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A personal message to the Club from the Chief Minister of KwaZulu



KWAZULU

MINISTRY OF THE CHIEF MINISTER AND FINANCE

The South African Reunion Club
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25 August 1981

Dear Club Members

I am grateful for this opportunity to send you a message from ULUNDI the Capital of KwaZulu, popularly known in English as "Zululand". This is the spot where the then mighty Zulu Nation under King Cetshwayo was defeated by Her Majesty's forces on the 4th July 1879. In 1979 we commemorated these events on historic spots such as Isandlwana, where the British army was outmanoeuvred by a Zulu force, and at Rorke's Drift, where 11 VCs were won in one day in one battle where members of the 2/24th Regiment displayed great bravery.

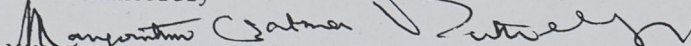
We believe that it is extremely important to have our cultural heritage restored. Recently under the patronage of His Majesty King Zwelithini Goodwill ka Bhekuzulu, King of the Zulus we launched the KwaZulu Monuments' Foundation. This was done mainly to promote interest in, and appreciation for, those aspects of history and culture with which the KwaZulu Monuments' Council is concerned. It is one of the main objectives of the KwaZulu Monuments' Council in its task of preserving the physical remains of the Cultural heritage of KwaZulu and to restore this heritage where necessary and make it available and understandable to the public.

We have nearly a hundred historic spots in KwaZulu, which are included in our preservation programme. Do come to KwaZulu and see these places if you are in South Africa for any reason. This is our history as well as your history. When we commemorated the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879 we focused on reconciliation, and we were pleased that Representatives of the 24th Regiment, who participated in the Anglo-Zulu War were represented at the functions that were held then. It is worth a pilgrimage to KwaZulu to remember brave people on both sides who fought during the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879. There are numerous things to see. Apart from these, we have some of the most striking and picturesque scenery in the world. We have magnificent views from various cliffs such as Mangeni gorge near Isandlwana from the heights of the Qhudeneni or down the Mfolozi gorge near Ulundi. I can go on and on describing the magnificent sights to you. We have decided to do all we can to preserve our culture - through bodies such as the Bureau for Language and Culture, and the Monuments' Council, as I have indicated earlier in this letter.

I do hope that this letter will whet your appetite when you visit South Africa, for seeing something of our beautiful Country, and understand its history. By understanding its history you will be able to understand its people and its problems.

Do look us up if and when you happen to visit ULUNDI.

Yours sincerely


MANGOSUTHU GATSHA BUTHELEZI

CHIEF MINISTER: KWAZULU and

PRESIDENT: THE KWAZULU MONUMENTS' FOUNDATION

KwaZulu

ITS NATURAL BEAUTY AND SITES OF HISTORICAL INTEREST

by G. A. Chadwick

Member: KwaZulu Monuments Committee

Chairman & Hon. Sec.: KwaZulu Monuments Foundation

When tourists plan visits to various parts of the world their thoughts often turn to the old established lands of Europe, the Middle and Far East, or to some of the better known scenic areas such as the Alps and the Rocky Mountains. Africa, and even South Africa, is often regarded as a remote and wild area which has little to offer the tourist. In fact, this is not correct. Some of the finest scenery in the world and many intensely interesting historical sites can be found in Africa, and in particular, in Southern Africa. As far as the latter area is concerned, KwaZulu is perhaps unique. Not only does it have a romantic and turbulent history, but it can also offer some scenic vistas which can compare with anything in the world. In addition, the road system allows most of the sites to be reached easily by bus or car.

The more recent history of the Zulu nation commenced when their leader, Malandela, established himself in the Nkweleni valley at the foot of the Mandawe Hill in about 1650 and built his royal homestead, Odwini. In about 1690 his son, Zulu, left this area and after various wanderings, established himself in a valley between the Mtonjaneni and the Babanango Heights. Here, under almost ideal climatic conditions for their livestock and crops, the Zulu people grew to greatness. No wonder the area became known as "Makhosini" (the place of the Kings). In about 1781 King Senzangakhona succeeded to the throne and, as is well known, it was his son, King Shaka, who, after many vicissi-

tudes in his early life, expanded Zulu hegemony over all the area between the Buffalo and Tugela Rivers, over what is now central and southern Natal and even the southern Transvaal. In this process, not only were many kindred elements welded into the Zulu nation making King Shaka its true architect, but also large areas of the interior were depopulated in the resultant wars and time of trouble known as the Meficane. This enabled the Whites to expand into an apparently depopulated interior. No wonder King Shaka is regarded as the founder of the Zulu nation and one of the most important shapers of the destiny of South Africa.

