



1. Half-brother of Shaka, he helped slay Shaka outside his cattle kraal in broad daylight on 24 September 1828. He then had his brother Mhlangana killed and took control of the Zulu kingdom. ①
 2. No warrior himself, Dingane was unable to exert Shak's dynamic leadership and the Zulu kingdom began to lose its impetus. The Qwabe under Chief Ngetho revolted against Dingane at the beginning of his reign and migrated southwards from their ancestral home in the heart of the Zulu kingdom. Others followed the Qwabe precedent and left the Zulu kingdom. ②
 3. Dingane became as tyrannical as Shaka as his prestige declined. The flow of refugees to the South and Dingane's desire for muskets led to increasing involvements between the Zulu kingdom and the white trading community at Port Natal.
 4. Throughout his reign the white presence in Natal became more and more onimous to Dingane. The number of white traders increased as did the number of Zulu refugees who attached themselves to the traders. By providing sanctuary for more and more Zulu refugees they seemed to be encouraging the disintegration of the kingdom and to be creating a potentially hostile base. Furthermore Jacob Msimbiti (Hlambamanzi), a Xhosa who Shaka had used as an interpreter was handled tactlessly by the Cape officials when accompanied James King on his embassy to Algoa Bay in 1828 and John Cane on a similar embassy from Dingane in 1830. As a result of these experiences Jacob became bitterly anti-white and on his return from the 1830 journey he told Dingane that white people were plotting to take his land and destroy his kingdom. This made Dingane and his councillors suspicious of white people. ③
 5. In 1835 Allen Gardiner, a missionary, arrived in Natal and he came to an agreement with Dingane. Dingane undertook to respect the lives and property of the established community of British traders and their African followers and Gardiner that future deserters from the Zulu kingdom should be returned to Dingane. If this agreement had been enforced one of Dingane's major problems would have been solved. Natal would have ceased to promote the disintegration of his nation by providing sanctuary and leadership for disaffected elements. Although Gardiner personally conducted some Zulu deserters to Dingane (who put them to death) some of the traders ignored the agreement. When Dingane heard of this, he forbade his subjects to trade with the whites, held Gardiner responsible for the conduct of the white people in Natal and debarred all of them except Gardiner and his interpreter from the northern side of the Tukela. ONE
 6. In October 1837 Piet Retief^w who realized that is the Voortrekkers were to settle in Natal in peace and security he should make a treaty with the traders to forestall British intervention and with Dingane to prevent a Zulu attack. Retief rode with fifteen fellows and two traders to Mgungundlovu where after a display of Zulu warriors and cattle Dingane assured Retief that he was 'almost inclined to grant him land in Natal provided that Retief first demonstrate his goodwill by recovering some cattle which had been stolen from the Zulu by people having clothes, horses and guns'. Retief accepted this condition. TWO ①
- Retief retrieved the stollen cattle, horses and guns from Sekonyela the Tlokwa chief by a ruse and then rode to Mgungundlovu to claim his reward from Dingane- the foundation deed for the Promised land.
7. Dingane's reasons for killing Retief's party. pages 358-360 OUP ②
 8. When Dingane made up his mind to annihilate the Vrrtrekkers is not

certain. It is likely that the die was not cast until the last moment. When Retief returned to Mgungundlovu in February he refused to hand over to Dingane the horses and guns he had taken from the Tlokwa, and Gardiner declined to come to Mgungundlovu, though asked. Dingane then staked his all on eliminating the Voortrekkers, thinking thereby to preserve his kingdom from destruction.

9. Retief reached Mgungundlovu on 3 February with 71 Voortrekkers and 30 coloured servants and the cattle taken from the Tlokwa. They spent most of the next two days watching Zulu displays of war dances and songs performed by a large gathering of warriors from whom Dingane had assembled. Sometime on 4 February Dingane put his mark to a statement giving Retief and his Countrymen the place called Port Natal together with all the land annexed. 3

On the morning of the 6th February 1838 Dingane summoned the visitors to a farewell drink of beer. Two Zulu regiments encircled them in a war-dance and when Dingane gave the order they overpowered Retief and his party their servants and their English interpreter, dragged them to execution outside the town and killed them with knobkerries or impaled them. 4

10. During the early hours of 16 February they almost annihilated the people in the easternmost Voortrekker encampments between the Bushman's and the Blaauwkrans rivers around what became known as Weenen. Further west the Voortrekkers rallied and held them off. 5

11. In 1838 Andries Pretorius with a commando 500 strong and 57 wagons made their way to Zululand. On the 16th December his commando ~~THREE~~ defeated a Zulu army of about 10,000 strong killing some 3,000 at the Ncome River later named Blood River as a result of this battle. In the entire engagement no white people were killed and only 3 including Pretorius were wounded. This battle was a classic example of the devastating superiority of controlled fire by resolute men from a defensive position over Africans armed with assegais and spears however numerous and however brave.

12. Soon afterwards a mounted Voortrekker detachment was led into an ambush by the Zulu near the Black Mfolozi but the Voortrekkers fought their way out losing only 5 men and killing about 1,000 Zulu. After these defeats Dingane sent ambassadors to Natal, promising not to encroach south of the Tlokwa and undertaking to pay an indemnity in cattle, but the cattle were not sent and the Voortrekkers prepared for another invasion of the Zulu Kingdom.

13. Dingane sent an impi northwards against the people later known as the Swazi, hoping to restore the morale of the army but the impi was not successful. Some of the conquered people who had never been fully integrated withdrew their allegiance and Dingane's half-brother Mpande defied him. Dingane had spared Mpande's life because he had regarded him as too feeble to be a serious rival and had allowed him to be regional chief in the Eshowe area. Mpande refused to send him effective military assistance for his Northern campaign and in October 1839, fearing that his life was in danger for his disloyalty, Mpande split the Nation leading 17,000 Zulu across the Lower Tlokwa into Natal. The Voortrekker Volksraad interrogated Mpande. This resulted in Mpande becoming an ally of the Voortrekker republic and Mpande undertook to wage war against Dingane.

In January, two forces (1840) moved northwards into the Zulu Kingdom. Mpande's army about 10,000 strong commanded by Nongalaza. Mpande accompanied Pretorius's commando which consisted of 300 white men and 460 Coloured and African servants. On the 30th January Nongalaza inflicted a serious defeat on Dingane north of the Mkuzi river and

the Voortrekkers then joined their allies in pursuing and rounding up cattle.

- I4. Retreating towards the Pongola Dingane's army crumbled away and he himself was eventually captured and killed by the Proto-Swazi. Pretorius then proclaimed Mpande King of the Zulu, but vassal of the Natal Republic and returned to Natal with about 36,000 cattle. Thus the Zulu kingdom which Shaka had created was overwhelmed by circumstances more strange and more formidable than Shaka had ever encountered.

reference The Oxford history of South Africa edited by Monica Wilson and Leonard Thompson. part one
pages pages 351-363