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## Chapter 1 : Full text of "Memoirs of the Prince imperial () from the French of Augustin Filon"

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Jaheel Brenton Carey Fri Nov 13, 3: In the morning of the first of June, the two divisions commanded by Lord Chelmsford and the column under the orders of General Wood were to cross Blood River at different places and effecting a junction at a point previously arranged, to march together towards Ulundi. The bulk of the army, with all the transport, was to camp for the night at the foot of the Itelezi in Zulu territory. The Prince Imperial, as a despatch from the Commander-in-Chief to the Minister of War expressly states, had been ordered to choose the site for the second camp, where the army was to halt after its second march, in the evening of June 2nd. This task was an easy one for him, for he had already explored this entire region during previous reconnaissances. It had been decided that Major Bettington should command the escort, but Colonel Harrison forgot to tell him so, and when he would have atoned for this forgetfulness, he found that the major, under orders for another duty, was no longer free to accompany the Prince. Among the fatal circumstances that surrounded the event of the first of June, that was perhaps the most fatal of all. As Colonel Harrison asked himself, on the evening of May 31st, to whom he should entrust the mission for which he had at first thought of Bettington, another officer, lately attached to the same service, Lieutenant Carey of the 98th Line Regiment, presented himself to take it. He had, said he, certain information to get or to verify to complete his maps. Colonel Harrison eagerly granted his request. He said these words to him, which were an order: You will look after the Prince. He could be given a mission of great importance, but he had no right to give orders to a single man. How in any case could anyone retain any doubt, reading the last words written by the Prince in his notebook before starting on the morning of the first of June "the escort is under Captain Carey. During this time the Prince, wishing to take advantage of an opportunity that presented itself the departure of a newspaper correspondent who was going 1 He had just got his captaincy: I do not know when I shall be able to send you any news, for the postal faculties leave much to be desired. I did not want to let slip this opportunity for embracing you with all my heart. I hear of M. Pray tell him from me how delighted I was at this good news. The Prince lent him one of his own horses. The Bastes were late; a man sent to look for them on the other side of the river, where they were camping, reported that they had started already and would be found further on. They were never seen again. At half past nine they started. They went through Itelezi, about seven miles from Kopje Allein; there a few words were exchanged with Colonel Harrison, who had already arrived to superintend the arrival and the installation of the troops. At that very moment the Commander-in-Chief mounted his horse to go to the Itelezi camp: Lord Chelmsford was reassured, for he knew nothing of the mission entrusted to the Prince However; the Prince was galloping on with his companions. They mounted a plateau whence they scanned the surrounding country to a great distance; as far as the horizon, no trace of the enemy could be seen. The Prince made several drawings at this place, where they halted for an hour. Then they came down again to a kraal abandoned by its inhabitants. It consisted of five huts and an enclosure for cattle. In front of the huts was an open space covered with ashes and rubbish of every kind, where the Zulus did their cooking in common. Beyond were fields of maize and grass five to six feet high. The spot seemed favourable for a bivouac, being near the little river Imbazani, but was it safe? The tall grass, blocking the view within a few yards, made it impossible to keep watch on the approaches. Besides, some dogs were roaming about, a sure sign that their masters were not far off. Lieutenant Carey thought otherwise, and it was decided to halt in this place. Not a man stayed on horseback as a vedette, no precaution was taken to guard against a surprise: Carey acknowledges this in his report, alleging as an excuse that the country had already been explored thoroughly, and was believed to have been evacuated by the enemy. The horses were then unsaddled and let loose through the maize, where they browsed greedily; the Kaffir was sent to fetch water and the men prepared to make coffee. The officers sat apart and talked. The Prince " it is Carey who tells this " always obsessed by Napoleonic memories, talked to his companion of the immortal campaign of At that Moment the

