

Video making process:

Started research	✓	10 May 2025
Began making slides	✓	18 May 2025
Finished 1972-1979 period	✓	20 May 2025
Finished 1965-1971 and 1980-1988 period	✓	21 May 2025
Added hill shading	✓	22 May 2025
Added city names	✓	
Added videos	✓	
Uploaded video	✓	23 May 2025

Thumbnail attribution:

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/205191111> ZANLA fighter

<https://dk.pinterest.com/pin/502010689702054033/> Rhodesian soldier

Speeches used:

▶ Rhodesia Listens to Ian Smith's UDI Speech | Commemorate Remembrance Sunday ...

▶ Kevin MacLeod: Tafi Maradi

▶ Robert Mugabe Interview (1980)

Videos used:

1965: UDI

▶ After UDI | Rhodesian & Zambian Troops Face Off on Border | Zambezi River | Novem...

1968:

▶ Rhodesian Security Forces Hunt Black Nationalist Insurgents | Bush War | 2nd Chimur...

1970:

▶ SYND 12/11/1970 THE RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH CELEBRATES THE 5TH...

1973:

▶ SYND 19-1-73 RHODESIA BORDER WITH ZAMBIA CLOSED

1976:

▶ SYND 14 11 76 BLACK SOLDIERS TRAINED FOR RHODESIAN ARMY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqXNSA8iujY>

January 1977:

▶ SYND 13 1 77 GUERRILLAS FIRE ON ANTI-GUERRILLA CAMPAIGN. MEETING.

July 1977:

▶ News Item (09613485-a90d-c3d8-59a6-99a9e3d1533e)

1978: Oil depot fire

▶ SYND 18 5 78 RHODESIAN TROOPS TRACKING GUERRILLAS IN COUNTRYSIDE

▶ SYND 12 12 78 GUERRILLAS BLOW UP OIL DEPOT, MASSIVE FIRE

1979:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsJlyhI2IM0>

▶ SYND 20 9 79 AFTERMATH OF A RHODESIAN ARMY RAID ON ALDEIA DE BARRAGEM I...

▶ SYND 6 4 79 RHODESIAN MILITARY RESERVISTS IN THEIR FIFTIES UNDERGOING TRAINI...

1980: Guerilla camp:

▶ SYND 20/01/80 GUERRILLA CAMPS

1980: Zimbabwe independence

▶ RR8017A ZIMBABWE INDEPENDENCE AT LAST

1981: Entumbane clashes

▶ UNUSED 23 2 81 ZANLA LEAVE ENTUMBANE CAMP AND GIVE UP WEAPONS TO GOVE...

1983: Matabeleland killings

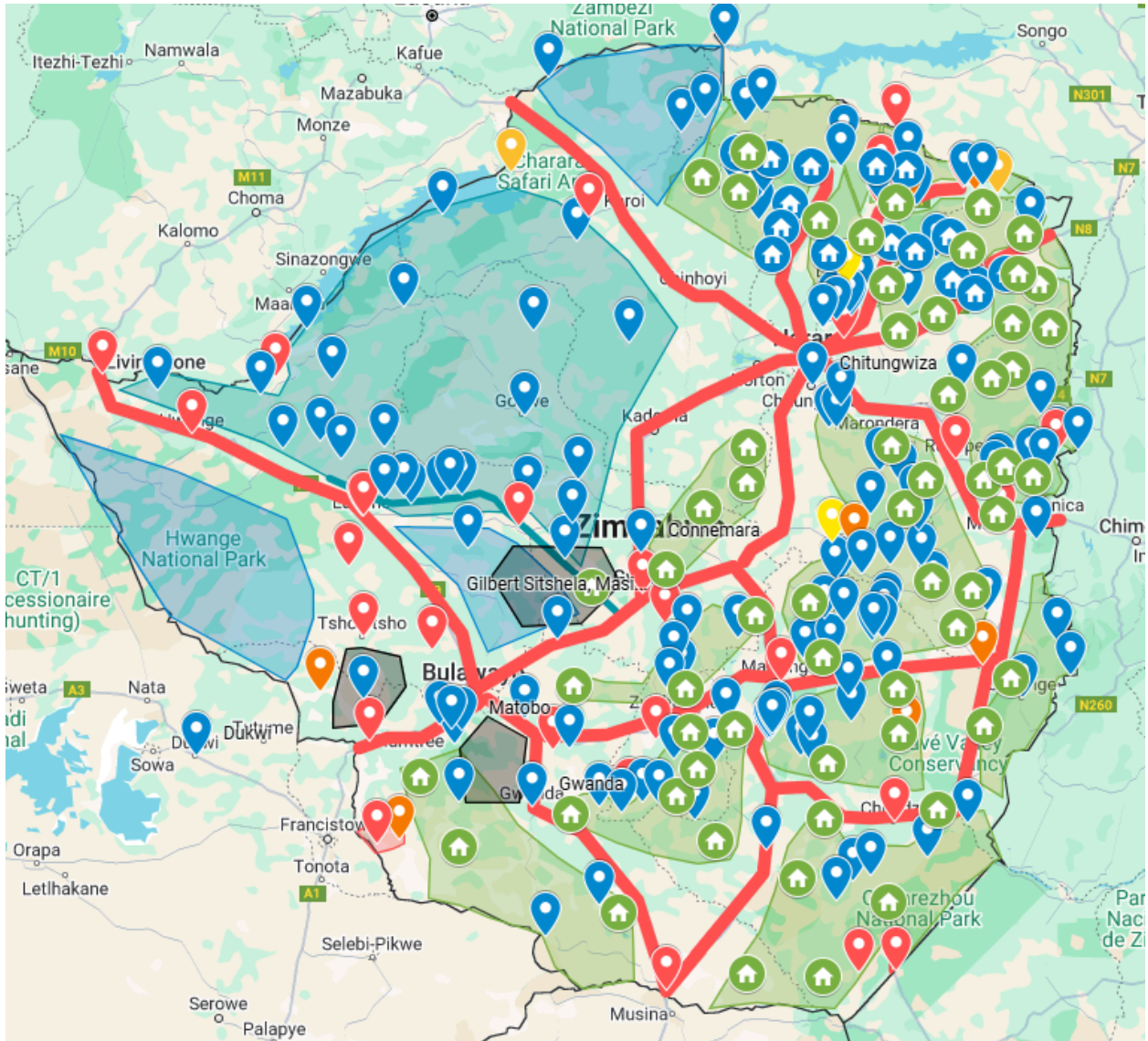
▶ Matabeleland Excesses By Government: Interviews

1988: ZIPRA surrenders

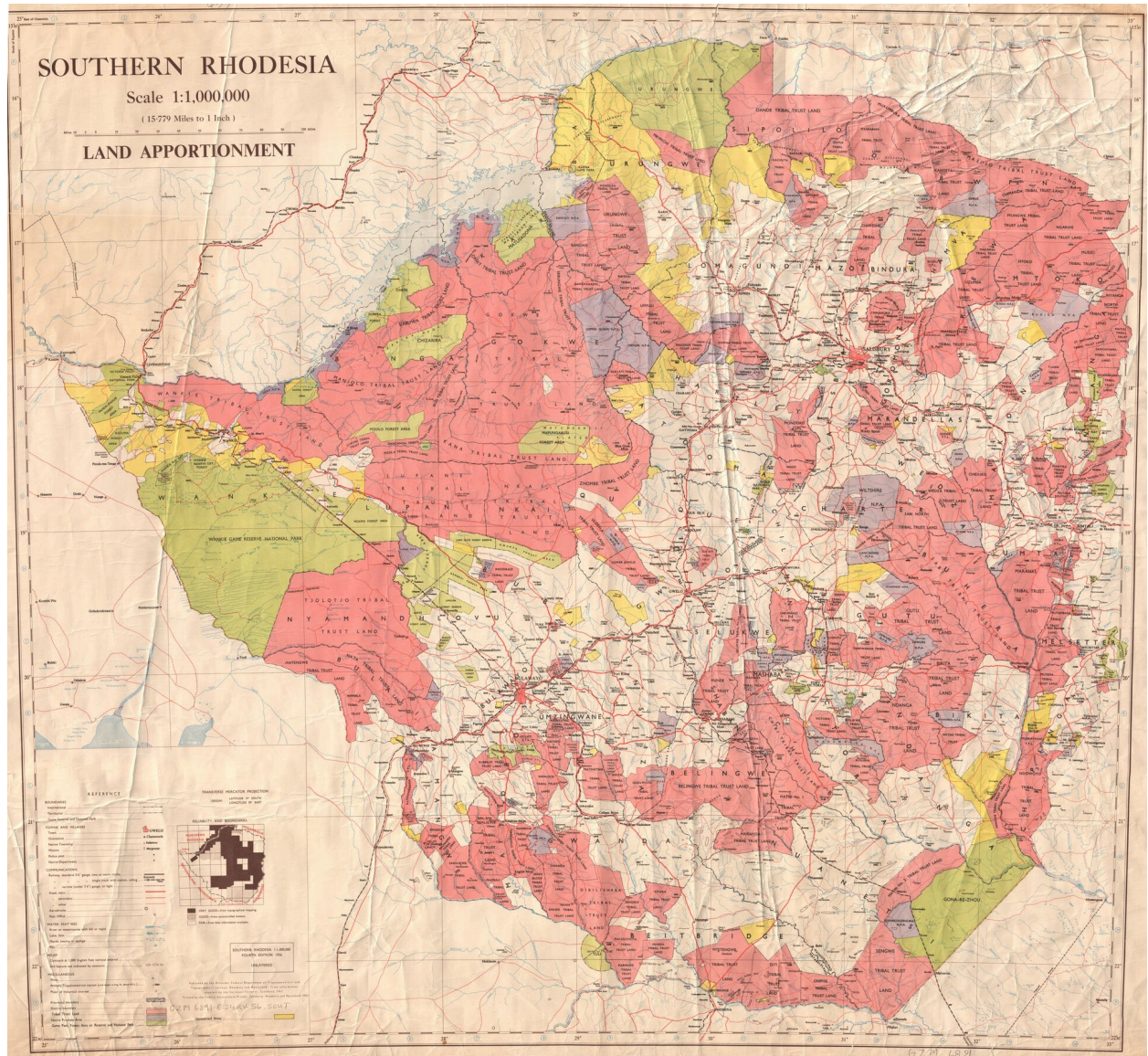
📺 Merger of the ruling ZANU party and opposition ZAPU party

Miscellaneous maps:

All mapped places:



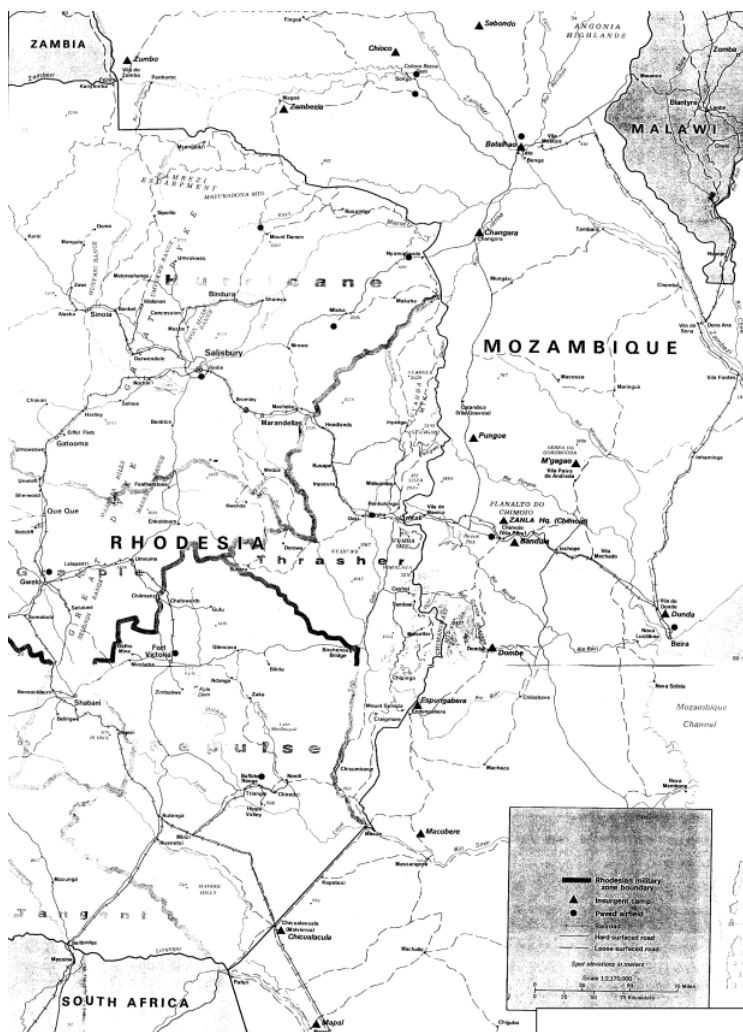
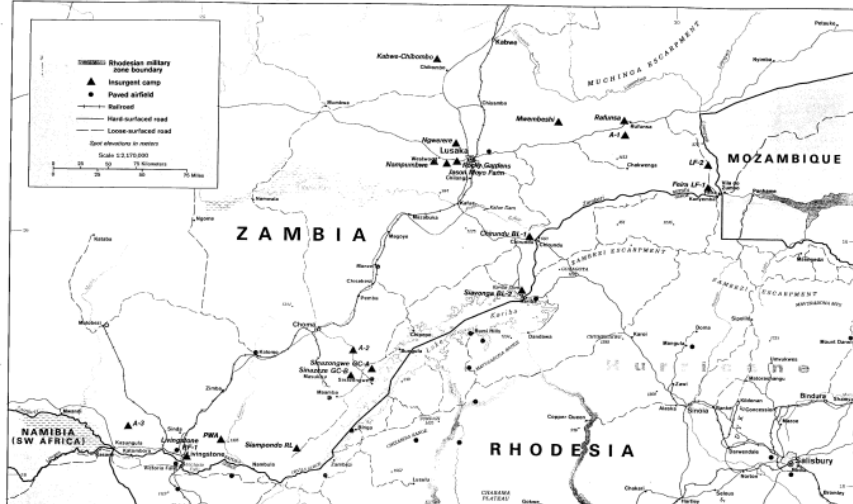
Land ownership in Rhodesia:



