

# A Soldier of our People's Army

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In this article we shall try to put across what we think a soldier of Umkhonto we Sizwe should be and also what a soldier of the people's army is as portrayed by the soldiers of MK in practice.

In the first place a combatant of our People's Army is a product of the South African situation. He or she is a son or daughter of the oppressed masses of our people or son or daughter of the privileged few who has rejected the privileges which come from a system which feeds on the blood of innocent people and became a democrat.

Secondly an MK combatant is moulded and produced by the African National Congress and its allies. Continuous and purposeful political work plays an important role in the MK cadre's life and in building up high morale, the willingness to carry out orders, being staunch in battle and ready to fight the enemy to the last. He accepts that political authority of the ANC and its allies is above that of the military authority of Umkhonto we Sizwe. In fact he is first and foremost a member and activist of the ANC.

He belongs to an army which is defending a just cause and fighting for freedom and national independence and for the liberation of other peoples from racist aggression. If the cadre accepts and understands these ideals of the army which themselves derive from the policies and programmes of the liberation movement, this breeds in him a high awareness of duty, conscious discipline, a sense for good organisation, heroism in battle and dedication to the cause of freedom.

## PEOPLE'S LEADER

Both in the rear and inside the country the African National Congress and its allies should appear as a single fighting, mobilising and guiding force. The cadres, by word and deed, should strengthen the people's morale and lead them

to perform military and political feats of a very high quality.

The ANC and its allies should be the great leader, organiser and general of the South African people during the war. It should channel the whole force of the oppressed community, the whole of the people's energy, their determination, tenacity and powerful will towards the single goal of smashing the racist regime. In this important task the MK cadre is central as the instrument to bring about success. He is the generator of high morale amongst the people. He is conscious of the words of V.I. Lenin:

"... in the final analysis, victory in any war depends on the spirit animating the masses that spill their own blood on the field of battle."

The relation between soldiers and officers are based on mutual respect and soldiers take the orders from officers as commands of the people.

### ...NO SURRENDER

The spirit of no-surrender is a hallmark of the MK cadre. We meet this spirit in the attitude of Comrades Vuyisile Mini, Zinakile Mkhamba and Wilson Khayinga who went to the gallows singing "Nants' indod' emnyama Verwoerd". It is no less in the attitude of Comrade Solomon Mahlangu who walked tall to the gallows and said: "My blood will nourish the tree which will bear the fruits of freedom."

This spirit raises its head again in the Silverton Operation and in Matela where in spite of odds being against them, our comrades registered our fighting tradition by inflicting heavy casualties on the racist enemy.

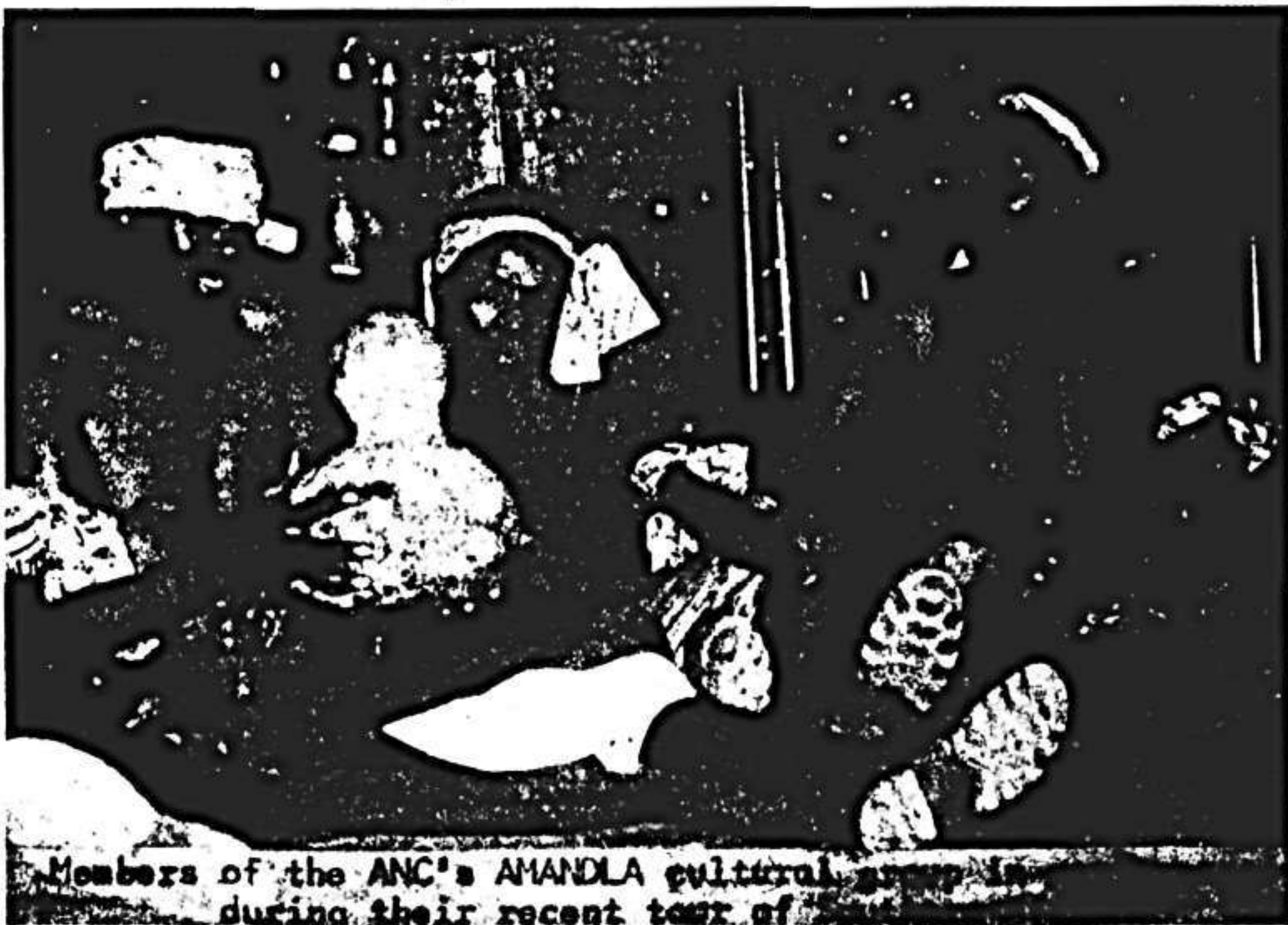
It reminds us of the Derdepoort encounter where although the enemy had four hours advantage to encircle our comrades after a traitor, Paulos Makgaga, had given them away; the dauntless soldiers of MK broke the encirclement with the enemy suffering great losses. It was also in Chiawelo where Gordon Dikebu fought like a lion, exhibiting great courage of a people's soldier and the spirit of no-surrender. A great deal of sense of duty and determination was displayed by one of our comrades in the Eastern front during the operations in Zimbabwe during 1967, who when seeing that he was hurt, asked his comrades to give him a light-machine gun and ammunition so that he may cover them in their retreat. The comrades involved in the SASOL operation flaunted outstanding valour when