During King Shaka's time the Whites began to filter into what is now Natal, but after his murder by his half-brother and successor, Dingane, the latter was engaged in a struggle with the Voortrekkers, ending in the now famous Battle of Blood River on 16 December 1838. After King Dingane's death in 1842 he was succeeded by another half-brother, Mpande, who was the first Zulu king to establish himself on the north bank of the Mfolozi River, on what is now referred to as the Ulundi Plain. His royal residence was at Nodwengu, very close to the present Holiday Inn. During his reign the British established themselves in the Colony of Natal, while to the north, the South African Republic or Transvaal came into being. However, King Mpande managed to live peaceably with his neighbours until his death in 1872.

He was succeeded by his son, Prince Cetshwayo, who was installed as king in the following year. One of his first acts was to build a new royal homestead, Ondini, also on the Ulundi Plain, but some 5km away from Nodwengu which, according to custom, was now abandoned. The new king was energetic and forceful. He was active in the administration of Zululand and strengthened the Zulu army by establishing new regiments and military complexes, as well as enforcing more regular training. Almost inevitably, he came into conflict with the British authorities in southern Africa. This led to the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879, during which Zululand was invaded twice by British forces; first, in a three-pronged attack which failed in the British defeat at Isandlwana on 22 January 1879 and secondly, in a single powerful thrust from northern Natal, ending in the defeat of the Zulu army at Ulundi on 4 July 1879. On the same day Ondini, as well as many military complexes on the Ulundi Plain, was burned. Zululand then entered a time of troubles, which was not ended by the partial re-instatement of King Cetshwayo in 1883. After his death in 1884 a large part of Zululand was incorporated into the New Republic, while the remainder was annexed by the British in 1887 and handed to the Colony of Natal in 1897. After many vicissitudes, the Zulus have gained partial self-government and under the leadership of the Chief Minister, Prince Mangosuthu G. Buthelezi, the KwaZulu Government Service is making great efforts to preserve, restore and develop the places of natural beauty and historical interest in Zululand.

From the point of view of the tourist, what is there to be seen? It would be futile to list everything in date order and it is proposed to take you on a journey from Durban through to northern Natal, mentioning some interesting sites on the way.

Some 80km north of Durban, on a good tarred road, one arrives at Stanger. This was the site of King Shaka's last royal residence

Below Left: Nongquai Fort, Eshowe

Below: The 24th Regiment monument at Rorke's Drift



Dukuza, and the only one to be established south of the Tugela River. Here he was murdered in 1828. His grave is marked by a monument and Inkatha, a Zulu cultural organisation, has established a small but typical Zulu homestead nearby. Continuing northwards for some 40km one comes to the Tugela River. On the south bank is Fort Pearson, established by the British just prior to the invasion of Zululand in 1879. It commands a wonderful view to the mouth of the river. On the north bank one finds a monument which marks the place where an action took place between the Zulus and the British settlers on 17 April 1838. Continuing on the road to Eshowe, one passes the scene of two battles of the Anglo-Zulu War, Gingindlovu (2 April 1879) and Nyezane (22 January 1879). Note that the latter was fought on the same day as Isandlwana, but commenced earlier in the day. In Eshowe itself, you will find the remains of Fort Eshowe, built by the British and besieged by the Zulus, and one of the best preserved earth forts in the world. Here also is the spot where King Cetshwayo died, as well as Fort Nongqai, built for the Zululand Police.

