

of branches. If there was a lot of interaction, the commanders (“kings”) may have been drinking with the soldiers in common beer-booths. If, on the other hand, the officers kept their distance from the common troops when not on duty, they might have had drinks brought to them in the booths which the soldiers had constructed as a kind of headquarters. In neither case would it have been “in their tents”.

So, in conclusion, it seems highly unlikely that the infamous kings of 1 Kings 20 would have been drinking “in their tents”. While 1 Kings 20.12 & 16 may not contain burning theological issues, they do contain interesting cultural details. And it is important for us as translators to get and give to our readers an accurate picture of the situation.

Any corrections, or additional information, or suggestions on the above are very welcome.

ROB KOOPS

HOW WAS THAT?

From military officer assessment reports:

This officer is not so much of a has-been, but more of a definitely won't-be.

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Memo from Executive Officer to Personnel Manager:

Staff matters: It is important that you implement the long service award for legible staff.

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Wisdom from Africa about working in a committee:

“The donkey does the work; the zebra gets the stripes.”

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Transcript from dictation taken at a meeting by a temporary staff person:

From that moment, James realised that God was calling him to be a Minister of the Methodist Church. In 1948, at the end of his High School, he applied to go to the Illogical Ceremony.

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Those small typos:

He was instrumental in ruining the entire operation for a Midwest chain operation.