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TRANSCRIPTION

| Speaker | Dialogue |
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| MN | <p>This is an interview with Edward Nare carried out on behalf of the Mafela Trust and the South African History Archive as part of the Zenzo Nkobi Photographic Archive project. It's conducted by Mary Ndlovu and Zephaniah Nkomo and it's taking place on the 18th of January 2011.</p> <p>First of all we'd like to ask you to tell us a little about yourself, how you came to join the struggle for liberation of Zimbabwe and what role you played when you were in Zambia.</p> |
| EN | <p>OK thank you. Basically it was in 1977 in Gwanda South and other areas like Kezi, Plumtree ... there were a lot of political activities taking place there, taking into account also that there were a number also of senior ZAPU leaders, they also came from those provinces, from those districts in particular. So as such it is common knowledge that those people they have cultivated a lot of political activity in their areas, and hence a number of ... even today as we speak you'll find that a lot of ex-combatants they also hail from those areas. It was simply because of that. And also there were also a lot of activities in terms of the already trained guerrillas who were operating in our areas. Also even those from town they would always come home to say ... to conscientise the people about the ZAPU thing, meant to liberate the people. So this is all about the political activities which almost you know led to everybody in that area ... actually at the end of the day you could hardly find a home with young people during the liberation struggle in those mentioned areas because even of their proximity to the border with Botswana. Yes</p> |
| MN | <p>So how did you get to Zambia? How did you join the struggle?</p> |

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| EN | Yes, after ... as I have said that there was a lot of activity... Actually one of my uncles [inaudible] was an active member of ZAPU so he was also involved in recruiting. He was not only involved in recruiting from outside; but even from within his home .. so as such we were also recruited accordingly then we left for Zambia via Botswana. Briefly we went into Botswana at Mutabekwa Bazhong then to Selibe Phikwe. Then we arrived there, it was 1977 yes 1977 ... May. Then we stayed there briefly for a month then from there we were transported by air to Zambia and to Nampundwe Camp. |
| MN | OK And had you finished school ... what was your position in regards to the education you had up to that time. |
| EN | I'm sorry? |
| MN | How old were you and what schooling had you done when you decided to join the struggle? |
| EN | Actually I went to school ... it was 1968 when I did my sub A. Then during then those activities I was doing actually I once had a break after some illness and then I had to go back to school and during that time we left I was doing my grade 6 |
| MN | O.K. so when you left you were going to go as a fighter. |
| EN | Yes, basically that was the spirit which had engulfed everybody. There was no other thing ... even those with radios they would always remember the old lady, Jane Ngwenya. |
| ZN | How good was the journey, or bad, was it bad or good, the journey that took you to Zambia? |
| EN | Normally travelling for a very long distance, the first of its kind, footing and then automatically there were those nasty experiences, and even along the way I remember there was an old man, a certain old man who ... who was said to be a sell-out you know ... you see - you know how those people were treated - but at the end of the day I don't know what happened to him but there were some sort of you know hitting and other things ... even those who were recruited they were also involved and you know the other experience even one of the people who were recruited was a son to that old man who was said to be a Selous Scout. You can imagine your father is said to be a sell-out and the way how a sell-out is being treated in your presence. |
| MN | This was in one of the villages you went through or this was somebody who was with you. |
| EN | It was somebody from our area who was said to be a sell-out. Of course I'm from Tshongwe ... he's from Nyangwe, but those two are just very close areas. |
| MN | So before you went off to the border you passed through that area to discipline this man |
| EN | We we we met along the way. There was a group from our area which was recruited, there was another group from that particular area. At the end of the day, those responsible for recruiting they'd be having a gathering point somewhere, and when they brought us together this is only when we were told "uh,uh, this old man is a sell-out" |
| MN | I see, so he was one of those recruited. |
| EN | Yes. But at the end of the day we did not complete the journey with him. We don't know what happened to him. |
| ZN | How many were they ...were you ... as recruits? |
| EN | We were a group of about 150. |

