



ROH-04-STA-DA2

## Questions for ex-Rhodesian combatants

### Background info:

1. I had just completed my National Service in the British Army and felt that I wanted to travel abroad. I chose Rhodesia because my eldest brother, Peter, was a member of the BSAPolice at that time and persuaded me to join too. No other family links to Rhodesia at that time. I was born in 1937 at Peshawar, which was then part of India but which is now Pakistan. My Father was in the British Gurkhas and fought in Malaya during the 2<sup>nd</sup>. World War. We left India in 1947 after it gained independence from Britain and settled in Lichfield, Staffordshire before moving to Liverpool.
2. My parents and two sisters lived outside Liverpool. Also had cousins, uncles and aunts living in England. Spent a total of forty seven (47) years in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe. From early March, 1957 to March 1981 I was a member of the BSAP and then the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP). I was transferred from Special Branch in 1981 together with all other SB personnel into what is now known as the Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO) and retired in 1994 with the rank of Director (Internal). I then acted as a consultant for the organisation for a further two years before starting up as a security consultant in commerce and industry. I later became a member of the Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU) when I was director of tours, manager of the "B" national side and then manager of the National Squad before leaving for the UK in 2003.
3. 'Home' for me was Rhodesia and then Zimbabwe for 47 years before I was forced to leave and fairly quickly for reasons I will enunciate later. Suffice it to say that my family was at risk of political harassment and I know that I would have been arrested and detained.
4. As mentioned, supra, I joined the BSAP because I was restless and needed adventure and a different life.

### As combatants:

5. I seriously believed in what Ian Douglas Smith represented and thought that I was  
  
fighting against the evils of Communism using African Nationalism as a conduit to take control of Rhodesia and that region. I believed that Great Britain and the West would or should have supported us in fighting this evil threat.
6. As mentioned above I seriously believed that we were fighting Communism and were using African Nationalism as their vehicle to overthrow the Rhodesian government. I worked very closely with my black and white colleagues and after many arrests, 'contacts' and source running I had no doubts, whatsoever, that this was the case. Regular 'briefings' took place where my superiors gave us in-depth information on the 'terrs' tactics, their

training, indoctrination and the dangers posed to the country. As far as my friends were concerned we were all fighting the same battle.

7. My information of the war was gained, mainly, from first hand experience. I Was stationed at most JOCs throughtout the country as the SB JOC officer and personally interrogated captured guerrillas and ran sources in these areas. I was involved in many follow-ups which usually led to contacts with the enemy taking place. I believe that the Cold War played a significant role in those days as Russia, The Peoples Republic of China (PRC), and its allies, were all very keen to establish a foothold in Africa, especially Rhodesia, which, if they won, would place them closer to South Africa with all its riches and minerals and vital port facilities.
8. The 'war' definitely created a sense of unity amongst Rhodesians and as a result of sanctions imposed on Rhodesia, this spirit enabled us to diversify in most areas. Clothes, previously imported, were now made locally, foodstuffs likewise, firearms and mine protected vehicles were manufactured locally. Tobacco was sold secretly at disguised tobacco auctions to most countries in the world. Likewise chrome was sold to the Russians, as was other much needed minerals. Our motor vehicles were made or put together inside Rhodesia. Knock down kits (KDKs) were sold to us by Germany, Italy, France, Japan and most British cars disappeared from the market as a result. I operated inside Mocambique clandestinely but only travelled to South Africa occasionally with the family for breaks. Only ever went back to England in 1972 to see my folks. However, I certainly made up for this after independence when I was with CIO. I travelled then to most countries in the world attending Commonwealth Security Conferences, Regional liaison meetings etc.

#### Construct of the 'other'

9. Black Rhodesian colleagues were magnificent and were equally, if not more, Determined, to eradicate the 'terr' scourge. I worked very closely with black SB personnel, RAR soldiers, Selous Scouts. BSAP Support Unit personnel and never experienced any problems. We were all as one determined to win the war. It certainly never appeared to me to be a racial or tribal war I worked with men from Matabeleland, Manicaland, Mashonaland and Fort Victoria, in fact from all over and we got on famously. In retrospect we should have capitalised more on the enmity that existed between ZANU and ZAPU but we didn't. ZAPU was trained by the Soviets whilst ZANU was trained by the PRC. ZAPU was mainly Matabele whilst ZANU was Shona and they hated each other.

As the war progressed, however, skilled emigration to South Africa and elsewhere began to have its toll on the general situation. The collapse of Mocambique in 1975 as a result of a military coup in Portugal exacerbated the escalation of the war and increased our war front to include the whole of the Mocambique border. Incursions increased significantly from Mocambique and sanctions were beginning to bite at last. It was noticeable at this stage that our black colleagues were fearful of losing the war and all its consequences

and I was asked on a number of occasions what my plans were in such an eventuality. I told them that I would stay and try and make it work.

Eventually the war did end in 1979 and independence was achieved in 1980. Sadly I observed that those black colleagues from the BSAP and SB changed and became quite vitriolic, in fact more nationalistic than ZANU. Calling ZANU members 'comrades' and 'chefs'. If they did but know they were scorned and ridiculed by the 'comrades' who considered them weak and 'sell-outs'. I must stress, however, that this only applied to a handful of former members, the majority continued in their normal way but with new masters.

I was appointed as "Liaison Officer" with ZANU and ZAPU in late 1979 when I had the opportunity to meet and work with such people as Emmerson M'Nangagwa, Rex Nhongo @ Solomon Mujuru, John Mawema, Dumiso Dabengwa and many other of their hierarchy. We established a very good, solid and sound working base which went a long way to defuse the tense situation that existed and avoided unnecessary killings and revenge beatings. I discovered that the most hardworking of ZANU/ZAPU personnel in CIO were the former combatants as they had fought and won the battle and wanted it to work. They were hardworking and I had no problems with them whatsoever.

I found the worst ones were those who had studied outside Rhodesia during the war and had not participated in the 'struggle'. They pretended to know everything and wanted to make up for missing out on the action. They were the problem and had to be dealt with harshly and efficiently. Fortunately I had the minister's support. He was Emmerson M'Nangagwa and gave me his total support which helped a great deal. It was only in 1997 that the situation began to deteriorate with the designation of white commercial farms and the awarding of large amounts of money to the 'war veterans' and from this time on the situation got worse and worse as corruption and avarice set in until you now have the current situation.

I left Zimbabwe in the year 2003 and went back to England where I now live with my wife and some of my children, who emigrated at a later stage.

I found a great change in Britain. Standards, as I knew them, had been eroded. The British Police, once powerful and internationally renowned, had been emasculated and has become little more than a 'pen pusher' force with no respect anymore.

The schooling discipline had vanished, school uniforms no longer worn, teachers manhandled. The country had become a 'nanny state'. Little respect for the armed forces. People, mainly children, had become obese and ill mannered and people, generally, appeared to have too much money to spend. Good manners had gone and the people appeared spoiled and soft with very little backbone. People appeared to be embarrassed about the British Empire and all it stood for and did nothing but apologise. Immigration should have been much tighter and asylum seekers subjected to more scrutiny before being allowed in.



Having said that living here is still very good. Food is available. Education is free and quite good. Health service is good especially for the young and elderly and other services such as free bus passes, winter allowances are a Godsend. Living in Zimbabwe today is not an option.

3 October, 2008