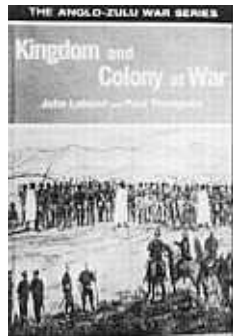


Western Cape. However, there appears to be a lack of editorial direction by James and Simons. This impression is reinforced by the brief and superficial introduction. It seems strange that the editors saw fit to include a chapter on the tiny Unity Movement and neglect the ANC, surely the dominant force in the Western Cape. Definitely this volume contains useful material, but it is by no means an authoritative social and economic history of the Western Cape.

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JOHN LABAND and PAUL THOMPSON. *Kingdom and colony at war: Sixteen studies on the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879*. University of Natal Press and N & S Press: Pietermaritzburg and Cape Town, 1990. xvi + 358 pp. Illus. Paperback R49,95 (exclusive). ISBN 0 86980 765 X (paperback ed.); ISBN 0 86980 766 8 (hard cover ed.).

This work brings together sixteen of John Laband and Paul Thompson's independently produced conference papers and articles, fifteen of which have been previously published in a variety of specialist journals at various times between 1979 and 1988. The sixteenth, Laband's paper, "O! Let's go and have a fight at Jim's!": The Zulu at the battle of Rorke's Drift, appears here for the first time. While several popular works have recently appeared to feed the Anglo-Zulu 'war buff' market, this is a work of the highest historical and technical standard which adds both new detail and new perspectives to our understanding of the topic. It is likely to appeal to many general readers, but it is principally of interest to serious historians and deserves careful study by those specializing in regional and local studies.

This work is a blend of military and social history in which there are papers on diplomacy, strategy, neglected aspects of the campaign and a variety of specialized case studies on the impact of war on various local communities. Several of these latter papers present deep slices of Anglo-Zulu War history as it affected various localities ranging from cities such as Durban, to districts such as Weenen, fieldworks such as Fort Esshowe, and to remote regions such as the under-researched Phongolo frontier.

The book is divided into three sections: The first deals with Zulu responses to the invasion of their kingdom; the second deals largely with hitherto neglected skirmishing along the borders of the kingdom; and the third describes the measures taken by the colonial authorities to protect settlers in various parts of Natal. This is a workable division although there are case studies which do not fit in with the main themes of the various sections and which would be better placed elsewhere.

From the general historiographical perspective, Laband's papers, 'The cohesion of the Zulu policy under the impact of the Anglo-Zulu War' (pp. 1-33) and 'Humbing the General? King Cetshwayo's peace overtures during the Anglo-Zulu War' (pp. 45-67), are probably the most significant sections of this work. The first, which was initially published in 1979, but which has aged well, deals with questions of cohesion and loyalty which are fundamental to an understanding of Cetshwayo's state. The second highlights an issue repeatedly glossed over in works focussing on the war from the British point of view, namely Zulu diplomacy and Cetshwayo's repeated efforts to end the invasion through negotiation.

The work also contains important reinterpretations of military actions, particularly Laband's paper, 'The battle of Khambula, 29 March 1879: A re-examination from the Zulu perspective' (pp. 80-110), which describes the battle as the 'crucial moment' of the second phase of the war (p. 81), and his previously unpublished paper, "O! Let's go and have a fight at Jim's!" (pp. 111-130). This, coupled with Thompson's paper, 'The Natal Native Contingent at Rorke's Drift' (pp. 131-143), provides invaluable corrective detail which fleshes out and counterbalances the overworked grand saga of eleven Victoria Crosses and a valiant band stemming the advance of a multitude.

The following paper, Thompson's 'The active defence after Isandlwana: British raids across the Buffalo, March-May 1879' (pp. 144-149), corrects the impression that the British forces along the Buffalo frontier remained inactive after Isandlwana. It also leads us into the area in which this book is of particular interest to the local and regional historian, namely how the effects of major national and international events are felt at local level, and conversely how events of local significance can influence military strategy and events of international importance.

