

CHIWAYA WAR ECHOES



MALAWIAN ORAL HISTORIES
OF A SECOND WORLD WAR AND AFTER
collected and compiled by

MELVIN E. PAGE

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Interview 3

name: Mdala Chapuchapu
date: 8 August 1972
language: Chiyao
translator: Yusuf M. Juwayeyi
place: Old Soldiers Memorial Home, Zomba

Q: *Where is your home?*

A: Tanganyika.

Q: *Whereabouts in Tanganyika?*

A: At Tundulu.

Q: *Who is your chief?*

A: Mangochi.

Q: *Is that the name of the chief?*

A: Yes.

Q: *Who is the Native Authority?*

A: Kandulu.

Q: *What country is that? Surely it must be Malawi?*

A: No, it's in Tanganyika.

Q: *How did you join the K.A.R. here?*

A: I joined the K.A.R. here in 1918.* ...

Q: *Now, you have told me that you joined in 1918. How did it occur to you to join the K.A.R.?*

A: I wanted to fight the Germans.

Q: *What were you doing between 1914 and 1918?*

A: I was in the hands of the Germans ... [as] a sort of *mtengatenga*. ... I stayed for one year. During the second year, a battalion belonging to the English people took me. But we did nothing, so they sent us back home again. This was the time that I heard that all my young friends had enlisted [in the K.A.R.]. So I too enlisted, and we came here. ...

Q: *Did you fight in the Second World War?*

A: Yes up to the very end.

*Details of his First World War and subsequent service until 1939 have been deleted from this transcript and are found on pages 14-19 in *Chiwaya War Voices*.