

6.5.70.

INFORMANT 1: SIMELANE SIMELANE (Chief).

AGE : 52

REGIMENT : MASOTJENI

AREA :

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM : Father's senior brother - MHHONONO

INFORMANT 2 : JOZI SIMELANE

REGIMENT : MALINDANE

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM : Mother and Grandparents.

The first king of the SIMELANE's was SIMELANE. He begot LANGA. LANGA's son was NTJINGILA, whose son was NSIBANDE I. NSIBANDE begot MABONYA, whose son was BHOZONGO. BHOZONGO begot NTJINGILA II, whose son was SIMELANE II.

Our Customs : Our dead customarily were cremated and not buried in those days. The only kings of ours to be buried were BOZONGO and NTJINGILA II. LOJIBA and SOMNJALOSE (both Simelane women), the mothers of SOMHLOLO, were sisters to NSIBANDE; they came after him. LOJIBA was the mother of SOMHLOLO, but SOMNJALOSE was barren. So the Simelanes came here following our daughter, (mother of Somhlolo) and king MBANDENI received us warmly (as his in-laws), and gave us a place. Good relations have since then been maintained between us and the Swazi, so much so that even I myself am son of MBANDENI's daughter who herself was born of a Simelane princess. Our King viz. NTJINGILA II (now late) reigned side by side with King MAFLOKOHLA.

QUESTION A.

When did the Simelane's come to be in this area, or have they always been here?

I don't know the year, but it was during the wars in this country.

QUESTION B.

Did the Simelane's come here when the Swazi kings were in Shiselweni or when they were in Mdimba?

We came here when the Swazi King was in Shiselweni, and then he moved to Zombode near the Mdimba when we arrived at Shiselweni. NDUNGUNYE was the Swazi King who married LOJIBA Simelane and SOMNJALOSE. We followed him because we knew he would give us protection, having married our daughter.

QUESTION C.

When the Swazi were still at Shiselweni were the Simelanes completely independent of them or were they under Swazi control?

We were not under them, because we were still in Zululand then.

QUESTION D.

When did the Simelanes come under Swazi control?

This was when we were persecuted and the Swazis were already here and we felt we would find peace among them - I don't remember the year when we came.

QUESTION E.

When you came here you came under the Swazi?

Yes, when we arrived we asked for protection and asked to be the Swazi King's subjects.

SIMELANE SIMELANE cont.....

QUESTION E.

What clans did you find in this area?

I can't say, except that when we came we regarded everyone as a DLAMINI.

QUESTION G.

Do you know anything about the MASEKO's?

These came here before us, otherwise they are our brothers. It's just that they came here before our daughter, not married to the Swazi King. They are also Simelanes in fact. When they arrived here they passed on to MANKALANA district near the Usutu River, and settled there.

QUESTION H?

Which clans came and settled in this area after the Simelanes had been there?

After us there came, because they liked us (we are their own people) the MANGOs, MASUKUS and NTJAKALAS.

QUESTION I.

Can you tell us something about the Queen-Mother and SOMNJALOSE SIMELANE?

Somnjalose and NSIBANDE's mother was Miss NDLANGAMNDLA in Zululand. The NDLANGAMNDLA came on their own to Shiselweni and long before us, and we found them ^{there} with SOMQUBU their king.

QUESTION J.

Was SOMNJALOSE regarded as a great queen, or a good or a bad one?

As her relative I can't say know that she was bad, but her in-laws may know this better as she stayed with them.

QUESTION K.

She's supposed to have been Queen-mother for a long time. Did she live for a long time?

Yes she reigned for a long time.

QUESTION L.

Do you know why Somhlolo left Shiselweni and went to the north?

He felt that he might be attacked by the Zulus as these were fighting in Zululand, not very far from Shiselweni.

QUESTION M.

Did Somhlolo go straight up there all in one journey, or did he stop at various places and wait for a little while.

He stopped at various places and then proceeded.

QUESTION N.

Can you tell us the names of the places he stopped at?

He started from ETJENI-la-NGWANE, after leaving Shiselweni and stopped again at ZOMBODE. Then he proceeded to LOBAMBA (SOMJALOSE's kraal).

QUESTION O.

Are there any famous Simelane's who are still remembered?

Yes- these were those who went to stay at Lobamba Royal Kraal in the service of the King, and were found to possess a strong medicine for doctoring the army. This was after we had come to this place. These men were taken by the Swazis and given a place (ZANDONDO) where they stayed and are still there for the purpose of doctoring the army.

QUESTION P.

When did they start to doctor the army?

I don't remember the year because our people didn't tell the time by years as we do now.

SIMELANE SIMELANE cont....

QUESTION Q.

