

THE TRAGEDY OF TERRORISM

Rhodesians Worldwide

INTRODUCTION

The resounding success of the majority rule elections in Zimbabwe Rhodesia in April, 1979, stripped the last vestiges of respectability from the terrorist leaders' false claims to be fighting for the country's liberation. There is now a black government in power. The only article of racial discrimination remaining on the statute book is designed to protect the rural blacks in the Tribal Trust Lands.

Tragically, between the beginning of April and the end of July, 1979, 3 149 deaths through the war were recorded within the country's borders. Of these, 1 808 were terrorists, 1 161 were black civilians and 31 were white. Security Force losses were 141.

From December, 1972, until July, 1979, 17 117 died in Zimbabwe Rhodesia as the result of the war. Terrorists killed numbered 8 965, Security Forces 886, black civilians 6 694 and white civilians 430.

In addition, hundreds more have been wounded, many maimed for life, and others abducted. The latter, black and white, men, women and children, have been dragged from their homes and missions. Many of them have been pressed into the terrorist ranks to replace heavy losses inflicted on them by contacts with the Security Forces and the increasing defections of disheartened, disillusioned cadres who managed to escape back to freedom.

An amnesty campaign was spearheaded by the Prime Minister, Bishop the Hon. A. T. Muzorewa, in July. Millions of leaflets in the three common languages were distributed to provide saturation coverage of the country. The Bishop, Ministers and MPs made countryside tours and addressed huge crowds of spectators to underline the sincerity of the offer.

The campaign had an immediate impact and among those who took advantage of it were high-ranking political commissars and sectoral commanders.

Hundreds of those who returned before and after the campaign was launched elected to join the battle against their abductors and former comrades as Security Force Auxiliaries.

As a result of their presence, schools have re-opened and dip tanks have been repaired and brought back into operation. They also contributed to the safety of voters during the April elections.

But the war continues to cost more than \$1 000 000 a day — money which is desperately needed for development. Stock theft and the spread of diseases almost eradicated before the war, are

two further manifestations of its ravages. Economic expansion has been slowed by the need for skilled manpower to participate in a war without meaning, except to a power-hungry few and their communist manipulators.

The deafening silence so eloquently highlighted by the Dean of Salisbury, The Very Reverend J. R. da Costa, when he preached at the service for those who died in the first Viscount disaster, is broken only when the Security Forces strike at terrorist bases and munitions dumps in neighbouring countries.

The dual standards of leaders of the British Commonwealth was pathetically illustrated when they sat in conference in Lusaka with a terrorist leader who had, with a chuckle in his voice, broadcast to the world that his followers were responsible for firing the Russian-made rocket that blasted the civilian aircraft out of the sky on Sunday, September 3, 1978, and following up with a massacre of survivors.

They chose to ignore that the rich assortment of food and wines served at the State banquets in their honour had been delivered by Zimbabwe Rhodesia Railways through Victoria Falls.

They also chose to ignore reports of three separate crossings of the Zambezi from Zambia into Zimbabwe Rhodesia by terrorist elements only hours after the Royal Family's departure and while the conference was still in progress. These in spite of the terrorist leaders' pledge to suspend activities until the conference was concluded.

It is a matter for their collective consciences that while they sipped, chatted and uttered their condemnations, innocent civilians were dying in a war they did not want, waged to further a political ideology they neither understood nor cared about.

They preferred not to know or recall that there are currently 32 one-party states in Africa, including their host country, Kenya and Tanzania; that there are six military dictatorships, including Nigeria; and that between 1952 and 1977, there were 42 coups d'etat on the continent and others since.

They chose, instead, to pontificate about the "defective" Constitution of Zimbabwe Rhodesia which came into being after free and fair elections in which more than 64 per cent of the population over the age of 18 years voted.

Conveniently overlooked, too, was the continuous faction fighting between terrorist bands who support one or other of the power hungry nationalist leaders — leaders who, though allegedly united under a single ideology, know that failure to triumph tribally will mean their bloody elimination if power is ever handed to any but themselves.



Communist terrorists captured after a firefight with Security Forces shortly after entering the country. They are now fighting side-by-side with their former enemies.

FREE ELECTIONS

Despite threats by the terrorist leaders to disrupt it, the five-day April election which led to black majority rule and the subsequent installation of a black-led government and President in Zimbabwe Rhodesia was a triumph for the electoral process. A total of 1 802 758 valid votes was cast, which represented 64,65 per cent of the voting population of 2,9 million. The total number of spoilt papers was 66 319, constituting only 3,55 per cent of the total poll.