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| MN | Oh, so many? |
| EN | Yes, just because they had recruited a number of people from various areas. |
| MN | But it was safe to travel with that number of people? |
| EN | Really when you were recruited you were not the owner of the programme, you are not part of the thinking, if you see but when we ... after some time when you look at that you could really see "uh uh that was not secure", you see we were not secure, yes, but unfortunately, or fortunately ... |
| ZN | The point of the border, proximity of the border again, could have been one aspect to look at the number of recruits. |
| EN | I really don't know whatever they thought just because they were even some people from just near Gwanda town you see, maybe someone from Gwanda the [inaudible] area the Makwe area there so we joined them along the way yes |
| MN | Let's move now to Zambia, as that's what we need to talk about mainly. How did you end up getting to this JZ camp? |
| EN | Yes, firstly there was Nampundwe transit camp, where all males were being ...staying and after some time there was a thinking that "Let's have ... let's open JZ". I think it was opened in August 1977 where young people were to be taken there. The first group which was taken from there. Also there was a group of young boys ten years and below almost, they were were not staying at Nampundu ¹ before JZ was opened, they were staying at V C so they were the first people to be relocated to JZ, and then there was also a number that was located from Numpundu to JZ. |
| MN | Can you say where JZ was. Where was it located. It was all in the same area? |
| EN | Yes JZ camp I think is west of Lusaka. Yes. |
| MN | Not far from Victory Camp? |
| EN | Yes, not really far, I just remember at one given time we were made to foot from JZ to VC where we ... the two camps were to be addressed by the leader of the party, of course President Joshua Nkomo. And other senior leaders. |
| MN | So it was walkable |
| EN | Yes it was a walkable distance, but you know ... it is all about that people should learn to understand that during those times there were situations whereby you could not chose to say "I can do this or I cannot do this". Whichever, when they say "Right, you are moving from this point to this point" definitely there's someone who would have been there. There was always a lot of physical training every morning so almost everybody was always physically fit you see, and at the same time almost everybody was anticipating that one day I will go for military training, so you cannot put yourself on a weaker position so that even during the ...when they select people for training they will be refusing you to be identified .. you have even just failed to travel a five kilometre journey. So everybody was very resilient |
| MN | OK, but then...so you were sent from Nampundwe to JZ were you? |
| EN | First I stayed at Nampundu |

¹ The name of the camp is Nampundwe, but many referred to it as "Nampundu". This interviewee interchanged the two.

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| MN | Yes, and then |
| EN | And then we were relocated from there ... I can't remember the month, but it was 1978. |
| MN | OK so you were at Nampundwe for a long time. |
| EN | Yes |
| MN | What ... why were you placed at JZ? |
| EN | Actually ... basically they were looking at ... the cutting point was the age, someone's age. |
| MN | And you were what age? |
| EN | 1978 I was 17 years old |
| MN | O.K. And they were taking older boys for military, is that it? |
| EN | Sorry |
| MN | Were they taking older boys for military. Did they say you were too young to go for military. |
| EN | I couldn't call them boys; they were young men |
| MN | O.K. they took the older ones first. |
| EN | Yes that was the criteria and it only ... like .. like in 1977 and 1978 people were joining the struggle in droves, therefore those who were responsible for military training now they... they had a chance to choose, to say now ... like we had a number of people, some coming from South Africa, the Wenela ² , and they were automatically ... even when we were maybe to go for training. You would know that the moment they come, yours would be delayed |
| MN | So were you frustrated when they sent you to JZ? |
| EN | Sorry? |
| MN | Did you feel frustrated when they sent you to JZ? |
| EN | Yes, really it was frustrating and ... because you know nobody went there for any other purpose other than what we were recruited for, and what the lady Jane was saying on the radio, yes. Even we had our own commissars, you know, on a daily basis. First thing in the morning you go for, you know, physical training, then thereafter around ten o'clock, you know, then you have some some lectures from our commissars, you know, to teach ... the teaching about the purpose of the struggle, how it was started, why we should liberate ourselves, you know, which is of course an orientation. That was an orientation exercise. |
| MN | O.K. so now you got to JZ camp. This is a picture of the camp I believe. All of those people are boys. [1D-45-18] |
| EN | Yes they are boys. |
| MN | Were all the occupants of the camp boys? It's only boys who stayed there? |
| EN | Yes, JZ there were only boys |
| MN | O.K. And.. and what was the youngest age, from what age. |
| EN | That is a little bit... complex per se. In the sense that you see when you were part of the |

