals etc, most carrying titles and referenced to the conflicts with which they were involved. Whilst the Zulu war is mentioned however the name of Lord Chelmsford is nowhere to be seen. An oversight perhaps or deliberate? Tucked in after a tribute to Lord Roberts and the part he played in the Afghanistan War of 1878 is : 'Another serious war was on hand about this time and our army was pitted against the warlike Zulus, formed into that perfect man-slaying machine that Cetewayo thought invincible. This war added another sad disaster to those already recorded, and the massacre at Isandhlwana sent a painful shock through the whole Empire. There was some compensation however, in the defence of a small outpost at Rorke's Drift where a mere handful of British soldiers successfully defied an overwhelming host.'

Just two illustrations were included amongst a gallery of other scenes from other wars, as below.



'Men of HMS 'Shah' in the Laager at Gingilovo.'

'The final repulse of the Zulus at Gingilovo.'

Considering the Celebration brochure is A3 size and over 100 pages of text with numerous illustrations, this appears to be a relatively minor account and low key journalism of a war perhaps which did not figure significantly at the time in the hierarchy of colonial wars?

## 2017 RORKE'S DRIFT DINNER

The annual Rorke's Drift Dinner will be held at the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January, 7.00pm for 7.30. The cost of a three course meal with two choices will be £28 per person. Guests of members, spouses, partners, family and friends will be very welcome. If you wish to attend please send the appropriate cheques to Group Treasurer Glynne Davies, at his new address, 43 St. Hughs Avenue, High Wycombe, Bucks.

A special rate for accommodation at the hotel is available as below :

£47 per person per night sharing standard twin/double room.

£57 per person per night sharing executive twin/double room.

£57 per person per night for single room. £67 per person per night twin/double room for sole use.

All rates to include full Welsh breakfast and use of the leisure facilities. Tel. 01597 823 700.

Dress code for the evening to be Mess Dress and uniform, Period dress, Black tie and formal dress.

## THE 1879 GROUP CONSTITUTION

### 1. Title

The organisation shall be known as 'The 1879 Group, Isandhlwana and Rorke's Drift' hereafter known as the Group.



## **2. Address**

The official address of the Group for the purposes of correspondence shall be that of the General Secretary.

## **3. Object**

The object of the Group shall be to encourage and promote the study and interest in the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879, its history, participants, campaigns, uniforms, weapons and any other aspect relevant to the period. In furtherance of this objective the Group shall have the following powers :

3.1 To provide a forum for all interested persons.

3.2 To arrange an educational programme of talks, visits and other related activities.

3.3 To seek out, research, transcribe, index, publish and make available any material relevant to the Group's activities.

3.4 To produce, publish and circulate a periodic newsletter.

3.5 To collect and raise funds by subscriptions, donations, re-enactment appearance fees, grants and by any other lawful means.

3.6 To locate the graves of participants of the Anglo-Zulu war and to renovate, re-dedicate and honour the memory of those so interred.

3.7 To operate a living history section whereby members may dress in uniforms of the participants of the Anglo-Zulu war and where opportunity arises to re-enact the daily routines, battle strategy and military procedures of the period. Male and female members will also be entitled to attire themselves in the civilian dress of the day as appropriate.

## **4. Membership Categories and Subscriptions**

There shall be two categories of membership :

4.1 Honorary Membership – shall be granted at the discretion of the ordinary membership as recommended by the General Committee to those who through position, rank or service have enhanced or will enhance the reputation or standing of the Group. Honorary membership will not be subject to the payment of any subscription and any such member shall be entitled to attend any meeting or event.

4.2 Ordinary Membership – shall be open to any member of the general public or armed forces subject to the approval of the General Committee and upon payment of an annual subscription of £10 payable by May 1<sup>st</sup> each year.

In the event of the death of any member, his or her full membership rights shall automatically be transferred to the next of kin of the deceased. All such rights shall remain with the legal next of kin with no further transfers granted.

4.3 Should any annual subscription not be received by the Membership Secretary by 1<sup>st</sup> July in the year in which it is due, then that member's name will be removed from the record and shall cease to be a member of the 1879 Group. In the event of that former member then wishing to rejoin the Group, he/she will be required to pay a rejoining fee of £5 in addition to the normal £10 annual subscription.

