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Johnson Dladla - "Jackson"

We first met at a flat in Hillbrow in about Sept. 1963 - through R. E. with "Jack". Had brief talk then - I was introduced to them as the "main action people". Jackson I remember explained how charges could be laid to demolish a bridge.

Thereafter met again on initial Reg. Cmtes - at R.W. and others and very regularly from Nov/Dec: '63 through till July '64 at Action Cmtes meetings. As with other Africans I always picked him up for meetings, specially those at D.H. and latterly again at R.W. and again dropped him at station. He was good at keeping action appointments. Sometimes made his own way to D.H.. Know me only as "Mark" and I knew him only as "Jackson", though D.H. told me his name just before he left..

During early part of 1964, he worked as garden boy for D.H. at Emarentia house - had 2-3 meetings there over lunch on Saturday. P.M. D.H. was only contact with him - know each other well. I never met him outside Action Cmtes once cmtes reconstituted.

By the time I met him it was taken for granted that he was in charge of "township action" and had been "trained".

NOTE (It was a basic policy that there would never be mixed parties going out on jobs. This was primarily a security precaution as cars with whites and non-whites invariably searched at road blocks. This always in force after Dec. 1962).

Before Irene-Angus similar charges made up (by D.H. who also delivered them to Jackson) for Jackson's use in townships. At meetings we exchanged notes on position targets and he brought full reports specially re Dube site.

He was meant to go out simultaneously but reported that rain had stopped first attempt. Then he had gone out but wires had snapped

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under rolls and training had not gone far enough to explain how to rejoin without a pair of pliers (apparently very early on before my time Alister had been out and wires had broken- he joined them together again by tying a head knot in the insulated part of the wires)

Eventually Jackson did go out, much to everybody's surprise, though D.H. said he had been told that that was the night. In his report Jackson said he had gone with his two members- someone had passed by while they were busy (about 7.p.m. the night before the blast) and they had thrown stones at him and "he ran away".

Jackson was at the meetings at which Irene, Gerniston and Nigel jobs discussed and reported on. After D.H. left his house met at R.W. - but don't think that Jackson knew much or anything about the thermite plan. For couple of weeks before D.H. left at end of June we had no official meetings and I did not see Jackson for about month before arrest - R.M. was trying to contact him - Kate taught some night school at ----- where Jackson studied.

Discussion on Action was usually purely a practical level i.e. training, organisation, targets, jobs etc - but I remember one occasion on which R.W. and self raised question of general efficacy of our actions questioning the value of it and also asking Jackson precisely about the role of whites in the "struggle". D.H. took up cudgils against our doubts saying that basic need was really to ensure that some, however, few, people were trained in this type of work. Jackson replied, agreeing that he really saw no hope for active white participation in the "real struggle", but that our present activities were necessary and valuable.

I was once told that he had been involved in ANC Youth - but his pronouncement (very few) showed strong PAC sympathies. He was none-the-less always very friendly and genuinely so at all times - cheerful and tough.

Later in 1963 when R.W. and self reported on the Wade affair (separate note later), Jackson happily volunteered to "rob him out" if there was any trouble. His offer was never followed up but he was quite capable of doing so.

More recently after Geraldston job - he asked specifically to be armed saying he was not prepared to go out on a job unless properly armed. D.H. agreed - R.W. and self not to - but decided that this would not be put into practice unless full training first - was some discussion re getting arms - R.E. said co. had two revolvers, held by F.P. - and R.W. was to do training. This is probably where J.L.I.'s application for licence came in.

Another frequent demand from Jackson was for transport. He had apparently been given a scooter (bought by Co.) at some stage prior to my joining, but this was no longer in running order and I never heard any report of his having need for it. At C.Town meeting (Dec 1963) general need for transport was discussed and it was decided that one of prime fund-raising projects in jobs would be to finance purchase of scooter. C.T. promised to help if necessary. Such money was obviously not forthcoming and D.H. eventually collected Jackson's scooter and brought it into town, arrangements being that R.M. would try to fix it himself. He did not have time to do much in this regard and last suggestion was that scooter be sold as scrap and another bought if possible. (Don't know where scooter is now - think it was kept at R.M.'s but apparently Jackson told cops that he thought R.M. and H.M. had taken the same scooter when they went to Beckenhamland. But cops know that R.M. left on his own motor bike.

D.H. said before he left that Jackson had now got a job - a photographic assistant in town. He had originally lost his job because of attending Co. meeting in C.T. and was given about £10 a month thereafter to keep him going while he looked for new job. This continued for some months and gardening job was something more than a blind.