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FORMING SQUARES.

It is remarkable that recent tactics in the Soudan, when we formed squares to resist the rush of our fanatical opponents, are simply a copy of those which Napoleon was compelled to adopt in that part of the world nearly a century ago. The Mamelukes, who were his most dangerous antagonists, were better trained and better mounted than any cavalry he had to bring against them, and moreover greatly outnumbered the French squadrons. He was obliged, therefore, to rely entirely on his artillery and infantry; and these were formed into squares, with the guns at the angles, just as our troops were drawn up to stem the rushes at El Teb and Tamai.

At Ulundi our formation was the same, and, like as on that occasion, we read that Napoleon placed his baggage and cavalry in the centre of the square, and when the foe was beaten launched the horsemen to the pursuit, just as we loosed our squadrons on the Zulus.—*The Saturday Review*.

HOW THE PRINCE IMPERIAL WAS KILLED.

The death of the unfortunate Prince Imperial is particularly distressing when it must be admitted that on his own shoulders alone rested that fatal result. Naturally ambitious and daring even to foolhardiness, one can scarce denominate that spirit in the time of war, in the midst of a hostile country, which proceeds independent of experience, rejects advice and sets at naught even ordinary precautions. It is suicidal, and the poor fellow paid a high penalty for his injudicious action.

The Prince left camp on that fatal day, at 9.30 in the morning, to reconnoitre along the advance road for the column, his escort consisting of six of the Irregular Horse and six Basutos (mounted Kaffirs).

Meanwhile some fifty Zulus were stealthily stalking their prey, and the Kaffir servant while drawing water, surprised a Zulu who made off up the hill. This circumstance was reported to the Prince. Looking at his watch and finding that it lacked ten minutes of the hour, he remarked to his troopers, "you can give your horses ten minutes more;" but the men had already gone into the grass to bring back the horses and were anxious to get away. The Prince waited for a few moments—a fatal delay! The order "mount" was given. There came a sudden crash, the long grass swayed to and fro, a volley rang out, and the Zulus bursting cover, charged the ill-fated men. The horses swerved and some broke away. The Prince's horse, a colonial, sixteen hands high, (I had ridden him myself and always found him very nervous and difficult to mount) became so frightened that the Prince was unable to mount. The poor fellow clung to the saddleholster, as we afterwards found it almost detached from the pommel, but the air was thick with assegais flung by the fleet-footed Zulus.

The death of the Prince cast a gloom over all the camp, and every footstep of the way from the gory spot where ceased his throbbing heart, until he slept in his temporary resting-place on board the ocean transport, was marked with grief, admiration and great respect.

No such event had ever occurred in the fitful history of the colony. It stands unique, and to-day as the superstitious Zulu passes the tablet which marks the place where the Prince fell, he pauses and thinks of the *amahlengi umfasi* and the *inkosi kakulu* (great chief) who there died a brave man's death, and won even amongst the warlike Zulus a brave man's fame. But now, *Umkonto pahlaza wa lala umlala wa-futi*—the assegai is broken and he sleeps his last long sleep.—*Dr. Fred. W. D'Evelyn, in April Californian*.

THE NEW LONG SERVICE DECORATIONS.

The Volunteer Officers' Decoration, the new order which Her Majesty has instituted as a reward for long and meritorious service in the Volunteer force is very handsome in design, resembling in some respects the third class of the Bath. It consists of an oak wreath in silver tied at the sides with gold, having in the centre the Royal Cipher, "V.R.," and Crown in gold. It is to be suspended from the left breast by a green ribbon of one inch and a half in width from a silver oak bar-brooch. Under the regulations prescribed by the Royal Warrant, it is provided "that no person shall be eligible for this decoration, nor be nominated thereto unless he is or was a commissioned officer and has served twenty years in the Volunteer force, is recommended by the Commanding Officer of the corps in which he has served, and is duly certified by the district military authorities in which the corps is located as having been an efficient and thoroughly capable officer, in every way deserving of such recognition by Her Majesty." It is likewise provided that half of any time during which an officer may have served in the ranks of the force shall reckon as qualifying service towards the required twenty years.

A writer in the *Ottawa Citizen* calls attention to the fact that the Royal Warrant is dated the 25th July, 1892, and, by a singular coincidence, was issued just one month after the appearance of "Old 48's" letter in the *Citizen* advocating the establishment of a medal to all ranks for twenty years service in the Canadian Volunteer force. Fourteen non-commissioned officers and men of the Governor-General's Foot Guards had the day previous attained the long service mentioned, and the fact suggested the proposition to the writer of the article as a means of affording some encouragement to a most important arm in the system of self-defence, whose patriotic efforts in the past have not always commanded the recognition which in other countries they would undoubtedly have received. Since then such a decoration has been granted by Her Majesty's Government to the Canadian Volunteers of twenty years service, a consummation with which Sir Charles Tupper with his usual alertness where Canadian interests are concerned, has doubtless, had a good deal to do. When the time arrives for making a distribution of the new badge of honour in the Colonies, Canada will undoubtedly be able to furnish a larger number of veteran officers in proportion to her population than any other portion of the Empire outside the three Kingdoms.