Overwhelming testimony to the freedom and secrecy of the ballot came from the vast majority of the 70 internationally recognised observers registered to monitor it and the 340 international and local media representatives who were accredited to cover it.

Static polling booths throughout the country in the main centres were supplemented by mobile stations in the remote operational areas. All were open to scrutiny by the media and observers who travelled a total of 311 780 miles (501 654 km) by helicopter, light aircraft and a DC 7 and Air Zimbabwe Rhodesia Viscount, as well as by ground transport.

Zimbabwe Rhodesia was the ninth country on the continent, including Zambia, to have held elections without registering voters. Registration would have been difficult and time-consuming because of the terrorist war.

Security Force mobilisation for the elections started on April 12, and between that date and the close of polling a total 230 terrorists were killed. In the same period, 14 members of the Security Forces and seven Security Force auxiliaries died in action. The table that follows is a list of terrorist incidents, for the period of voting:

Operational Area	Polling-stations Attacked	Vehicles Assisting Voters Attacked	Land Mine Incidents	Intimidation of Voters
N. and N.E.	8	1	7	8
E.	12	2	7	10
S. and S.E.	2	8	1	4
W. and S.W.	Nil	Nil	Nil	6
Midlands	Nil	1	1	7
TOTALS	22	12	16	35*

*Includes threats by terrorists to potential voters that if they voted their families would be killed.



Typical of the turn-out at most polling booths during the April elections, these tribespeople queue happily to help elect their candidate.

The successful outcome of the election is now a political reality — at least within Zimbabwe Rhodesia. The United African National Council gained 1 212 639 (67,27 per cent of the total valid votes cast). The Zimbabwe African National Union gained 262 928 (14,59 per cent of valid votes cast) and the United National Federal Party 194 446 (10,79 per cent of valid votes cast). The other two contestants were the Zimbabwe United People's Organisation, which gained 114 570 (6,35 per cent), and the National Democratic Union which gained 18 175, (one per cent of the total valid votes cast).

As a result, the UANC gained 51 seats in the 100-seat Parliament, ZANU gained 12 seats and the UNFP nine. ZUPO and the NDU failed to gain a seat.

The remaining 28 seats were reserved for whites and all went to the Rhodesian Front Party.

The principle that the white community should have separate white representation was a major cause of condemnation at the Lusaka Commonwealth Leaders' conference, although the concept was not a novel one.

- In the Zambia Independence Order, 1964, provision was made for a National Assembly of 75 elected members and up to five nominated members. Of the elected members, 10 were white elected by whites on a special White Voters' Roll.

- In the Fiji Independence Order, 1970, provision was made for separate voters' rolls for Indians, Fijians and Others, in addition to the National Roll, and a specific number of members of the House of Representatives had to be Indian, Fijian or "Other" and registered on the appropriate racial roll.

- Likewise, the Mauritius Independence Order, 1968, contained racial provisions in Schedule 1 which provided for a Hindu Community, a Muslim Community, a Sino-Mauritian Community, with the general population as a fourth Community, and eight seats in the Legislative Assembly were allocated to members of the various registered political parties based on the racial community to which the candidate belonged.

- Even the Anglo-American proposals for the settlement of the Rhodesia question envisaged that there would be an Assembly consisting of 100 members elected by voters on the Common Roll, with an additional 20 members to cater for the separate representation of the white community.

- The British Government, in 1971, accepted that there would be "majority rule" in Rhodesia if there was a House of Assembly consisting of 50 blacks elected by black voters, 50 whites elected



Still armed with a Communist weapon, a reformed terrorist who took advantage of the Amnesty Campaign casts his vote at the April elections.

by white voters and 10 additional members elected by black and white voters.

Addressing a Press conference at his official Salisbury residence, Dzimbahwe, on July 28, 1979, the Prime Minister anticipated Commonwealth criticism for his acceptance of 28 whites in the House of Assembly.

Outlining what he would have told the Conference if he had been invited to attend, he declared: "The whites of this country are not tourists, visitors or expatriates. They are citizens by birth, some going back to the fifth generation. They should, in fact, be properly termed 'White Africans'.