## **5. General Committee**

The affairs of the Group shall ultimately be determined and controlled by the general membership. Subject to that control the direction and management of the Group shall rest with the General Committee as below :

5.1 The Committee shall consist of the President, Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer, Events Co-ordinator and Adjutant together with three representatives of the Living History section and three representatives of the non-uniformed section.

5.2 The Committee shall hold two regular meetings each year or any further meeting as may be necessary for the efficient management of the Group's business.

5.3 Five members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.

5.4 Any question shall be decided by a majority vote, by a show of hands or ballot should any two members so require. The Chairman shall have any deciding vote.



5.5 Minutes of the meeting shall be taken by an appointed Minutes Secretary and entered into a record book or file kept for that purpose. Copies shall be distributed to each Committee member and the accuracy of such minutes confirmed at the next meeting and signed by the chairman or other member taking the chair.

5.6 If any vacancy should occur on the Committee at any time it shall be filled by the power of co-option at the discretion of the Committee. The member so co-opted from the general membership shall serve until the next Annual General Meeting where the matter will be reviewed.

## **6. Annual General Meeting**

A general meeting of members shall be held annually to receive and consider the reports of the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and to discuss and determine questions relating to the affairs of the Group, to elect Committee members and Auditor, to amend the constitution if required and to consider any other business if expedient to do so. Any question or issue at a general meeting shall be decided by a show of hands. Twenty members shall be present to constitute a quorum. Minutes shall be taken and recorded but the proceedings shall not be filmed or audio-taped without the prior consent of the general committee and those present.

## **7. Election of Committee and Auditor**

The Committee and Auditor shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting with those currently holding the positions standing down leaving their positions vacant immediately before the meeting. The previous postholders who chose to do so will then offer themselves for re-election and must be nominated and seconded with a show of hands from the floor to confirm their election or otherwise. Any previous postholder not wishing to stand for re-election shall notify the Secretary in writing at least two months before the AGM. New nominations must be supported by two or more members and submitted to the General Secretary in writing at least four weeks before a general meeting and accompanied by a statement that the nominee is prepared to serve if elected. Newly elected Committee members shall take office with immediate effect.

## **8. President**

The President of the Group being a person of suitable stature shall be appointed by the General Committee, the nominee being subject to the approval of the membership at the Annual General Meeting. The appointment shall be for a term of five years at the end of which a new nomination shall be made or with the approval of the Committee the postholder agrees to be nominated for a further five term of office. The President shall hold Honorary membership and have the same executive powers as the members of the General Committee and be entitled to attend any committee or general meeting or any Group event or activity.

## **9. Chairman**

The duty of the Chairman shall be to take the chair at general and committee meetings of the Group and manage the proceedings in accordance with the agenda. In the absence of the chairman any other committee member shall take the chair or in the absence of all of these the meeting may elect any member present to take the chair. The chairman or other member in the chair shall not vote on any question or issue brought before the meeting except when a casting vote is necessary to determine the outcome in which case such casting vote shall be given. The chairman shall be appointed for a period of three years only subject to election at each AGM as required under clause 7. After serving for three years the chairman shall stand down and a new chairman-elect be proposed for approval by the membership at the next AGM following the three year period. Should no new chairman-elect be proposed the retiring chairman may at his discretion and with the agreement of the committee be nominated again for a further three year term of office subject to the approval of the membership.

## **10. General Secretary**

The duty of the General Secretary shall be to attend all general and committee meetings of the Group and to ensure accurate minutes of the proceedings are taken To help in this duty he



may appoint a Minute Secretary. The Secretary shall also have control of all relevant internal and external correspondence of the Group and general committee.

#### **11. Treasurer**

The duty of the Treasurer shall be to attend all general and committee meetings of the Group. The Treasurer shall receive all sums of money due to the Group and shall pay all sums of money due by the Group and shall keep a regular account of receipts and payments in a manner approved by the general committee. The accounts of the Treasurer shall be inspected and verified annually by the Group Auditor and the Treasurer will be responsible for presenting the audited account at the Annual General Meeting each year and to report on the general state of finance. The Treasurer shall in addition hold and update as necessary a full inventory of equipment owned by the Group. The Group's financial year shall be from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December.