Driving towards Melmoth you enter the Nkwaleni Valley, an exceptionally beautiful and fertile graben or rift valley, as well as the site of Odwini. Continuing past Melmoth to-

Top Left: King Shaka's monument Stanger. Note the old spelling of the King's name

Bottom: A contemporary sketch of Ondini, the Royal Residence of King Cetshwayo



wards Ulundi, one reaches the Mtonjaneni Heights. Here one can visit the spring from which King Dingane drew his drinking water, but one also gets a panoramic view across the Makhosini towards the majestic Nhlazatshe mountain to the north and the Ulundi Plain slightly further east. Continuing down the valley one can visit the remains of Mgungundlovu, King Dingane's royal residence, where the hut floors have withstood the elements for 143 years.

From here it is a short drive to Ulundi where King Cetshwayo's royal residence, Ondini, is being restored and a major Zulu cultural centre built. From here one obtains a magnificent view over the surrounding countryside. In close proximity, is the monument on the Ulundi Battlefield and that on King Mpande's grave.

Isandlwana, one of the most interesting sites in South Africa, is about 100km from Ulundi. Here, facilities have been created for you to visit the Mabaso where the Zulu army

Centre: Isandlwana from Black's Koppie. Note viewsite, monuments and cairns

Top Right: The Mangeni Gorge

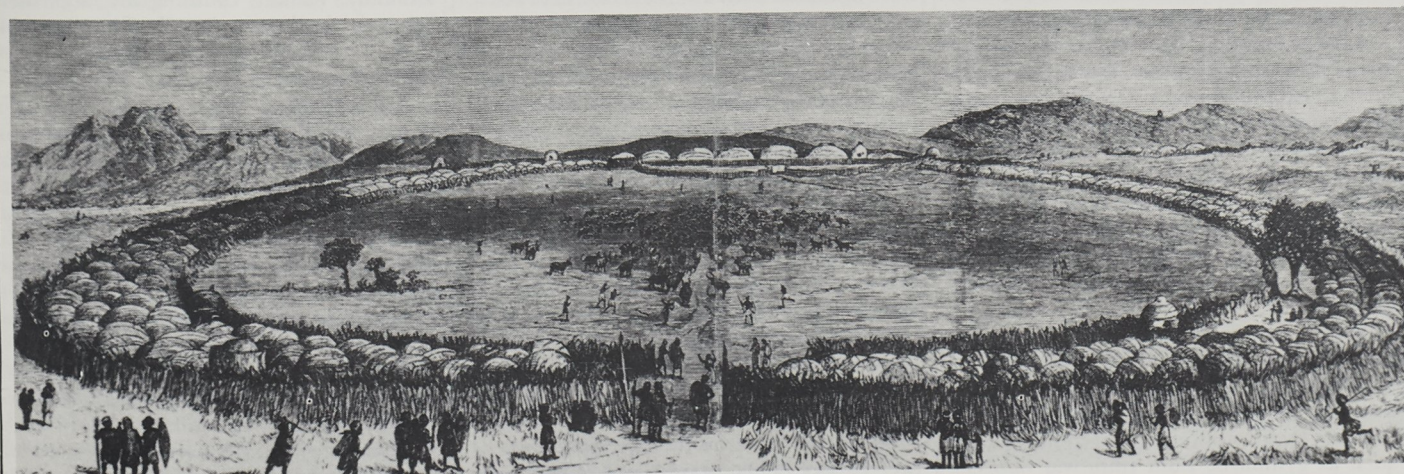
Below Right: The Monument to the Prince Imperial of France



slept before the battle; the Itusi, giving the Zulu view of the battlefield; the main view site; the various unit positions, both Zulu and British, as well as Mangeni where the British had planned to establish their next camp. You can also visit the nearby beautiful waterfall and gorge. It is even possible to view the site of the attack on Chief Sihayo's stronghold.

Crossing over the Buffalo River into Natal, one can visit Rorke's Drift where the battle area has been resurveyed and marked out and Blood River where the wagon laager has been simulated. Going on to Vryheid, one can visit the battlefields at Hlobane and Kambula. If one wishes to contend with bad roads, it is possible to visit the romantic spot where the Prince Imperial of France fell.

Zululand has much to offer. A visit will convince you of this.





