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ROH-OH-MUR-AN2

Questions for ex-Rhodesian combatants

Background info:

1. Why did you decide to emigrate? And why Rhodesia? What were your family links with Southern Rhodesia? **I was born in Bulawayo on 17/12/1950, my parents had moved from South Africa where the nationalist government had come to power.**
2. What were your family links with the UK (emigration from the UK; length of time in Rhodesia; schooling/university/profession. **We had no family links with the UK but a Ballycastle – Northern Ireland grandfather who had gone to South Africa with Baden Powell's South African Constabulary which was raised after the 2nd Boer War, enabled us to get Irish passports (Eire) which we used when the economy of Zimbabwe had collapsed by 2001 and we left to settle on the Isle of Man.**
3. Where was 'home'? **Rhodesia/Zimbabwe always, until we had to leave.**
4. When were you conscripted/join the security services? Why did you join? **I joined the BSA Police; "to develop my character", so my father suggested and I did have a wonderful experience in four years of regular service 1970-1974. I was then conscripted/underwent compulsory call-up service in the Field Reserve in various capacities until the war ended.**

As combatants:

5. What/whom did you think you were fighting for?
What values/'standards'? (Western? European? British?)
I was serving to preserve Law and Order.
6. What/whom did you think you were fighting against?
What formed your outlook?
Media/friends/music?
Was there political indoctrination/regular discussions from your commanding officers. **No.**
Political discussions with your mates? **No.**



We were trying to neutralise what we called terrorism. I now understand clearly what African liberation was about and started enquiring about it during the war but Ian Smith's, RF controlled the media and suppressed the African Nationalist message. At home, (my Father's house), I think that African Nationalists were equated with Afrikaaner Nationalists that is "bad people".

7. How much understanding did you have of the war? What were your sources of information?

How important do you think the international environment (Cold War) was in shaping your attitudes to the war/liberation struggle? **Very important. I do not remember much outside information. The South Africans held on to South West Africa in the face of an insurgency and the Americans through the South Africans dabbled in Angola and Mozambique so we thought we were in step with Western thinking despite the breakdown of the relationship with the UK.**

8. How far do you think that the war helped to create – and sustain a sense of Rhodesian identity? What other factors do you think were important? How much had you travelled outside Rhodesia? **I had visited the UK and Europe for the first time in 1976. Zipra and Zanla viewed the war as the Second Chimurenga and so did we, I think, although not for propoganda purposes.**

Construct of 'The Other':

9. How far did you differentiate between black Rhodesians and the guerrillas?

What was your relationship/contact with Rhodesian black troops?

How far did you feel it to be a tribal war? Racial war? Civil War?

Ideological war?

How far do you think this affected HOW the war was fought? **The guerrillas were "terrorists"- "mugandangas" and the black follow Policemen were comrades and many of them became good friends.**

What did you think of white immigration/immigrants (post war? Post 1965?) South Africa? **We appreciated their help but they were inferior to Pioneer stock and those born in the country. The South African Police that came and set up bases were pretty hopeless and paid the price. It was always clear to us that the South Africans main concern was South Africa.**

Leaving:

10. When did you leave Rhodesia/Zimbabwe?-**2001.**

When did you come back to the UK?-**2001**

How did you find Britain? How different did you feel from British citizens?

Why? **We settled on the Isle of Man where the Manx are proud of their close ties with the UK but most of all their independence from the UK. After five years we have passed the test and have become naturalised: British Isles (Isle of Man) British Citizens. We feel different from everyone here, although settled and happy now and make sure that we are differentiated from the South African's here because our accent leads many people to think that we are South Africans.**

What did you think of the 'end of empire'? **I think that the empire had ended long before I was born. Southern Rhodesia got responsible government in 1923.**