

DATE : 23.4.70

INFORMANT : SIMAHLA MSANE (2nd INTERVIEW)

REGIMENT :

AREA : ESIKOTHENI

We Msane people came together with Ngolotsheni here. He was our leader. Our original Ngolotsheni came from Zululand, a descendant of Zwide, whose kingdom was abolished by Shaka. On his arrival Ngolotsheni asked for refuge from Mgcoyiza. Then later fled at the face of Zulu armies and ran as far as the Mkhondo River. Mgcoyiza ran away with Mgqwanyana Ngwenya, who was the undertaker of the King's burial place. Just before Mgcoyiza left he gave a maiden to Ngolotsheni and by doing so he ordained him to a ringed headed regiment of Zicheme. During that time the king was Mswati; his wife was LaZidze. As Ngolotsheni lived here he used to go and peep over the Mkhwakhwa hill to look for Zulu armies. One day Ngolotsheni went to peep over that hill and sighted the Zulu force coming over the Maguda mountain, across the Pongola River, just opposite the Pongola Sugar Mill today. Then Ngolotsheni returned and rushed to ~~Kambonzi~~^{Dididi}, the king's home-
stead to report the matter, but the king was not there. He was up at Hhohho. Then Ngolotsheni went to him and found him and told him the matter. Then the king instructed him to go and instruct his war officer to summon the impis to meet the Zulu army - that was king Mswati. Then he returned to Dididi Royal Kraal. He found the war officer and conveyed the king's instructions and further asked him to go on towards his home direction(it was on the? day of his journey). Then they summoned the warriors, ~~wh~~ while he went on. They hoped he would still act as scout and bring them word. So Ngolotsheni went back, hoping that the Swazi impi was following him. On his arrival at his home his knees would not bend. Then warm water was used to soothe them and then they were smeared with fat. He was given warm sorghum thin porridge whilst he was standing. His stiff knees were a bit better. Then he was bent, after drinking warm thin porridge - hence the legendary saying, "Uyogotshwa amadolo Njengo Ngolotsheni" - " Your knees will be bent like Ngolotsheni's". It is where his valour was recognised.

That war came to an end. There are Ngolotsheni's children ; the first was ~~Si~~ Sibhamu, born of his first wife the daughter of Mgcoyiza. The name Sibhamu commemorates the days of gun wars. The second child is LoMawa, a girl who was later a mother to Sobhuza II . This girl was named LoMawa meaning, "You of the cliffs", because she was born in a fortress cave where her mother hid during that war. She was born of LaNdlela. The third is Lobatshopi, meaning " You of arrows". She was born during the days when arrows were used for fighting in wars. That was a girl too. The fourth girl was LoMasotsham, meaning "You of the soldiers". This completes the four Ngolotsheni children, named to commemorate the war events.

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