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SEKUKUNILAND CENTENARIANS

Death of Two Tribesmen

JOHANNESBURG, Wednesday.

Within the last month two of the oldest residents of Sekukuniland have died. The first, Nathaniel Phala, was 100 years old and the second, Leklakeng, was 104 years of age. Leklakeng was the son of Mararang who, when the Bapedi fled northwards under their chief, Sekwati in 1821, became ruler in the Lydenburg district. He exterminated the cannibals. He became the hero of the Bakone when, in 1832, Sekwati returned to Pehreng on the Olifants River. He found that Mararang had become very powerful and he enticed him over to the hills at Mpleles, where he was given poison. In the fight that followed, he became lame and was killed.

Leklakeng remembered well the fight between Hendrik Potgieter, the Voortrekker, and Sekwati in 1845.

It was in the following year, 1846, that he was initiated into the koma (manhood) rites. During his lifetime he saw much fighting and he carried battle axe, assegai and bullet wounds to his grave.

Three years ago he stood 4 feet in height but within the last six months he faded nearly away and had to be carried in and out of his hut. He died on August 3.—Reuter.

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