² Reference is to those recruited for labour in the South African mines

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| | administration at times you could not bother about knowing someone's age ... it was not important by then and as such maybe you could find that we had some young boys maybe about ten years or so, I think ten years was the average, |
| MN | The average? |
| EN | Yes, in terms of the minimum age |
| MN | Oh in terms of ... so there wouldn't be very many younger than ten. And what about the accommodation. Where did they sleep? |
| EN | We had some tents |
| MN | It was tents mostly |
| EN | Yes we were in tents which could accommodate about an average of about ... I think the smallest tent would accommodate about six people or so. |
| MN | Oh |
| EN | Yes |
| MN | And there weren't any construction there weren't any buildings of wood or brick...it's all tents. |
| EN | They were all tents .. the only ... I think there were only two structures which were not made of tents. I think the.. kitchen was grass thatched in some wood ... even the logistics it was the same set-up the rest were tents. |
| MN | And this other photograph which shows a grass hut was this used for sleeping? [4A-08-20] |
| EN | Right, there was a time when there were a.. a lot of bombardments, so nobody was spending the whole day in the camp, so every morning around...you would wake up at around four a.m. and disperse into the bush, and it is in the bush outside the camp, maybe about five kilometres away from the main camp where people will spend the whole day and as such you ... you'll always decide to put some structures for you to spend the whole day hiding there and actually remember ... at times it would be raining so you ... without being told by anybody you would decide what you think can save you, so as such some people will come up with such structures. |
| MN | So this was just for some protection from rain the sun, or to hide from the airplanes. |
| EN | It served multi purposes |
| MN | And what was it made of just grass and sticks? |
| EN | Yes grass and sticks and nothing else, yes |
| MN | Ok so does that mean there was no defence against the airplanes at the camp? There was no anti-aircraft or ... |
| EN | There was nothing specially here near Lusaka, during that time there was nothing. There were only some light weapons like the AKs |
| MN | Yes, so it must have been quite frightening. |
| EN | Sorry? |
| MN | It must have been quite frightening, then |
| EN | What do you mean exactly? |

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| MN | I mean to be staying there knowing the planes can come any time... |
| EN | Yes. You remember earlier when I talked about the orientation ... the orientation itself was enough to make each and every individual to understand why he ... he joined the liberation struggle, and in the struggle it was always made very clear that one way or the other one might die and that is .. should be part of it anyway ... just because you'll be taught about the history of other countries, how they liberated themselves and how even some people lost their lives, and we were not a different nation altogether, so really there was nothing you can say it was really frightening. They never respected that but they were very much clear about that but it was never respected, that's why at the end of the day people were to be relocated from Lusaka to that end in Solwezi there. |
| MN | Yes, I was going to ask you about that later, but let's .. let's talk about it now then. So the camp was bombed at one time. |
| EN | Yes |
| MN | Once only once or more than once |
| EN | It was ... I think it was about twice or so |
| MN | [inaudible] planning the attacks |
| EN | A number of people were ... were already relocated including myself. Only a few skeletal staff and a few and a few of us who were yet to be relocated ... they were the ones who were affected, but the majority of them were already moved. It was actually ... they were moved after the FC bombardment; this is when it was decided. Actually before the bombardment of FC there was a thinking that ... actually it was a planned thing that young people from JZ they should be moved to FC camp where just because even farming and other activities were taking place, where enough of food was being produced by our own but unfortunately a week .. it was just about a week when we were supposed to be moved there and before that a bombardment took place .. I think it was in October and it was on a Thursday if I ... |
| MN | These things are remembered by the day of the week ... so you had moved to the other camp at Solwezi, near Solwezi were you? |
| EN | Yes |
| MN | Now, let's come to the feeding side of it. Oh wait, we haven't looked at this one. Can you explain what's going in this ... is this a regular kind of occurrence, this parade, or is this a special occurrence, a special event? [2A-10-11] |
| | [studying picture] |
| MN | Do you remember any occasion like this? |
| EN | Basically what used to happen was that ... every morning you go to parade |
| MN | Ah every day. |
| EN | Every day there was a parade, where all ... right, remember even the set-up was a military set-up. There were companies there were battalions. And each company has its own instructors, you see, therefore when you go to the parade, all the instructors they stand in front of you, even though that day there will be someone in charge of the main parade. Thereafter you'll break to wherever you will be instructed by your instructor. Now your your company is going that way ... your company is going that way for a particular |