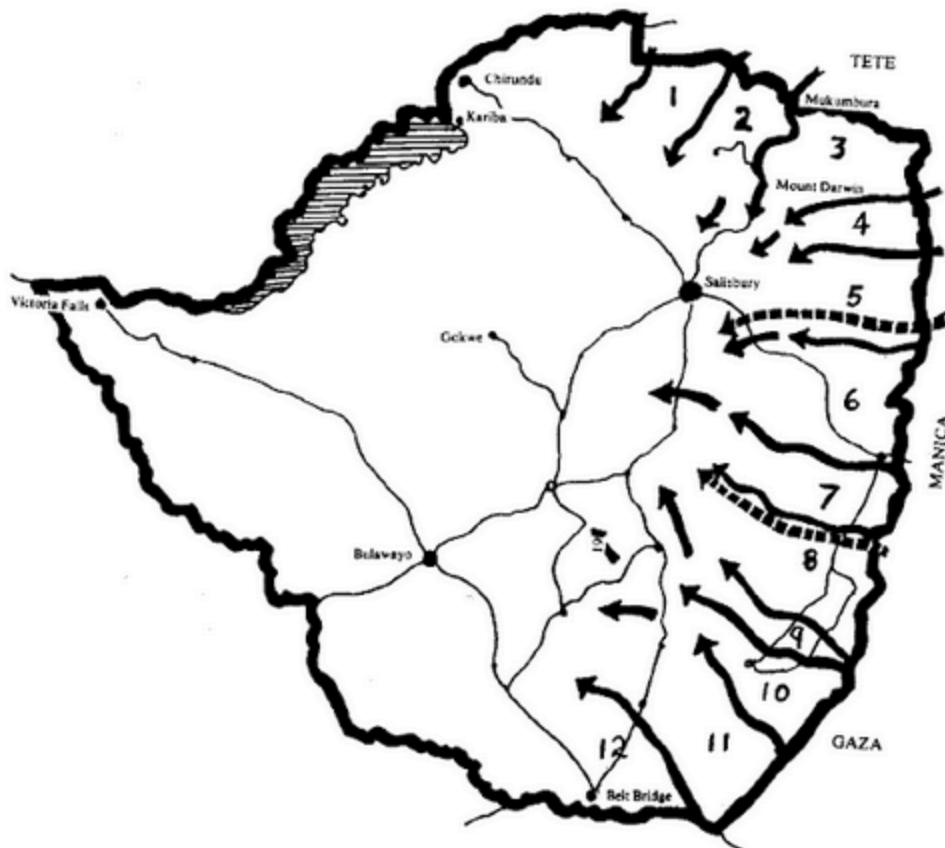
[Southern Rhodesia : land apportionment · Talbot Maps · Iballi](#)

Map of ZANLA and ZIPRA rear bases:

[RHODESIA: SOME ETHNIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC PITFALLS FOR A MAJORITY GOVERNMENT](#)



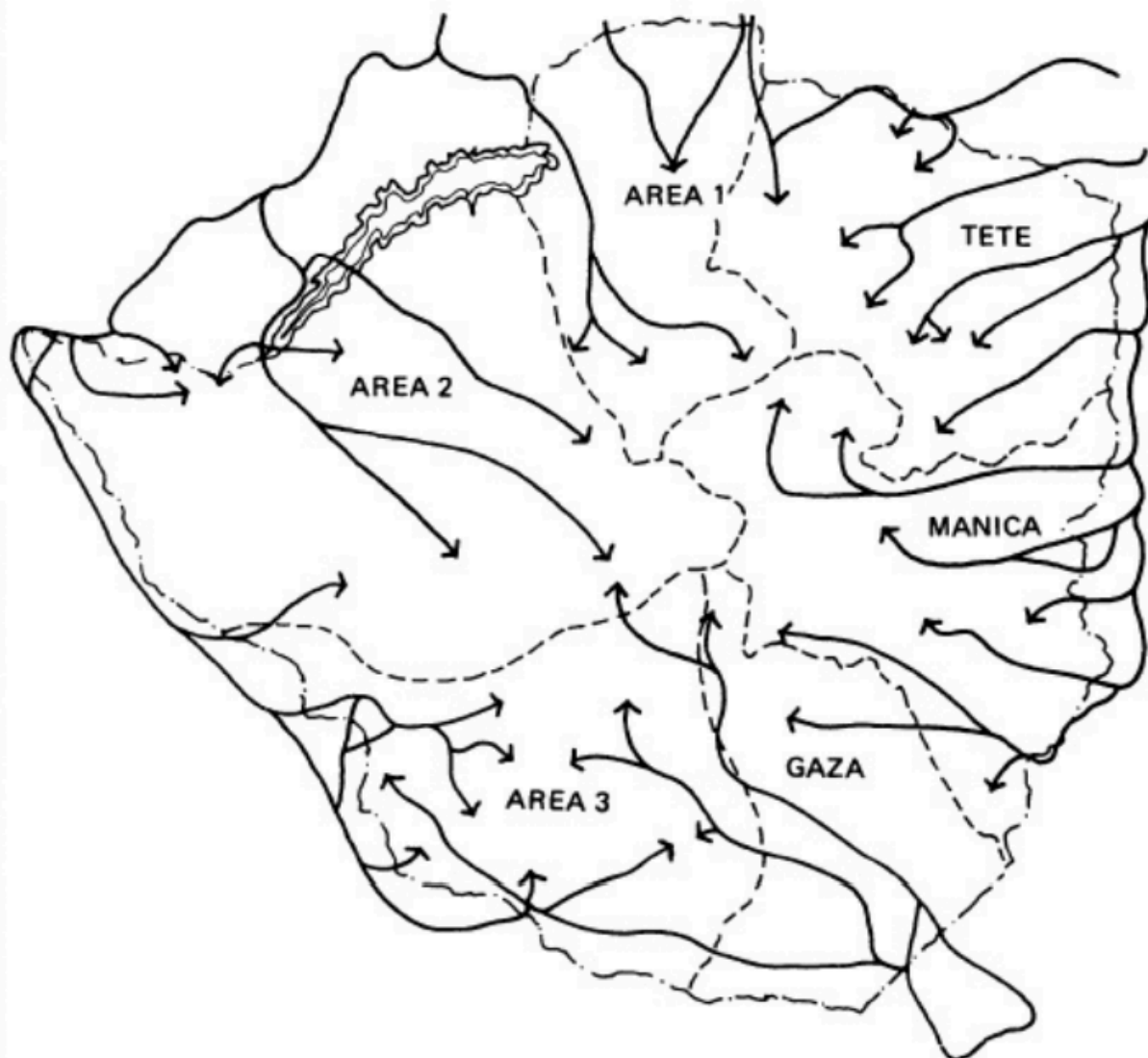
1976: OP Hurricane, OP Thrasher, OP Repulse



ZANLA OPERATIONAL AREAS

Tete Province	Manica Province	Gaza Province
1 Rubatsiro	6 Tangwena	9 Sector I
2 Nehanda	7 Monomotapa	10 Sector II
3 Chaminuka	8 Musikavanhu	11 Sector III
4 Takawira		12 Sector IV
5 Chitepo		

1976/7



Rhodesian Forces operational areas:



Figure 1.3 A diagram that illustrates the extent of the various Rhodesian bush war operational zones.

[Rhodesian Mail during the Bush War 1973-1980](#)

1966:

28 April: Battle of Sinoia

16 May - 18 September: Operation Pagoda

13 - 25 September: Operation Yodel

1967:

During August 1967 a combined force of 90 insurgents from ZPRA and the South African African National Congress entered Rhodesia near the Victoria Falls. They miscalculated the attitude of the local black population and the Security Forces soon knew of their presence there. In the first major operation of the war 47 insurgents were killed within three weeks and more than 20 were captured. The remainder fled to Botswana in disarray.

1 August - 8 September: Operation Nickel

28 December - 31 May: Operation Cauldron

1968:

20 May-13 July: Operation Flotilla

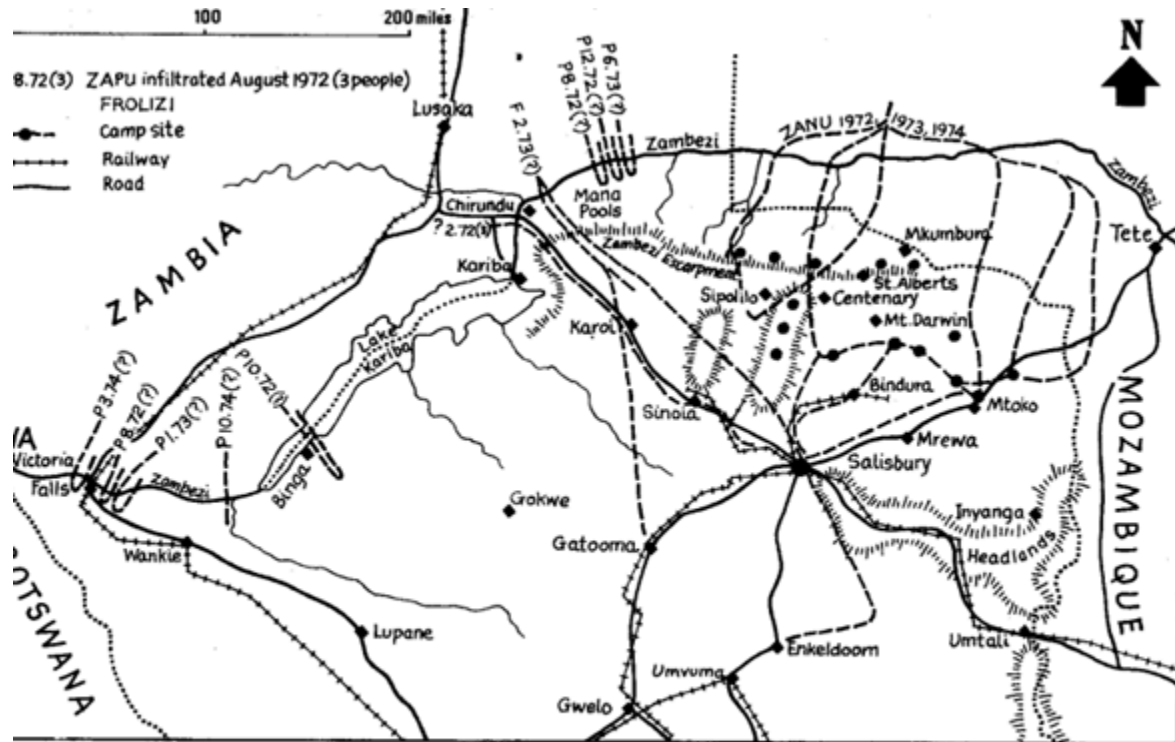
16-26 July: Operation Griffin

27 July – 12 August 1968: Operation Excess

[illegible]

