

Questions for ex-Rhodesian combatants

Background info:

1. Where were you born. If not in Rhodesia, why did you decide to emigrate? And why Rhodesia? What were your family links with Southern Rhodesia? What is your nationality?
2. What were your family links with the UK (emigration from the UK; length of time in Rhodesia; schooling/university/profession).
3. Where did you consider to be 'home'?
4. What were your formative experiences? (family/school/environment/peer group)
5. What did you think of white immigration/immigrants (post war? Post 1965?)
How did you view South Africa? And Afrikaner residents in Rhodesia?
6. When did you join BSAPolice or Reserve? Why did you join? What did your family think?

As combatants:

7. What/whom did you think you were fighting for?
What values/'standards'? (Western? European? British?)
8. What/whom did you think you were fighting against?
What formed your outlook?
Media/friends/music/religion?
Was there political indoctrination/regular discussions from your commanding officers?
Political discussions with your mates?

9. 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?
What did you think of your commanding officers?
What did you think of the 'protected villages' scheme?

10. 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?

11. How much importance did you (and your family) attach to African nationalism?
How far did you differentiate between black Rhodesians and the 'terrorists'?
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?
At the time why did you think the 'terrorists' were fighting? How far did you differentiate between ZIPRA/ZANLA & UANC?
How far do you think this affected HOW the war was fought?

Leaving:

12. When did you leave the BSAPolice ?
Did you leave Rhodesia/Zimbabwe?
Where did you go to ? Was this temporary or permanent?
When did you settle in the country you now live in ?
How did you find conditions and the situation of the country you settled in?
How different did you feel from the other residents? Why?
What did you think of the 'end of empire'?
With hindsight what is your view of the struggle in the 1970s ?

13. After leaving Rhodesia did you join any other Police or Military service?