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| | exercise. Like I have mentioned before, first thing in the morning you'll go for physical training which is a sort of quasi a military training; then thereafter this programme of the orientation carried out by the commissars and then later on there was a what do they call it ...then education was... was introduced when we were still in Lusaka. There was education now where there were classes where you could even find someone you know as big as myself in grade one. Otherwise there was formal education now, even though of course under trees using some logs as our benches but of course there were some ... we were using exercise books and a ball point pen, but under trees yes and ... |
| ZN | But this gathering, do you think it was just a parade, or something would have been happening here ... what would you |
| EN | During my time when I was in JZ particularly in Lusaka we ... I don't ... we never had a day when it was called a special parade we just used it .. those were the normal parades; every morning before you you ... I remember the first thing in the morning you'd go for those the physical what ... exercises then thereafter there'd be the main parade where instructions or announcements would be made. |
| MN | O.K. so you'd know what you were going to have to do for the day |
| EN | Yes |
| MN | OK. Then let's talk about the feeding. Was there adequate food and what type of food did you get? |
| EN | Yes, as for the food it might be adequate for ... for the particular period then the other time it's not adequate and the ... the main food it was sadza and you'd have the mathemba fish and the dakotas normally from the GDR ... those are big fish; we called them the Dakotas, yes; we also ... |
| MN | Would it be dried ... |
| EN | They'd be dried, yes with a lot of salt and there were times when we had the cow peas and what ... and other varieties of some beans. |
| MN | Did you know where the food came from or you just knew it came |
| EN | Actually that one was not our business but as for the dakotas it was only that they came in cardboard boxes and written GDR, so that's how we happened to know, but as for the beans at times we were told they came here in Zambia you really never know just because it was really not our business to know that it was even at times we just go to the kitchen whatever is cooked there is what you're going to eat for that particular day yes |
| MN | But were there ever times when there was no food? |
| EN | Yes we experienced food shortages of course |
| ZN | And how would you survive? |
| EN | You see ... at that orientation alone, I'll go back to the orientation ... it would simply make you understand this is part of the process or this is part of the struggle and as such you could hardly find people complaining about food, but someone even maybe the next morning someone will tell you, you know I dreamt my mother giving me you know very nice cooked food with a chicken but when I tried to eat I woke up ... |
| ZN | Tell us about <i>ingezana</i> and other things that you ended up cooking because there wasn't any food |

