

# HEROES OF OUR REVOLUTION

Two fellow combatants relate the story of Marcus Motaung, Simon Mogoerane and Jerry Mosololi

On June 9 five years ago the Botha regime's hangman terminated the lives of three young revolutionaries of our country: Marcus Motaung, Simon Mogoerane and Jerry Mosololi. At this point in our struggle it is necessary to remind ourselves what we, as members of MK, truly are by drawing inspiration from their spirit and reaffirming our vow.

In remembering them we cannot forget their outstanding contribution in the struggle for the seizure of power. Particularly because from their contribution and level



*Marcus Motaung*

of commitment we have to draw lessons and strengthen our own commitment in the face of the serious problems of enemy infiltration and the desertion of some of our combatants. Let us pick up their spears. The situation in our country demands of us, more than ever before, soldiers of the calibre of Motaung, Mogoerane and Mosololi.

## GALLANT FIGHTERS

The three gallant fighters belonged to a

unit known as G-5 whose history dates back as far as the attack on Moroka Police Station. In 1979 the unit was deployed in Soweto where it based in a dug-out. This dug-out served as their house and headquarters from which they planned and executed operations. It is from this hole that in a disciplined and organised manner they took turns conducting reconnaissance and acquiring food. Nobody left the base without reason. Every movement was purposeful and timed. And, in terms of space, the dug-out was not at all comfortable for four people.

It is from this dug-out that the lightning attack on Moroka Police Station on May 3 1979 came. What is seldom related about this attack is that as the Police Station was aflame, a group of residents from the neighbourhood gathered to listen to the unit commissar addressing them about the importance and relevance of the operation, while the other members of the unit took positions nearby, covering the brief gathering. Soon thereafter the unit disappeared into thin air.

An attack successfully carried out in this manner brought real excitement and strengthened the bond of unity, comradeship and trust. The uncomfortable conditions of the dug-out became more homely. Soon thereafter the unit was to experience some problems, the most serious being the brief arrest of Marcus Motaung. He had gone out to collect pamphlets from a contact whom they had assigned a task of reproducing. On his way back he met police and was arrested. Back at base the unit became worried when Marcus failed to appear at the expected time, but decided to stay ready and fight it out from their base if he had deserted and sold them out.

Owing to his calm, he managed to pull wool over the eyes of the colonel on duty at Protea Police station. Marcus pretended an innocent student who had been

given the pamphlets by one old man. He was released and later joined the group which, and rightly so, doubted his story. He proved himself in action when G-5 attacked the Orlando Police station.



*Simon Mogoerane*

It is also these courageous combatants of our army, together with the likes of Nicky 'Ntsizwa' Hlongwane, who introduced other heroes of our revolution like Gordon Dikebu (the lion of Chiawelo), Theophilus Dlodlo (Viva Zenqwe), Anthony Tsotsobe to action through attacks such as the one against the Boyseens Police Station.

At the time of their arrest Marcus was the co-ordinator of two units, codenamed G-6 and G-7, which were based around Pretoria. Mogoerane was the commissar of G-6, which was commanded by Nicky 'Ntsizwa' Hlongwane. Mosololi was also in this unit. G-7 consisted, among others, of Viva Zenqwe and Phillip Mabatha who was popularly known as Kid and is presently serving 20 years on Robben Island. The two groups launched daring attacks on Wonderboom and Mabopane Police Stations and carried out many acts of sabotage of enemy installations.

Unfortunately Mogoerane and Mosololi's base was spotted by farm labourers and reported to the enemy. When the

enemy encircled the base Mogoerane had gone out on some mission and fell into the encirclement upon his return. Mosololi was found inside the base. The rest of the unit managed to escape.

### **ENCIRCLEMENT**

Marcus Motaung's arrest at Stinkwater came as a result of Lake Mpiyakhe (Moses Bafana Madoda Mbatha of 2018 Rockville, Soweto ) who bowed to advice and pressure from elements of his family and deserted G-7 and joined the enemy. He was also shot at by another traitor in Mpiyakhe's company. Such is the work of the weak ones in the struggle. They rob us of the true sons of our people.

Even when they were facing death in the hands of the enemy, these three heroes defied it and denied the enemy information he did not have, thus saving other comrades. We who knew them and worked with them say their families, relatives and friends must remain proud



*Jerry Mosololi*

for having produced such heroes for the South African revolution. For us their deeds shall remain a deep source of inspiration until the ideals they cherished have been brought to fruition.