

Counter Revolution: Urungwe Rhodesia

During the closing years of the war against the forces of Robert Mugabe (ZANLA) and Joshua Nkomo (ZIPRA), I was involved in building popular support in North West of Rhodesia for Bishop Abel Tendekayi Muzorewa leader of the United African National Council.

The Urungwe Tribal Trust Land near Kariba was occupied by ZIPRA forces who considered it a “liberated area” under their control; civil administration had broken down, they collaborated with locals, murdered dissidents, attacked Security Forces at will, laid land mines and increasingly gained momentum with reinforcements from neighbouring Zambia and by training locals. They were a formidable enemy with an excellent intelligence network and strategy.

I was a Detective Inspector in the British South African Police (Special Branch), in command of Security Force Auxiliaries in the Urungwe, and had more than 500 men and staff under my command. We adopted a complex political, intelligence and military strategy aimed at stimulating counter-revolution in support of the historic compromise, brokered in Salisbury (Harare), between Ian Douglas Smith and the moderate United African National Council.

As part of standard Special Branch procedure I kept a detailed diary together with entries from other members of the team. I am now using these materials in the course of writing a history of a most successful counter-revolution in the Urungwe. It will, I hope, clarify numerous misunderstandings concerning the nature of the closing stages of the Bush War, and will contain details of many specific incidents, including those concerning civil aviation flights RH825 and RH827, two Viscounts downed by ZIPRA guerrillas.

Consequently, I trust that my history will be of value to those interested in the fate of Rhodesia, and to serving soldiers and policemen currently engaged in the development of effective counter insurgency strategies around the world.

I intend to publish ***Counter Revolution: Urungwe Rhodesia*** early in 2016, and will then participate in the wide-ranging discussions I hope the publication will stimulate.



The author at work on the Diary, Twin Rivers Motel, Karoi, 1978.

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