

Umlazana kaManzini wakwaZungu kwelaseMakhwabi,
ebaQulusini, April 1902 (towards the end of the `Anglo-Boer´ War):

„Mlazana, ... was (of the age-regiment) iNgobamakhosi“ the almost 80-year old granddaughter, Ndindi kaMagququmela kaMlazana wakwaZungu, recounts: „Troops of Boers that used to befall and loot the region of KwaMthashana, eMakhwabi up to eMahloni and eNtabamhlophe those years, were reported to being once more on their tour.

“Mlazana refused this time to run for his life - as everybody used to on such occasions - (He told everybody, he would not go this time) to hide in the gorges and caves (at KwaMatshekazi) anymore.

“... He - a veteran of the Battle of Hlobane - with scars and splinters of bullets in his limbs - having meanwhile lost eye-sight (resulting from being wounded), leaning on a stick for support - called in dismay:

˘ Sengwayo! ... No! ... No! No! Never again!
How long should this still carry on?
Being hunted for, haunted at, pursued!
What wrong had we done?
No! I´m not running away! No longer!
I´m not going to hide; not in the caves. No longer!
Not a bit shall I ever move from here! ...
Cetshwayo!´

“They arrived. The Boers! Armed.
They harassed him,
insulted him,
illtreated him,
pushed and dragged him all over the yard,
tortured him,
stuck and gouged his eyes out,
slain him and cut his head off,
tore his body into pieces,
then they skewered parts of his body and pinned them
on the poles at the cattle-kraal,
then they threw parts of his body into the grain-stores
- some in the drinking-water down the stream iNgulana.

“When the rest returned from their hiding-place, they found the homestead in ruins - having been devastated. The cattle had been driven away. A few of the remainder lied maimed, bleeding and flinching all over the yard; some were already dead. ... Blood ... blood everywhere! ... (Actually the homestead looked like) a battle-field after everything that had not fled for life had been butchered so cruelly. A nasty scene! One shivers over it up to this day!”

This Zungu clan of “KwaBamb´elentulo” on the banks of iNgulana (today called “Balladonespruit”) , civilians - “non-combatant peasants” - were to see yet more havoc and endure severe losses as the “Anglo-Boer War” swept across.

Ben Khumalo-Seegelken: “Umlando”, on-going research, 1996.