

to support and stabilise tottering regimes in Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. There was this challenge of an unholy alliance among the colonialist forces in Southern Africa. The ANC and its military wing UMKHONTO WE SIZWE recognised the need to intensify cooperation and coordination with other fighting movements in Southern Africa. It was against this background that the alliance with ZAPU was formed in 1967. The aim was never to commit men to fighting in Zimbabwe but with the help of our Zimbabwe comrades to procure and secure routes to South Africa. Zimbabwe was to be one of the many routes the movement had decided to use in its efforts to get cadres into the country. It was a decision taken after long and frank discussion. Members of M.K. took part in these discussions and the decision was generally welcomed.

LUTULI DETACHMENT

After undergoing intensive training, the Lutuli Detachment was the first to go into action in Rhodesia. Unlike their forebears, the Lutuli Detachment was armed with guns and it was ready to make the supreme effort for the transformation of the South African society. Inspired by the magnificent and glorious tradition of their forefathers, the detachment was brimming with morale and determination and marched through the bushes of Zimbabwe, skirted hills and scaled down mountains unperturbed by exaggerated stories of the might of the White army.

EM This was a revolutionary detachment, spurred on not by mercenary considerations but by absolute dedication to the struggle for the liberation of the Black people of South Africa and for the realisation of the ideals of the Freedom Charter. In its rank were to be found men from all corners of South Africa. It was a truly national detachment. Its discipline was not only conscious but very high. There are three memorable occasions on which the Detachment engaged the Rhodesian armed forces each time putting them to shameless flight. The equipment captured included machine guns, sub-machine guns, rifles by the dozen, ammunition, radios and much needed food supplies. On the whole the detachment fought very well as a unit but certain names remain outstanding and when we write the history of our struggle, these brave sons of our country will take their places among those who shed blood to rid our country of tyranny and colonialism.

EM The story of what became known as the Wankie campaigns would be incomplete without mentioning comrades whose dauntlessness and courage will always be a source of inspiration to our people. These were:

Delmas Sibanyoni, a light machine gunner who halted the advance of a Rhodesian African Rifles (RAR) platoon and never withdrew until his machine gun position was destroyed by a helicopter.

James Masimini, who though mortally wounded volunteered to cover the retreat of his comrades until he himself was killed by enemy fire.

Andries Motsepe, the brave and energetic commander who tirelessly commanded his men forcing the RAR to retreat under cover of darkness.

Charles Sishuba whose bravery was an inspiration to all the comrades.

Sparks Moloi, young and brave.

Donda, powerful, tireless and ready to undertake any tough mission.

Baloi, calm and determined.

Jack Simeland, that tower of strength, nimble and agile and always full of energy.

Paul Petersen, who single-handed fought the Rhodesian Security Forces refusing to surrender until he was killed.

These comrades fell in the course of duty. We vow to avenge their deaths, to redouble our efforts and to bring to fruition the liberation of our Motherland which was so dear to their hearts.

Some members of the Lutuli Detachment were captured and subsequently imprisoned both in Rhodesia, South Africa and Botswana. Among those serving life imprisonment in Rhodesia are:

Bothwell Tamane, son of that outstanding veteran revolutionary women's leader, Dora Tamane.

Freddie Mninzi, youth leader from Cape Town.

Oscar Ihula Bophela, who surrendered a bright educational career and opted for the struggle.

In South African prisons are the following:

Peter Iladi, former leader of ANC Youth League at Fort Hare presently serving an 18 year sentence on Robben Island.

Youthful Kenneth Nkomo presently serving a sentence of ten years on Robben Island.

Alfred Mambasa Scott robust and fit EM- a tower of strength EM- serving a sentence of eighteen years.

EASTERN FRONT

While the fight on the Wankie front was going on, the alliance was also probing possibilities

on the eastern side of Zimbabwe. Here again members of Umkhonto We Sizwe played a

distinguished role in what came to be known as the 'eastern front' or Sipolilo operations.

It was the activities of these militants which caused the South African ruling class to

intervene openly on the side of the Rhodesian White settlers. The feats of these comrades

will never be forgotten. Some of them lost their lives on Zimbabwean soil fighting South

African Imperialism, others were captured and arrested and are at present serving life im-

prisonment in Smith's prisons as well as in Vorster's prisons. It is the imperative duty of

our movement to strive to keep a record of these heroes who never flinched even under the

most difficult conditions.

Among those who fell were:

Patrick Molaoa, former president of the African National Congress Youth League and ex-treason trialist.

Michael Poee, who played an active role in M.K. activities on the Rand.

Benson Ntsele, affectionately known as Commissar.

David Molefe, young and one of the longest serving M.K. men.

Others were captured and are serving life imprisonment in Smith's prisons. Among these are:

George Mothusi, an M.K. veteran from East London.

Ralph Mzamo, who worked for a long time with both the South African peoples newspapers'

New Age and Spark, in Port Elizabeth.

Willie Motau from Johannesburg.

Linda Ntsele from Johannesburg.

Among those who managed to find their way to South Africa and were captured by the enemy

and subsequently sentenced were: Molefe Mabhalane and Jarius Sikhumula.

Earlier I pointed out that Zimbabwe was one of the routes the movement used to filter men

into the country. M.K. men were filtered into the country with varying degrees of success

through other routes: The famous Maritzburg trial was an illustration of some of the subtle

methods used. The enemy as usual had thought that he had crushed M.K. in Zimbabwe. The

subsequent activities in the country again proved him a liar. Among those who featured at

the Maritzburg trial were young men like Amos Lengisi, Mathews Ngcobo, and Msomi.

Like all struggles, the Zimbabwe operations were a school of revolution to the the M.K. cadres.

They were not only baptised but were also able to gauge the tactics of the enemy, his weak

and strong points. They were also able to observe their own shortcomings and were able to

analyse why they were not successful as they had hoped. They appreciated more than ever

before the need for the political mobilization of the people and the need for a strict application of guerrilla tactics. We owe a lot to those men who crossed to Zimbabwe in 1967 and 1968. We have some of them with us at the moment and they are a great asset.

The years of struggle have steeled and hardened M.K. Dealing with a brutal, sadistic and perfidious enemy which is well supported by imperialism, M.K. men have realised the need for organisation and are fully conscious of their historical duty.

On the 10th Anniversary of its formation, M.K. wants to remind its members both inside and outside of the immense responsibility history has imposed on them. The leaders of M.K., men like Mandela, Mhlaba, Mkwazi and Mlangeni have shown the road to sacrifice. No force on earth must stop us. James April, the most recent cadre to be arrested in South Africa, claimed in court when charged, that the Black man must get his freedom and that the ANC can never be destroyed! We guarantee this!

AMANDLA NGAWETHU!
MAATLA KE ARONA!
POWER TO THE PEOPLE!