



# We saw mischief in every order

— Cynthia Madlala

Against all the propaganda of South African racists against the ANC, I, breaking all odds, found my way to the People's Army and I do not regret that decision. Like any other average South African young woman, this propaganda affected me. Topping it was Nokonono Kave's warped stories about the raping of women and other abominable things she said about this army. But what the army has done for me is something that only the ANC and MK can do. All my fears were cast away and replaced by courage and confidence.

My first impression, as a person who left home as a student, was that what the ANC teaches you is qualitatively superior over the apartheid education system. Here was a new world where each does everything for the benefit of all and all for the good of one. Gone were the days when only the most "intelligent" earned all the attention and responsibility. This was proved when I was made commissar of my section. In the ANC responsibility goes according to political and working capabilities and not bribery and corruption.

As a young person my knowledge of an army was only confined to the activities of the SADF. Now the SADF has become the symbol of politically misguided thugs to whom the masses are targets and wild game to be shot at. The relationship that exists between our army and the neighbouring people is one of comradely understanding and trust because MK, as a product of the people, cannot and will never do harm to those very people who here act as her host while back home they are to be the bush.

## CAMP LIFE

Camp life can be difficult at first but with patience and reverence one overcomes these difficulties. The important thing is to understand the wisdom behind orders and commands. We used to rebel, quietly of course, at every command. We saw mischief out of every order. Little knowing that these are done basically for one's safety and for purposes of instilling the discipline no people's army can do without.



This is the discipline which forced one racist judge to comment that though Petros Mashigo was the youngest of the three accused in the Soekmekaar trial, his maturity and political consciousness made an adult out of him.

Political education has made me to be able to interpret correctly even the most cunning of Botha's moves. Now I feel I am of value to my people. With strong political conviction Botha's terrorists can never frighten you.



I did not know that education can go without corporal punishment, sja-

mboks and the lot. Leave the class and the instructor becomes just another comrade without the conservatism the system instills in its teachers.

Camp life also makes one understand people because here one lives with comrades from all walks of life, different characters with different backgrounds; intellectuals, peasants, workers, students, middle class, etc. Here we are, all united as countrymen and comrades fighting for a new South Africa. The coming together of old and young fills the gap left by separation from parents. The army is the mother, father, brother and sister, all at the same time.

### COMRADES FIRST

Our politics teaches that a woman is first a comrade and then a woman, not vice versa. This answers the question how young female and male comrades can stay together without the now fashionable South African controlling methods of dogs and watchmen. High political understanding serves the purpose of a watchman.

The basic thing to understand about South African propaganda is that one cannot be the problem and the solution at the same time. The South African government, being the problem, cannot at the same time be in a position to tell our people which organisation serves their interests best and which doesn't.

