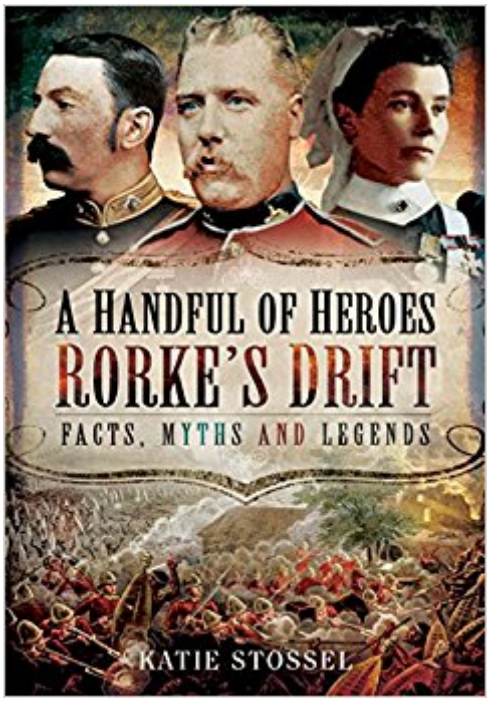
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A Handful Of Heroes, RorkeÃ¢â‚¬â„¢s Drift: Facts, Myths And Legends



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Synopsis

Thanks to newly discovered letters and documents, A Handful of Heroes updates the history of the defense of RorkeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Drift, which will forever be one of the most celebrated British feats of arms. Remarkably, after such prolonged historical scrutiny, the authorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s research proves that there is yet more to discover about this famous incident of the Zulu War 1879 and her superbly researched book reveals a number of myths that have distorted what happened during the gallant defense of the small Mission Station. For example, it transpires that the isolated outpost was already well prepared for an attack by experts in field defense. While this in no way denigrates the heroic efforts of the heavily outnumbered defenders, it does help to explain the successful defense against seemingly overwhelming oddsThis fascinating and highly readable account goes on to examine in detail the famous Chard Report which has long been relied on by historians and authors. Doubts emerge as to its accuracy and evidence is provided which suggests the ReportÃ¢â ¬â„¢s author was coerced by a senior officer in order to protect the latterÃ¢â ¬â„¢s reputation. Likewise the letters of August Hammar, a young Swedish visitor to the Mission, put Reverend Otto WittÃ¢â ¬â„¢s false account into perspective.These and other revelations make A Handful of Heroes a fresh and important addition to the bibliography of this legendary Zulu War engagement.REVIEWS If you are interested in a wider look at the story of Rorke's Drift, and finding out more about the Facts, Myths and Legends of this famous event, you will find this an excellent examination to broaden your knowledge.Fri 11/09/2015. Source: Military History Online

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Katie Stossel was an operating theatre sister who became fascinated by the Anglo Zulu War during

a visit to South Africa. This led her to research and write the inspiring story of Sister Janet Wells (Sister Janet Ã¢â ¬â œ Heroine of the Zulu War, Pen and Sword Books 2006). Katie, who lives in Kent, regularly lectures on the subject.

One of the most iconic battles in British military history, the Defense of Rorke's Drift has had its share of books both bad and good, a movie, which should never be taken as following the the facts, and a plethora of smaller publications. Not being an expert on the battle but being quite familair with it, I was expecting something different than what I read.The chapters of this book seem to be a series of essays on various aspects of the campaign, beginning with the action at Isandlwana and ending with a series of appendices presenting contemporary reports and attempting to ascertain their authorship and all rather confusing. One can go on and on trying to determine who exactly wrote what and when - for example, Lieutenant Chard's after action report, without arriving at any sort of conclusion. There are also sections here whose relevance to the whole can certainly be questioned. As another example, the role Sister Janet played in the defense, or not.Expecting more of the facts, myths and legends to be set straight, refuted and explained, I have to say I was disappointed. This book misses the mark and only adds to the argument.

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