When did these doctors of the army go to stay at Lobamba for the first time?

It was during MBANDZENI's reign, and right through MAKLOKOHLA's reign. They were liked by the Swazi King; he gave them a place but they are still under Chief Simelane at NTJINGILA (i.e. the headquarters of the Simelanes in Shiselweni).

QUESTION R.

Tell me about Zulu raids from Zululand into Swaziland. Did the Simelanes ever defend Swaziland?

When we came here the Swazi King gave us this place and we settled. The King's idea in placing us here was to keep out these raids because he knew we were strong warriors. And so it happened that when the Zulus raided Swaziland they (also knowing us to be strong) avoided us and came into Swaziland through NHLANGANO instead of past us here. The Zulu army then proceeded from NHLANGANO through MTHAMBAMA to LUBUYA, where it attacked and nearly wiped out the Swazis - leaving us untouched for fear of us.

QUESTION S.

Tell me the route the Zulus used when they came in?

I cannot remember, but when they realised that they could not go past here for fear of us they came in through EDUMBE to MAHAMBABA and from there across the MKHONDO river, finally to MTHAMBABA, where they found the Swazis hiding in caves at LUBUYA. It is in this battle that such warriors as Prince NDLALUDZAKE and some Simelanes, such as my father MBIKO died. These received news of the fighting and quickly went there to fight on the side of the Swazis. The Zulus then retreated and fled. These few Simelanes men went on their own to ~~xi~~ fight in the Battle of Lubuya, not sent by the King at all. Our men went to fight in order to make sure the Zulus were conquered so that they might have no more opportunity to come near us if they conquered the Swazi.

QUESTION T.

Who were the main clans that fought at Lubuya?

These were the Simelanes from NTJINGILA here, and they went to help the Swazis and MAMBAS.

QUESTION U.

At this time were they all part of the King's regiment or did they have separate regiments?

They were regiments of the one king, but they were commanded by different chiefs i.e. chiefs of their own clan.

QUESTION V.

At the present time which clans are around this area?

I think the Swazis will know these clans better than us because we ~~x~~ came after the Swazis had been here.

QUESTION W.

While still in Zululand which area did the Simelanes occupy?

Empangeni.

QUESTION X.

When the Simelane left Empangeni did they come straight here or did they stop somewhere?

SIMELANE SIMELANE cont....

We stopped on the other side of the Pongola river when we came, and settled there for some time. It is here that the army found us and our King MABONYA died during the fighting. From there we came to the Swazi following our sister (Queen Mother), MAQALA carrying little BOZONGO on her back.

QUESTION Y.

Do you know anything about NDUNGUYE?

I know nothing - the Swazis will know.

QUESTION Z.

Do you know anything about the other children of SOMJMOSE?

No, I know only about King Somhlolo.

QUESTION A1.

Have you heard of a man or a prince called MAGWEGWE or NGWEKAZI?

no.

QUESTION B1.

Do you know anything about a son of Somhlolo called SIGWEGWE?

I've heard that Somhlolo had a son SIGWEGWE, but no more than that.

QUESTION C1.

Could you tell anything about FOKOTA, the son of Somhlolo?

This was Prince FOKOTA; his other name was JOJO and he was father of Prince MAKHAHLELEKA. My mother was MAKHAHLELEKA's daughter. FOKOTA was not killed because of a dispute but because instead of mourning the death of King MSWATI he came into the cattle kraal and danced to a song, after which he came out and walked away in anger. This frightened the Royal Family; they thought he was going away to send an army to destroy them. So they decided to forstall him by tracking him and killing him before he could send his army.

QUESTION D1.

Were there any other princes involved in this?

- - - -? (1)

QUESTION E1.

Where was Fokota living at this time?

He lived at MAHAMBBA kraal under the care of King MSWATI's body-guard and induna called MSHENGU.

QUESTION F1.

Did any other clans or princes get into trouble because of FOKOTI?

I never heard of any.

QUESTION G1.

Can you tell me anything about MALAMBULE?

He was a Swazi, so I don't know about him.

QUESTION H1.

MALUNGE?

Malunge was MBANDZENI's son.

(1) Reply here was unclear as several people were speaking at once.

SIMELANE SIMELANE cont....

QUESTION I1.

Were there any Sotho chiefs when the Swazis were in Shiselweni - have you ever heard of a man called MOYENI?

I don't know but I've heard it said that there were Basutos in the MDIMBA area.

QUESTION J1.

When the Swazis were in Shiselweni and the Simelane were here how far north did the Swazi control?

They controlled as far as HHULU beyond Baberton where King LODLONGO (of Baberton) reigned, a white man, and in the direction of MANKAYANE, as far as the USUTU River, which formed the boundary.

