

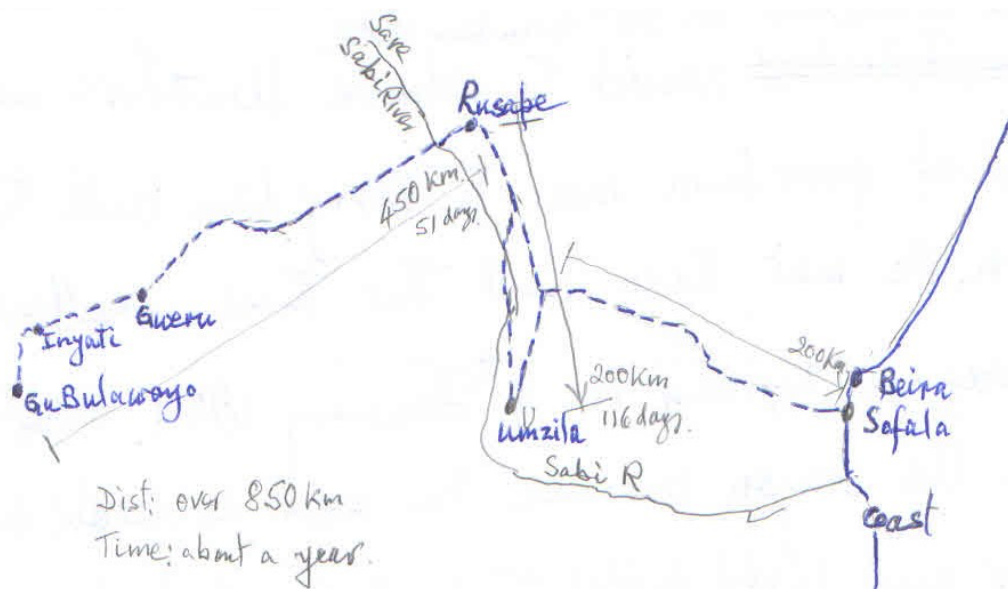
May 12

Fr KARL WEHL

11 July 1838 – 12 May 1881

Karl Wehl was born in Neustaat, Austria, and was one of the second group to come out to the Zambezi Mission. He was chosen as one of the four on the mission to Mzila's Shangaan people that left GuBulawayo on 3 June 1880 under the leadership of Augustus Law. Also in the party were Brs Francis de Sadeleer and Joseph Hedley.

After they had crossed the Sabi river, the people seemed hostile and local chiefs delayed them with their demands and they felt they could be attacked at any time. Wehl, who had a habit of walking 150 yards in front of the wagon saying his breviary, lost his way back and three days were spent searching for him. They thought he must have been killed and their own fears grew. Law decided they should abandon the wagon and proceed on foot.



David Dryden has provided this sketch. Wehl, realising he was lost, decided to return to Bulawayo. He slept in trees in fear of wild animals and later, when that was too cold, under blankets of grass. After three weeks, he met people who had pity on him and took him to their home. Eventually word of him reached a gold prospector, Robert Roxby, who came and took him to his place. He stayed there for five weeks until he heard news that de Sadeleer was on his way back to the wagon and could meet him there. He must have been guided and met de Sadeleer there on the 12th or 13th of November. He was very ill and probably already had the malaria that later killed him.

Meanwhile Law and Hedley had reached Mzila's where Law died on 25 November 1880 and Hedley, himself in bad shape, decided to try to get back to the wagon before he too succumbed to fever. Mzila gave him men to carry him back to the wagon and all three met on the way and got back to the wagon on 11 January 1881. Hedley, who was in a terrible state, stayed at the wagon while Wehl and de Sadeleer walked to Sofala to get supplies. After twenty-five days walking, they reached Sofala where they were warmly received by the commander of the fort, Captain Manuel d'Almeida. But Wehl was exhausted and suffering from cerebral malaria and died on May 11. D'Almeida made sure he was buried with great honour. De Sadeleer then had to set out and return to the wagon where he met up with Hedley and they both returned to Bulawayo with the wagon. They sent apologies and gifts to Mzila's with the promise that they would try to return one day.



12 May

11 July 1838 – 12 May 1881

Fr. Carlos WEHL

Born in Neustadt, Germany on July 11, 1838, he entered the Society of Jesus on August 23, 1856 in the Austro-Hungarian Province. He took his final vows on February 2, 1870. He was part of the second group of Jesuits who were sent to the Zambezia Mission and arrived in the Cape Colony in 1880. He did not work in Mozambique, but died in Sofala on May 12, 1881, when he went there with Brother Sadeleer for shopping.

(Catalogus Defunctorum in renata Societate Iesu ab a. 1814 ad a. 1970)