

iMpi yakwaMthashana

ziyisithupha kuMbasa kowe-1902 [06.04.1902]

nguBheni wakwaKhumalo eBaQulusini [nguDkt uBen Khumalo-Seeigelken]

NgoEphrili 1902 yayisiya ngasekupheleni impi yamaBhunu namaNgisi eyayilokhu iqalé ngoOkthoba 1899 ilwiwa. Nokho-ke kwakusekhona amaviyo amaBhunu ayesahlomile “ehla enyuka nezwe”, kanti-ke futhi amaNgisi “kwase kuphete wona” emadolobhanyaneni amaBhunu lapha koFilidi nakoPiteltifu (Vryheid/Piet Retief). Abaziyo bathi: “UZulu-ke yena kodwa wayengayinaké kwakuyaphi nje le ngxabano yabamhlophe. Kwakusenhla nezwe nje-ke, eBaQulusini, lapho noZulu wayeseze waholekela khona empini.”

NgoEphrili 1902 uGeneral Louis Botha wathi ayihlome eyamaBhunu ihlasele eBaQulusini - phakathi kwaseFilidi, eTrehe (= `Utrecht`) nasePiteltifu -, ithungele imizi, ithumbe imfuyo. Wasukela phezulu uField Cornet J. Potgieter (“uJan Mes”) waseplazini i-“Vrede” phezu kweHlobani (Hlobane), wawahola amaviyo amaBhunu ehla enyuka nelasebaQulusini, eshisa imizi namasimu nezinqolobane, edlule nezinkomo. Kwavalwa ngehlahla. Izinkomo aqale azithuthezela emadlelweni asezansi nezintaba zaseMakhwabi, eNdomuka nakwaMthashana, emaplazini i-“Gerust” ne-“Bedrog”, ngaphambi kokuba azedlulisele emazibukweni eMbizankulu, emaplazini i-“Bloemendal” ne-“Holkrans”.

Bezama ukuzivikela, bahlangana ngasese abaQulusi mhla ka-6 kuMeyi 1902, baphuma beholwa nguSikhobobo kaMabhabakazana wakwaSibiya, beqondé kwaMthashana. Bafike balizungeza idlangala lamabutho amaBhunu, behlosé ukuwajuma. Ngephutha omunye wabo washeshe waqhumisa isibhamu. Avuka agxumela ezibhanyini zawo amaBhunu; kwanuka umsizi ngomnyama!

Zibalelwa emakhulwini amabili izinsizwa zabaQulusi ezasala lapho; emaBhunwini-ke khona kwavalwa ngehlahla, kwabulawa angamashumi amahlanu nesithupha, kwathi amathathu asindayo aqhutshwa asiwa kuMantshi uShepstone (iNgisi) eFilidi, yawagweba, **aboshwa**. AbaQulusi babuya cishe nayo yonke imfuyo yabo eyayikade isithunjwé ngamaBhunu ngezikhali - izinkulungwane ezine (4.000) zezinkomo!

(Funda: T.V. Bulpin: “NATAL and the ZULU COUNTRY”, Cape Town, 1966;
“Battlefields Route”, a tourist guide, undated;
Ben Khumalo-Seeigelken: “UMLANDO”, umsebenzi osaqhubekayo;
>> iMpi yakwaMthashana [1902].

Ben Khumalo-Seeigelken
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