

38

Pc11/12/22

DONE



1. Tolerant and hospitable, Hintsa paramount chief of the Xhosa, born in about 1790 made a favourable impression on visitors. His grand - father was Gcaleka and his father Kawuta after whose death in 1804 he became paramount chief. He showed hospitality to strangers and travellers such as voortrekker leaders Petrus Uys and opened his territory to the Nfengu (Fingo) refugees fleeing from Shaka. He created an atmosphere of security amongst his people as he did not indulge in indiscriminate persecutions. He was well-built commanding respect through his strength of personality.

cartoon - Hintsa welcoming strangers eg Uys and his companion (Pieter Moolman)

2. During the sixth Frontier War Hintsa was accused of supporting the Rarabe (awestern Xhosa tribe) marauders in the colony. This accusation had no factual basis Hintsa denied it and Uys and Moolman supported Hintsa but urged on by the fiery Col. Harry Smith and the Belligerent Grahamstown Journal group a British force crossed the frontier on April fourth 1835 with the object of extracting a definite reply from Hintsa. When Hintsa did not put in an appearance within the five days stipulated, D'Urban the governor of the colony declared war on Hintsa. Realising that his position was critical, Hintsa, after a solemn promise of protection arrived in the British camp on 29 April. The British promptly broke their promise and took him prisoner and demanded from him 50,000 cattle and 1,000 horses. Hintsa was also supposed to compel all hostile Rarabe headmen to cease hostilities and surrender their firearms. Peace would only be concluded when the cattle and horses had been given up.

cartoon - Hintsa being taken prisoner on his arrival at the British camp.

3. Hintsa suggested that his people might surrender cattle more willingly if he himself appeared among them and he therefore accompanied Col Smith and a detachment of soldiers to round up cattle. During one of these round ups Hintsa's horse bolted. Whether it was deliberate or not has not been established. Smith tried to shoot Hintsa but his pistols misfired. He struck the chief on the head with one pistol and grabbing by his kaross jerked him off his horse. Hintsa fell breaking his jawbone but somehow regained his feet and tried to escape. George Southey, a young member of the Guide corps shot at the fugitive wounding him severely. Bleeding heavily Hintsa reached a stream and collapsed in it. Southey continued to fire at him blowing away the top part of his skull. His body was then mutilate by a number of British soldiers. Faith in the Whiteman and the British suffered a heavy blow as a result of Hintsa's brutal killing. However his death made Hintsa a national hero and fostered the patriotisam of people.

cartoon - Hintsa being fired at By Col Smith while Hintsa was on bolting horse or Hintsa collapsing in stream with George Southey firing at him.