



“Determination and fearlessness”

Zulu Facing British Battle Tactics

Technology versus the human resource

Ever since we had moved from Israel into the open and competitive market, which is highly influenced by western culture and dependent on “high tech” technological advancement, we can clearly point the big changes that took over our biggest asset – the human resource, which as a progressive society we are losing its biggest value.

Coming from a country like Israel, where the human resource is the most important asset in all aspects, it is the most invested asset when it comes to training, skills and knowledge. We were astonished to find out that almost every thing comes in packages that promises the “short way” to success, or that people are looking to buy knowledge like a secret pill or some kind of a “kit” that will do the work for them, instead of investing in studying the right way and keeping on training for the goal with no shortcuts.

Knowledge and skills are powerful

Don't try depending on technology only!! In the historic battle of 1879 the Zulu warriors fought against the British forces, we have a great example of a “Modern” and technological advanced army (The British forces) that is defeated by an inferior army which is considered “primitive” (The Zulu) which was based only on the human asset and warriors skills. This is the history in a brief:

The story of the African resistance in 1879 as the British soldiers said **“they fight like lions and not afraid of death”**.

We go back to January 22nd, 1879 to the Zulu victory over the British forces at Isandhlwana. Even though no one gave the Zulus much credit, they found a way to win, even against a technologically superior foe. ***Those who take the time to look for a way to win usually find it!***

British soldiers were armed with a Martini-Henry, breech-loading rifle in 45 calibers. Like the trapdoor Springfield, it was an accurate piece, but basically a sporting rifle. It overheated during high-volume fire, causing spent cartridges to refuse to extract. When their rifles thus went down, soldiers were left with only bayonets and pistols. Zulu warriors were armed with a skin-covered shield and a short, stabbing spear, called an assegai, which they used in a low, stabbing motion. Zulus were masters of massed formations. They could, in unison, run, shift directions, and go to ground as if operating on one brain. In unison, they could chant, stomp the ground, and strike their spears against their shields. The din was deafening! Most frightening, they could absorb hideous casualties and still keep coming as if nothing had happened. They were confident that they could be effective even against British infantry,

particularly when they were spread too thin and were armed with rifles that overheated! The British relied on their technological superiority, characterized by the Martini-Henry rifle, artillery, rockets and Gatling guns. During the later stages of the war these weapons effectively broke up the Zulu charges with few casualties on the British side.

Determination and fearlessness

The Zulus acquired a deserved reputation for bravery during the Zulu War but the truth is that their initial successes in battle were as much due to British overconfidence and incompetence as to their almost mythical reputation. The Zulus were technologically inferior to the British. The Zulus chief weapon was the short stabbing spear, or *iklwa*, which was so named because of the sound it made as it entered someone's body. The other weapon used was the *knob-Kerrie* which was a form of club. These weapons required the Zulus to come close with the enemy. The Zulus were highly mobile and could cover large distances quicker than the British. Once they sighted the enemy they deployed, at a charge, into their famous bull formation. The horns would flank around the sides whilst the main body attacked the front. The enemy would then be trapped and encircled. A reserve would sit with their backs to the battle until they were needed. At Isandhlwana the Zulus charged five miles to engage the British camp.

The British military systems were some of the most advanced in the world... The Zulu military system was primitive, employing infantry armed with spears and animal skinned shields. Their primary tactics utilized their strength in numbers and advantages over rifle infantry at close range. The Zulu corps defeated the British at Isandhlwana.

We can defiantly conclude and say we learn that we've learned nothing from history. Arrogant and egocentric men set themselves up for disaster.

The model of our western way of thinking is leaning more and more towards this failing approach by cutting short the educated and trained human resource and transforming him into a watered down version of himself and becoming "technology dependent". Our view about the importance of the human resource as the main goal of investment is based on the analysis of our own experience as a part of a nation that had to rely on this important asset repeatedly throughout history. We know now more than ever that there is now way around it and that technology is secondary, and when you lost your true human skills and knowledge to fight, it will not help you even if you have the best weapon in hand.

Kapap Academy teaches CQB and hand to hand training methods that are based on the philosophy of investing in the human resource. Our Instructors and instruction methods are preserving and developing the skills, knowledge and fighting spirit of **determination and fearlessness**, which is needed to survive any life threatening confrontation. This investment will become handy when you need it; after all we are talking about your life!

Article written by Kapap Academy staff: **Albert Timen & Avi Nardia**
www.kapapacademy.com info@kapapacademy.com