

News of the death of the Prince became one of the most reported-on events in the media over the next three months. He was buried at Chiselhurst, but was later exhumed and reburied along with Napoleon III at Farnborough.

Lieutenant Carey's military career suffered as a result of the incident. He was found guilty of deserting the Prince in the face of the enemy and was relieved of his duties and returned to England. Carey however persisted in trying to clear his name and the findings of the court were overturned. He returned to his regiment, but died of peritonitis three years later.



Lt. J.B. Carey

Before British troops left Zululand, a notice was erected at the site of the Prince's death. Queen Victoria ordered a memorial cross to be placed at the site. A year after the incident, on 1 June 1880, Empress Eugenie visited the site. She also met with Zabanga, a Zulu who had been involved in the attack. He told her that had they known the identity of the Prince, he would not have been killed. Trees were planted here in the early 1900's and a surrounding wall was built.



"AT BAY" by R .C. Woodeville- Illustrated London News, July 16 1879

#### Suggested Reading

Brave Men's Blood,  
Ian Knight, 1990  
Greenhill Books

Illustrated London News,  
July 2 1879 - October 4 1879.



View of the Spot where the Prince was killed  
Illustrated London News, August 2 1879

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# The Death of the Prince Imperial



2004, Amafa AkwaZulu Natali

Louis Napoleon, exiled heir to the Bonaparte throne, had been resident in England and had graduated from the Royal Military College in 1875. With the outbreak of the Anglo Zulu War of 1879, Prince Louis, keen to gain military experience, requested that he be permitted to travel to South Africa. The British government was not enthusiastic, but nonetheless permission was granted. The Prince landed in Durban on 31 March 1879. After a short period in Pietermaritzburg he joined the British forces at Dundee towards the end of April 1879.

The Prince held no rank and was officially merely an observer. During the period leading up to the second invasion of Zululand he was permitted to accompany a number of patrols. The Prince was then placed under Colonel Richard Harrison, the Second Division's Assistant Quarter Master General.

On 31 May 1879 the Prince requested permission from Harrison to scout ahead of the column in the vicinity of Fort Newdigate. This was granted, provided that an escort accompany him. Lieutenant J. B. Carey of the 98th Regiment, and a friend of the Prince, was given permission to accompany him.

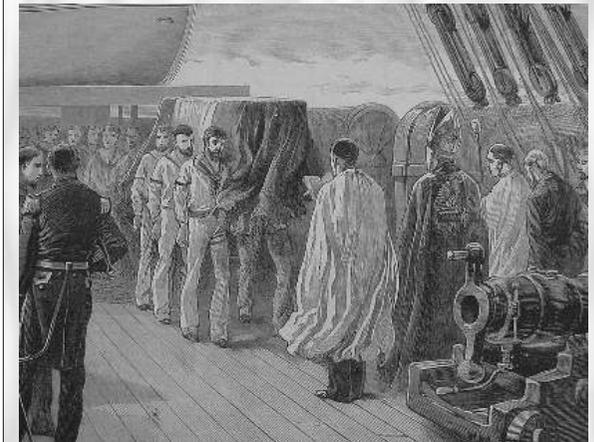
On the morning of 1 June 1879 the party consisting of The Prince, Carey and a number of mounted soldiers left camp. They were ordered to collect the remainder of their escort from patrols that they passed, which they failed to do as none were encountered. At noon they had reached a hill known as *Mabulawayo*.



The Last Bivouac  
Illustrated London News, July 16 1879

Here they halted for a while before making their way down to a deserted homestead about 250 metres from the Jojosi River and some 175 metres from a donga joining the river.

Here the party stopped for coffee. A Zulu guide reported that a Zulu warrior had been seen in the vicinity. As the party remounted, a volley rang out from the nearby maize fields and a party of Zulu warriors charged the group. The Prince's horse, Percy, shied and bolted. The Prince, although a fine horseman was unable to vault the horse, and ran at its side for a while before falling and being trampled. The Prince drew his revolver and turned to face the attackers, whilst retreating down the bank of the donga. Here he was overrun and died from 17 stab wounds. After the war, Zulus who took part in the attack were interviewed and praised the Prince's bravery, claiming that he had "fought like a lion".



The Prince's body is received on board the HMS Orontes  
at Simons Bay  
Illustrated London News, July 16 1879

On 2 June 1879 the Prince's body along with those of Troopers Rogers and Abel were recovered. A funeral service was held that day. The body was embalmed and sent to Simon's Town on the ship HMS Boadicea. There it was transferred to HMS Orontes. It was transferred to "The Enchantress" for the final part of its voyage to Britain. The Prince's body, along with the first news of his death arrived in Britain in early July 1879.