"Whatever they produce, and whatever contribution they make, is for the benefit of all people, not only for themselves. The concessions we have given them, at least for the initial crucial stages of any country's development, is a small price to pay to retain their skills and expertise. They are indispensable if Zimbabwe Rhodesia is to flourish and fulfil its tremendous economic, industrial, mining and agricultural potential.

"On the question of the Public Service, I would have made it clear (to the Lusaka Conference) that it has traditionally evolved from within the country and is staffed by Zimbabwe Rhodesians of all races. Unlike most pre-independence African countries, it is not a system imported from, and imposed from, outside."

THE OBSERVERS

The accredited observers, in their subsequent reports, were overwhelmingly of the opinion that the elections were "free and fair".

The British party, headed by Viscount Boyd of Merton, submitted its report to the Conservative Party leader, and now Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

They informed her: "In our view the elections were 'fair' in the sense that the electoral machinery was fairly conducted and above serious reproach. In arriving at this conclusion we have applied the strictest Western European criteria.

"We note that neither Patriotic Front party proffered candidates for election. Despite this, we think that the results represented the wish of the majority of the electorate of the country, however calculated."

The conclusions of the Freedom House group were contained in a 10-point memorandum.



Talking to international observers and candidates at the April election, a reformed terrorist, still carrying a Kalashnikov assault rifle, tells of his former life in the bush.

It began: "The level and threat of guerrilla activity in many areas required a high degree of visibility and activity of the Security Forces if the elections were to be held. The extension of martial law to much of the country had a coercive, as well as a reassuring, effect. Under these conditions, carrying out a fully free election was difficult. Given these factors, and the previous unfamiliarity of much of the population with the national election process, the efforts of the Zimbabwe Rhodesian Government to involve the people in the election appears to have been creditable."

It concluded: "In spite of the several ways in which this election is open to reasoned objection, it is the Mission's judgment that the election represented a significant advance towards multiracial majority rule in Zimbabwe Rhodesia. The country had never had so inclusive and free an election."

"Elections in most developing countries are less free. In a world in which peaceful change does not and cannot occur all at once, this election was a useful and encouraging step towards the establishment of a free society in Zimbabwe Rhodesia."

The American Security Council group of observers declared: "The Zimbabwe Rhodesia elections in April 1979 were, to a high degree, both free and fair. The administration of the election was highly effective, efficient and impartial, and up to a standard set by most Western democracies."

"The franchise in these elections was permissive rather than restrictive; participation was open to all parties wishing to join; and campaigning was vigorous. A meaningful choice was offered to the voters."

"The high voter turnout in these elections in the face of forcible opposition, yet in conditions which were both free and fair, strongly suggests that the people of Zimbabwe Rhodesia have made their choice on both points. Having done so, I believe that choice should be respected."

The report was compiled by Dr S. Sean Randolph.

A group of Australian observer MPs — two government, one opposition — reported to their Parliament they believed the elections were fair and strengthened the case for recognition of the new government and the lifting of sanctions.

Their report concluded: "We are satisfied that the common roll elections were conducted in a free and fair manner, as a means of achieving majority rule and, hopefully, an end to the war."

A dissenting observer was the U.K. Liberal Peer, Lord Chitnis, chairman of the all-party Committee on Human Rights, who



Two ZANU executives, on a peace-mission to terrorists in the Darwin area, were murdered and their camper van gutted by terrorists on August 9, 1978

viewed the elections as an independent witness, assisted by Miss Eileen Sudworth, who had been seconded from the Catholic Institute for International Relations.

He released a 53-page report alleging assorted malpractices and charging the Security Forces with the murder of 15 black voters who refused to attend a political meeting. At no time was a name mentioned to support his allegations. The only attribution was to anonymous individuals.

He made his charges on a BBC programme on which a fellow peer, Lord Crawford — also an observer — appeared.

Lord Crawford countered that no one could intimidate so many people to vote in an atmosphere that had been almost a carnival one.

THE AMNESTY

The ongoing offer of amnesty to those who had opposed the ruling power in Salisbury, either before or after the assumption of black majority rule, is unique in post-colonial Africa.

So successful has it proved that the ZANLA High Command has formed special security 'killer squads' to discourage recruits from returning. They were described by former section commander Takesure Mavura, aged 23. He told a Press conference he had been demoted and placed in custody for three months by a security squad after he discussed the amnesty with his men. He saw six terrorist "dissidents" shot as they lay bound hand and foot on the ground.