#### **12. Membership Secretary**

The duty of the Membership Secretary shall be to attend all general and committee meetings and be responsible for maintaining and controlling a full record of all members registered with the Group in all categories and for referring new applications to the general committee for approval. He/She will also ensure all monies and subscriptions received are deposited and held in the Group's approved bank account and shall liaise accordingly with the Treasurer in carrying out this function.

#### **13. Group Adjutant**

The duty of the Group Adjutant shall be to attend all general and committee meetings and advise on correct military dress, procedure and etiquette. The postholder shall also have specific responsibilities for liaising with all professional military organisations, the South Wales Borderers Museum and generally support the Living History Events Co-ordinator on all matters relating to the activities of the uniformed section and its correct and proper representation as the 24<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot. At tented camps the Adjutant will have direct command of the RSM, QSM and other NCO's and ensure the security of the camp via an appropriate guard rota system. Further duties will include responsibilities for the safekeeping of the Group's Regimental Colours and drums.

#### **14. Living History Events Co-ordinator**

The duty of the Events Co-ordinator shall be to attend all general and committee meetings and have specific responsibilities for arranging and organising the programme of Living History events in consultation with the general committee. In addition the co-ordinator shall with the support of other committee members ensure all such activities are carried out in a safe, effective and appropriate manner in the uniform section's portrayal of the 24<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot and other period related military groups.

#### **15. Ordinary Committee Members**

Three ordinary members representing the uniformed section and three members representing the non-uniformed section shall attend all general and committee meetings. Their duties will be to represent the views of the living history and non-uniformed sections respectively and to provide support in whatever manner may be agreed at general and committee meetings.

#### **16. Sub-Committee**

The general committee may appoint annually sub-committees either ad hoc or permanently which under the authority and with the approval of the committee be empowered to deal with specific arrangements, questions or issues. Such arrangements may involve fixed and regular events in the Group's calendar such as the annual Rorke's Drift dinner or any other approved event or activity at the discretion of the general committee.

#### **17. Amendment to Constitution**

Any proposal to amend the Group's constitution must be supported by five or more members with details of the proposed changes submitted in writing to the chairman no later than two months before an annual general meeting. The proposed amendment will be tabled at the meeting, discussed and a recommendation put to the membership to vote for or against on a



show of hands. Any approved changes to the constitution shall become effective one month following the meeting. Copies of the constitution will be held by each member of the committee though any ordinary member shall be entitled to view.

#### **18. Extraordinary General Meeting**

Any five members not being members of the general committee may request that an extraordinary meeting be convened specifying the business to be discussed and determined. Notice of the time and place of any such extraordinary meeting shall be made known to members at least one month before the date of such a meeting and no other business shall be transacted except that which has been so notified.

#### **19. General Complaints or Queries**

Should any member have any serious concern over any aspect of the Group's business, administration or procedures which in the individual's opinion has not been fully answered at any general meeting or by any committee member, he/she has the right to issue a formal complaint or query to the general committee. The query must be in writing for the attention of the general secretary who will respond within one month or raise the matter at the next committee meeting dependant on the seriousness and nature of the query.

#### **20. Discipline**

If in the opinion of the general committee any member is considered to have displayed behaviour likely to bring the Group into disrepute, a formal verbal warning will be given by the group officers to the individual concerned. In the event that a similar misdemeanour again occurs a formal written warning of expulsion shall be issued by the chairman. Following a third offence a letter signed by the chairman and endorsed by the president will be issued formally expelling the individual from the Group. The dismissed person will have the right of appeal to the general committee where he/she will have the opportunity of stating their case in writing. At the next committee meeting the committee will consider the appeal and inform the individual in writing. This decision will be final.

In the event of gross misconduct the individual concerned shall be subject to instant suspension from the Group by the senior committee member present at the time and the matter referred to the general committee.

