

MLOKOTWA KA MPUMELA

2.11.1908

File 49, item 4, p. 1.

1 I was present at Mome; I did the Dobo bush.¹ I had about 30 men.

Mjantshi ka Luzindela
 Zinyongo ka Siyunguza
 Mtshinane ka Pakatwayo
 Ndhlovu ka Nongamulana
 Mapoyisa ka Mbuso - he personally left behind at camp.
 Matshana ka Mondise - under Hlakanyana with Mswarele as *induna*.
 Siswana ka Mtiyaqwa
 Matshana ka Sitsh. <sic>²

Kasi ka Matshana ka Sitshak. <sic> - killed at Manzipambana.³

.... <Linguistic note omitted - eds.>

We were all (under the) command of Shepstone (not Walter).

The assembly places (izigcau) - very big - where seated.

Threw assegais away.

'Maye babo! Have mercy, o lords!'

They hit him like this!

'Lords, there are four of us!'

Mavukutu ka Sithondose was a mature man (*ikehla*).⁴ Nondubela came from under the stone; *they were grappling with each other.*

Malukambana. Bambata had on also a shirt.⁵

Mtele ka Ngoza - killed probably.⁶

Met three Nongqayis coming up the Dobo.⁷

Many escaped in the Dobo.

Three one on top of other on *mzungulu bush*.

The Kwa Dhlolwane *battle* - I was present. This was near eKombe up the *Mfongosi*.⁸

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File 49, item 4, pp. 2-3.

2 The men threw their assegais away.

I was not at Bobe - the name for many years.⁹

The Amacube; I do not know if they still *work iron*.¹⁰ Faku and Mjiba used to *work it*; (they) died recently.

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Ndube, Hatshi, Lukulwini were attached to Barker's column at the Mome.¹¹

I think a number of people escaped at the Mome.

European troops.

The searchlight - surprising.

Maxim gun.

The Zulus saw advance of war methods as compared with Zulu War times.

Cannon.

The earth became hot.

Even small body regarded as very numerous.

Bullets not entering - this idea dispelled.

An omen (*umhlola*) that Bambata should start and fight the white house. Throw away European utensils, fat of pigs; *the sky will burn*, will draw the lightning. Bullets won't enter. Said a long time before war.

Manqanda asked about the pig's fat.¹² *Pigs were to be removed from homes; they would be struck by lightning.* Could not find out where the rumour sprang from. Owing to inquiries being made the rumours began to die out.

The sky ('Zulu') was going to come from above and *burn up* the white people. False rumours can never be traced to their source. Seemed to start from 'up-country'. Our pigs were not killed.

The grain (*amabele*) was like the fat; all ours so affected still. We never knew this in former ages. I don't know the origin. The locusts were formerly known. The *amabele* was not affected *in the open country (enkangala)*, only *in the hot places*.

There is no talk now about throwing away European dishes, pig's fat.

This was done to make people *abandon their homes (bunguka)*. Bambata must have started this.

3 We heard nothing in our district about killing white fowls. We killed no pigs. People had got into the habit of using pig's fat. We do not eat pigs; some, however, eat them.

Dhlolwane was fought before Mome, many days before. It was Bobe first, then Kwa Dhlolwane (hill), then Nzilingwana (stream), i.e. Insuze, Mpukunyoni, then Mome.

Mcuzi (*ridge*) - fight with Macala *impi* and our forces, the same day as the Nzilingwana affair.¹³ Our forces were on their way to the Tugela at Kwa Tshutshu.¹⁴

Nzilingwana - Bambata's people followed our people. No one was killed. They retreated. Some people were killed at the Mcuzi.

No native levies were with those troops who went to the east side of the Mome.

Dabulamanzi, when Cetshwayo was buried, sent his troops to attack Sir M. Osborn (with a handful of Nongqayi) at night-time, but they were repulsed with considerable loss.¹⁵

At Dhlolwane (there were) no killed, only wounded. The enemy ran away. It was said that *the leader of the army* had not yet arrived,

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viz. McKenzie.¹⁶

I was also at Manzipambana with 15 men. That is where Kasi ka Matshana ka Sitsh. <sic> was killed. We saw no enemy. McKenzie *was in a clearing of the forest*. I was not present in the fight. We skirted above where the fight was. It was Mtshinane's people who were actually in the fight.