After being abducted, he had been trained in Mocambique and Tanzania by Russian, Chinese and Rumanian instructors. He had been forced to march for three days with no food and one bottle of mineral water. The punishment for disobedience was to be buried up to the neck, he said.

Two terrorists escaped to surrender and cast their votes in the April Elections. They were Clement Ngwenya and Zachariah Masunda.

Ngwenya told the queue at the polling booth: "We have majority rule now, so how can we still fight? Majority rule means we are free. There is nothing left to fight for."

He had been abducted from Belingwe and taken to Mocambique, then Ethiopia, where he had been trained by Ethiopians and Cubans. He said he escaped while his group slept. "There are others who want to come home, but I found it hard to



Kraalhead Muchoto, of Goromonzi, was a respected member of the community. He was murdered by a terrorist gang and buried in a shallow grave. Security Forces exhumed the corpse on May 30, 1978.

escape. The leaders know some want to return and they watch us in the bush."

The first amnesty offer was issued in March, 1979, by the Executive Council of the Transitional Government and contained a guarantee signed by them and the Commander, Combined Operations, Lieutenant-General Peter Walls.

In May, the Prime Minister, Bishop Muzorewa, broadcast to the nation in Shona on the African service of the radio. He promised that all who returned would be welcomed, and reminded them that their stated object of majority rule had been achieved.

"We are waiting to welcome you home. Those young enough will be able to go back to school. Those who wish to join the Security Forces or Police will be given the opportunity."

Later in May, 10 former ZANLA members volunteered to spearhead a campaign in the south-eastern operational area to assure their former comrades it was safe to return. They included 22-year-old Walter Mpofu, who had held a senior General Staff post. He had spent a year in prison in Zambia after a fight between his group and members of ZIPRA.

In June, a statement from the Prime Minister's Office announced the setting up of a high-powered Amnesty Directorate. A month later, the Prime Minister launched his "Seek and Persuade" programme during a nationwide broadcast on radio and television. It contained an appeal to parents not to let their children die in the bush "for a lost cause". The reasons for the war were a thing of the past, he said.

The number returning is increasing daily. Eighteen surrendered in one operational area. They included a platoon commander, a political commissar and a medical officer. All described life in Mozambique as "very, very hard". One said he wished to join the government.

Another who returned forecast: "I have no doubt many will be coming home in the next few months."

"They realise what they are being made to do is fight an ideological war, because the Mozambique-based leader now openly says he wants a one-party socialist state in Zimbabwe. A number of his aides do not like it and we may see them in this country soon."



The black driver of this vehicle had a lucky escape when terrorists ambushed him in the north-east of the country at Christmas 1977.

TERRORIST FACTIONS

It is a common misconception outside Zimbabwe Rhodesia that the terror war is being fought between the Security Forces and a unified terrorist force. There are, in fact, two terrorist factions whose hatred of one another is as deep, if not deeper, than their fear of "the common enemy".

The alliance of Joshua Nkomo's Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) and the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) led by Robert Mugabe was a political expedient to give weight to their demands for instant majority rule. It has never been recognised by terrorist military commanders.

Instead, Security Force intelligence has received reports of bloody clashes between the two factions.

A returned former terrorist said Mocambique-based military commander Rex Nhongo told a rally to kill all ZPRA (ZAPU) terrorists they encountered. He told the gathering: "Down with Nkomo. If you see any of his men you must kill them. Nkomo is only fighting for Bulawayo, while ZNLA (ZANU) is fighting for the whole country. ZANLA is not interested in the Patriotic Front."

During the course of the war numerous reports of faction fighting have filtered through from Zambia and Tanzania, reporting a death toll amounting to hundreds. One of the worst occurred at Morogoro Training Camp, in Tanzania.

