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A beginning
~at Ondini

A MAJOR development in the pres-
ervation of Zulu historical sites .

takes place tomorrow with a gath-
ering at which the Chief Minister
of KwaZulu, Chief Gatsha
Buthelezi, will launch the KwaZulu
Monuments Foundation.

It is fitting that the meeting will take
place at Ondini, site of King
Cetshwayoâ\200\231s Royal Residence, which is
in the process of being restored and
reconstructed. : Â¥

Built in 1873, it was razed by British
troops six years later, but the ferocity
of the fire in the wattle and grass
buildings served to bake the earth
floors of the royal quarters brick-hard,
so that they survive a century later.

King Cetshwayo was restored to his
throne in 1882 and died in 1884. So 1983
has been declared by the Zululand
Monuments Committee as the â\200\230year of
Cetshwayoâ\200\231, by which time it is hoped
that reconstruction will be complete
and facilities for visitors established.

Garrison

The Ondini complex was modelled on
that of King Dingaanâ\200\231s Royal Residence
at Mgungundlovu, and had a circumfer-
ence of more than 2 km.

It housed a garrison of 6000 in 1000
huts and the royal quarters consisted of
150 huts, some of which were very
large. Altogether some 36 ha of land
were enclosed, and the population of
the complex was 7000 or more.

Chief Buthelezi will introduce the concept of the Foundation, which is intended to boost financially the work of the KwaZulu Monuments Committee, whose title will change to Council when an Act of Parliament is promulgated.

The Council will then be responsible for the restoration and preservation of historical monuments throughout KwaZulu â\200\224 British war graves and monuments from the Anglo-Boer wars, as well as important sites relating to Zulu history.

Driving force behind the formation of the KwaZulu Monuments Foundation is Mr George Chadwick, 67. of Durban, a

retired Natal inspector of education and historian, who has been a member of the National Monuments Commission since 1960 and of the South African War Graves Board since 1966.

Isandlwana.

In 1979 he ran the centenary celebrations of the Zulu War â\200\224 a joint effort of the KwaZulu Government and the

NPA â\200\224 with the focal point of -

Isandlwana.

â\200\230We expected to get 4000 people there and 12 000 came,â\200\231 he says.

Also on the programme for the KwaZulu Monuments Council is the improvement of public facilities for viewing the Isandlwana battlefields.

â\200\230There has been a bit of vandalism since 1979 â\200\224 a lot of markers have been damaged,â\200\231 said Mr Chadwick. â\200\230We want to establish a satellite viewsite on

Itusi Hill, which gives a panoramic

view over the battlefield. It has already been laid out.

â\200\230Other viewsites will be at Mabaso, where the Zulus slept the night before the battle, and at Mangeni, where Lord Chelmsford planned to establish his next camp â\200\224 it has a beautiful scenic waterfall and gorge and is easily accessible.

â\200\230The KwaZulu Government has made access roads to the sites.â\200\231

Blood River

In the checkerboard of Natal, Rorke's Drift falls in South Africa, as does

Blood River. i

But Pieter's Hill near Ladysmith is in KwaZulu and marks the point at which the British broke through on February 27, 1900, to relieve the Siege of Ladysmith. Several British monuments here will be restored and preserved.

Many historical sites of graves and military encampments on the Ulundi Plain will be marked by cairns and plaques, with appropriate interpretative material for visitors and tourists.

Gradually, as the Foundation raises funds, work on the preservation of Zulu and Natal historical sites will spread throughout KwaZulu.

Recreating the past

A STRIKING re-creation of history in the making will take place with the restoration and reconstruction of King Cetshwayo's Royal Residence at Qndini, near Ulundi. .

About 50 of the huts in

the royal quarters of the huge complex which had a circumference of 2152 metres are in a surprisingly good state of preservation because the fires set by the British troops after the Battle of Ulundi on July 4, 1879, baked the floors brick-hard.

* But unfortunately almost all of the military section lower down the slope has been destroyed by ploughing.

As it would be impossible to restore and maintain the whole complex, it is proposed to restore King Cetshwayo's personal hut, a part of the royal residential complex, a large section of the surrounding palisade to give an idea of the size, a section of the military area, some storage huts and the main entrance.

It is envisaged that the restored area will be a liv-

ing, working example of Zulu cultural life of the period. Zulu crafts, industry, agriculture and pastoral activities will be practised.

Even a herd of white

ayoâ\200\231s vast complex at Ondini, a

Zulu cattle is envisaged. To give a comprehen-

sive picture of Zulu life of !

the period, an adjacent museum of Zulu culture with accompanying facili-

ties such as an auditorium, a shop, a restaurant and an amphitheatre are to be erected.

To ensure that this sec-

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s seen by a contemporary artist.

tion does not intrude on the historical site, it will be located out of sight in an adjoining valley. The restored Ondini will be approached by way of a viewpoint from which a panoramic view will be obtained.

The KwaZulu Monuments Foundation is hoping that well-wishers will assist by donations of money or materials â\200\224 cement, bricks, fencing materials, poles, thatching grass, etc â\200\224 or by sponsoring some aspect of the reconstruction.

Membership drive for the Foundation

MR George Chadwick, honorary secretary of the

KwaZulu Monuments
Foundation, which will

- be launched tomorrow,

hopes to involve industrial and business organisations, service, cultural, educational and religious bodies, schools, families, students and individuals in the Foundation's fund-raising drive.

Application has been made for it to be registered as a charity for nationwide fund-raising, but in the meantime Mr

Chadwick has drafted suggested types of membership for organisations and individuals.

Donors would be granted life membership for a donation of R2500, or yearly membership for R500; industrial or business organisations would be granted life membership for R500 and annual membership for R100; incorporated membership of service, cultural, educational, historical and religious bodies would be for R100 or R20.

Ordinary membership would be granted to families for life (R50) or annually (R8), schools at R50 or R5, adults at the same fee, and students annual membership at R1

Membership would entitle organisations or individuals to attend lectures, meetings, film shows, historical excursions, cultural functions organised by the Foundation and certain functions arranged by the KwaZulu Monuments Council.