October 1971: FROLIZI established

1972:



Infiltration of African nationalist guerrillas into Rhodesia, 1972 to 1974
(approximate date of entry with probable route)

“THE FIGHT FOR ZIMBABWE. The armed Conflict in Southern Rhodesia since UDI”

January 1972:

Late January: ZANU troops entered through Kariba Gorge and Mavuradonha Mountains

“We are Everywhere: Narratives from Rhodesian Guerillas”

March 1972 the Rhodesian SAS

attacked Frelimo’s Matimbe base near Gungwa Mountain

In early 1972 Special Branch sources reported that large quantities of food and clothes were being purchased from shops near the St Albert's Mission in the Mvuradonha mountains overlooking the Zambezi valley floor where guerrillas had been secretly operating for months. Large-scale portage groups numbering 100 or more were marching from the Zambezi river through Mozambique's Tete Province using the Msengezi river route and into the Dande and

Mzarabani Tribal Trust Lands where they cached supplies in the foothills of the Mvuradona mountains

[hodesian Front War by Henrik Ellert](#)

December 1972:

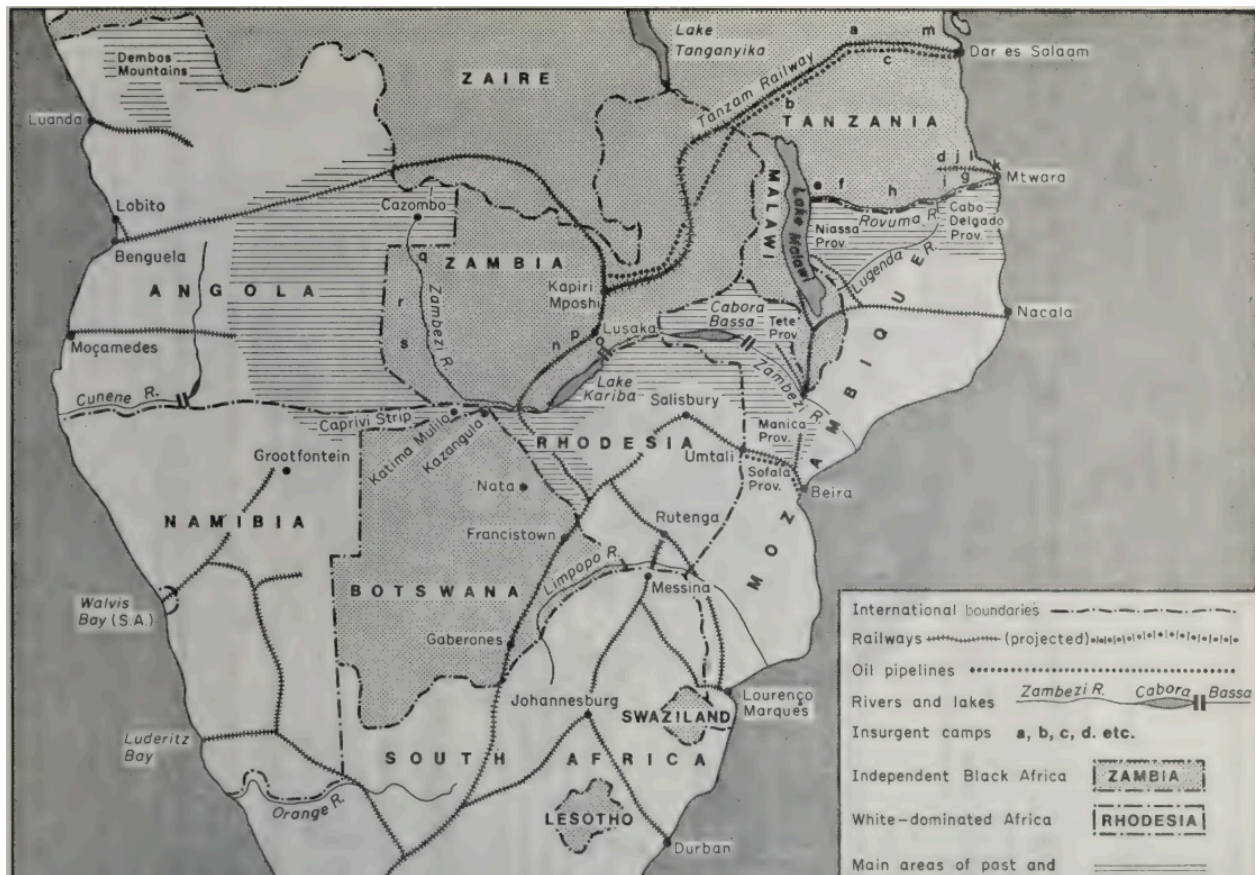
4 December 1972: FRELIMO attack on Mocumbura

In the early hours of 21 December 1972, ZANLA insurgents attacked the white homestead of Marc de Borchgrave in the Centenary district, marking the resurgence of the insurgent onslaught, indeed of a new campaign. They came from Chiweshe Tribal Trust Land.

23 December: Attack on Whistlefield Farm

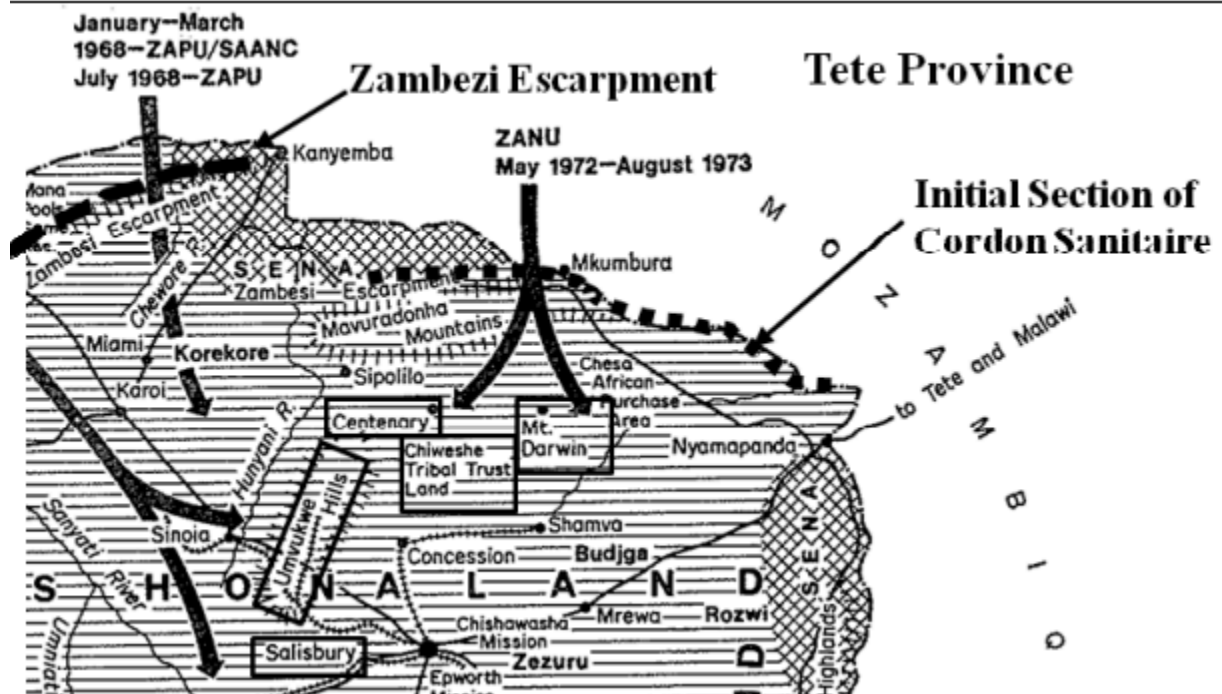
1973:

7 January 1973: Mount Darwin attacked



July 1973:

July 1973: Attack on St Alberts School



[A Line in the Sand a Historical Study of Border Security During Insurgencies and Lessons for the Contemporary Afghan-Pakistan Fr](#)

“Insurgency in Rhodesia, 1957-1973 : an account and assessment” Mount Darwin district, on the border of northeastern Zimbabwe and Mozambique (Figure 4.3), was one of the first ZANU strongholds. In two early Rhodesian propaganda publications (Government of Rhodesia, 1978a,b), the Rhodesian government described numerous encounters with ZANLA, suggesting a strong rebel presence from 1973 onward. From 1973 onward, rebels maintained a base near St. Albert’s Mission

“Governing after War - Rebel Victories and Post-war Statebuilding”

26 August 1973: Rhodesian troops crossed river and forced villagers to flee to mountains

1974:

3.3 Operations Overload and Overload Two

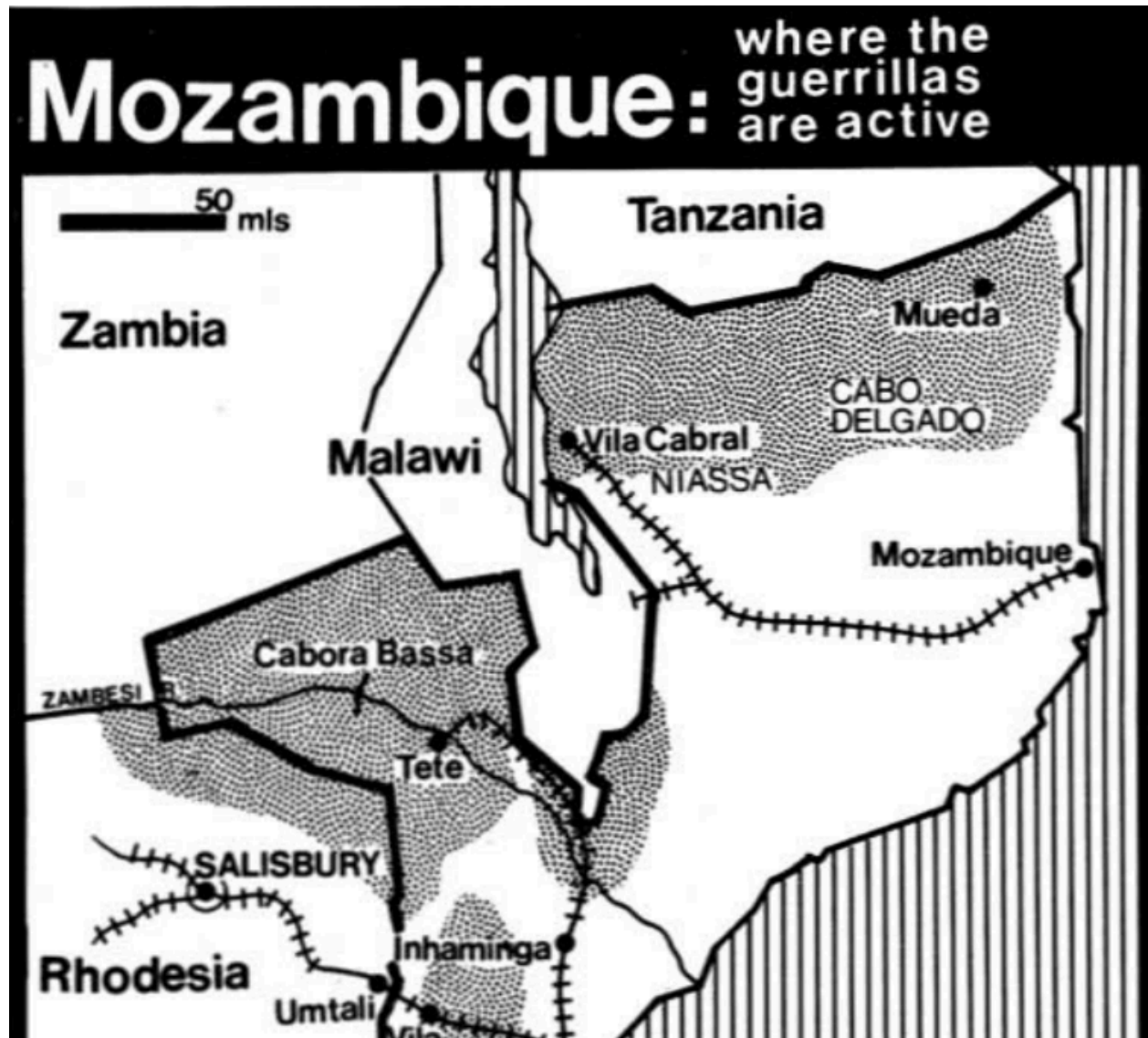
The military justification given for both Operation Overload in Chiweshe Tribal Trust Land and Operation Overload Two which followed in Madziwa Tribal Trust Land, was that the insurgent threat seemed to be approaching Harare itself. Chiweshe Tribal Trust Land specifically thrusts deep into the white farming areas of the Umvukwes, Centenary and Mount Darwin.