on their way to the target one of their cars capsized but they could not be deterred. Guided by conscious discipline, they understood that an order had been issued and had to be fulfilled. They then checked one another and found that none was seriously injured. Thereafter they got into the remaining car, reached their destination and carried out their task as planned.

What could be more daring and courageous than the attack on the highly secured Voortrekkerhoogte military base? This is literally going into the lion's den to capture its cubs. The mettlesome "Pietermaritzburg 11" (James Mange's group) who challenged the whole state machinery when in fact they were in its claws displayed courage of the first order. The comrades who attacked the police in Butterworth, the road-block in Elliot and a pitch battle in Barkley East show a high level of gallantry and determination.

### CULTURE AND ARTS

The MK cadre is a complete personality capable of great cultural feats. A great sense of duty and self-discipline has been exhibited by the **AMANDLA GROUP**. The amount of work



and preparation that goes into their cultural performances pay tribute to the character and talent of an MK cadre. Their determination to produce the best can be testified by those who had the pleasure of attending their shows during their tour of Western Europe and also of Southern Africa.

The poetry and articles that appear in the monthly journal of Umkhonto we Sizwe, **D A W N**, bear testimony to the cultural and literary abilities of an MK soldier. The posters, art-works produced by the MK art group is a clear indication of the creativity of the cadres of our People's Army.

Is it possible for anybody to call such a soldier a terrorist? If anybody does, then we must suspect his ability to understand and appreciate the fruits of human heritage called civilisation.

To you the people of **S o u t h A f r i c a** such is your army, the creator of a future based on the provisions of the Freedom Charter. It is 20 years old, yet **a c t s** as a mature, civilised and determined adult.

**FORWARD TO THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR PEOPLE'S ARMY!**

**FORWARD TO THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANC!**

**FORWARD TO THE YEAR OF UNITY IN ACTION!**

**FORWARD TO A PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT!**

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sections of our population to swell the ranks of our army. For, as the Vietnamese people say: "Every citizen a soldier and when the bandits come even the women fight."

During this proud moment, we remember all our patriots who have laid down their lives in the fight for freedom, to them we say: **Eternal Glory!** We salute our heroic leaders and comrades incarcerated in boer-fascist dungeons and pledge to indefatigably fight for their release. We salute our fellow combatants and comrades, the "Pretoria Six", who despite the threatening hand of the fascist hangman still carry their heads high as true patriots do.

To the Pretoria **m o n s t e r s** and all their henchmen and proxies we say: The hour of reckoning is fast approaching and there can be no turning back. We are uncompromisingly committed to a protracted war of liberation. Victory will be ours and the enemy will be brought to justice.

**LONG LIVE THE SPEAR OF THE NATION!**

**FORWARD TO VICTORY!**