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KUMALO,

JOHANNES

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A 74/141

141. Royal Hotel
Julius Regiments, p. 138 (11.9.00)

74/141

I had a conversation with Johannes Kumalo yesterday afternoon on this subject. He says he is Dingana's Dhlambedhlu regt, that he and Sir Theophilus Shepstone, whom he knew well, used to discuss the point as to which was the elder of the two, he or Sir J.S. This fact tends to fix the age of this regt. Sir J.S. died in 189- at the age of 7- having been born in 1822 or 182-². Johannes Kumalo, whose father's name is Nhlabati (not father's but father's name given him by his father) says that when Tshaka died he was herding boy. Assuming his age then to be at the lowest for a herd boy 7 or 8, and that Tshaka was killed in Sept 1828, this would tend to fix his age at about 81 or 82. I think, however, as there is no doubt the Dhlambedhlu was Dingana's first regt (see p. 138), so, as Dingana began to reign at once after T's death, we should reckon Kumalo as beyond 81 or 82, says about 85 or 86. He is a wonderfully hale & hearty man; he does not look very old at first sight, but after consideration I think (Ndukwana was present when I examined him) I think his age might fairly be fixed at about 85. I must find out at what age regts were as a rule (but a) ^{13.9.00} ^{11.9.00} ^{10.9.1900 + 11.9.1900} ^{set 74/141 (not done)}

On 11.9.00 after writing about, I saw J. Kumalo for a minute. He says when Tshaka died was udibi and indicated for me the size, about 14 ~~was~~ years of age I should think. This therefore tends to fix his age at 85 or 86.

On 10th I made notes during the conversation and immediately afterwards, Ndukwana assisting, J. Kumalo said, I write from these notes that Tshaka's oldest ^{or first} regt was Ufansimba and the last Izinyosi; that Ufansimba was followed by Zibolela, then Jibingwanga, Nggobolondo, Ishoyisa, Dubinhlangu, Gibabanye, and Ndabinkulu followed last by Izinyosi as already stated. Another name for Izinyosi was Ingeobinga. The regiments Gibabanye, Dubinhlangu, Ishoyisa, Nggobolondo and Jibingwanga were all thrown together and known by the name Izimpohlo.

J. Kumalo appeared to me to be in some doubt as to the proper order or sequence of the regts between Ufansimba and Izinyosi. It is possible he may have omitted a regt or two, and it is possible those included under Izimpohlo are not correctly given. Mswazi, King of Swaziland, K. says, threw a number of regts together and called them Inyati, just as Tshaka did in regard to Izimpohlo.

Dingana's first regt was Dhlambedhlu, then Imvoko, then Imkukulutshane, Ihlaba, and Ndabakawombi (Ukokoti). Dhlambedhlu (Dingana's) known as 'ngamule ka Nomakule, Opalane amawele, Izinyosi no Dhlambedhlu - palane means 'a great or extra sized regt' like Ngobamakose. Tshaka once ordered the Jibingwanga regt to cut off their izicoco, because abuka jarelicia they were still so young not attained an age of dignity, & he said they were to dzeka again. - Ndabakawombi ate a horse'. - Mengo was (induna) of the Dhlambedhlu. He once said 'Non inkoo' ingi bulele lu yo Ndabakawombi (Itho ngempi, impini). Mengo had a very long neck.

According to Ndukwana, Senzangakona's regts were Nobamba, Mbelebele, Sipebe. Impandi's Dhlambedhlu regt ate uwovo (olu kahlela imhlabeni). This regt was also called Ukhleneni. - 15.9.00. For further particulars see regts see pp. 94. and 137. 138 of my Native Note B which follows this. Ndukwana this day mentioned Nomdayana as another of Tshaka's regiments, p. 94 of N.B. just referred to, see Ndukwana's. Dingana telela'd Mbelebele regt probably when he sent it to occupy the lower portion of Swaziland i.e. he increased its size by putting men who did not formerly belong to it into it.

26.9.00 (per Ezra Mzimango) Johannes Kumalo is probably over 85 years of age, especially as he is Dingana's first regt. Ndukwana says that Dingana (but a) Dhlambedhlu first, then Inhlekané which he telela'd into the Dhlambedhlu, so that regt might be looked on as udhlambedhlu olu ncane.

Even if the King should tell me, the Dhlambedhlu although the King has killed me need do great deeds (refusing to battle)

Present: Ezra Mzimango