ZANLA forces had succeeded in establishing themselves solidly to the north of Bindura. From this base they were increasingly subverting the areas southwards into Msana and Masembura Tribal Trust Lands and from there to Chinamore Tribal Trust Land just north of Harare. Drastic action was apparently required to block this thrust. The major ZANLA infiltration route ran directly through the Madziwa and Chiweshe Tribal Trust Lands which lay to the north and north-west of Bindura. The local population in these areas were known to be actively assisting the insurgent effort. During March 1974 the situation in Chiweshe was already serious enough to prompt Lieutenant Colonel Reid-Daly to write later

The apparent support for the ZANLA cause in Chiweshe though was, without doubt, overwhelming and while this made things easy for Selous Scouts pseudo operations, it was very disturbing in a broader sense.(5)

[https://books.google.pl/books?id=VHRKCAAQBAJ&pg=PT58&dq=Rhodesia+"became+a+no-go"&hl=en&newbks=1&newbks_redir=0&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwifv7CusJ6NAXUaRPEDHeD3NGgQ6AF6BAgMEAM#v=onepage&q=Rhodesia%20"became%20a%20no-go"&f=false](https://books.google.pl/books?id=VHRKCAAQBAJ&pg=PT58&dq=Rhodesia+)

April 1974:



https://disa.ukzn.ac.za/sites/default/files/pdf_files/Acn5874.pdf

July 1974:

27 July 1974: Operation Overload

October 1974:

ZAPU entered Rhodesia

November 1974:

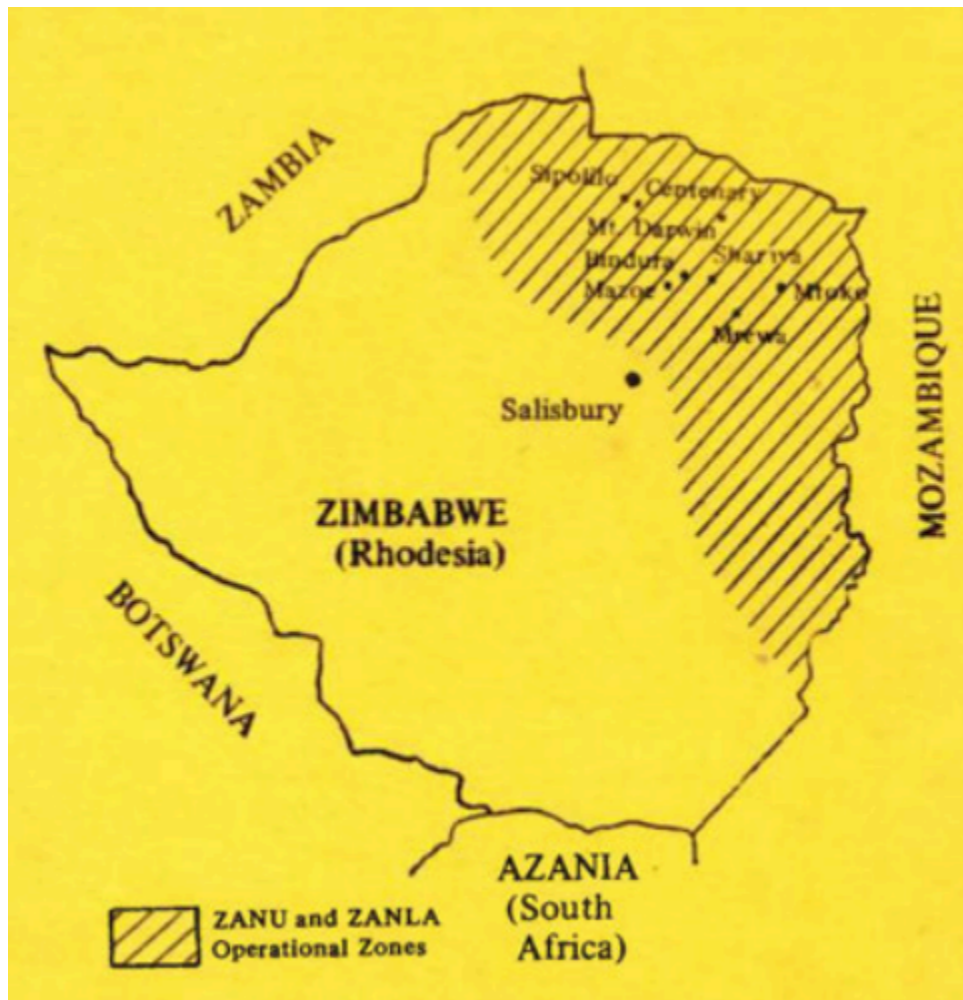
Nhari rebellion



[Africa's Commandos The Rhodesian Light Infantry.](#)

1975:

March 1975:



<https://africanactivist.msu.edu/recordFiles/210-849-24494/FIS3-75opt.pdf>

August 1975:

26 August: Victoria Falls Conference (1975)

Late 1975:

ZANU/ZANLA entered Makoni district in late 1975, when the entire eastern front was opened up to the rebel group after Mozambican independence

ZIPRA maintained bases in Gokwe from 1975

1976:

Early 1976:

Penetrated Rhodesia through Chitanga area

[Povo fled to live with guerillas in the bush](#)

During January to April 1976, three waves of insurgents crossed into Rhodesia. The first group of about 90 crossed the border south of Nyamapanda. A second group infiltrated the Melssetter area and a third group the southeast.

February 1976:

In this light, the guerrillas first approached the traditional leaders of Buhera in early February 1976 as soon as they deployed in the area. Importantly, the war did not engulf the whole district at once, instead it was experienced in the Nyashanu area before spreading to the northern and western parts of the district

[Traditional Leaders and Zimbabwe's Liberation Struggle in Buhera District, 1976–1980 in](#)

Operation Thresher started

March 1976:

March 3 Mozambique closes its border with Rhodesia.

When we crossed the border from Mozambique to Rhodesia. We arrived at Mupapa in Chikombedzi and had our first meal in the evening. We went to Rutenga and fired four mortar 60 shells towards the camp direction and crossed Fort Victoria (Masvingo)-Beitbridge Road to Sarauro area. We then crossed Ngezi River to Border Munaka areas, in Chivi we were sold to enemy forces by a soldier who was on leave. More than 20 trucks of enemy forces came at night and dropped the soldiers.

<https://www.heraldonline.co.zw/rtd-maj-muyambo-relives-battles-he-survived/>

Guerillas entered Bikita District

“Zimbabwe's Liberation Struggle Era Conflicts and the Pitfalls of Reconciliation after Independence: A Case Study of Bikita District 1976-2013.”

April 1976:

During April it was evident that a second wave of ZANLA insurgents, some 450 in total, had followed this route. Both the Rutenga-Beit Bridge railway and the Fort Victoria-Beit Bridge road link were attacked.

May 1976:

Operation Repulse started

June 1976:

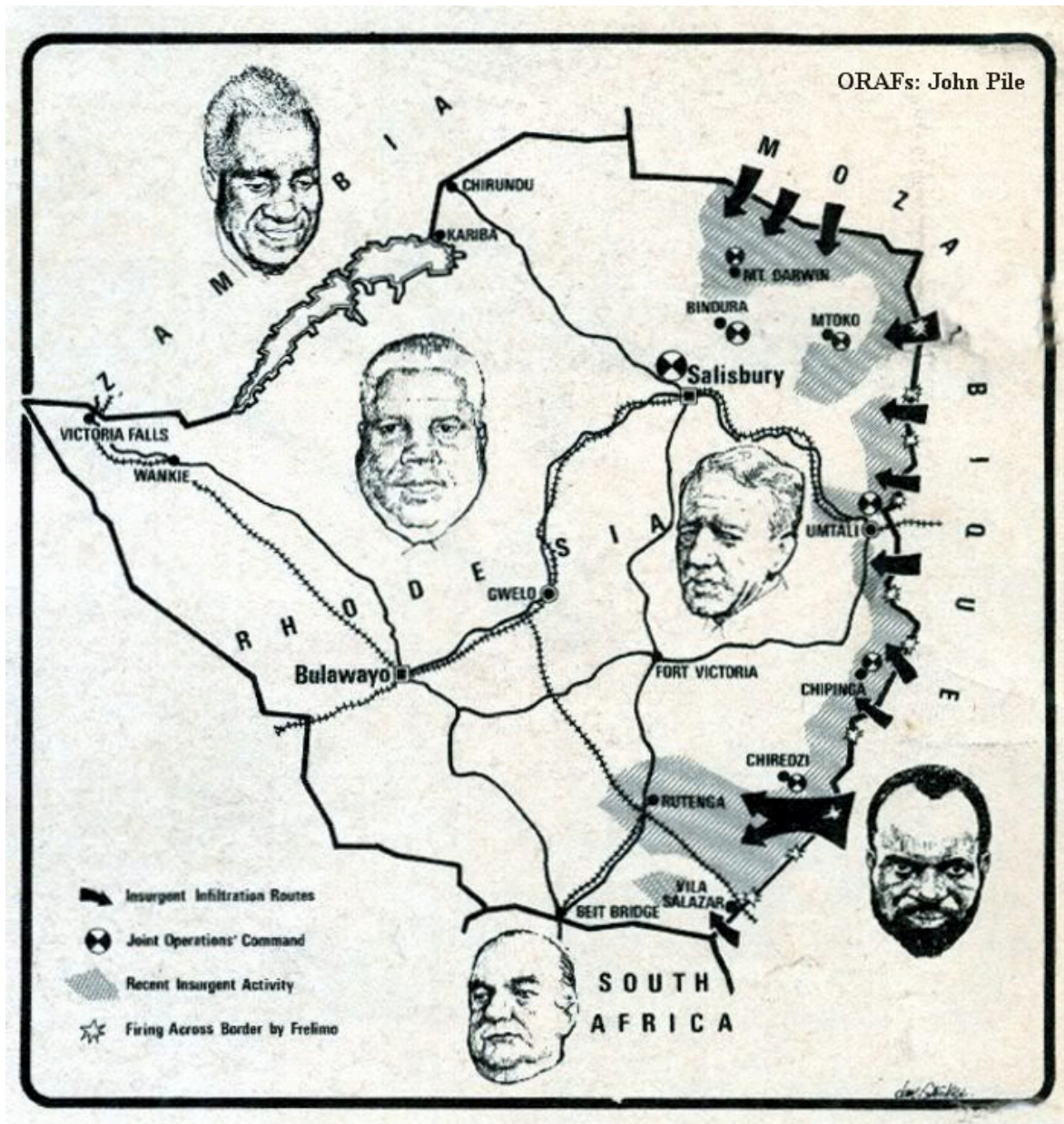
4 June: ZANLA fighter arrived at Ruware base, then to Fizho Mountain, poisoning incident

<https://www.heraldonline.co.zw/ex-zanla-fighter-who-survived-poisoning-that-killed-23-comrades/>

An attack on the Bumi Hills airstrip in northwestern Rhodesia on 5 June made it known that ZPRA forces were ready to reopen the long dormant Zambian front in all earnest.

25 June:

Operation Long John



[War in Rhodesia](#)

August 1976:

I was deployed to Gaza Province, Sector One, Nyajena detachment in August 1976. This sector covered four detachments that are Zaka, Nyajena, Ndanga and Shurugwi.

