



Team Journal – Day 8

Thursday 30th March

We left Bushlands on schedule at 8.15 to drive to Fugitives' Drift Lodge, 105 miles due west. The team drivers still have something to learn about convoy driving - in a rerun of the parable of the hare and the tortoise the management bus has a tendency to race ahead but then to reappear at the back of the convoy as the result of egregious navigational errors. We arrived at Fugitives' Drift in time for a very good lunch and a recce of the lodge in the sort of weather that one expects of Africa - hot, dry and sunny. The lodge is a lovely spot; well-manicured grounds on a rise, looking out over a valley of grass and scrub with cabins dotted around the grounds. There was some renegotiation of room-sharing arrangements as light-sleeping team members attempted, successfully for the most part, to exile snorers from their rooms. Following lunch we had an hour before the tour started and time to enjoy the, somewhat chilly, pool.



... cabins dotted around the grounds ...



... and the, somewhat chilly, pool.

Because we arrived at lunch time we are taking the two battle sites in reverse order, to coincide with the time of day at which they took place. This afternoon, therefore, we went down to Rorke's Drift where Robert Caskie gave us a spirited evocation of the events of the afternoon and evening of the 22nd January 1879 when 11 Victoria Crosses were won during the battle to hold the drift.



The escarpment above Rorke's Drift



The spirited Robert Caskie

We finished off our day with a very good team dinner in the lodge dining room and then coffees around the camp fire, ably stoked by Matt and Alex.