

CODE	TITLE	CREDITS	GPS	CAMERA [FILE SIZE IN MEGAPIXELS] {MAX PHOTO SIZE IN
IS PIK MKW-CAMP PAN	PANORAMA TAKEN FROM MKWENE FACING CAMP	© ZULU ODYSSEY	GPS 28°20' 4.9719"S 30°39' 48.3610"E	SONY A99 [491 MP] {168" x 23"}
IS PIK MKW-CAMP ORIG AN	" " " ANOTATED	© ZULU ODYSSEY	GPS 28°20' 4.9719"S 30°39' 48.3610"E	SONY A99 [620 MP] {168" x 30"}
IS PIK MKW-CAMP TD	" " " SHOWING FIRST ENGAGEMENT AND OPENING ZULU MOVES	© ZULU ODYSSEY	GPS 28°20' 4.9719"S 30°39' 48.3610"E	SONY A99 [620 MP] {168" x 30"}

## MKWENE

**IS PIK MKW-CAMP ORIG AN** The Spur is the flat ground between Mkwene and the Tahelane Ridge it is displayed by a dirt road but on the day of the battle it seems unlikely that there was a dirt road then, but a flat grassed area. This was the route Number 1 and 2 Troops N.N.H. took from the camp site to Mkwene, this was also the return route they taken once they discovered the two Zulu regiments less than 1 mile from Mkwene. It is here around Mkwene these two troops made a stand to hold back the Zulu advance, E company was supporting these two troops from the Tahelane Ridge but it is interesting to note that F company arrived only about 5 minutes after the two troops of the NNH arrived back, the reason for this is because when the first shots of the discovery were heard, Colonel Pulleine ordered them out to support E company, but after arriving only remained for only five minutes this is because Lieutenant Melville was sent from camp HQ with the distressing news that a new impi has already found its way behind Isandlwana emerging from the northern banks of the Manzimyama stream and was unseen by anyone on the Tahelane ridge this is the true right horn.

**IS PIK MKW-CAMP TD** This panorama shows the surprise Colonel Pulleine was faced with early in the battle having two of his companies isolated from the camp with the right horn outflanking not only these two companies but the whole camp its objective was the saddle directly behind Isandlwana mount, thus leaving no place for them to escape. So lets go to Captain Essex who confirms this **" About 5 minutes after the arrival of Captain Mostyn's Company I was informed by Lieutenant Melville Adjutant 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 24<sup>th</sup> Regiment, that a fresh body of the enemy was appearing in force in our rear and he requested me to direct the left of the line formed as described, to fall slowly back. [1]"**. This new threat was first sighted moving into its pre determined location at around 9:30am by the videttes on Mkwene "Just as we were going, orders came to stay in camp, as the Zulus were seen on extreme left of the Camp. Soon afterwards Lieut Adendorff of my Company (No 6) was ordered to ride out to the outlying picket on the left, formed by the 2nd Batt, 3rd Regt N.N.C, and bring in a report of what he saw, he returned in about half an hour & made his report. Soon afterwards Col Pulleine sent me out & Serjeant Major Williams came with me. We found Capt Barry & Lieut Vereker watching a large force of about 5,000 which had gone on around behind the Isandlwana hill. I remained about three quarters of an hour & then returned to Camp. I found that Col Durnford had arrived and on my going to Col Pulleine to report he referred me to him" [ 2 ] three full Zulu regiments consisting of around 3,500 warriors came down from the northern bank of the Manzimyama Stream. Captain Essex describe this as a fresh body which he or the other two companies did not see, the reason for Captain Essex did not see this new body of the enemy, is because there attention was focused on the uNkonke and the uMcijo regiments all around Mkwene.

You will notice the first action began around Mkwene hill and at the foot of Mkwene stood the Kraal of Baza it is here the Sikali horse made a stand an eyewitness sees the following

**"The Nokenki then ran out in the shape of a horn towards the kraal of Nyenzani, on the road between Isandula and Rorke's Drift. The engagement now became very hot between the Mangwane (mounted natives), and us, the Mangwane being supported by the infantry, who were some distance in the rear. We were falling now very fast. The Mangwane had put their horses in a donga, and were firing away at us on foot. We shouted "Izulu!" ('The heavens!'), and made for the donga, driving out the Mangwane, who retreated towards the camp. The infantry then broke upon us, and their fire was so hot that those of us who were not in the donga retired back over the hill"[3].**

We can confirm from the following eyewitness that Mkwene hill was retaken back by the British forcing the Zulu to retire over the ridge **" A Company of the 1/24 foot was sent to back up our horsemen who by that time had retired down the hill towards the camp. We left our horses { for George Shepstone and myself had rejoined the men } at the bottom of the hill and went up and attacked the Zulus on foot, we drove them back at first, but after retiring over the ridge they were reinforced and came in overwhelming numbers and we had a sharp run for our horses, which were some little distance away. We retreated to the camp"[4]** another officer confirms the same story, **" My orders was to see the wagons safely into camp and then joined him about 12. I got back with the wagons and hearing firing about 2 miles to the front of the camp at once gave the order to trot, and started off to find Colonel Durnford. I came across Captain Shepstone, and as he asked me to stay with him I dismounted the men and extended them in skirmishing order. We were soon under hot fire but continued to advance very slowly as the Zulus were under good cover and we had to expose ourselves every time we advanced. On arriving at the top of the hill we perceived the enemy in overwhelming force coming up from behind and fearing our ammunition would be expended before we could reach the camp Captain Shepstone gave the order to retire back to our horses". [5]** So an Imperial Company reinforced Lieutenant Raw and Roberts troops and was so successful in retiring the Zulu back over the ridge, but notice the Zulu came in overwhelming numbers this confirms the arrival of the chest from the Ngbweni between 30 to 45 minutes after the discovery which confirms the discovery did not take place in the Ngbweni valley.

On my next visit I will be doing a pan from Mkwene but facing north this will show what Captain Barry would of seen when the final report from Mkwene left around 10:30am also a Pan on the rough location were E company took up there firing position which is important to prove the view they had as the first stages of the battle was developing.

[ 1 ] Court of Enquiry, Rorke's Drift 24<sup>th</sup> January 1879, Captain Essex. ( Witnesses of Isandlwana page 24 – 27 )

[ 2 ] A Report to Lord Chelmsford dated 17<sup>th</sup> February 1879, Rorke's Drift Lieutenant Higginson. . ( Witnesses of Isandlwana page 354 -356 )

[ 3 ] Uguku, of the uMcijo regiment. [ Witnesses of Isandlwana pages 407 – 410 ]

[ 4 ] Letter from James Nathaniel Hamer to his Mother, Chelmsford Papers. ( Witnesses of Isandlwana page 191 -193 )

[ 5 ] Diary of Lieutenant Richard Vause No 3 Troop Natal Native Mounted Contingent Killie Campbell ( Witnesses of Isandlwana page 281 -282 )