

S. O. H. P. ORAL PHADITION CONGRUING MSWATI 2 2/2

15. From what you have heard about this man in general, what type of a king was he?
16. What have you heard about -
  - (a) Tifokati and
  - (b) Mzamoso?
17. Can you tell why most of the chiefs here at Hhohho are not descendants of other previous kings?
18. How were these chiefs installed?
19. During which Swazi king's reign did the whites come to Swaziland?
20. Tell me what you know about Somcuba.
21. Did the Zulu armies ever come into Swaziland; if so, tell me about the wars fought?
22. How do you compare Sobhuza I's expansion further northwards with that of his son Mswati?
23. We have heard about a man called Khambi. What role did this man play?
24. When you think about all the Swazi kings from Mahlokohla backwards, which king was most outstanding?

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Mekemeke) are in the north. This leaves about four elsewhere. The idea that is shown to us here is that the great concentration of Mswati's influence was in the northern part of present Swaziland.

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INTERVIEW GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Tell me about the wars which Mswati waged during his reign.
2. From Ludzidzini tell me how he expanded and also about the kraals he built.
3. Where did he die and how did he meet his death?
4. Do you know about the Mlambo affair during his reign (Mswati)?
5. Relate what you have heard about the Mawewe and Mzila quarrel.
6. Tell me about the baSotho tribes who were here before the Swazis came and how the Swazis fought them.
7. Tell me about the way the Swazi armies captured the baSotho cattle.
8. Who was Gija "wezibaya" and Ndlaludzaka?  
How were these rewarded for their heroism in battle?
9. Tell me about the Swazi regiments.
10. How was Mswati able to conquer his enemy, what new techniques did he use?
11. Tell me what you know about Matsafeni.
12. What have you heard about Mswati -
  - (a) as a young boy,
  - (b) as a young man,
  - (c) as a King of the Swazi people?
13. What have you heard about his wife LaNyandza?
14. During his reign some people were incorporated into the Swazi nation. What surnames were those?



#### A SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

1. Mswati's route of movement from Ebasibini to Hhohho.

It does appear that his movement was first westwards, then northwards and finally eastwards. The pattern is that firstly spies explored the areas and secondly a party (hunting expedition or impi) moving with the king followed behind. At strategic points homes were built and it is usually at these places that some time was spent. Thus Mbhuleni, Mjindini, Hhohho and Mekemeke kraals were built.

2. Champion warriors, Londubela, Ndlaludzaka and Gija together with Khambi (the inceku) played an important role in the rule of the Nation by King Mswati. The Zulus were checked by the victories of the Swazi impis led by Ndlaludzaka and Gija. Cattle were captured from the baPedi tribes as a result of the success of the raiding expeditions led by these warriors. It follows therefore that unity would not have been possible among Mswati's people who consisted of the "Bomdzabuko", "Emafikamuva" and "Emakhandzambili" were it not for a very strong military force at the king's disposal.

3. King Dingane of the Zulus was killed by the Swazi in a battle which Ndlaludzaka was leader. The Nyawo people have always been alleged to have murdered him but this research has shown that it was in battle that Dingane died.

4. The Swazi Regiments

There are quite a few people who know the correct sequence of the Swazi warriors. Many people have already forgotten this. What has been recorded is what has been studied finally after collecting the stories from my informants. From this point, the idea of using the regiments as means of dating past events could be developed.

5. The Distribution of Mswati's Kraals

Mention has been made of 16 kraals that Mswati built in this country. Ten of these are at Hhohho and two (Mjindini and

How about actual wars which he fought with other tribes?  
There are very many such wars. From Shiselweni he fought moving westwards. He continued to fight to Mhuluhulu even to Lugogodvo even to Lubhalule.

Thus it seems that he continued to clear the land and this is what he was doing.

Is there a particular technique he used in attacking his enemies?  
He was spearing them. Even though some of the baSotho used "Mgongodzelo" Mswati's men used spears.

There were certain experts (Smiths) who were very much skilled in smelting iron ore into spears which his soldiers used (then he describes to me how the Smiths smelted the iron ore).

Which wars did Mswati fight?

The Zulus were troublesome. They used to come here to capture cattle. The last one which was a big battle was at Lubuya. After that battle, Mswati realized that they would not come again and then he started to attack northwards so that when the Zulus would come again, they would find him with a considerably larger army. (Then he describes briefly the battle of Lubuya). The Swazi army had conquered the Zulus. After a while the Swazis relaxed saying that they had been victorious. Very soon after, sections of the Zulu army appeared and before the Swazis were aware, they had another battle. The result of the fight was indecisive.

11. Since Mswati built a number of kraals, in which kraal did he spend most of his time?  
A. It was here at Mhohho. He only moved to Eludzidzini to dance the Incwala.
12. Is there anything else you can tell about Mswati?  
A. No, not very much except his wars with the baSotho of Sikhukhuku.
13. How have you collected all that you know about Mswati?  
A. I heard that from my father who was in the Lochogu regiment. My father is Msudvuka, son of Mswati.
14. Do you know about Mfundza Ginindza?  
A. Not very much.