Kaffir, who had been told off to keep an eye on the horses, came to say that he had seen a black head rise out of the brush. The order was given to the men to make ready to go; the horses were brought in and saddled. Several men were already mounted; the others standing near their horses, were waiting for the word of command. At the moment it was given, a volley broke out a few yards away; a troop of Zulus about fifty dashed out of the tall grass through which they had crawled. They roared their war cry and fired on the English. Horses reared and some broke loose. Did somebody give the signal to start? No one heard it was a panic, a *sauve-qui-peut!* Those who were already Mounted galloped off towards a donga about two hundred yards from the kraal: Carey, the first to start, at their head. A bullet killed a soldier named Rogers; another of the name of Le Tocq " an old sailor from Guernsey, whose mother tongue was French " one of the first to mount, jumped off to pick up his carbine. He tried to hoist himself again upon his horse, and Ijding across the saddle, endeavoured to gain his seat, while the animal, like all troop horses, carried him after the others. Thus he was the last of all to pass the Prince, who had still been unable to mount. Sir, if you please I " he called out to him. Vain advice that met no answer. The Prince ran with him, cUnging to the stirrup leather and the saddle, and continuing to make desperate attempts to mount. He came like this to the donga. There the girth of the saddle from which he was hanging gave way ; he fell to the ground. Carey was already far off with several of the men. One of them, named Abel, whether hit by a bullet or through an accident that made him lose his balance, fell from his horse in the donga, where the Zulus presently finished him. Another, crossing the ravine at a little distance, saw the Prince fall, and thought him wounded or killed. However, the Prince had risen to his feet. From the place where he was " this has since been proved "he saw the men in flight. His horse, thoroughly maddened, had climbed the other slope of the ravine, and he could hear the sound of his galloping hoofs leaving him. What had he left to defend himself? One of his revolvers, which he carried in his belt: All hope was lost: He faced his enemies and walked towards them. He held his revolver in his left hand. Why in his left hand? However, he still had strength to seize with this hand the assegai of one of the blacks that surrounded him. He fired three shots at his assailants, but they adroitly swerved, and no one was hit. Defending himself, he thrust his left foot into a hole: An assegai pierced his left side with a mortal thrust. He went down, the Zulus rushed upon him and speared him again and again; all was over. The fight, according to their account, did not last more than a minute. They declared as much later when they were questioned, and when the foregoing details were got from them. Was he like an ox that is knocked on the head? Afterwards they went away, leaving the Prince stretched on the place where he fell, among the crushed and trodden grasses, which bore the marks of his last fight. Night dropped suddenly down, as always in this climate; it wrapped the ravine in darkness and in silence, until the moment when the moon rose and lightly touched the face of the sleeping Prince. The news he brought spread like lightning and filled all with consternation. Deleage saw Lord Chelmsford gloomy and overwhelmed; he looked for Lieutenant Carey and found him dining with Colonel Harrison and another officer. With great trouble he got some information from him. No one knew anything, except that the Prince was missing at roll call, as well as two other men and the Kaffir guide. He had been seen to fall, and his horse had come back without him. Perhaps he was only wounded. What were they going to do? Would they not send to look for him? The officers thought that out of the question: The president of the court was Colonel Glyn ; the duties of prosecutor devolved upon Captain Brander, who fulfilled them with energy and tact. The depositions of the four survivors of the action were Heard: Willis, Grubb, Cochrane, and Le Tocq. Their evidence tallied exactly with regard to what took place before the surprise, and allowed the court to follow the little troop in every movement until the moment when the blacks came out of the brush yelling and tiring on the English. From that minute the different stories, while confirming each other in essential points, showed certain contradictions in details, easy to explain by the inevitable confusion of such an alarm, or by the desire to repudiate a share of the responsibility that rested on the leader. However, important facts stood out from all these depositions: These facts became so many heads of the charge against Carey. But the worst of all, perhaps, because it was the initial cause of those that followed, and may be said to have given rise to them, was the selection of that fatal place for the halt.

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Accordingly Carey, who defended himself with a great deal of coolness and assurance, took every pains to maintain that it was not he, but the Prince, who was in command on the first of June.