Just as the Carnival is associated with Cape Town, and the Rand Easter Show with Johannesburg, the Tattoo, in a relatively short time span, has become synonymous with the city of Durban. But when the feasibility of staging a full-scale military Tattoo first came under official scrutiny, reactions were varied. While there was guarded optimism—and even enthusiasm from some quarters—the prophets of doom were opposed to the idea. But Terry Toohey, Durban's Director of Publicity, was convinced that a Tattoo based on the famous Edinburgh Tattoo *could* succeed in Durban, and also that it would be very beneficial for the city in terms of revenue and public relations.

Initially, though, some of the obstacles seemed almost insurmountable. Finance, for example. The cost of the project was estimated at an astronomical R300,000,00. Scepticism and prejudice had to be overcome and the support of the right people enlisted. And, of course, the notorious “banana fever” was a force to be reckoned with...

(The Natal inhabitant is generally referred to as a “banana boy”, and is known to enjoy a particularly relaxed lifestyle. Behind the steering wheel of a car, for instance, the ND driver is reputed to doze off occasionally at red traffic lights—an allegation naturally resented by locals, especially when one has just been rudely galvanized into wakefulness by a blast from a hyper-alert highveld aggressor at the split second the light turned green.)

But despite the odds, one hurdle after another was cleared, and in July 1979 more than 140,000 people crowded through the gates of Kings Park Rugby Stadium to find out for themselves what a Tattoo was all about. The auditorium accommodates 17,000 spectators, and during its 10-day run, capacity audiences were recorded on more than one occasion. The critics were unstinting in their praise, and press and public alike agreed that the Durban Tattoo was a supremely spectacular display—unique in South African entertainment—and one which should unquestionably become an annual event.

Although the programme follows a standard Tattoo format, being essentially a display of martial music and military expertise, the Durban Tattoo provides a pleasing contrast by incorporating non-military items such as gymnasts, Zulu Impi war dancers, acrobats and folk dancers.



Top: The swing of the kilt and skirl of the pipes, the roll of the drums and the precision of the parade ground.

Each year, a different branch of the armed services plays a major role, and since its inception, the South African Army, Navy and Police have all been involved. And so, while its major objective is to entertain, the Tattoo plays an important secondary role in effectively introducing the armed forces to the public while at the same time revealing seldom displayed facets of their activities.

It was unanimously agreed that the 1981 fireworks were the best ever, and that for sheer splendour they added the perfect finishing touch to a performance which could literally be described as “sensational”. They were obtained from Pains Fireworks of Kent, suppliers of the fireworks for the recent Royal wedding celebrations in London. An interesting snippet which emerged from early records is that in 1605, a Mr. Pain manufactured the gunpowder subsequently acquired by Guy Fawkes for his unsuccessful attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament.

Changes are introduced annually and the Durban Tattoo runs very little risk of becoming static or stale, as it is the aim of the Director and his Committee to provide at least one item from overseas every year. In 1980 the 75-strong British Columbia Beefeater Band was enormously popular with audiences, and its fine musical arrangements and high standard of performance made a substantial contribution towards the overall success of the Tattoo. This year, the brilliant Lee-Tang-Hwa Troupe from Taiwan, comprising

TATTOO DURBAN



Centre: Top favourite with overseas visitors, a large contingent of Zulu dancers going through their paces.

Above: The massed bands—the largest and most splendid to have appeared on any occasion anywhere in the world.

37 boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 15, stole the show with their incredibly daring acrobatic acts.

This is entertainment on a grand scale, numbering approximately 1500 participants annually, without counting the large numbers of “backroom boys” who contribute months of planning, preparation and expertise to the event.

Take lighting, for example. This is a highly complex function when applied to an area the size of a rugby field, and it is controlled by a team of experts who ensure that the action on the arena is clearly visible at all times by every member of the audience. In addition, the skilful use of spotlights and colour gels brings about the interplay of light, shadow and colour, thus creating special dramatic effects and enhancing “atmosphere”.

Tattoos enjoy immense popularity wherever they are performed. One reason for this may be the fact that military hardware is becoming progressively more computerised, menacing and deadly, and people tend to respond with nostalgia to pomp, colour and

TIME IN BAN

By Jill Archer



Above and Below right: part of the brilliant Lee-Tang-Hwa Troupe from Taiwan. With their incredibly daring acrobatic feats, they stole the show in 1981.