[How we wiped out a horseback patrol | Celebrating Being Zimbabwean](#)

9 August 1976: Operation Eland

Operation Tangent

September 1976:

18 September 1976: Operation Ignition

October 1976:

Firstly The Daily Telegraph of London, on 28 October 1976, and then the Observer of 31 October reported the infiltration that month of hundreds of African nationalist fighters into Rhodesia from Mozambique. Mudzi Camp served as the main transit base for ZANLA infiltration into the Rhodesian Mudzi and Inyanga North Tribal Trust Lands which flanked the Mozambican border south of Nyamapanda. Rhodesian raid on Mozambique

[Rhodesians Say Recent Incursions Into Mozambique Buoyed Morale - The New York Times](#)

[JRT Wood - Rhodesian History - Counter-Punching on the Mudzi](#)

RENAMO base established

November 1976

12 November 1976: Rebels destroyed Rhodesian base in Mukamba
"Zimbabwe News"

15 November: Battle of Hill 31

One of the biggest firefights of the war, 'the mother of all battles', occurred in the immediate vicinity of Honde Mission, at Chiwawadzira Mountain in November 1976. By 1976, ZANLA had established a base camp on Chiwawadzira Mountain and an infiltration route along which guerrilla units moved from Mozambique through Mutasa North TTL to other parts of the country

End of 1976:

"Freedom fighters came here towards the end of 1976," said Sheunesu Chinhamo of Mhonda Village in Mberengwa.

Unspecified 1976:

In 1976, Auxiliary Forces, Abel Muzorewa's infamous army which was known as Pfumo Revanhu, established its base at Muchapondwa in Musana and launched a campaign of recruiting boys.

[Ambush in Chinamhora...another victory for ZANLA | Celebrating Being Zimbabwean](#)

1977

Gaza was the biggest province which stretched from Chiredzi to Kariba, covering Midlands, Matabeleland, some parts of Mashonaland West and Masvingo.

“We closed all roads that linked several areas here in Gaza.

“Rhodesian soldiers only came in helicopters because they could not drive their military trucks on these roads.”

“By 1977, this area was a liberated zone,” said Cde Mugadzaweta.

[Gaza province in retrospect | Celebrating Being Zimbabwean](#)

January 1977:

We camped at Thosa Village Base. Our section fought the first battle at Thomas Village. As a result of those two battles, the enemy never repeated horseback patrols. Today some remains of horses can be found at Thomas Village.

[How we wiped out a horseback patrol | Celebrating Being Zimbabwean](#)

Jan. 29 - ZIPA forces stormed the Nyakasikana enemy camp in the Mount Darwin area and killed over twenty enemy soldiers

February 1977:

27 Feb: in a fierce engagement in the Chendambuya area, ZIPA forces surprised an enemy patrol unit; an Alouette (III) helicopter sent to rescue the enemy soldiers was shot down and its four occupants killed

March 1977:

Rhodesia launched an attack on ZIPRA camp in Zambia.

<https://www.heraldonline.co.zw/reliving-fiery-feira-battle-six-days-of-non-stop-bombardment/>

April 1977:

Zviyambo African purchase area in the Inyaura district up to Wedza is virtually under nationalist control. Sabi North Tribal Trust land, the guerillas distributed free beer to the locals before destroying the beerhall.

[Translations on Sub-Saharan Africa, Issues 1733-1741](#)

22 April: ZIP A forces fought a battle, with Rhodesian racist troops at Caruaus farm, Melsetter, and killed over 10 enemy soldiers

May 1977:

28 May: Operation Aztec

July 1977:

On the 14th July 1977", Gwate goes on, "the first group of the ZANLA touched Shashi" Nyajena Detachment became a 'liberated zone' in the middle of 1977 and Chishanga formed part of its northern boundary Nyajena TTL was totally subverted by Mugabe's ZANLA forces. The whole area was 'no-go' for Rhodesian security force vehicles

On July 18 1977 TOWARDS the end of the winter of 1977, I participated in the attack of a Rhodesian military camp which was in Gonarezhou Game Park. The attack was planned at Chiqualaquala Base which was under the command of Cde Gabarinocheka. We then took our recoils and went to our gathering point at Malvernia.

[How Rhodesia perished in a dawn attack | Celebrating Being Zimbabwean](#)

20 July 1977: Zambia retaliated and destroyed Rhodesian military camp at Kanyemba overlooking Luangwa town

One serious battle that we encountered was at Mana Pools. I think this battle is recorded in the history of the liberation struggle. The enemy was caught unawares. This battle was very interesting, we managed to overrun the whole enemy camp.

[Reliving the Mana Pools battle](#)

Mushumbi Pools attacked

[The attack on Mushumbi Pools is still on the villagers' lips](#)

Rhodesia tried to recapture them, but ZIPRA sent heavy artillery to Mahuwe. We moved to Kachuta, Mudhindo, Nyakapupu and so on, knowing that the rear was clear.

[Reliving 'fiery' Feira Battle . . . Six days of non-stop bombardment](#)

August 1977:

6 August: Salisbury Woolworths bombing

21 August: Attack on Odzanu Junction Farm

Last time Rhodesian troops were seen in Sabi North Tribal Trust Land, as of August 1978:

[Africa News](#)

Operation Grapple

September 1977:

On September 12 1977 Three days later, word came to us while we were at our base in Zhenje Mountain. We were told that we were changing our base to Makove Mountain in the Matimha area, about four kilometers from the Rhodesians' main base at Makumbe Mission. We were told to go to another base in Ngomakurira sacred mountain. Ambush at Makove Mountain

[Ambush in Chinamhora...another victory for ZANLA | Celebrating Being Zimbabwean](#)

October 1977:

27 October: ZANLA attack in Godzi, Wedza kills nine enemy troops

"Zimbabwe News"

November 1977:

7 November: Insurgents overran Chindambuya "Zimbabwe News"

10 November: Insurgents overran Mutawatawa "Zimbabwe News"

24 November: We knew that about four groups of ZANLA forces were stationed in Hwahwazira Mountain and a sell-out had informed Rhodesians about the base. Rhodesians were eventually overpowered and we were delighted when we saw their remaining choppers heading back towards Mutare, while their military trucks drove back to their barracks. Road to Honde Valley was mined.

[Outclassed in Honde Valley | Celebrating Being Zimbabwean](#)

[ZANLA forces taught Rhodies a lesson at Honde Mission | Celebrating Being Zimbabwean](#)

From the 25th of November 1977 ZANLA guerrillas began to move en-masse into the areas north of Nyajena through the Mukosi River Ranch into Mshawasha Purchase Area

25 November: Operation Dingo

December 1977:

4 December 1977: Insurgents captured Marange killing eight soldiers

"Zimbabwe News"

18 December 1977: Attack on Grand Reef airbase (some sources incorrectly state it was 1978)

Quite a chunk of Manicaland, it had become a free zone. We could move any time, without any fear. After Grand Reef, we hit Penhalonga, we hit Ruda, in fact any airstrip along the border, we neutralised. We had liberated zones say some 60km into Rhodesia from the border, people could move at will.

[Guerrillas Attack Base in Rhodesia, Killing One Soldier - The New York Times](#)

[Grand Reef Attack was planned](#)

Late 1977:

It was located along the Gwampa Valley. Going back a little I should explain that towards the end of 1977 we had managed to transform some areas in Lupane and Nkayi from the red zone to green zones.

On the opposite side of the country, the resort town of Kariba was under virtual siege by late 1977.

“A handful of hard men”

A similar incident occurred in the Mount Darwin district where a unit of RDR soldiers had been neglected for over eight weeks before being forced to flee their encampment at the Ruya river bridge

1978:

Beginning of 1978:

By 1978, supply bases had assumed the following spatial arrangement; all bases lay south of Ngondo and Govogwe rivers to avoid proximity to the Fort Victoria-Beitbridge highway and be drawn closer to the gadzingo.

https://docdownloader.com/waiting/mazarire-a-social-and-political-history-of-chishanga-pdf-free?queue_id=6820b9ad0a0cad58208b4f7b

At the beginning of 1978 the road between Mnene and Musume was closed. It was the only route used to transport mealie meal and other food items for the school from Zvishavane. The Rhodesian soldiers at Nyala got their supplies by air, which facility the school did not have

The liberation war was raging and Hwedza was a semi liberated zone

[Zimbabwe: Aeneas Chigwedere - Teacher, Brilliant Mentor - allAfrica.com](#)

January 1978:

From there we moved to kwaGumunyu area and I can say we were the first freedom fighters to arrive and deploy in that area. That was January 1978.

[We first had difficulties penetrating Gokwe](#)

destroyed a Rhodesian military base on 7th January at Nyamorora

“Summary of World Broadcasts: Non-Arab Africa, Issues 5703-5776”

March 1978:

Rhodesian forces in March 1978 when they cordoned off the Dongamuzi and Mzola areas in Lupane for about a month in a bid to flush out the guerillas. After suffering heavy losses the Rhodesians burnt 30 homesteads in frustration

<https://www.heraldonline.co.zw/dubes-military-exploits/>

I threw away the books and pens and ran away to Pupu, which by then was a liberated zone.. In early March 1978, I left Pupu headed for Botswana en route to Zambia. I was in the company of our herdboys by the name Ernest. The guerillas had given us directions from Pupu to Lupaka and then to the Gwaai area — Mpindo to Mlevu crossing between Dlamini and Sipepa Camps. From that then to Phelandaba-Mgodi Masili-Dupute-Bambadzi in Bulilima and finally in Botswana where we headed for a cattle outpost called Dzivananeni. We crossed through the area controlled by Cde Todd Mpisi in Tsholotsho who was the Zipra commander there.

[LEST WE FORGET: The schoolboy who dodged Rhodesian bombs in Angola](#)

I was very secure because at that time Lupane and surrounding areas had become a no-go area for the Rhodesian forces. Personally I formed six detachments each with about 200 troops and they were the following, Spear under the command of Cde Stalin covered the Lupane area, Striker with Cde Dwala Nkomo as one of the commanders was in Nkayi, Vulindlela operating in areas such as Lower Gweru, Silobela, Zhombe and other parts of Midlands was commanded by Cde Christopher Fuyane who I am told is still serving in the army and his real name is Mbonisi Gatsheni, the fourth detachment was the Madiliza and this one moved closer to Bulawayo as it was operating in the Inyathi area and it was commanded by Cde Jack Hlongwane, the fifth was the Pamozi which operated in the Mzola, Dandanda, Kana in Lupane and Binga under the command of Cde Driver. That detachment had the likes of oMafutha and Andrew Ndlovu while the sixth detachment, the Parirenyatwa was based in Gokwe.

<https://www.heraldonline.co.zw/joint-christmas-party-after-entumbane-disturbances/>

May 1978:

9 May: Attack on the Montclair Hotel

14 May 1978: Rhodesian forces attacked Kamungoma in Gutu killing 100 people

[Reliving Kamungoma Base massacre...we must tell our story | Celebrating Being Zimbabwean](#)

Two weeks later (28 May) guerillas gathered at a base in Mawanga Mountain to plot a revenge attack on the enemy. They attacked Mupindimbi, destroying the base.

[ZANLA forces avenge Kamungoma massacre | Celebrating Being Zimbabwean](#)

June 1978:

Rhodesians, who had survived the Mupindimbi attack, had fled to another military camp at Basera, in Gutu. Guerillas gathered at a base in the Dewende area in Mawanga Mountain and attacked Basera. The attack marked the liberation of that zone as Rhodesians never came back to that area again.

[Attack that liberated Gutu | Celebrating Being Zimbabwean](#)

23 June: Vumba massacre

July 1978:

In July 1978 Nylon began joint ambushes on the Fort Victoria-Beitbridge road with other ZANLA groups operating in Chivi.

August 1978:

Guerillas started frequenting Mushayi

[Remembering Zimbabwe's War of Liberation through Memories of the August 25 1979 Mushayi Battle, Dambara Area, Gutu](#)

September 1978:

3 September: Air Rhodesia Flight 825

20 September: Operation Snoopy

October 1978:

On the 2nd of October 1978 they laid explosives that blew up the Tokwe Bridge to a near rubble.

October 3 1978

A sell-out informed Rhodesians about freedom fighters who had established a base on Zawarira Mountain. The Rhodesians had been massacred at the Battle of Zawarira

19 October: Operation Gatling

In October 1978, the Rhodesian forces established a base in Manyati's field to render protection to road construction workers putting a kilometre stretch of tar along the Domboshava-Bindura Road. Partisan attacked, Rhodesians relocated to Makumbi Mission Military Base, about seven kilometres away.

['ZANLA gunned down Rhodie soldiers in Chinamora' | Celebrating Being Zimbabwean](#)

Under the same strategy, the main bridge across the Govogwe river linking Chishanga to the main road was demolished in the same week. Effectively it became difficult to access Mshawasha Purchase Area and Ngomahuru just as it trapped all those Rhodesian Security Forces that were operating between this point and Nyajena who could only be airlifted out.