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The young prince was known by the nickname "Loulou" in his family circle. When the war began to go against the Imperial arms, however, his father sent him to the border with Belgium. In September, he sent him a message to cross over into Belgium. He travelled from there to England, arriving on 6 September, where he was joined by his parents, the Second Empire having been abolished. On his 18th birthday, a large crowd gathered to cheer him at Camden Place. In , he applied and was accepted to the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. He finished seventh in his class of thirty four, and came top in riding and fencing. He went as an observer, attached to the staff of Frederic Thesiger, 2nd Baron Chelmsford , the commander in South Africa, who was admonished to take care of him. Louis accompanied Chelmsford on his march into Zululand. Keen to see action, and full of enthusiasm, he was warned by Lieutenant Arthur Brigge, a close friend, "not to do anything rash and to avoid running unnecessary risks. I reminded him of the Empress at home and his party in France. While he welcomed the presence of Louis, he was told by Chelmsford that the Prince must be accompanied at all times by a strong escort. The Prince took part in several reconnaissance missions, though his eagerness for action almost led him into an early ambush, when he exceeded orders in a party led by Colonel Redvers Buller. Despite this, on the evening of 31 May , Harrison agreed to allow Louis to scout in a forward party scheduled to leave in the morning, in the mistaken belief that the path ahead was free of Zulu skirmishers. Led by Carey, the scouts rode deeper into Zululand. Without Harrison or Buller present to restrain him, the Prince took command from Carey, even though the latter had seniority. At noon, the troop was halted at a temporarily deserted kraal while Louis and Carey made some sketches of the terrain, and used part of the thatch to make a fire. No lookout was posted. As they were preparing to leave, about 40 Zulus fired upon them and rushed toward them screaming. He leapt up, drawing his revolver with his left hand, and started to runâ€”but the Zulus could run faster. As he turned and fired on his pursuers, another assegai, thrown by a Zulu named Zabanga, struck his left shoulder. When recovered, his body had eighteen assegai wounds; one stabbing had burst his right eye and penetrated his brain. Two of his escort were killed and another was missing. Carey and the four men remaining came together about fifty yards from where the Prince made his final stand â€” but did not fire at the Zulus. Carey led his men back to camp. Carey died in Bombay, India, on 22 February Rumours spread in France that the prince had been intentionally "disposed of" by the British. Langalabalele, his chief assailant, met his death in July at the Battle of Ulundi. What on earth could he have done better? The funeral procession, including Queen Victoria, went from there to Chislehurst , where he was buried. Legacy[ edit ] The asteroid moon Petit-Prince was named after the Prince Imperial in , because it orbits an asteroid named after his mother 45 Eugenia. In literature[ edit ] The death is presented in some detail in G. The narrator describes it as one of the most shameful incidents ever in British military history. The middle-aged estate manager, Rudd, is somewhat embittered at having been one of the soldiers who had failed to rescue the Prince Imperial in Craddock is aware of the events, because by coincidence he had been born that very day. In the play Napoleon IV by Maurice Rostand , the Prince is killed in a carefully planned ambush arranged with the connivance of Queen Victoria, who fears that if he comes to power, France will outstrip Britain. The Prince Imperial had been out on reconnaissance mission with a party of the 17th Lancers. Describing the mission, he said We advanced to a dried up river bed and had to cut away the banks to get the ambulance across. Eventually, we reached a kraal beside a large mealie field where we found the bodies of the Prince and some of his party. They had been surprised by Zulus as they rested in the kraal. The Zulus broke out of the mealie field and killed them before they could remount their horses. The Prince had been stabbed 16 times with assegais. We made a rough coffin and put his body in the ambulance. After burying the other bodies where they were found, we went back to the column.

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*Napoléon, Prince Imperial* (full name: *Napoléon Eugène Louis Jean Joseph Bonaparte, prince impérial*; 16 March - 1 June ), also known as *Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte*, was the only child of Emperor Napoleon III and his Empress consort, Eugénie de Montijo.

## Chapter 5 : Jaheel Brenton Carey

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*Louis Napoleon George Filon was born in France on 22 November He was the son of Augustin Filon, the French litterateur who was tutor to the Prince Imperial. His parents came to England when he was about three years old and lived at Margate.*

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