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Ambush on main road to Bindura

Defence Reporter Chris Reynolds

TERRORISTS ambushed a car on the main road between Mazoe and Bindura late on Wednesday afternoon, injuring the driver and his wife. Four other occupants of the vehicle were unhurt.

The ambush, about 25 km from Bindura and about 60 km from Salisbury, is the nearest reported terrorist ambush to Salisbury since the present incursions started four years ago this month.

FORCES KILL 21 MORE TERRORISTS

Defence Reporter

SECURITY FORCES have killed 21 more terrorists in the north-eastern border area, without suffering any casualties. The contacts, understood to have taken place in the Mtoko district, brings the total number of terrorists killed this month to 39.

A Security Force Headquarters communique last night said follow-up operations are in progress to bring to account the terrorist gangs responsible for the murder of Bishop Schmidt and his companions and the ambush of the Mullons.

Commenting on the communique, a Government spokesman advised motorists proposing to use the road north of Mazoe during the hours of darkness to check with the Police at Mazoe before proceeding.

The full text of the communique read: "Security Force Headquarters announced today that 21 more terrorists have been killed in the north-eastern border area. Security forces suffered no casualties.

WOUNDED
 "At about 6 p.m. yesterday, a car travelling on the main road between Mazoe and Bindura was fired on by terrorists. Mr Basil Mullon, aged 52, and Mrs. Marion Elizabeth Mullon, aged 49, of Bindura, were wounded.

The other occupants of the car were uninjured. Mr and Mrs Mullon have been evacuated to hospital, where their condition is described as satisfactory.

"Security forces follow-up operations are in progress to bring to account the terrorist gangs responsible for the murder of Bishop Schmidt and his companions and the ambush of the Mullons."

On the pate
 WARSAW. — A shopper was taken to hospital after a Christmas goose fell from a six-storey flat and knocked him out. His job — a poultry breeder. — Inna-Reuter.

Ruled out
 LONDON. — Britain's Labour Government, which has already promised a degree of self-rule for Scotland and Wales, yesterday rejected the idea of doing the same for England. — Inna-Reuter.

One of the passengers in the car, Paul Mullon (17), a pupil at Allan Wilson Technical High School, Salisbury, said last night: "It was a very frightening experience. I shouted 'Duck and go, put your foot down.'"

Injured in the ambush were Paul's parents, Mr Basil Mullon (52) and his wife, Mrs Marion Elizabeth (49), of Fleetwood Avenue, Bindura.

Both are in Bindura Hospital. Mr Mullon is recovering from a bullet wound in his right shoulder. Mrs Mullon is being treated for flesh wounds to her ankles and shapal wounds in one foot.

Paul said: "I have been there in hospital today. They are treating me well and smiling."

Other passengers in the car, a Ford Galaxy 500, were Mr and Mrs Mullon's daughter, Annette (22), a member of the Rhodesia Women's Service based at Umhali, and her friend, Kathy Shaw (20), also based with the RWS at Umhali, and her daughter, Annette (10).

Shattered
 Annette said last night that a tracer shattered the side windows on both sides of the car.

"Two tyres were knocked out," she said. "I could not believe it. I heard one bang and saw that my dad had been hit in the shoulder."

"My brother shouted at him to keep driving."

"My mother said she was fine. She did not mention that her neck had been hit. She knew that she had been hit but she didn't want to frighten us and for us to get into a panic."

"After the ambush and my brother calling out there was just silence in the car."

Mr Mullon drove for 6 km, with blood seeping from his shoulder wound, until he reached a farm.

Paul said when they arrived at the farm the farmer phoned the Police. There were eight bullet holes in the car apart from the shattered windows.

"We had been to Salisbury to collect my sister and her friend and daughter, who are on a few days' leave from Umhali," he said.

"Kathy lay on the floor with her daughter. The child was very good until glass began to fall on her and then she started to cry."



MR BASIL MULLON and his wife Marion at Bindura Hospital yesterday. He has a shoulder wound and she has injuries to her left ankle and foot.



UNHURT survivors of the ambush include the Mullon family in Bindura yesterday. From the left, Kathy Shaw, daughter, Annette, Paul Mullon and his sister Annette.



Mr Basil Mullon (52) and his wife Marion (49) were injured in the ambush. Their 17-year-old son Paul (17) had a shoulder wound. Their 22-year-old daughter Annette (22) and her friend Kathy Shaw (20) were also injured. Their 10-year-old daughter Annette (10) was also injured.

Cheerful Mullon family tells of ambush

Defence Reporter CHRIS REYNOLDS

IF WAS one of those happy family reunions as they gathered along the main road from Salisbury to Bindura on Wednesday.

Mr Basil Mullon (52) and his wife Marion (49) were accompanied by their son Paul (17), had driven to the farm to meet their daughter Annette (22) and her friend Kathy Shaw (20). They were returning to their comfortable home in Bindura.

It was raining hard and they were driving over the crest of a hill. The Mullons were driving with their headlights on. The car was travelling at 100 m in front of the car.

Speaking from a ward at Bindura Hospital yesterday, he said: "I can't believe it. I don't know how fast we were going but at the time it didn't seem fast enough."

Eight bullet holes hit the car. The rear tyre was shot out so we lost traction and I lost control. Mr Mullon said: "I don't know how fast we were going but at the time it didn't seem fast enough."

"I was a bit panicky," she said, "but I will soon be all home for Christmas. These are the children I feel sorry for. It must have been very frightening. I was wonderful, absolutely wonderful."