

CODE	TITLE	CREDITS	GPS	CAMERA [FILE SIZE IN MEGAPIXELS] {MAX PHOTO SIZE IN
IS DIS DM PAN	PANORAMA TAKEN FROM SOUTH SIDE OF CAMP	© ZULU ODYSSEY	GPS 28°21' 29.369"S 30°39' 12.5990"E	SONY A99 [99 MP] {362" x 53"}
IS DIS DM ORIG PAN [A]	“ “ “ ANOTATED	© ZULU ODYSSEY	GPS 28°21' 29.369"S 30°39' 12.5990"E	SONY A99 [99 MP] {341" x 56"}
DURNFORDS MOVES TD	PANORAMA SHOWING DURNFORDS MOVES	© ZULU ODYSSEY	GPS 28°21' 29.369"S 30°39' 12.5990"E	SONY A99 [118 MP] {354" x64"}

DURNFORD MOVES AFTER ZULU RETIRE

DURNFORDS MOVES TD Firstly and most importantly this panorama covers the moves Colonel Durnford made before the discovery took place which was prompted by a message from Mkwene that the Zulu are retiring in three columns, **“The enemy are in force behind the hills on the left . The enemy are in three columns. The columns are seperating, one moving to the left rear and one towards the General. The enemy are retiring in every direction” [1].**

Durnford did not know he was dealing with an adversary which deployed his army hours before. Colonel Durnford was repeating the very same mistake Lord Chelmsford made earlier that morning leaving the camp to attack Zulu’s, So lets examine these moves firstly the report came in from Mkwene. So Colonel Durnford sends up two Sikali troops numbering just over 100 men to sweep the plain of any zulu’s, little did he know he was dealing with two and possibly 3 Zulu regiments. Colonel Durnford plan was sweep the iNyoni plain from Zulus.

The first move can be timed at 10:45am perhaps several minutes earlier, this first move was given to Lieutenant Higginson. **“ In about an hour one came down and reported the Zulus retreating. I then rode up to Col Durnford & told him; he said “Ah! Is that so; well – we will follow them up. He then turned to Colonel Pulleine and said, “Can you spare this Officer?” He said “Yes, certainly”. He then turned to me & said “Lieut Higginson, ride out at once to the mounted Contingent & Carbineers, and tell Capt Shepstone to work round to the right of the Koppie that is on the extreme left, & then we will follow them up”. I did so, and on the way out Sergt Major Williams came up to me and asked permission to come with me. When we got over the hill I found Capt Barry with half of the outlying picket advanced about 2 miles into the plain, and about ½ a mile in rear of the Carbineers & Mounted Contingent. As I came up to him the first shots were fired by the Mounted Contingent at what they thought to be a small body of Zulus, but just as they were getting into Skirmishing Order, about 1,000 men came around the hill and engaged them; they slowly fell back, and as they came up to Capt Barry I left Sergeant Major Williams with him and turned about to ride into Camp to make my Report. I was going along pretty fast, and soon overtook two Officers riding into Camp. One of them was Capt Shepstone; he asked me where I was going and when I told him he said “Oh! I will make a Report to Col Pulleine, as I am going in, will you please ride back and tell my men not to be outflanked”. Before I could say a word he was gone: So I turned round and rode back, but, as I came up I found that they were outflanked, so I ordered them to retire on the Camp. When I got into Camp I found three Companies of the 24th Regt marching out to take up a position on the left, and as I came amongst the tents I met two more Companies and two guns coming out. I made my Report to Col Pulleine, and returned to my Company. The guns were then first getting into action; the first four shells were thrown over the hill on the left o check the Zulus, who were coming over; as it had no effect the others were fired point blank at them, while the 24th men opened fire at about 800 yards”. [2]** So it is important to determine the first move and that was to “, ride out at once to the mounted Contingent & Carbineers, and tell Capt Shepstone to work round to the right of the Koppie that is on the extreme left, & then we will follow them up”. The mounted contingent here is Sikhali troops 1 and 2 Commanded by Lieutenants Raw and Roberts and the Natal Carbineers, so we have determined which forces now we need to confirm to where they were to ride notice he states **“right of the Koppie that is on the extreme left”,** this is Mkwene, and remember their job was to sweep the plain of the enemy, and going 1 mile into the plain the discovery took place, this distance is the very same hill trooper Barker discovered a large Zulu army behind. So lets confirm the time this force left camp **“ At about 11am a party of them [Lieutenants Raw and Roberts] were sent back by the way they came round Isandlwana and from round there the Northernmost point of the Nqutu to check the enemy’s recent advance in that direction” [3].** I would like to say it was a complete surprise for me to find out the Natal Carbineers were present when the discovery took place, so I then wanted to know if any of the 7 survivors mentioned it in any of their testimony’s and we can find it from trooper Edwards. **“At reveille the remainder of our men were sent on vedette duty, and we had not been long on the range of hills near Isandhlwana before one of the vedettes came racing in, full of excitement, with the news that the natives were in great force on the other side of the hill. There was immediate bustle in the camp. We were ordered to fall in and to make for the left of the camp on horseback”[4].** This clearly confirms Lieutenant Higginson’s testimony.