That is the detachment I was under when we entered the country around the Mana Pools area. We were deployed to the war front around October 1978.

RENAMO entered Mozambique

November 1978:

Eventually it took almost 2 months to repair the Tokwe bridge as had been predicted and it was open to traffic from the 28th of November 1978

[Cde Velaphi Ncube's unheralded journey](#)

December 1978:

11 December: Salisbury fuel depot attack

Area around Mary Mount mission was no go area for Rhodesian soldiers, there were no cars on deadly roads, only air raid

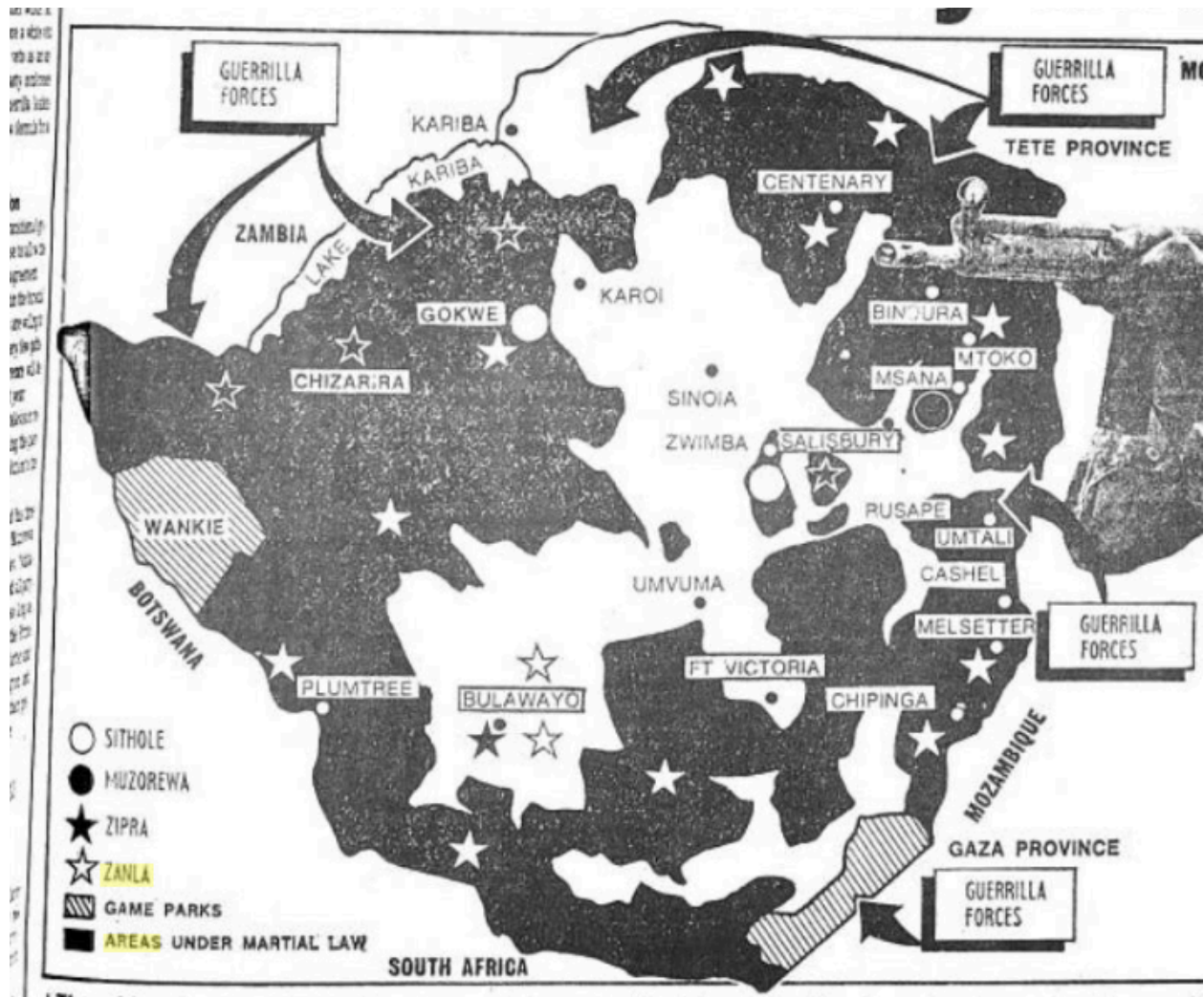
[Struggle for Liberation in Zimbabwe: The Eye of War Collaborator \(Mujibha\)](#)

By 1978, ZANLA forces were in total control of some parts of Mberengwa, Mwenezi, Chivi and even parts of Beitbridge and Filabusi in what we termed Gaza Operational Province and the Rhodesians termed it the 'Russian Front'.

The road from Neshuro to Mataga, passing through Matibi Mission Hospital in Mwenezi, was our prime target. We had successfully rendered it impassable. It was a no-go area for the Rhodesian forces. They could only come by air.

[The power of intuition...Gaza Operational Province a no-go area](#)

20 December 1978:



https://books.google.pl/books?id=rucC6Qi78l0C&pg=RA15-PA20&dq=map+of+zanla+liberated+areas&hl=en&newbks=1&newbks_redir=0&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj2jrR4KONAXUpExAIHdBpNiAQ6AF6BAGNEAM#v=onepage&q=map%20of%20zanla%20liberated%20areas&f=false

Auxiliaries routed at Muchapondwa. We left for Chinamhora where we established a base in Munyawiri. In all, we stayed for a week at our base in Damusi Mountain as we could no longer go back home because the Rhodesians were looking for us. On the day of the attack, we were told to walk to Zhenje Mountain where we were to meet vanamukoma after the attack.

[Auxiliaries routed at Muchapondwa | Celebrating Being Zimbabwean](#)

End of 1978:

By the end of 1978 most of the chiefdoms were effectively ZANLA liberated zones. A different administrative and legal structure replaced the colonial one. The headmen and chiefs who had been used by the colonial administration, were replaced by the cell, base, and overall chairmen, who in many cases were personalities elected by the people and approved by the ZANLA command system. Those were the people who effectively wielded power in the Nyamondo - Chingoma - Mketi - Negove - Mataka complex of chiefdoms by the end of 1978.

“Guerrillas had entered Lupane in serious numbers in 1977 and by late 1978, much of the district was semi-liberated and under the control of ZIPRA guerrillas operating through ZAPU party structures

By late 1978 the guerrillas had established hegemony in Buhera District and the area was a liberated zone. It provided an enabling environment for such developments

[Traditional Leaders and Zimbabwe's Liberation Struggle in Buhera District, 1976–1980](#)

The SFA continued to be expanded, and moved into the Chinamora and Masembura TTLs , and the controllers continued with their difficult task of trying to turn a rabble into something of a fighting force. By the end of 1978 there were 70 SFA at Nyama in the Msana TTL, and 280 in the Chinamora and Masembura TTLs in two bases, one near Domboshawa and the other at the northern end of the Masembura TTL, at Makumbi Mission

The Chikwakwa TTL, adjacent to the semi liberated Mangwende TTL, and on the boundary of the Shamva and Enterprise farming areas did not have a SFA presence

[Our Rhodesian Heritage: Operation Enterprise - The Battle for Salisbury](#)

The end of 1978 also signalled the beginning of a consolidated drive by ZANLA guerrillas to advance northwards towards Fort Victoria town, this was to be achieved through the expansion of the 'liberated zones' of the Nyajena and Chibi detachments

Unspecified 1978:

ZANLA guerrillas occupying Vhimba in 1978 and using it as a base for attacks on white farms

“Fast Track Land Occupations in Zimbabwe In the Context of the Zvimurenga”

1979:

A new smaller bridge had to be built to form the Govogwe river so that Ngomahuru and Mshawasha only became accessible from the north in the early months of 1979 this having been made possible only after diverting the road some metres away.

February 1979:

12 February: Air Rhodesia Flight 827

25 February: Operation Vanity

March 1979:

23 March: Beira fuel depot attack

April 1979:

Matibi Tribal Trust Land was almost a liberated area

“A handful of hard men”

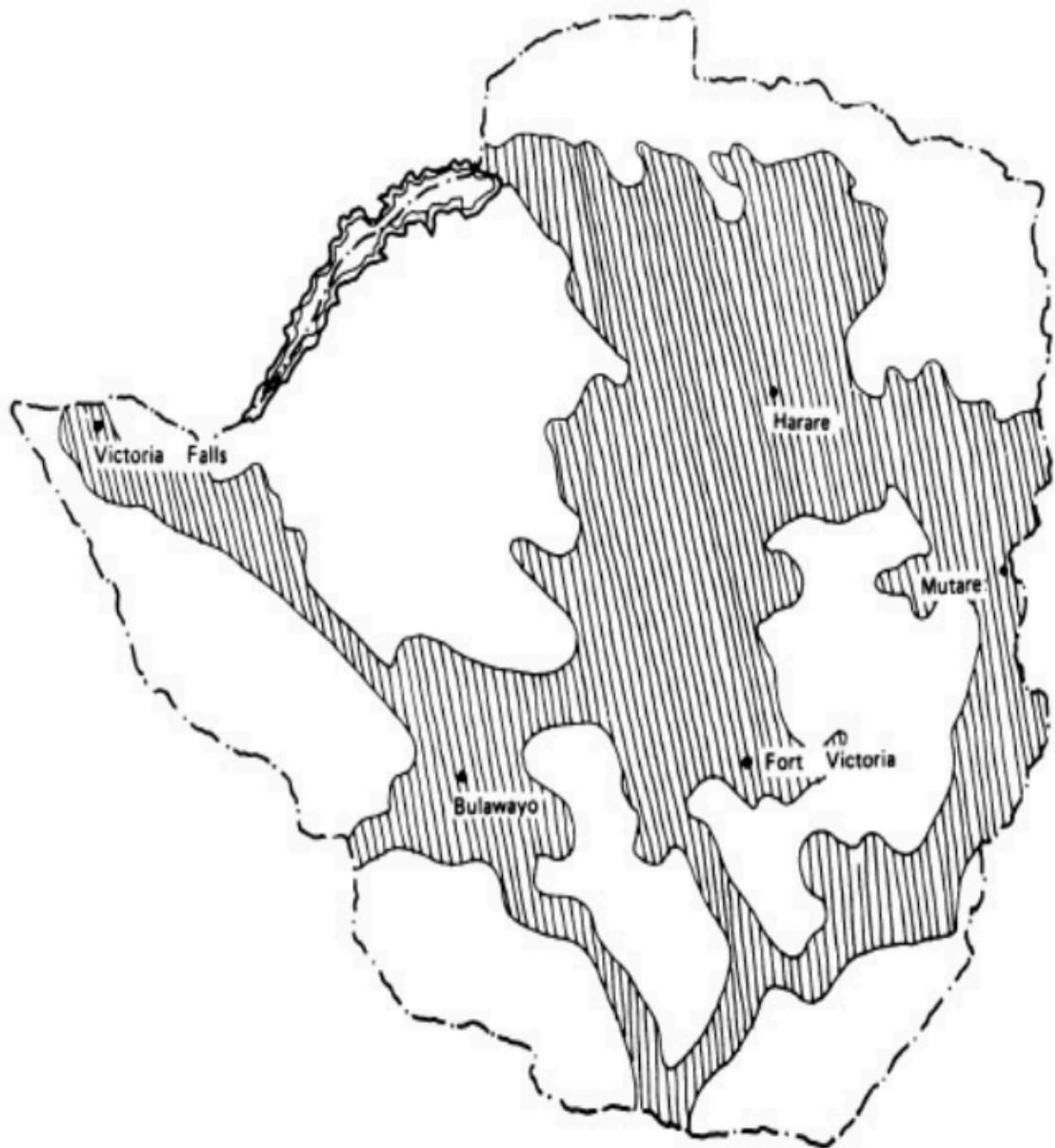
10 April: 1979 Rhodesian general election

On the Tuesday evening (the first day of voting) Dotito (north east of Mount Darwin) was attacked with mortars, rockets and copious small arms fire

[Election in Zimbabwe - Rhodesia, 1979 - part 2](#)

6th – 20th April 1979

[Our Rhodesian Heritage: Operation Enterprise - The Battle for Salisbury](#)



Stripped: Vital Asset Ground, defended by Rhodesia

White: Areas abandoned by Rhodesia

“Counter-Insurgency in Rhodesia (Rle Terrorism and Insurgency)”

May 1979:

14 May 1979: Rhodesia attacked Kangara Base in Murehwa, killing more than 100 innocent civilians in broad daylight.

[Reliving Kamungoma Base massacre...we must tell our story | Celebrating Being Zimbabwean](#)

On a quiet night of May 16, 1979, a group of freedom fighters descended upon Mahutwe camp, surprising the Rhodesian forces with a hail of bullets. They had no chance to return fire.

