

## WELI ka NSANGWANA

&lt;4.1.1914&gt;

File 70, pp. 116-17.

116 Another version of the above.<sup>1</sup> Weli, who is a relation of the Ndengezi in question, told me when at Dhlayangubo on 4 January 1914 as follows.<sup>2</sup>

Ndengezi ka Kuzwayo *fought in the forefront (umhlanganiso) against the Ndwandwe; he followed the trail (umzila) of the impi*. He went forward along his own route (in his own fashion) towards the enemy and *drove off (cita'd)* those opposed to him there. Tshaka had said, *'Whoever fights in the umhlanganiso will be rewarded with cattle, so many that a stick placed across their backs will not fall to the ground as they move off.'* When Tshaka afterwards *allocated him cattle*, he remarked it was the promised reward. Ndengezi said, *'Is this my reward; will they really arrive at my home still carrying the stick?'* Tshaka replied, *'I do not want to put you to death, son of Kuzwayo, for you have long been one of my great warriors, and have fought well for me. Go into the wilderness (Dliwa intaba).'* *Indeed he went off, and that was the end of it; he went far away to Mzilikazi ka Matshobana, where he died.*<sup>3</sup>

[There is an *isisele* (depression, swamp) on the old Bulawayo site (kwa Dhlayangubo) where Tshaka used to give out his presents of cattle. This very *isisele* was pointed out to me [J.S.] by Muti ka Mtondo ka Baza ka Makisiseme *of the eLangeni people*, deputed by Mkungu to accompany me,<sup>4</sup> on 4 January 1914.]

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> The reference is to a story about Ndengezi kaKhuzwayo of the Mdlalose people, one of Shaka's notable warriors, as told to Stuart on 9.4.1916 or 10.4.1916 by another of his informants, Socwatsha kaPhaphu (see the latter's evidence in this volume, pp. 106-7). Stuart presumably wrote up Weli's story from original notes some time after having heard Socwatsha's version.

<sup>2</sup> Stuart identifies kwaDlayangubo as 'the old Bulawayo site': see his note at the end of Weli's testimony. KwaBulawayo, Shaka's principal *umuzi*, was situated some

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twenty-five kilometres to the north-east of what is now the town of Eshowe. Bryant gives Weli as a son of Nsangwana, who was a son of Khuzwayo (Olden Times, p. 53). Madikane kaMlomowethole gives Ndengezi as a son of Khuzwayo (Stuart Archive, vol. 2, p 52). From this it appears that Nsangwana and Ndengezi were brothers, and that Weli was a nephew of Ndengezi.

<sup>3</sup> Mzilikazi kaMashobana of the Khumalo people was the first ruler of what became the Ndebele kingdom.

<sup>4</sup> Mkhungo kaMpande of the Zulu people was a chief in the Eshowe Division.