Name of Interviewee: Maitsoeki Elawini  
Regiment: Umlondoloni  
Date: 22nd April, 1974

(This is the child of Msudvuka and the grandson of Mswati.  
Msuvuka the son of Mswati).

From hearing, did Somhlolo expand to the area of Hhohho?  
It was Mswati who attacked and expanded to this part. Somhlolo  
ended in the South about Eshiselweni. Mswati started attacking  
from Mdzimba. He moved westwards to Embuleni, then Emjindini.  
After conquering the people, he built a royal kraal and then  
left a regiment. Then from Emjindini he turned east and then  
built at Hhohho.

Did he not come straight from Mdzimba to Hhohho?

No, he moved westwards and built the two kraals mentioned. Then  
he came to Hhohho. He found it full of people and attacked them  
and then occupied it.

A. All the chiefs of this area are Mswati's descendants. Comment  
on that.

A. Yes, that is so. They are Mswati's descendants. This place was  
conquered by Mswati. This is the reason.

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TAPE N SIDE II

You see each time an "Inkosikati" was given to stay at each area  
and when Mswati died his sons by those "emakhosikati" went to  
live in those places thus becoming the heads or chiefs of the  
areas.

5. Who was the Inkosikati at Evasweni?

A. It was Mathangatha. Mfokati was the prince.

6. Is this Eludlawini part of the LaNyandza's area?

A. No, there was a Mswati Inkosikati put at Eludlawini and was a  
separate area altogether.

7. Tell me about Mswati's wars.

A. They were fought by the Inyatsi. He attacked with the Inyatsi.



How was he rewarded for his bravery?

He was not because after the dispute with Khambi, he then became ill. He was reported to Mswati as a bad man. From there Gija was greatly disturbed and said that KHAMBI had caused this misunderstanding between Mswati and himself. Four men were sent and could not kill him because they were afraid. Then he (Gija) called four certain ones whom he knew would kill him. When these came, he killed a beast and gave them meat to eat. After that, he went into a house and told the warriors to spear him. They did so.

Do you remember war expeditions that Mswati sent out to fight other nations or races?

Yes, quite a little. The Inyatsi was sent to Elugogodvo. The wars were continuous.

After the baSotho were driven out from Hhohho, later on they tried to come back to re-occupy their lands. Then Mswati sent out other expeditions to drive them back and to give no chance of returning. Even at the time of Mbhandzeni other expeditions were sent out to drive the baSotho away. Mbhandzeni sent out the Indlavela.

Can you remember as to how many wars Mswati waged?

There are many. I can't remember all of them.

How about wars against the Zulus? We hear about these from time to time.

It was just at Lubuya where the Swazis met the Zulus. This is where Gija "wozibaya" displayed his bravery. He called for a Zulu champion warrior to come and meet him. The Zulu champion came and was killed. These are almost exhausting the list of the wars with the Zulus.

Do you know of another warrior called Mdlaludzaka?

Yes, in the war which I have just described, Mdlaludzaka was there with Gija. They were both in the Inyatsi regiment. There were three champion warriors, Phanimane Lalambe, Mdlaludzaka and Gija.

3. YAKALEWU

4. YASEBHALULE.

Which king to your knowledge is most outstanding?

It was Mswati. He fought more than the others and conquered many tribes.



He was actually at Ukhokho ngakathini.

Q. How have you learnt these praises?

A. I really do not know; my father who belonged to the "Ingulu" regiment was a praise-singer too. I hope I got the influence from him. When I tried to, I found that it was easy.

END OF INTERVIEW

Interviewee: Dlaku Malambe or Mangaliso Malambe.

Date: 13th April, 1974.

Place: Emvembili.

Regiment: Umsizi - Igavu.

This is a first interview, the second comes later in the next tape. In this interview he was indisposed and therefore this is not translated, the next is:

Other baSotho tribes, Malambe, Shabangu, Mndzawe, Sikhondze.

Q. How were you ruled by the Swazis?

A. The Swazis came fighting and attacked the baSotho tribes. We are remnants of those tribes that ran away after they were conquered.

Q. Which king conquered your people?

A. It was Mswati who swept all over this northern area. Now, Mswati started from Mdzimba, then moved towards the west in his waging wars. He moved on until he came to Mhulezi where he built another royal kraal. From there he moved eastwards and spent a night at Ntabamhlophe at Emantabovu. He then came to Barberton (to Sikhondze's kraal) kraal of Majan and he went on to this kraal. This was at Emthwalankhono. He began a concentrated attack on all the tribes around. He used the Inyatsi regiment. Mswati crossed the rivers at their sources and avoided crossing the rivers where they were big.

Q. Do you remember the techniques he used in fighting?

A. The baSethos had their armies and they were strong. Sometimes some of Mswati's warriors were killed in large numbers. However, Mswati's army was very very strong indeed.

Q. Which induna helped him in leading the armies of attack?

A. Khambi was one ineeku/nduna. He was an unSotho. This man had a quarrel with "Gija wezibaya" who was a most remarkable warrior. (Then Dlaku describes how Gija fought in battle).