QUESTION K1.

Which were the clans under the Swaziking, Sobhuza, at the time?

I don't know, but there were the MASEKOs in charge of the area at Mankayana as far as the Usutu River, and these came under the Swazis when the Swazis went there.

QUESTION L1.

Do you know how the NTSHANGASE people came to be where they are?

I do not know.

QUESTION M1.

When the Simelanes were here what were their relations with the Maseko?

There were good relations between us^t, but there was no particularly binding force between us.

QUESTION N1.

What was the name of the Maseko chief when the Simelanes came into this area?

I don't know.

QUESTION O1.

Do you know anything about Somhlolos son KOPOLO?

I know that he was my uncle, but I don't know anything too bad about him.

QUESTION P1.

What about MBOVANE FAKUDZE?

He was a big induna at Lobamba during Somjalose's reign.

QUESTION Q1.

Do you know anything about SANDHLANA ZWANE?

He was the King's induna at the LUDZIBZINI royal kraal.

QUESTION R1.

Do you know how he died?

No.

QUESTION S1.

Do you know why KOPOLO was forced to leave Swaziland?

No, I don't know how or why he left Swaziland.

SIMELANE SIMELANE cont....

QUESTION T1.

Do you know anything about MMEMEZI?

He was prince of SITJENI.

QUESTION U1.

What was the name of the Zulu chief who forced Somhlolo to leave?

Idon't remember.

QUESTION V1.

Who was the mother of NTJINGILA?

The mother of NTJINGILA II was daughter of a prince at NYAKENI.

QUESTION W1.

Was there ever a dispute between the Simelane and the other people around here?

No, because the people around always came to us for protection during attacks. We were strong because we had our own king.

QUESTION X1.

Did any other Simelane ~~woman~~ woman become mother to a Swazi king besides Somjalose?

There was only one other, mother of prince MASUMPE, and she was MAHLOKOHLA's wife.

QUESTION Y1.

Do you know anything about La-MGANGENI?

No.

QUESTION Z1.

Did you ever hear of a chief called NYAMAYENJA who lived near the source of the MKONDO River?

I don't know much about him but he is a chief and has his kraal near Piet Retief.

QUESTION A2.

Do you know anything about LANGABILALELE?

I don't know him here in Swaziland, but I have known the ~~XX~~ LANGALIBALELE people in Zululand.

QUESTION B2.

Have you ever heard of a big Basuto chief during Somhlolo's reign called MGIZA?

No.

QUESTION C2.

Do you know anything about how DINGANE was killed?

He was killed by MHLANGANO after Shaka had been killed, and now there was rivalry between them as to whom would be king.

QUESTION D2.

Do you know anything about NDUNGUNYE?

I have heard that NDUNGUNYE was a famous warrior but his mother persuaded him to abandon his war activities no matter how popular these activities were making him.

SIMELANE SIMELANE cont...

QUESTION E2.

What was Ndungunye's kraal called.

I don't know.

QUESTION F2.

Did the Simelanes fight very often to defend this area?

No, we didn't have to fight for this area because we were given it by the King.

Question G2.

Tell me about NCOLOTJENI NDWANDWE.

I don't know anything besides that he was a Ndwandwe near Hluti.

QUESTION H2.

Tell me about THANDILE?

I know nothing.

QUESTION I2.

When the Simelanes were placed here was it for any particular reason?

No.

QUESTION J2 .

Are there many Simelanes in Zululand?

Yes, very very many. They still occupy such areas as NKALANANENI, Utrecht etc. under chiefs, and are a very big clan.

QUESTION K2.

Are there any famous Simelane men on the King's council?

Well known ~~men~~ Simelanes are myself and those men at ZANDONDO.

QUESTION L2.

Have the Simelanes ~~x~~ in the past ever had any dispute i.e. during the reigns of Somhlolo or Mswati or Mbandzeni, over who ~~x~~ was to be the chief?

No they never had any.

QUESTION M2.

Can you tell me about the people under Somquba?

I don't know the names of these but they were there.

QUESTION N2.

What was their relationship with the NKAMBULES?

I don't know about these.

QUESTION O2.

What about ~~their~~ neighbours?
your

The Mamba, the people of LAVUMISA, the MNGOMEZULU under THEKWANE, the people of SIKHOTHENI under NDWANDWE, the NSIBANE, the MAMBAS, MDLULI and the KHUMALO and finally the DLAMINIS - these are the Simelanes neighbours

QUESTION P2.

Were the Mambas here before the Simelanes.

Yes we found them and the Mdluli here. They arrived with the Swazi, they and the NSIBANDE.

SIMELANE SIMELANE.