(Photographs by Gonsul Pillay)

ceremony and the more human skills of the performers. But they are more than just colourful spectacles. The appeal is worldwide: Tattoos bridge differences of language, race and class, drawings onlookers and performers together in a shared emotional experience. Music—the universal language—transcends all barriers.

Perhaps the pipes and drums provide the most inspiring music of all, and the lone piper—symbol of courage and determination—adds a melancholy beauty and poignancy which never fails to stun audiences into a hushed silence.

The Durban Tattoo is now firmly established as one of South Africa's major entertainment drawcards, and has become a focal point for visitors from all parts of Southern Africa—and abroad. As a result of its phenomenal successes, it has deservedly earned its current status as one of the "Big Three" on the international Military Tattoo circuit, together with Edinburgh and Melbourne. This is not just the opinion of biased Durbanites. According to Mr. Kennedy



Top: One of the highlights of the 1980 event, the British Columbia Beefeater Band from Canada. Winners of more than 200 awards, they have performed on radio and TV throughout the world and have taken part in Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee celebrations as well as the Edinburgh Tattoo.

Borthwick, ex-Lord Provost of Scotland, and Chairman of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo from 1977 to 1979, Durban's Tattoo is easily on a par with that of Edinburgh.

And in case you're wondering where the word "tattoo" originated, the answer is Holland. The roll of drums or a trumpet call was the signal for carousing soldiers to return to their quarters, and at the sound, the innkeepers would turn off the liquor taps (tap-toe). The men made their way back to barracks while the music continued to play. This custom eventually evolved into a ceremonial display of military music by massed bands. From Catholic countries where soldiers were conscripted into the army from strongly religious peasant communities came the custom, still in practice, of including a hymn in the closing stages of the ceremony.

Apart from the Tattoo, the city of Durban has practically everything to offer the holidaymaker. And while some Northerners might find the summer temperatures a trifle on the torrid side, the so-called winter months of June, July and August, ablaze with sunshine and exotic tropical shrubs and trees, are nothing short of perfection.

The famous Golden Mile stretching along the beachfront (actually 3kms long!) provides a wealth of entertainment and leisure amenities, with shops of every description, as

well as cinemas and restaurants.

It's generally agreed that Durban restaurants offer not only top quality fare, but top value for money as well. Nationalities from almost every corner of the globe are represented by small specialist restaurants (including Greek, English, French, Italian and Chinese), while prime South African steaks, fresh rock lobster, langoustines, oysters and prawns are favourites with most diners.

A visit to the Grey Street complex (just outside the centre of town) is a must for the visitor to Durban. With its Eastern atmosphere and spice-laden air, it's like stepping into another world. And the shopper in search of something unusual will find silk saris, Oriental brassware and other ornaments, curries, curios and Indian Jewellery.

With the exception of a few winter sports, Durban and the surrounding area offer virtually every sporting facility imaginable, and spectators are catered for, too, with horse racing, Zulu dancing, a snake park, dolphinarium and oceanarium. And for those who prefer to take it easy, what could be better than sitting on one of the hotel verandahs along the Golden Mile and sipping something cold while watching the rest of the world at play?

But when the sun goes down and the lights come on, that's the time to go to town! Theatres, restaurants, discos, cabaret—in Durban, it's impossible to be bored.

It's a real temptation to stay right in Durban where there's so much to see and do, but tours of the Natal countryside are strongly recommended, and this is the best and least expensive way to explore. A top favourite is the trip to the Valley of the Thousand Hills—a vast Zulu reserve—which provides a unique opportunity to see the African in his natural tribal environment. Details about tours and information on all aspects of Durban and surrounding areas are obtainable from the Durban Publicity Association, centrally situated in Church Street.

But whatever you do, don't miss the Tattoo...

The Durban Tattoo in 1982 will be held between 7th and 17th July inclusive. There are two direct flights per week from London to Durban, on Wednesdays by British Airways and on Sundays by South African Airways.