This marked a pivotal moment as the guerrillas emerged victorious, leading to the desertion of the Mahutwe camp by regime soldiers.

[The Forgotten Frontline: The Battle of Man'unu and the Mahutwe Camp Attacks - newZWire](#)

June 1979:

1 June: Zimbabwe Rhodesia

4 June: Operation Chamber

9 June: Operation Mineral

In June 1979 ZANLA guerrillas established a base at Hurudzavasikana. With thick vegetation and a rocky hill, it provided a 'natural' hideout.

['Those who are not known, should be known by the country': patriotic history and the politics of recognition in southern Zimbabwe](#)

By June 1979, however, the ZANLA operational front had extended to Plumiree, Nkai, Lower Gwelo, Gatooma, Norton, Sinoia and Karo. By then, the enemy could no longer contain the ZANLA offensive.

[Central Committee Report: Presented by the President of ZANU, Comrade R. G. Mugabe](#)

July 1979:

I was deployed to the Hwange area. From the rear we moved towards the Simonga area, which was a crossing point near the Kazungula.

[We turned Jambezi into no go area](#)

August 1979:

22 August: Operation Placid

23 August: Operation Motel

August 25 1979: Mushayi Battle

[Remembering Zimbabwe's War of Liberation through Memories of the August 25 1979 Mushayi Battle, Dambara Area, Gutu](#)

RENAMO permanent base in Mozambique

September 1979:

1 September: Operation Uric

2 September: New flag

5 September: RENAMO established base in Gorongosa

27 September: Operation Miracle (Rhodesia)

October 1979:

Last ZIPRa forces left Guruve on 29 October 1979

[Reliving 'fiery' Feira Battle . . . Six days of non-stop bombardment](#)

Battle of Kariba 18 October

['Tshangane was a troubled man as fighting intensified' - herald](#) :

[Kariba battle: Zero Hour that stunned Rhodes](#)

Insurgents attacked Buchwa Mountain, after which they proceeded to Filabusi, Sandawana Mine which they closed and finally to Matopos.

[We massacred the dreaded Selous Scouts](#)

Controlled by rebels by ceasefire:

I can say with confidence that our operations had an effect on the tourism sector around Victoria Falls as it was no longer business as usual for tour operators. Areas such as Jambezi became no go areas. There was a limited movement of people as we had intensified the operations. I operated in Hwange until the ceasefire period when our units moved into Mike Assembly Point at St Paul's Mission in Lupane.

[We turned Jambezi into no go area](#)

By late 1979 a quarter of a million acres of the vast Nuanetsi ranch in south-east Rhodesia had been abandoned by its management. Guerillas firmly established in the Chinamora TTL near the northern suburbs of Salisbury and had worked west through the Wedza area and into

the Seki TTL south of Salisbury , but the capital was isolated only in a psychological sense and not in

“The Rhodesian War: Fifty Years On”

Rhodesians could only cling to places such as Sipepa in Tsholotsho, Madlambudzi in Bulilima-Mangwe and Plumtree town itself.

[Lancaster House: Factors at play behind calling of talks](#)

Rhodesians especially in Tsholotsho District where by the time of the ceasefire it was a semi-liberated zone as we had destroyed all the Rhodesian camps dotted around the district. We were only left with Tsholotsho Centre

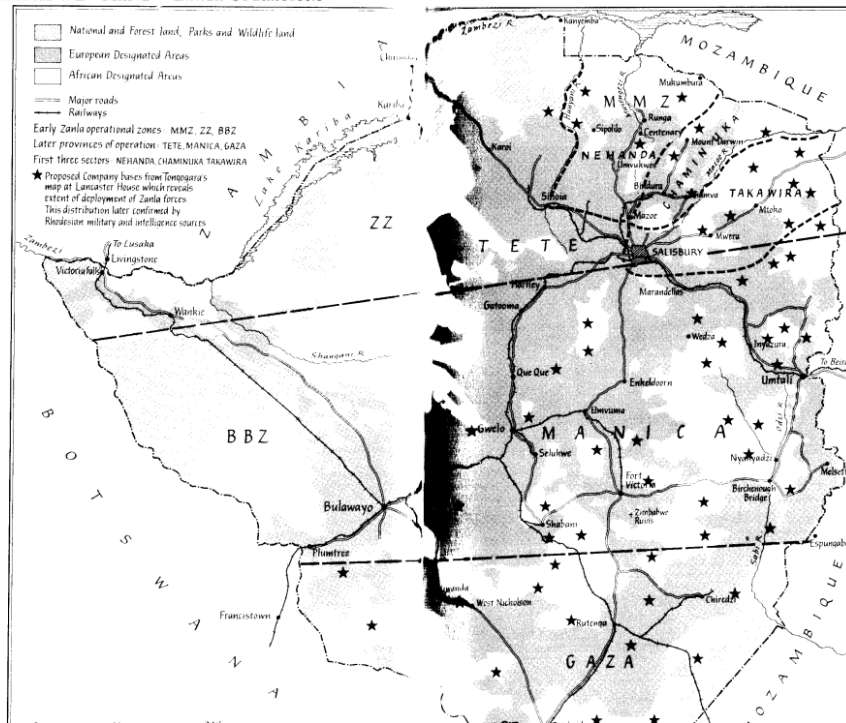
[Guerillas detain their commander](#)

We called the semi-liberated zones Zambia and in my area of operation it covered Donsa, Sikhobokhobo, Sivalo, Makhwatheni and so on. We had sent messages to the whites at Nkayi Centre that we don't want to see the Rhodesian forces crossing the Shangani River. They should not go beyond Nkayi Centre. However, in defiance one day they did and it was that unit of mercenaries. There was a serious battle where our unit of 27 guerillas settled things with the enemy.

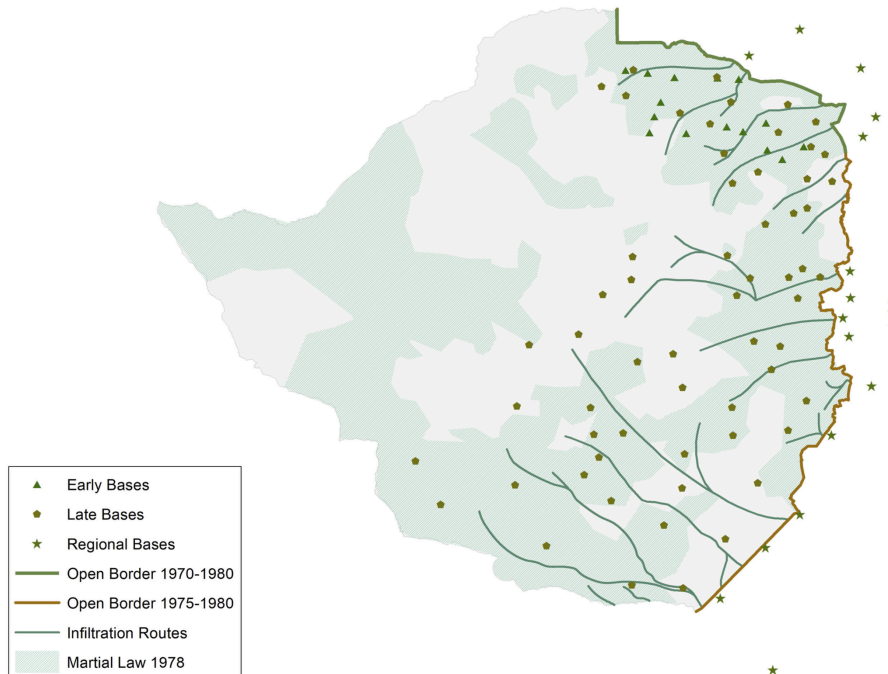
['We had semi-liberated zones in Lupane, Nkayi'](#)

Maps of rebel bases:

ZIMBABWE MAP 2 — ZANLA OPERATIONS



STRUGGLE FOR ZIMBABWE



https://journals.sagepub.com/cms/10.1177/13540688211060024/asset/d4ab7301-fe73-4193-b261-bf4132b1ec0a/assets/images/large/10.1177_13540688211060024-fig3.jpg

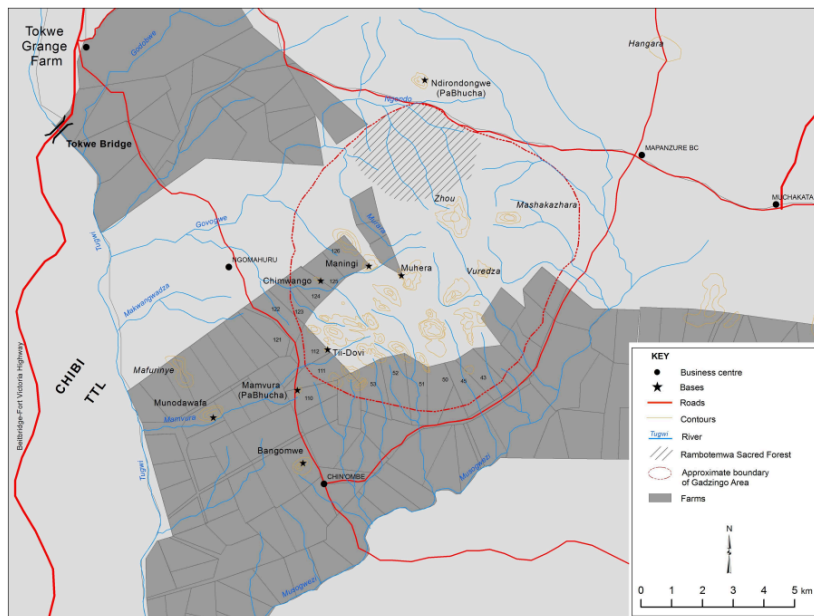


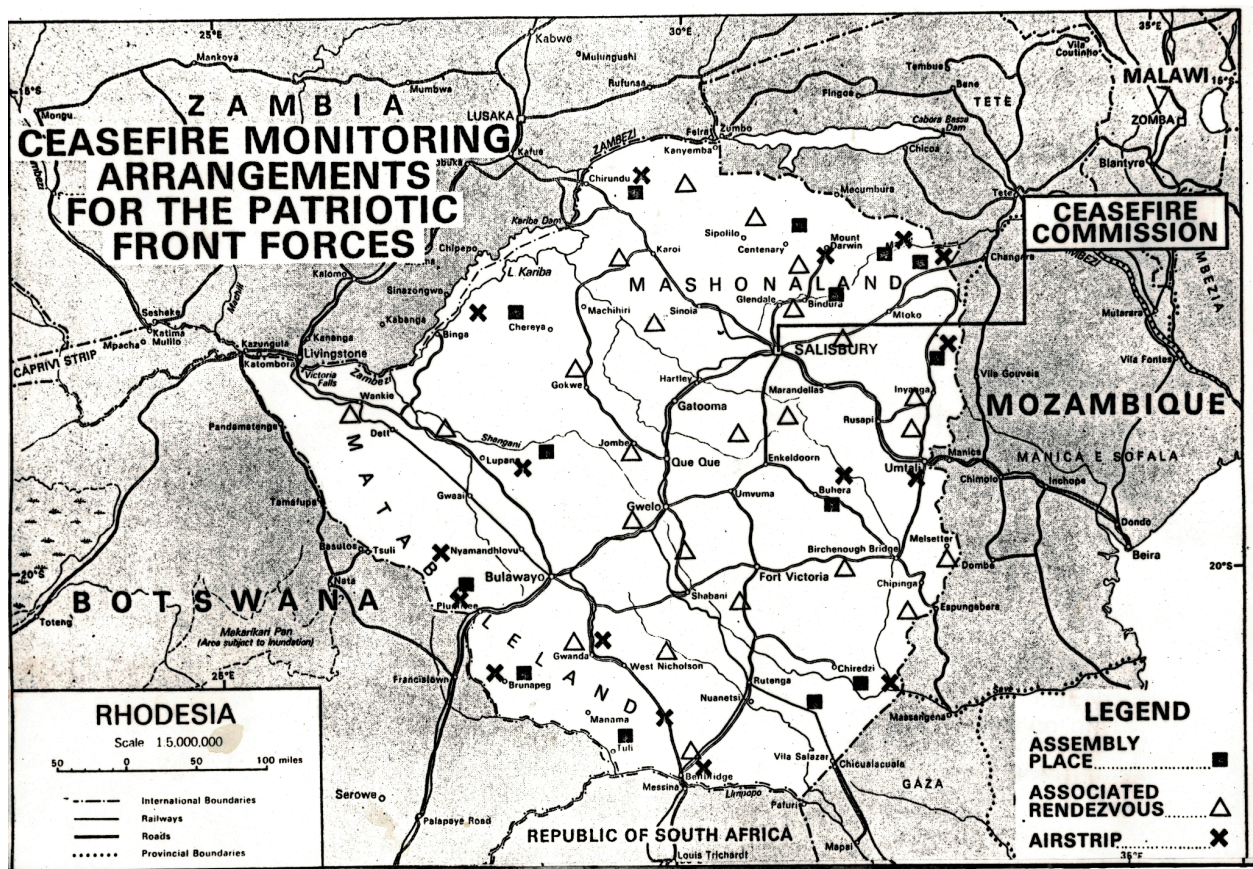
Fig. 9. 2: ZANLA Bases in Chishanga's Gadzingo Area