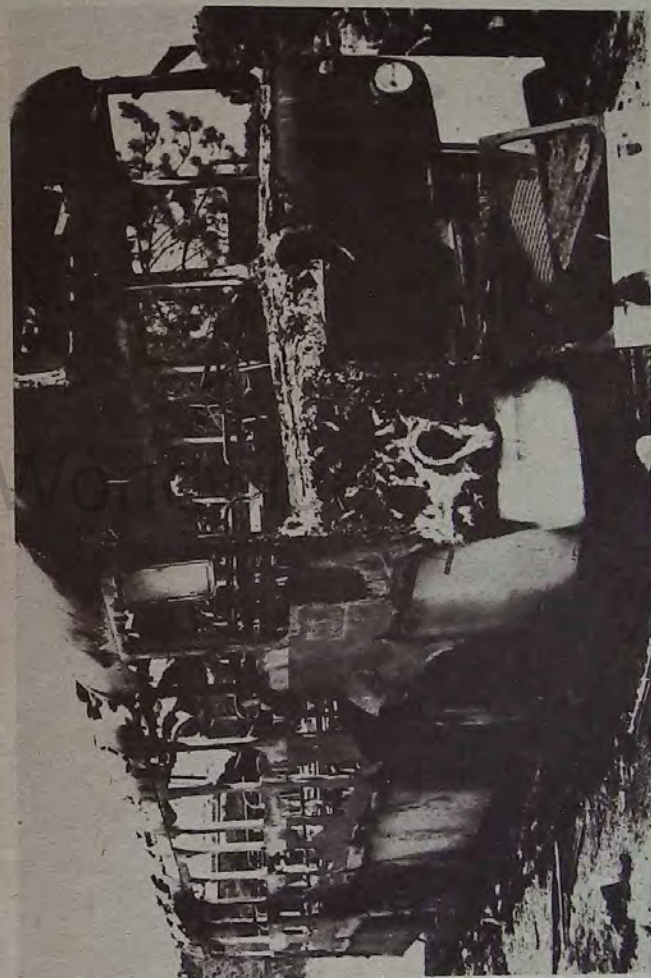
A report of a pitched battle between rival elements was carried by the "Zimbabwe Review", published in East Germany. In the course of it, two Chinese instructors were killed instantly.

The report continued: "Firing by ZANU increased in intensity. They used automatic rifles, light machine-guns and hand grenades. Axes were also used. Chinese military experts fired light machine-guns and automatic rifles and set their dogs on the panic-stricken former ZAPU recruits."

The final death toll was never accurately calculated. Seventy terrorists were wounded and 50 were missing when Tanzanian troops intervened.

Tribalism is not the only element with which the terrorists have to contend. Together with their Frelimo comrades they suffer from starvation and dehydration, and lack of clothing, medicines and equipment.

One former terrorist, Lovemore Katsande, a former farm labourer who was abducted, told how 14 members of his group



Terrorists aim to wreck the rural transport system — often by using Communist and British anti-tank mines which kill and maim indiscriminately. Fortunately no one was hurt when this bus was gutted by terrorists in the north-eastern Operational Area

died of starvation while waiting to cross the border. He bared his arms and legs to show the scars from constant tick bites.

So desperate is the high command of the Mocambique wing for people to fight that it has recruited women. Seven, armed and wearing camouflage, were killed in a contact in May and a further four were killed in June.

WAR ON THE CHURCH

Many of the clergy in Zimbabwe Rhodesia are also trained in medicine and teaching and devote their lives to the welfare of the rural peoples. The terrorists know this, but it does not influence them to show mercy.

Elim was no isolated incident of barbarity. Priests, nuns, Salvation Army workers and members of the Red Cross have been gunned down.

On January 1, 1979, a terrorist murdered Father Martin Hollenstein, a Swiss-born Roman Catholic missionary. His partly-concealed body was found two days later in the Selukwe TTL.

The terrorist responsible was one of 19 killed by Security Forces during follow-up operations.

Two Roman Catholic catechists, Mr Tanganda Rogers and Mr George Berebende, were among five black civilians murdered by terrorists early in February 1979. Investigations showed Mr Rogers had been murdered because he continued to carry on his work as a catechist in areas where churches had been closed by terrorists.

Section Commander Mavure told the Press of an address by Patriotic Front co-leader Robert Mugabe to 300 recruits. He said: "Kill all whites . . . even priests."

When asked why they should kill priests, Mugabe replied: "The missionaries teach politics through the Bible and the Bible was brought by the white man. The Bible teaches the wrong kind of politics".



One of three tribesmen gunned down by terrorists in a TTL in the north midlands on October 27, 1978



Four locals died when terrorists visited a school complex near Shabani on July 12, 1977. The victims were badly beaten and then shot at point-blank range.

SUFFERING CIVILIANS

Almost daily, communiqués from Combined Operations Headquarters reveal further instances of senseless brutality by terrorist gangs loyal to both wings of the Patriotic Front.

In January 1979, terrorists murdered a family of four — including an expectant mother and her two children, aged five and two — then burnt down their farmhouse.

