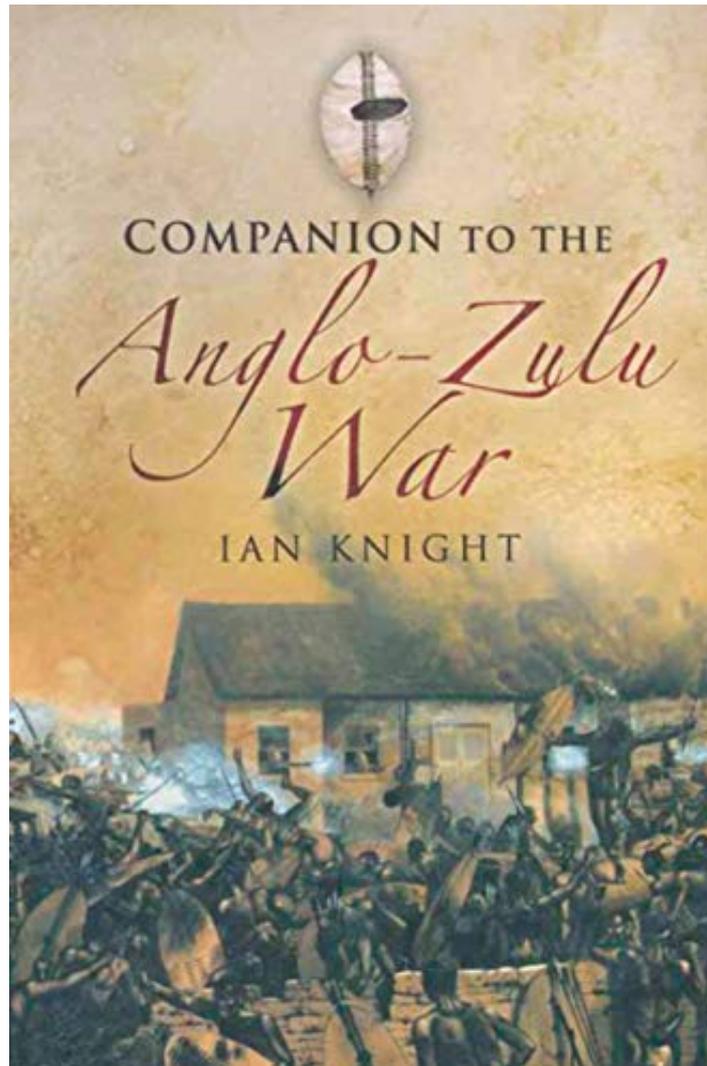


Companion to the Anglo-Zulu War

by
Ian Knight



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Synopsis

The Anglo-Zulu War was a defining episode in British imperial history, and it is still a subject of intense interest. The Zulu victory at Isandlwana, the heroic British defence of Rorke's Drift and the eventual British triumph are among the most closely researched events of the colonial era. In this historical companion, Ian Knight, one of the foremost authorities on the war and the Zulu kingdom, provides an essential reference guide to a short, bloody campaign that had an enduring impact on the history of Britain and southern Africa. He gives succinct summaries of the issues, events, armies and individuals involved. His work is an invaluable resource for anyone who is interested in the history of the period, in the operations of the British army in southern Africa, and in the Zulu kingdom.

Sort review

"A great book, full of the unexpected, yet covering the main themes admirably. Useful to any gamer setting out on his first steps in the Anglo Zulu war, and a treat for those who know a great deal, but just want to know yet more. Highly recommended."Wargames Illustrated --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.About the AuthorIan Knight is one of the best-known authorities on the Anglo-Zulu War. As well as lecturing and writing articles on the subject for journals and magazines, he has compile museum catalogues and acted as a consultant for television documentaries produced by the BBC and the History Channel. His many books include Brave Men's Blood: The Anatomy of the Zulu Army, The National Army Museum Book of the Zulu War and a biography of the Prince Imperial. He is also vice-president of the Anglo-Zulu War Historical Society. Ian Knight lives in Sussex. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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What people say about this book

Michael D Harrison, "Five Stars. A good book to add to my collection."

Steven J. Sass, "Knight's new offering fills neglected gap in Zulu War literature. In the genre of historical inquiry and interpretation, a book bearing the word "Companion" within its title, seems to immediately conjure the image of a reference manual. Often, such references are quickly dismissed as dry, boring and only of value to the most zealous students. In this instance however, the term Companion is somewhat misleading. To be sure, it does fulfill its reference expectations in the manner one would expect from Ian Knight, with absolute accuracy, unassailable scholarship and thorough annotation. But the real genius of this work did not strike me until I was near the end of page 53. I had devoured the first twelve topical studies, from Ammunition Boxes to Burying the Dead, in one swipe---as if I were on vacation guiltily reading tawdry fiction. Within this type of book, which seems to have more ambiguous literary parameters than that of a serious history, Knight is able to stretch a bit, and he shows himself as a writer of most excellent quality. Indeed, it is his commentary on the facts and anecdotes examined that gives this work its tremendous value. Regarding the gap in Zulu War literature alluded to in the title, it's filled by this book in the following manner. A quick examination of my book shelves revealed a count of no less than 75 major titles dealing specifically with the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879, not to mention countless magazine articles, society journals and smaller specialty books dealing with aspects such as uniforms and weaponry. The point is then, when one is reading these accounts, often they cause as many questions to arise as those they answer. A simplistic yet clear enough example is the Ammunition Box controversy at Isandlwana. It's well and good to read about a possible shortage of ammunition due to the nature of the boxes. However, this book explains why or why not that may have been the case but only after a comprehensive look at the evidence, from the design of the box, to survivor testimony and archaeological data. As this is the standard methodology applied to all the scrutinized subjects, a great many of my questions finally have answers. A feature that should be well appreciated for its convenience factor, is the inclusion within the introduction of maps associated with every major military action of the war. The biggest visual treat however is on the dust cover, which features a newly discovered contemporary painting from an as yet unknown artist, of the action at the mission station at Rorke's Drift. Unfortunately, as the size of the original painting is obviously too large to fit even wrapped around the cover, one is not afforded a truly satisfying view. Hopefully at some point the entire painting will be made available in print form. In the age of the internet, many students of history find themselves debating and discussing favorite subjects online with others of like interests. For those who find themselves emeshed in the history of the Anglo-Zulu War, having this book will most assuredly lend an advantage over fellow debaters, as well as saving one from rampaging through 75 books for that one all important reference!"

benoit, "Great Idea. Great idea to extract salient points that are always being asked about this conflict.....great detail and wonderfully anecdotal....right down to HR Haggard's model for Umslopogaas in She etc."

DeM, "very useful, thorough range of. very useful , thorough range of knowledge"

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