[Mazarire A Social and Political History of Chishanga | PDF | Zimbabwe](#)

Rebel assembly point during ceasefire (1979 – 1980)

Nickname	Location
Alpha	Hoya
Bravo	Magadze
Charlie	Marymount
Delta	Dendera
Echo	Elim Mission
Foxtrot	Dzapasi
Golf	Mutandawhe
Hotel	Makambe

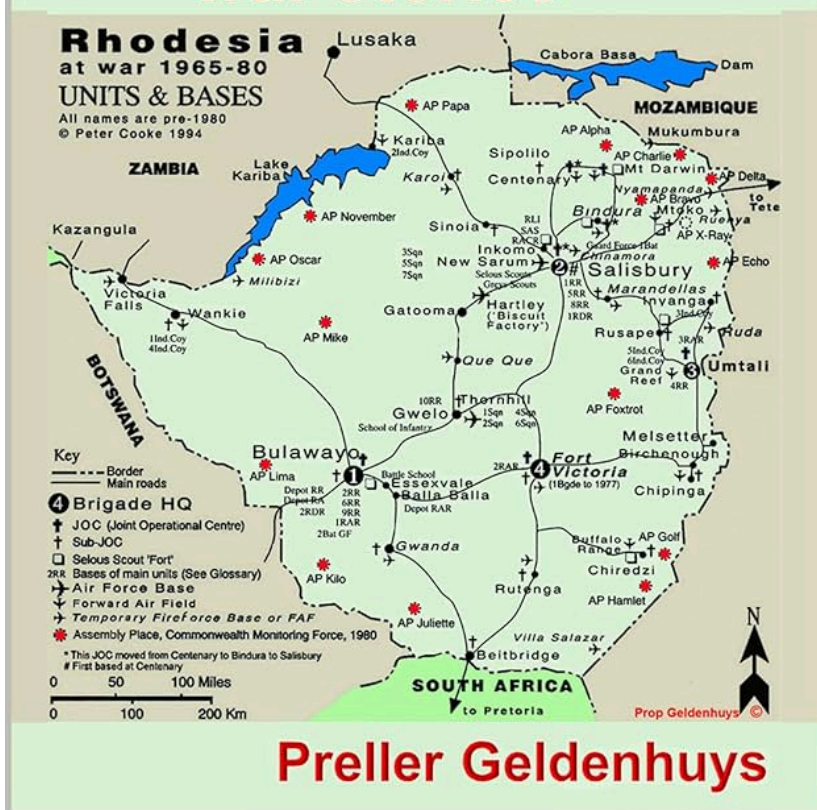
Juliet	Zezeni
Kino	Brunapeg
Lima	Madhlambudzi
Mike	St Pauls
November	Siabuwa
Papa	Rukomechi
Quebec	Kariyangawe
Romeo	Magurekure



<https://www.rhodesiansecurityforces.com/maps/newspaper1.jpg>

Preller Geldenhuys

ZIPRA and ZANLA war stories



https://m.media-amazon.com/images/I/81SdE3gUQdL_UF1000,1000_QL80_.jpg

The most notable clash was that which took place in the Makoni District on December 28 1979. The heavily armed ZANLA forces were spread over a 2km stretch along the Rombwe mountain range. It was also the last major battle between ZANLA and the Rhodesian security forces and was 'a classic fire fight between the two armies' (Moorcraft and McLaughlin, 1982: p.112) At 2400hrs on December 28 1979, it would be ceasefire

[The Struggle for Land in Zimbabwe \(1890-2010\)...the implementation of the Ceasefire Agreement, December 28 1979 to March 3 1980](#)

1980:

On 10 January in an incident at Lupane the police opened fire and seven ZIPRA personnel were killed

February 1980

On 3 February 18 people were killed in an attack attributed to ZANLA on a bus near Umtali

The Rhodesian Front won all 20 seats in the elections for the white members of parliament on 14th February

On 27 February, the first day of the elections, 1,375,000 people— nearly half the total electorate—voted

[Personal Commentary - Issuu](#)

4 March elections ended

April 1980:

18 April 1980 - Zimbabwe independence

On April 25, 1980, the Selous Scouts' disbandment was announced

After April 1980, the 'irregulars' of the Rhodesian Army – mainly Security Force Auxiliaries – were demobilised, and all of the all-white Rhodesian units were renamed and re-constituted. Only the Air Force and the RAR remained unintegrated until August 1981. The Rhodesian Air Force had maintained its need for special After a plan to send men from the assembly points to do agricultural work failed in mid-1981, many were sent to high-density townships, Chitungwiza near Salisbury and Entumbane in Bulawayo In October 1980, the men began to arrive in the cantonments in military convoys

November 1980:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1980_Entumbane_clashes

ZIPRA regular forces with their tanks started moving from Essexville in Esigodini, Matabeleland South whilst some were moving from Gwaai AP in Matabeleland North towards

Bulawayo to reinforce their colleagues at Entumbane (Interview with Jack Mpofu, one of the

senior ZIPRA commanders, 2017). If nothing urgent and decisive was implemented, the ZANLA-ZIPRA clashes at Entumbane could have sparked a full-scale war.

Both forces from Esigodini and Gwaai did not reach Bulawayo as the convoy from Esigodini was pulverised by the Rhodesian air force at Ascot Shopping centre just at the door steps of Bulawayo. The Gwaai convoy was also stopped along the way

After violence at the Entumbane cantonments in Bulawayo, military trucks took ZIPRA men out of Entumbane to a temporary camp at Woolendale Rifle Range (south of Bulawayo) and ZANLA men to Godhlawayo Shooting Range (north of Bulawayo), leaving both in tents and outside the urban areas

1981:

January 1981, when former ZANLA and former ZIPRA exchanged fire in Chitungwiza

February 1981:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1981_Entumbane_uprising

In February, ZIPRA at Connemara barracks believed that ZANLA was about to attack them. In Seke, near Chitungwiza, former ZIPRA on parade opened fire on an air force jet fighter. The next day, in Entumbane, an argument between former ZIPRA and former ZANLA in a beer hall quickly became a shoot-out. Fighting then spread throughout the army: in Que Que, a former ZIPRA member threw a ZNA soldier from a moving train; in Connemara, ZIPRA took over the armory

‘Whoever Saw a Country with Four Armies?’: The Battle of Bulawayo Revisited

On 8 February, ZANLA cadres at Connemara Barracks in Gwelo surprised their ZIPRA counterparts, killed over 60 of them and forced the rest to flee into the bush. When the ZIPRA portion of the 13th Infantry Battalion, based at Glenville Camp near Entumbane, learned of this later in the day, it waited until its instructors from the British Army left in the evening, then attacked its ZANLA comrades, killing 12 of them and scattering the rest.

ZIPRA also fought against ZANLA cadres in February 1981 at Entumbane in what is generally known as the second Entumbane skirmishes. The precise causes of the clash are not clear.

However, what is clear is that factional fighting spread to other APs like Ntabazinduna, Chitungwiza, and Glenville and to Connemara in the Midlands

Between February 7 and 10, 1981, even more serious fighting broke out in the Entumbane cantonments and spread to three integrated military units

The second outburst of fighting between ZIPRA and ZANLA forces spills over into Nyamandlovu, where army units loyal to the Government intercept columns of ZIPRA troops heading for Bulawayo from Gwayi in the north.

March 1981:

In March 1981 there were problems disarming ZIPRA at their Mushumbi Pools camp. Three national army soldiers involved in the disarmament exercise were killed by two ZIPRA members and two others were injured

August 1981:

Inkomo Army Barracks are sabotaged by South African agents destroying \$50 million in ammunition and equipment

The absorption of thousands of guerrillas into forty-six new battalions by August 1981 – thirty-six were formed after the Entumbane fighting in February

1981 – was a milestone in the ruling party's quest to end multiple sovereignty and build its power

1982:

This situation became worse after the government claimed to have found arms caches in February 1982

Mugabe's government changed the capital's name from Salisbury to Harare on 18 April 1982 in celebration of the second anniversary of independence.

Full list of names changed:

[List of renamed places in Zimbabwe - Wikipedia](#)

Super ZAPU was the group of South African backed dissidents, which operated in Southern Matabeleland from late 1982 until mid-1984. Most of its members were recruited from Dukw camp in Botswana

"Motsi Trauma 2010"

JULY ?:"Some builders" killed and others attacked by dissidents in Kezi area while working on Govt projects.

Two major incidents occurred in July 1982 which worsened the already unstable

security situation in Zimbabwe; the kidnapping of six foreign tourists (23/7) and the destruction of fighter aircrafts at Thornhill air base near Gweru (25/7).

The kidnapping occurred at a makeshift roadblock on the Victoria Falls-Bulawayo road

AUG 26: Police involved in a gun battle with dissidents on Lucydale Farm in Matobo - no casualties

DEC 19: 2 dissidents set up a roadblock just north of Kezi and stop 7 buses and a Mercedes Benz. They burn 4 buses and the car

1983:

26 January: Stringent curfew regulations are introduced: at the same time, 5 Brigade is deployed into the region, and begins to work its way northwards, through Tsholotsho, into Lupane and Nkayi.

FEB 26: Captured dissidents strengthen evidence that Kezi is a "core area" for Super ZAPU, according to police sources in Kezi.

In late 1983, the dissidents divided Matabeleland and parts of the Midlands into three operational regions, in accordance with ZIPRA principles. The existence of Super ZAPU was a factor which encouraged the other dissidents to organise themselves along the lines of ZIPRA command structures, in order to help undermine and separate Super ZAPU from themselves. The regions were as follows.

1. The Western Region, mainly Tsholotsho and Bulilimangwe, which ran from the Victoria Falls railway line to the Plumtree railway line, and was under the command of a dissident called Tulane.

2. The Northern region, mainly Kwekwe, Lupane and Nkayi, which ran from the Victoria Falls Bulawayo railway line east to Silobela, and was under the command of three successive dissidents, first Gilbert Sitshela, then Mdawini, then Masikisela.

3. Matobo, Insiza, Gwanda and Beitbridge formed the Southern region, from the Plumtree railway line east to Mberengwa. One dissident interviewed commented that a Matobo unit was allowed to make contact with this southern structure only in 1986, because of fears of Super ZAPU. This region was under the command of a man called "Brown"



1985:

JUNE 6:3 dissidents killed by security forces in Semukwe area of Matobo.

1987:

JAN 29:Dissident killed in Bezha area of Matobo

JULY 7:A militia man is shot dead by dissidents on a commercial farm near Figtree

Thee Unity Accord was signed by Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo December 22,, 1987

https://pure.uva.nl/ws/files/3736331/19058_UBA002000573_09.pdf

1988:

MAR 28:"Gunmen"kill 34 animals on a commercial farm, and burn a house in Matobo.

On 18 April 1988, Mugabe announced an amnesty for all dissidents, and Nkomo called on them to lay down their arms. A general ordinance was issued saying all those who surrendered before 31 May would get a full pardon. This was extended not just to dissidents but to criminals of various types serving jail terms. Over the next few weeks, 122 dissidents surrendered.