#### **21. Living History Section**

Any member of the Group Shall be entitled to join the living history section and take part in re-enactment events subject to the conditions and standards expected and honour bestowed of representing the Group as the 24<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot and other associated military organisations. All such members must ensure that all uniforms and costumes worn and all weapons and accoutrements used are authentic and in strict compliance with those of the Anglo-Zulu war period. Dispensation to this requirement is granted to the Group Adjutant and Powys Army cadet detachment to wear later period uniforms.

Promotion or demotion within the rank and file of the section will be at the discretion of the general committee.

Each member of the section will be required to pay an annual premium to cover public liability indemnity insurance for attendance at all re-enactment events. This shall be paid on 1st January each year as set out in clause 4.3.

Should any member(s) wish to represent the Group and wear uniform for private events which are not part of the official living history programme each year, they must have the approval of two committee members before doing so, one of whom must be the chairman or secretary.

#### **22. Group Newsletter**

The Group will publish the 'Assegai' newsletter at intervals each year at the discretion of the newsletter editor who will be appointed by the general committee. The editor will have the specific duties of collecting and collating all material relating to news items on the Group's activities, articles of general interest, letters and comments from the membership and any newsworthy items at his/her discretion and publish them in the newsletter. The editor may also appoint a sub-editor to assist with these duties.



A minimum of one issue will be made each year to members who have paid their annual subscriptions as set out in clause 4. Printing will be by approved vendors as recommended by the editor. All correspondence relating to the newsletter shall be directed to the editor or sub-editor only. Contact details are included in each issue.

### **23. Indemnification**

The general committee shall be indemnified by the Group from and against all claims, liabilities and demands in respect of all acts done or purported to have been done in good faith on behalf of the Group.

### **24. Trustees**

The general committee may appoint not less than two persons to hold as custodians the Group's regimental colours. All other equipment, property and accoutrements owned, held by or in trust to the Group shall be the responsibility of those members to whom they are entrusted.

### **25. Loan of Colours**

The replica colours of the 24<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot as the most valued item of equipment owned by the Group are released for parade and display for authorised events only.

The general committee will consider any request for short term loan of the colours from the membership providing full details are made available for its use. Approval will only be given if the reason is entirely appropriate and assurances given as to the security and care proposed and return of the colours in the same pristine condition. In addition those acting as temporary custodians will need to confirm in writing that the Group will be indemnified for any damage or loss up to the original purchase value of £2600. The Group will insure the colours for a sum not less than this original purchase price. The colours may be held at the Museum of the Royal Welsh, Brecon and placed on display at the discretion of the committee.

### **26. Memorabilia**

Any genuine memorabilia or artefacts from the Anglo-Zulu war period members wish to sell within or outside the Group shall carry the relevant ownership documents of authenticity or provenance. No memorabilia shall be offered for sale, bartered for or sold to the general public at any living history event by any uniformed section member.

### **27. Termination of the 1879 Group**

Should circumstances arise which make the continuation of the Group unsustainable the general committee will call an extraordinary meeting and advise the membership accordingly of the reasons and need to disband. A fixed timescale to disband will be established during which period all outstanding administrative matters will be closed and all debts and liabilities be settled and assets disposed of. A final letter of termination will be issued to all members.

### **28. Disposal of Assets**

In the event that the Group is disbanded the replica colours of the 24<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot shall be bequeathed to the Museum of the Royal Welsh, Brecon for safekeeping and perpetuity subject to any other conditions stipulated at the time.

All other property owned by the Group shall be sold and the proceeds after any legitimate expenses are paid be donated to a nominate charity.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Thanks to Danny Tully, Russell Dunton, Bill Cainan, Duncan McDonald and Bob Coates for providing information and editorial support for this issue.

Also thanks to our printer Andreas Haaf and son of Port Talbot for his interest and services.

We are always keen to publish any appropriate material on the Anglo-Zulu war or anything relevant to our activities. If any member has any suitable articles or news items please send them in.

We are always trying to improve the quality of the Assegai but cannot do so without your help and interest. Historical content is particularly of interest.



## ADVERTISING

The Assegai reaches a wide readership of our members and also a number of non-members. Should anyone wishing to sell any article, or is looking to purchase any specific item then please send in the details which will then be included in the next issue.

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Jimmy Patterson with a much prized possession.