

## Omugulu-gOmbashe

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10 guerrilla fighters inside the country, despite the fact that the men were poorly equipped. The first task of these commandos was to recruit and train the SWAPO members, as well as to deploy guerrilla tactics and capture weapons from the enemy. The first group, known as "G1", was armed only with the two PPSH sub-machine guns and two TT-pistols I had obtained in 1963 from the Algerian Government, and with hunting knives. This group was led by John Otto Nankudhu (Koshuanda), Commander of the Commandos, and consisted



PLAN's Commander-in-Chief, Dr Sam Nujoma, and SWAPO Secretary for Defence, the late Peter Nanyemba

of Simeon Linekela Namuandi (Shiuajanga), Chief Shixungileni (Kambo), deputy; of the Reconnaissance; James Patrick Israel Iyambo Hamukuaja Angula (Lungada), reconnoitre and secretary; Messah Victory (Sadrage).

On 4 March 1965, G1 left on their first mission, accompanied by Comrades Tobias Hainjeko and Peter Nanyemba (who was then SWAPO Representative in Tanzania). From the Kongwa training base they travelled nearly 1000 km to Mbeya (Tanzania) at the borders with Zambia, where they stored their weapons.

From Mbeya, Comrades Hainjeko and Nankudhu then proceeded alone, crossing the border 30 kilometers into Zambia, to the village of Nakonde. There they contacted Mr. Shikombe, a member of the UNIP and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, who was also known to them from their first journey from South West Africa to Tanganyika. Mr Shi-kombe

extended a warm welcome, and later transported their weapons from Nankonde to Lusaka (1100 kilometres), and then to the border between Zambia and South West Africa in the Caprivi Strip region. Meanwhile, G1 travelled from Mbeya to Lusaka and on to the border with Zambia and South West Africa. At the border they were given the two PPSH sub-machine guns and two 7.6 mm TT pistols by Comrade Peter Nanyemba. Nanyemba and Hainjeko remained behind.

After G1 received their weapons at the borders, they proceeded to Sesheke (Zambia) and crossed, at great risk, into Katima Mulilo in the far eastern Caprivi Strip. They then travelled back into Zambia to cross the Cuando River into Angola, and made



Commander Wilbard Tashiya Nakada, who was instrumental in opening and setting up the north-western front in southern Angola.

their way into the north western corner of South West Africa into the Mbukushu area. They went to the house of a certain SWAPO member who wholeheartedly welcomed them. The next day, he took some of them to Andara Roman Catholic Mission where they bought three bicycles.

While G1 were in the Mbukushu area, they split up into two sub-groups. The reconnaissance sub-group, consisting of Messah Victory Shiuajanga, Patrick Iyambo (Lungada) and Nelson Kavela Sadrage, together proceeded to cross the Kavango River into Kavango district heading west for Rundu, and then further north-west towards Ovamboland. They headed to the homestead of Comrade Eliaser Tuhadeleni (Kaxumba ka Ndola) at Endola in Uukuanjama district, which was their assembling point. On their way to the assembling point, their weapons were concealed in suitcases at the backs of their bicycles. The next day, the second section which had remained behind in Mbukushu area, armed only with pistols, followed on foot. They spent four weeks on the journey before they arrived at the homestead of Comrade Eliaser Tuhadeleni Kaxumba, where they found their fellow combatants waiting for them. They had fruitful discussions with Comrade Kaxumba, who in turn informed other SWAPO leaders such as Comrades Herman Toivo Ya Toivo, Josef Matheus (Jo'burg), Erastus Mbumba, Lot Homateni, Lamek Iithete and many others, of their presence in the country. All of them paid them a visit, including Comrade Ben Amathila from Walvis Bay.

After their consultations with SWAPO leadership, the group then split up again for political mobilization. Patrick Iyambo (Lungada) and Simeon Shixungileni were assigned to go to Okalongo district and work with Comrade Natanael Lot Homateni, while Nelson Kavela went to work with Comrade Jonas Nashivela at Onakaolo in Ongenga district.

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## COMMEMORATING HEROES DAY



The Agricultural Bank of Namibia salutes the Heroes and Heroines whose blood waters our Freedom. On this day, 26<sup>th</sup> August 2010, the Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Agribank, joins the Namibian Nation in commemorating the fallen heroes and heroines of the land of the brave.

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