Laband's paper, 'Mbilini, Manyonyoba and the Phongolo River frontier' (pp. 183-216), is an absorbing exposition of these themes. This frontier was a zone of great instability for both the British and the Zulu. It was at the heart of the 'Disputed Territory' and the ban-

ditry and turmoil in the area was a major factor in the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War. Treason in the Phongolo air was to be breathed by both sides. Hamu, Cetshwayo's half-brother, lived in this area and defected to the British. What is less well known, but well brought out in this paper, is the ambiguous attitude of the Wakkerstroom Boers who openly co-operated with the Zulu in the area, although they did not take up arms against the British.

Thompson's section on the 'Defence of the Natal interior' contains four papers which provide a wealth of detail on the effects of the war on various regions of Natal. The panic measures to defend Durban and Pietermaritzburg in the aftermath of Isandlwana are meticulously described in separate papers, but, by contrast, the major difficulties faced by the colonial authorities in the rural areas which are well illustrated in the paper on the defence of Weenen county are more interesting. This area had a very large black population, a small number of British settlers and a few hundred more Boer inhabitants. The district was crossed by the main transport route to the interior as well as one of the British army's main supply routes. Thompson has carefully used the information generated by a bureaucracy coping with a wartime crisis to reveal the composition, economy and social linkage in an important part of rural Natal.

Kingdom and colony is a fascinating compilation of papers on an evergreen theme. Technically it is well produced with interesting and unusual illustrations, many of which, such as the cover illustration, have never been reproduced before. The maps are of a high technical standard, although some of the information from the map on p. 118 has been erroneously duplicated in the Rorke's Drift map on p. 121.

This is a book well worth having for general readers, libraries and for regional historians. What it does is use the crises of national war to show social microcosms in stress and place these case studies in a broader focus. This is surely the essence of good regional history.

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B.J.T. LEVERTON (ed.). *Records of Natal, III, August 1835-June 1838*. Government Printer: Pretoria, 1990. 331 pp. R6,06 (inclusive). ISBN 0 7970 1603 1.

The third volume of *Records of Natal* is a welcome addition to this well-established, meticulously presented series. This particular volume seems to be a much richer quarry for both the 'national' and the local regional historian, than the previous one. Much of the material herein contained has bearing on important themes in South African history currently under critical discussion. Such themes include the relationship between the Great Trek and the 'Mfecane', the role of the missionary and the origins and early history of the Fingoes (Mfengu). It is a volume especially (and surprisingly) rich (because some of the material is outside the stated chronological range of the volume) on the armed confrontation between the Cape forces and the Ngwane at the battle of Mbolompo on 27 August 1828. This material is contained in a whole clutch of enclosures, dated 1828 and attached to a despatch by Governor D'Urban to Lord Glenelg, dated 22 November 1837 (pp. 218-240), as well as in conflicting evidence before the 1835 parliamentary select committee on aborigines, printed on 5 August 1836 (pp. 64-69, 152-156 and 158-163). Equally fascinating is the contrasting accounts of the causes of the Great Trek (pp. 246-251 and 291-294).

For Cape historians this volume contains certain 'classics' like D'Urban's response to the Glenelg despatch of 1835 (pp. 41-43) and Harry Smith's account of the causes of the war of 1834-1835 and his defence of the killing of Hintsa (pp. 99-109). And there are perhaps even some surprises, like a defence of the then Lieutenant-Colonel Henry George Wakelyn Smith by Sir Andries Stockenström, though one must bear in mind the correspondent! 'All the Caffres whom I had an opportunity of conferring with,' writes Stockenström to D'Urban on 14 September 1836, 'expressed the most unqualified satisfaction with the Lieutenant-Colonel's conduct towards them and many symptoms of regret at his departure, particularly on the part of Macomo, were apparent. My own opinion is that the Colonel's zeal and industry are beyond all praise and have greatly contributed to the tranquil state of the Caffre tribes' (p.94).

Natal historians will find plenty of confirmation, particularly via the letters and evidence of Captain Allen Gardiner (pioneer Natal missionary), of the extent to which the flight of refugees from Zulu rule to Port Natal bedevilled the relationship of the embryonic community of often unscrupulous traders with Dingane. Here, too, handy for reference are 'classic' Natal regional documents like Dingane's letter to William IV, dated 21 June 1837 (p. 188) and the objectives of the provisional committee of a Natal Association, presumably dated 1839 (pp. 252-254).

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