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Language/s of interview: Afrikaans/ English

Length of interview: 13 minutes 53 seconds

Name of Interviewer: De Wet Potgieter

Name of interviewee/s: Colonel Vic McPherson

Name of translator (if any):

Name of transcriber: De Wet Potgieter

Notes on access and use (if any):

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Interviewer	Ek gesels met Vic McPherson, kolonel. Vic ,wat was jou laaste posisie in die polisie voor jy uit is met pensioen?
Vic	Ek was 'n kolonel en ek was die area-administratiewe hoof by Johannesburg- Sentraal.
Interviewer	En ten tyde, van, kom ons noem al drie, die Londen-bom, die Lusaka-bom en die Arusha-voorval in watter afdeling het jy toe gedien?
Vic	Ek was by die veiligheidstak, hoofkantoor, onder hulle geval, onder die veiligheidstak het ons besluit, het die base het besluit, omdat ons toegang het tot agente in die buiteland en in Afrika en so meer dat ons die intelligensiebeen sou word en, ag, dit het onder verskillende name bekend gestaan, ek dink ons was eers E, Volgens jou organigramme en later word ons nou D, so ons is, toe ons die werk daar by hoofkantoor gestop het, was ek by D.
Interviewer	En tot op die laaste was die eenheid die meeste bekend gestaan as D-seksie?
Vic	D-seksie, ja.
Interviewer	Jy wil net vir my 'n voordrag inlees in die bandopname oor wat jy geskryf het oor jou werk, so jy kan maar voortgaan daarmee.

Vic	<p>Goed, ek het nou maar gedink die boek se naam wil ek gee, 'n Enigma, dit is na aanleiding van hierdie kriptiese masjien. Die kriptograaf wat die Duitsers ontwerp het hoe hulle 'n baie spesiale kode met hierdie kriptograaf met alle bote kon kommunikeer en ook hulle duikbote en hulle hele vloot daardie kriptografiese masjien was so ver ontwikkel dat, wel die Geallieerde Magte probeer het om dit ontrafel het, maar nooit daarin kon slaag nie.</p> <p>Die masjien, die kodenam is Enigma, en daarom sal ek graag die boek se naam wil sien as, An Enigma. Enigma beteken dit is heeltemal iets anders. Heeltemal anders as die gewone wat in daai tyd bestaan het, heeltemal anders. So, goed die opskrif dink ek aan Enigma en anders, Chronicles of an Apartheid Spy. Die woord apartheid trek in Europa bietjie aandag . En dan net Colonel Vic McPherson, SOE, Agent RS 309. Ek het onder daardie naam gewerk. Alles wat ek geskryf het, ek het nooit my eie name gebruik nie, al die geheime verslae het onder daardie nommer gehardloop.</p>
Interviewer	En jou kodenam, jou skuilnaam was?
Vic	Klaus Dietrich.
Interviewer	Sê weer.
Vic	<p>Klaus Dietrich (dan spel hy dit). Dietrich- soos Marlene Dietrich. Goed,</p> <p>Vic</p> <p>It was a hot and humid day in December 1966, quite normal for Durban during that time of the year. Having finished school at Jim Fouché High School in Bloemfontein, I was on holiday at my parent's home.</p> <p>I was pondering about my future. I received my call up papers from the South African Army to report to 5SAI Ladysmith for 18 months more than 20 months later. That meant that I had to find a temporary work.</p> <p>In those days no company would have employed me under those circumstances. I had ambitions to become a scientific researcher at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).</p> <p>My ambitions took a turn when my father introduced me to the neighbour, a formidable and respected policeman in the community. He convinced me to become a policeman, just to see how it turns out.</p> <p>Having a restless mind and thinking of an adventurous future in the police, there was no hesitation and I immediately signed up. Six months later in the South African police college, Pretoria, the training moulded me and other policemen into well motivated men to serve the community.</p> <p>Dedicated we were posted to police stations all over South Africa and Southwest Africa.</p>

At that point of time the political situation in South Africa and Rhodesia was in turmoil, politically and through sabotage acts. South Africa faced an onslaught from all our borders, including Rhodesia and Southwest Africa ( today Namibia). The members of the African National Congress via Umkhonto we Sizwe and Pan Africanist Congress via the People's Liberation Army, committed sabotage.

The South African Communist Party was especially active on the labour front causing countrywide strikes. It was a crucial time in the history of South Africa.

Little did I know at that time that I would become involved in a war where, instead of being an ordinary policeman for the community, I would become a para military policeman. Spending a few months in uniform at the Montclair police station in Durban, I volunteered for duty on the border between Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and Zambia.

I underwent a counter insurgency course over three weeks at the police college.

That time South Africa and Rhodesia were plagued with insurgencies of the ANC (MK) and PAC (Apla) across our borders. The freedom fighters were using Rhodesia as one of the way of incursions infiltrating South Africa.

Rhodesia, under a white government with Ian Smith as prime minister suffered the same problem with Zapu en Zanu freedom fighters crossing their borders from Zambia, Angola and Tanzania.

We were flown from Waterkloof air force airport by Hercules C130 aeroplane to Victoria Falls air force airport. We were issued with the British South African Police camouflage and appointed as a cover to the BSAP with BSAP appointment certificate. What it meant if you were caught, you were Rhodesian. You were wearing Rhodesian camouflage and you were always Rhodesian. As far as the world was concerned, we were never in Rhodesia. It was never admitted by South Africa and Rhodesia that foreign army was on the border- in the war on the border.

We were posted in platoons of 30 all along the Zambezi river border from Botswana, Zambia, Southwest Africa.

OK, nou is daai deel klaar.