The second move being the rocket battery and Captain Nourse’s Company No 9 Co, 1st Batt, 3rd Regt N.N.C as escort up the notch. A Company 1st Battalion 24th Regiment and the Natal Mounted Police was also sent out once the action around the rocket battery was taking place. Private Bickley of A Company also confirms **“ The Mounted Police and our company 1/24th was sent out after this in support of Colonel Durnford’s party. The guns firing at the enemy in this direction appeared to have great effect, and soon after it began they made a retreat but afterwards they reappeared in extended order coming over the rise to the left front and near the conical hill “[5]**

Its around this time Fate took its place at around 11:15 Trooper Barker arrived at the HQ tent with his report that a large Zulu army is only 800 meters from Itusi, sitting down behind this hill is either of the umCijo or umCityu and uNokenke regiments by this time Raw and Roberts are approaching Mkwene. Trooper Barker is sent back to his Vidette position on Itusi. But runs into the rocket battery moving towards the notch lets go to trooper Barker **“ Shortly afterwards numbers of Zulus being seen on the hills to the left and front, Trooper Swift and another were sent back to report. The Zulus remained on the hills and about two hundred advanced to within three hundred yards of us , but on our advancing they retired out of sight and a few of us went up to this hill where the Zulus have disappeared , and on a further hill at about six hundred yards distance we saw a large army sitting down. We returned to Lieut Scott who was about three miles from camp and reported what we have seen Hawkins and I where then sent back to camp to report a large army to the left front of the camp”. “ On our way back we noticed Zulus advancing slowly ,and when about a mile and a half from the camp we met the Rocket Battery, who enquired the enemy’s whereabouts. We advised the officer to proceed to Lieut Scott was stationed, but he asked if he could get up the hill. We informed him that the Zulus were advancing towards that hill and most probably would be seen on it within half an hour. The officer decided to proceed up this hill and the battery was , half an hour later cut up to a man , just as they arrived”[6].** This meeting confirms the timeline and the true location of the discovery it is clear from this, that trooper Barker’s report to Head Quarters was around 30 minutes after the first report arrived from Mkwene of which Colonel Durnford acted on, if he waited for trooper Barkers report he would of known the Zulu were preparing a surprise for him and that this retiring move was just a ploy to decoy the English out of the security of the camp. Also one other thing to point out why did trooper Barker instructed Captain Russell not to go up the iNyoni ridge the answer is simple he knew what was waiting for them on the other side he even said the Zulus are advancing to that area, so one must say how did he knew that was the case simple he either saw or was told the movement of Lieutenant Raw and Roberts troop to sweep the plain where he just discovered that massive impi and he knew the battle was about to begin, and that is exactly what happened within 30 minutes Captain Russell was dead and all of the rocket battery scattered. Moments later trooper Barker climbs the notch and gives us the following spine chilling testimony **“ As Hawkins and I were returning to the vidette outpost we noticed the mounted Basutos to the extreme left of the camp in skirmishing order and masses of the Zulus on all the hills. Firing was then heard for the first time, as although we had been within two hundred yards of the Zulus , we had strict orders not to fire the first shot, and no shot up to then had been fired on either side”[6].** These masses of Zulus trooper Barker sees are the very same screens he saw one hour earlier, this proves clearly there still screening the army behind the hill and he even states he heard the first gunshots to his extreme left this confirms Lieutenant Raw and Roberts has discovered this very same Zulu army and it is this Zulu screen which was only 200 yards from Trooper Barker which destroys the rocket battery in around 20 minutes.

The third move was to move E Company, 1st Battalion, 24th Regiment up to the Tahelane ridge, this move was designed to support Sikhali troops 1 and 2 remember there job was to clear the plain of these Zulus it wasn’t to ride all the way to Mabaso, So when the first shots were clearly heard Colonel Pulleine then sent out F Company, 1st Battalion, 24th Regiment to support E Company this Company arrived at the top of the Tahelane shortly after the arrival of Captain Essex **“ At about 12 o’clock, hearing firing on the hill where the company, 1-24th Regiment, was stationed , I proceeded in that direction. On my way I passed F Company of the 1-24th under the command of Captain Mostyn, who requested me, being mounted to direct Lieutenant Cavaye to take special care not to endanger the right of his company, and to inform that officer that he himself was moving up to the left” [7].**

Colonel Durnfords final move was for himself to command the Hlubi and Edendale troops numbering around another 100 men to go up the Qwabi valley to cut of this Zulu column which he believes is going for Lord Chelmsford .

[1] London Gazette, 21st March, 1879. Report Lieutenant W. F. D. Cochrane, 8th February 1879. (Witnesses of Isandlwana pages 113 -115)

[2] A Report to Lord Chelmsford dated 17th February 1879, Rorke’s Drift Lieutenant Higginson. (Witnesses of Isandlwana pages 354 -356)

[3] A Report from J. F. Brickhill, Interpreter to No. 3 Column under the command of Colonel Glyn, 24th Regiment of Lord Chelmsford Field Force (Witnesses of Isandlwana pages 166 -175)

[4] Statement of Trooper Wheatland Edwards, Natal Carbineers. Published in The Natal Advertiser, January 19, 1929. (Witnesses of Isandlwana pages 260 -263)

[5] Private j. Bickley, 1st Battalion 24th Regiment TNA WO 33/34, { Witnesses of Isandlwana pages 134 – 135 }

[6] Trooper W.W. Barker, Natal Carbineers. Published in Stalker's The Natal Carbineers. (Witnesses of Isandlwana pages 263 -268)

[7] Court of Enquiry, Rorke's Drift 24th January 1879, Captain Essex. (Witnesses of Isandlwana pages 24 -27)