Mr Denis Bellamy Hutchinson, aged 35, his wife, Diana Isobel, aged 28, and their children, Barry Thomas and Vaughan George, were gunned down at their home in the Midlands.

Hundreds of mourners attended the funeral of Chief Chipirio of the Kore Kore people after he was beaten to death by terrorists early in January.

Also in January, a prominent African businessman, who was next in line to become chief in Manyere Tribal Trust Land, near Enkeldoorn, was burnt to death in his house. Mr Phinias Wadesango Nyoka, aged 58, was first beaten unconscious by a terrorist gang, his family reported.

In March, terrorists murdered eight black civilians in the Chiota area. One of the victims was Mr Reggie Chiota, the son of the chief.

In another incident, a gang entered a kraal and called for their victim by name. Before killing the man, members of the terrorist gang hacked off his arms.

During the elections, four people, including a woman six months pregnant, died, and 41 were injured when the vehicle in which they were travelling from the polls detonated a terrorist landmine. It was established the mine had been laid after they had passed on their way to vote. The dead included a one-year-old child, a 65-year-old woman and a younger woman.

In May, terrorists and collaborators entered a village in the south-eastern operational area, assembled the villagers and rounded up a family of four — mother, father and two teenage children. They forced them into their hut and burnt them alive.

The gang responsible were killed in follow-up operations.

In the same month, in the north-eastern operational area, terrorists entered a farm village and forced the people to set fire to their homes. They then forced them to huddle in a group and opened fire with automatic weapons. Six people died immediately and 12 were seriously wounded. Three of the wounded later died in hospital.



The grisly remains of an African purchase area farmer burnt to death in his hut by terrorists. It happened on Christmas Eve 1978 in the north Midlands.



Two men enjoying a beer drink near Chipinga on February 1, 1978 were accused of being "sell-outs". They were bound, beaten and mowed down by Communist-made automatic weapons.

In June, five black civilians — two men, two women and a child — were killed when a gang threw communist-made grenades into a crowded beerhall at King Mine, near Mashaba.

Also in June, an elderly Nyamandhlovu farmer, Mr Cecil Patrick Beale, aged 64, was beaten to death. His wife, Maude, was badly beaten and died later.

In the north-eastern operational area, Security Forces found the body of a black man who had been bound, tortured, bayoneted and shot. A note beside the body indicated he had been killed by terrorists.

On July 25, Somabula farmer's wife Mrs Susanna Botha and her five-year-old grandson, Albertus, were killed during a terrorist attack on their farm 65 kilometres south of Gwelo. Mr Abraham Botha, aged 60, and grand-daughter Beulah, aged 18 months, were wounded.

Some terrorist victims remain unaccounted for. Testifying to a magistrate's court hearing in terms of the Missing Persons Act, a Mrewa woman, Mrs Zebediah, said: "When the terrorists had beaten him, he appeared to be dead. They had bashed his head very severely and it was now shapeless. They dragged him away. He was killed by terrorists. No one knows why."

The above are but random examples of the atrocities perpetrated by the forces of the Patriotic Front. The same people had received money and moral support from bodies such as the World Council of Churches and medical supplies from the United Nations Children's Fund — UNICEF.

It is not surprising, therefore, that Zimbabwe Rhodesians of all colours, classes and creeds share the bewilderment of the grieving daughter whose elderly mother was kicked, beaten and tortured by terrorists who accused her of working against the 'liberation forces'.

She said: "Is this the freedom they are fighting for ... the bestial and barbaric killings perpetuated in the name of freedom and justice? Heaven help us, we don't need such freedom."



September 3, 1978. The first Viscount Disaster, when 38 people died in the initial impact when the tourist plane was brought down by a Russian S.A.M. 7 heat-seeking missile used by Nkomo's ZAPU terrorists. Of 18 survivors, 10 were murdered by a ZAPU gang. The world was horrified, but just five months later it happened again, this time with no survivors.



Terrorists visited an African farmer's huts on the night of December 28, 1978. The two shapeless bundles shown here are all that remain of the farmer's wife and daughter. The incident happened in a purchase area in the North Midlands.



One of three locals axed to death by a terrorist gang in the north-east on April 24, 1978, with the axe embedded in his back. Their crime? They worked on a white-owned farm.



An innocent tribesman murdered by terrorists who accused him of being a sell-out at Christmas 1977 in the north-east.

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