Notes

¹Mlokothwa kaMphumela was chief of the Ntuli in the Nkandhla division. His evidence relates to the Natal disturbances of 1906, in which he fought with the Natal government forces. The Mome gorge lies in the Nkandhla forests. On 10 June 1906 it was the scene of a major engagement between the rebels and the government forces. The Dobo bush lies on the right bank of the Mome stream, near its confluence with the Nsuze river. See Stuart, History of the Zulu Rebellion, ch. XIV, and map opp. p. 310.

²Mlokothwa is here giving the names of leading men of the Nkandhla and Nqutu divisions who fought on the government side. Mjantshi was chief of a section of the Dlomo in the Nkandhla division; Zinyongo's father, Siyunguza, was chief of the Mpungose in the Nkandhla division; Mshinane kaPhakathwayo was chief of a section of the Khanyile in the Nkandhla division; Ndlovu's father, Nongamulana, was chief of the Zondi in the Nkandhla and Nqutu divisions; Mbuzo was chief of a section of the Ntuli in the Nkandhla division; Matshana kaMondise was chief of the Sithole in the Nkandhla and Nqutu divisions; Siswana kaMthiyaqwa was chief of a section of the Biyela in the Nkandhla division; and Matshana kaSitshakuza was chief of the Chunu in the Nkandhla and Nqutu divisions.

³The Manzipambana stream, in the Dukuza section of the Nkandhla forests, was the scene of an engagement on 3 June. See Stuart, Zulu Rebellion, pp. 285 ff.

⁴Mavukuthu kaSothondose (alias Nondubela) was chief of the Nxumalo in the Umsinga division. He was killed while fighting with the rebels in the Mome gorge.

⁵Bhambatha kaMancinza, chief of the Zondi in the Umvoti, Umgeni, Krantzkop, New Hanover and Lion's River divisions, was one of the principal rebel leaders. At the time of his death in the Mome gorge engagement, his identity was unknown, and he was described simply as a man wearing a shirt. See Stuart, Zulu Rebellion, pp. 310-11, 336-8; Lugg, Historic Natal and Zululand, pp. 72-4.

⁶Mthele kaNgoza was uncle and principal *induna* of the government-appointed Qamu chief, Kula, whose people lived in the Msinga and Dundee divisions. Mthele led dissidents in the Msinga area into rebellion in May, 1906. See Stuart, Zulu Rebellion, pp. 264, 319-22; Marks, Reluctant Rebellion, pp. 217-19.

⁷*UNongqayi* (pl. *oNongqayi*) was the Zulu name for the Zululand Native Police.

⁸The kwaDlolwane battle is identified at a later point in Mlokothwa's evidence as the engagement fought at Mpukonyoni on 27 and 28 May. The Mfongosi river, one of the northern tributaries of the middle Thukela, rises at Khombe in the Qudeni mountain range. The Mpukonyoni flats lie to the north of Qudeni. For an account of the Mpukonyoni battle see

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Stuart, Zulu Rebellion, pp. 268 ff.

- ⁹The Bhohe ridge lies to the east of the Nsuze, one of the northern tributaries of the middle Thukela. It was the scene of an engagement fought on 5 May. See Stuart, Zulu Rebellion, pp. 230 ff.
- ¹⁰The Cube people occupied land in the Nkandla region close to the Nsuze river.
- ¹¹Ndube was chief of the Magwaza in the Nkandhla division; Hashi (Hatshe) was chief of a section of the Biyela in the Eshowe and Nkandhla divisions; Lukulwini was chief of another section of the Biyela in the Nkandhla division. Lieutenant-Colonel W.F. Barker was in command of the Transvaal Mounted Rifles.
- ¹²Manqanda was the Zulu name for B. Colenbrander, magistrate at Nkandhla in 1906.
- ¹³Macala mountain, to the west of the middle reaches of the Nsuze, was an important rallying point for the Nkandla rebels. An engagement was fought there on 17 May. The 'Nzilingwana affair' probably refers to an attack on the rear-guard of the colonial forces under Lieutenant-Colonel Barker's command. See Stuart, Zulu Rebellion, pp. 242-3.
- ¹⁴I.e. the hot sulphur springs on the Thukela near present-day Kranskop.
- ¹⁵Cetshwayo died near Eshowe in 1884, and was buried in the Nkandla forests. Dabulamanzi was his brother. Melmoth Osborn was British Resident in the South Zululand Reserve at the time of Cetshwayo's death.
- ¹⁶I.e. Colonel Sir Duncan McKenzie.