

SIMON KOOPER (1860 -1913)

Simon Kooper was born in 1860 in Pella, a village in Northern Cape where he was a descendant of Kharakhoen, a sub tribe of Nama clan in Namibia. After the death of Piet Kooper the Chief of Kharakhoen, Simon Kooper took over the throne as the Chief of Kharakhoen. He was known as **“Captain Kooper”** where he aimed to secure a permanent settlement for his Chiefdom and fighting against German colonialism in South West Africa. Throughout his leadership he was known by his military strategies for waging guerilla wars against Germany forces (Schutztruppe) in the Germany South West Africa colony. Due to his military strategies that challenged the German forces, Captain Kooper was forced with the German colonial administration to sign a protection treaty under Governor Theodor Leutwein. The signed treaty did not stop Captain Kooper to strengthen his forces to further oppose the German colonialism. Thereby he was forced to flee into the Kalahari Desert and then to retreat into Bechuanaland, the British colony that later became Botswana. He later came back to join forces with Chief Hendrik Witbooi; the Chief of Ikhowsin , a Subtribe of Khoikhoi and descendants of Nama clan and fought together in Nama and Herero war in 1904. Even after the death of Chief Hendrik Witbooi in 1905, Captain Kooper still managed to extend his military alliance with Jacob Marengo and took the leadership of Nama Uprising against Germany colonialism. In 1906 Jacob Marengo was captured by the British troops and yet Captain Kooper continues as the leader of Nama struggles against the German colonialism. The efforts of British and German troops to capture Captain Kooper were not successful until such failure resulted into negotiation to ceasefire and hostilities. In such agreement Simon Kooper was to be paid annual pension for the rest of his life by the Germans but such agreement did not stop his supporters to still fight against the German colonialism. Captain Kooper will be remembered as the last Nama leader to fight against the German colonialism until his death on January 1913.

JACOB MARENGO (1875 -1907)

Marengo means Kings in Otjiherero; however the novel written by the German writer Uwe Timm spelled the name "Morenga" instead of "Marengo". Jacob Marengo was born to a Herero mother and Nama father in around 1875 at Vaalgras (Koichas) East of Tses. He was known for his bravery fights against German colonialism in German South West Africa (Namibia). Some of his opponents referred him as "Black Napoleon" due to his unique military techniques as he led the anti colonial resistances that brought major losses on the German side.

Marengo fought many battles since 1903 both localized wars and against the German troops (Schutztruppe). It is believed that his main base was Karas mountains and his hidden mountain fortress being the Eastern part of Great Karas Mountains/Khauxa!nas. Marengo first attacked a German Unit at /Khauxa!nas (Gugunas) on 30.08.1904 thus created great resistance war of Nama communities against Germans from 1904 to 1908/1913.

In his life time, Jacob Marengo had shaken the Germans troops by attacking the German military station in Hasuur, which forced the Germans troops to flee over the British territory. His support came from George St. Leger Lennox (a "white" known as Scotty Smith) and his military right hand was Abraham Morris and Johannes Christian and Cornelius Frederiks of the !Aman (Bethany Nama). He also joins forces with Simon Kooper and Chief Hendrik Witbooi in 1905 to lead Nama uprising against the Germans.

Jacob Marengo is remembered by the attacks he led against the Germans in Garabis, Platbeen, Gais (Geis) north of Kanus, Umeis, South of Warmbad, Narudas, Uchanaris, Narus, the upper Kareb River, Nochas and other places. In the battle of Narudas ("Robber Henrick's Place") Marengo incurred injuries and loss but he managed to hit back against Germans at Uchanaris, 60 km south east of Keetmanshoop. The Germans suffered more casualties in this fight and the Nama troops managed to recover some of their material losses suffered at Narudas war.

The first peace negotiations between Germans and Marengo (Father Johann Malinowski as mediator) were unsuccessful. The Germans renewed peace negotiations again with Jacob Marengo and Cornelius Frederiks in Khauxa!Nas with failure since the Germans attacked the Nama people during peace agreement. This made Jacob Marengo to continue his attacks against the Germans until 1906 when he surrendered to the British Cape Police; after being surrounded by Captain Bech's troops in the battle of Van Rooyvley in the Cape Colony.

Jacob Marengo was released in June 1907 by the British in the Cape Colony from Tokai prison in Cape Town and instructed to report to the Civil Commissioner at Aplington. He was ordered not to cross the border into German South West Africa. In spite of this order Marengo crossed the border at Gamsib Ravine in July 1907. In August 1907 Captain von dem Hagen organized the

German troops with the British ones in Cape Town to stop Marengo from re-uniting his forces with those of Simon Koper of the !Khara-khoen.

The collaboration of Germans and British troops managed to assassinate Jacob Marengo together with his secretary Saul Damara, his son Samuel Marengo, his nephews, Michael Marengo, Hendrich Marengo and Johannes Marengo on September 1907; under the command of Major Elliot (South African patrol) in Eenzamheed in the Cape Colony.

Compared to his outstanding intelligence and bravery fights he had put against German colonialism, Jacob Marengo had not received the required recognition.