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| EN | You see the issue of the ... the <i>ingezana</i> [wild vegetable] really, it was not about the prevalence or about the availability or the non-availability of food. You know ...it was really about ... I started to know about the issue of this <i>ingezana</i> at Nampundwe camp whereby there will be the main food there with the relish. Some people will go out and bring .. you know they called it okra – <i>idelele</i> - but that was the first of its kind. I never saw that <i>delele</i> here at home but I think it was something for the Zambians or what but it was just you know found in the bushes and some people would bring those leaves and cook them... to supplement the relish we would have been given from the main kitchen. So that alone that ... simply because it did not belong to everybody. It would be for .. prepared by particular individuals so they called that thing <i>ingezana</i> . |
| MN | What's the actual meaning of that word.? |
| EN | I never bothered to ... To supplement, meaning today “best meal” |
| MN | OK Did it cause problems then when some people had it and some didn't? |
| EN | Like you see even myself I didn't even like that okra of theirs simply because even at our home our areas particularly the Sotho people we used to know that okra is for the Ndebele people you see, even when I went there I still had that in mind even when they were eating that. But even if you could even find that when there are shortages of the relish itself some guys would even go to the extent of using salt as ... as an alternative yes so even at times that <i>ingezana</i> the okra itself and the salt would even sometimes cause some people you know to find that their lips they turned red because of that. So as such it also discouraged me just because you know when you went there there were some of my age groups you know who went before me you could find someone now with red lips and then you try to find out what they are – <i>ingezana</i> ... you see ah you see |
| ZN | What about the beans, the types of beans the <i>mtshatshatsha</i> and the others |
| EN | Yes we like I have said before, we had some varieties of beans. You know I can't remember where these .. these other types, they were small and green beans - I don't know where they came from. We used to call them <i>mtshatshatsha</i> ... and if you cooked them you see those are the unusual beans, just because if you thoroughly cook beans or if you overcook them you can turn them into something like soup. But that ... that particular type you can't do anything about them It's just ... |
| MN | Hard |
| EN | It's just hard you know ... you cook it to a certain extent and even at times if you ..you you cook it today you eat it tomorrow, then almost everybody will have a runny tummy, but I don't know where those beans came from ... I mean the the country of origin, but otherwise these others some were the cow peas and these big ones the white ones these are the cow beans yes |
| MN | Did you ever try to cook flying ants, grasshoppers, mice .. |
| EN | Ah no, as for the mice I haven't seen ...never saw anybody making an attempt. People who ... one or two people, you know, since we were coming from different backgrounds you could find someone ... you know I remember I had a friend of mine I don't know whether this guy is from Plumtree – Horizon - finally I remember he went for training in Angola ... he cooked and ate an owl |
| ZN | An owl? |

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| EN | Yes, he just cut the head and said the rest was chicken. And at the end of the day he was doing [inaudible] after having seen it very ...all nicely cooked |
| MN | So how was the cooking done; what fuel was used. |
| EN | We were using firewood |
| MN | Firewood. So some of you would be going to collect the firewood. |
| EN | Yes definitely, like I have said before that when you are coming to parade you'll be given some assignments. You'll be told that today company so and so today is going to carry out this a particular duty like the firewood. |
| MN | And so is this the way they collected it? [2A-10-12] In this picture ...they put it in bundles on the ground? |
| EN | You see when you go to collect it is like you ... each individual will be carrying maybe one or two some pieces or log-like, yes. When you come back you just go and throw them there in the kitchen. You'll find that they will just be put there in a disorderly manner. There was no reason of putting them in a nice way, you know like |
| MN | O.K., so these would have been dropped near the kitchen somewhere. |
| EN | Yes near the kitchen somewhere. We were really just throwing there we did not bother about putting them in an ordered manner. |
| MN | And who was doing the cooking then? |
| EN | We had some old people; actually the majority of them ... they were some people who went to war maybe even before we were born, yeh, so in terms of carrying out military operations in the country maybe some because of their age ... taking into account now by then we had a lot of personnel, so these other ... others especially some of the old ones maybe who would have been injured during the liberation ... during their operations you know, in the country, then they were reassigned to other duties like even cooking, yes |
| MN | OK Now, what what ... did you have spare time, did you have time to yourselves or to your friends when you didn't have any activities that you had to do? |
| EN | Actually we did not have friends, but we we did have colleagues, you see colleagues or comrades .. whoever stayed where they slept together, you are in the same section, you are in the same company, the same platoon that would be your comrade or your colleague, nothing more or less. |
| MN | OK then but did you have time to yourselves, free time where you had to find something to do, or was every hour programmed for you? |
| EN | Like at times you'd go to school and then from school you .. we were still at JZ I in Lusaka you'd go to lunch then from lunch there'd be some free time that you'd relax and do other things on your own now, unprogrammed. |
| MN | What other things would they be |
| EN | Sorry |
| MN | What other things would they be? |
| EN | You see we could find some people who were singers, they would just put themselves into groups, they start singing, others are footballers you know some would play <i>insolo</i> |

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| MN | That game |
| EN | There are various types of <i>insolo</i> there is not only one type .. you see you would find people engaged in those various activities during their spare or free time |
| ZN | Those making shoes or something to cover their feet and some were doing a lot of spoons. What were they making these spoons from? |
| EN | As for the spoons, you remember in the bushy areas of Zambia we had these people we used to call them [inaudible] but when we came back home here we now called them carjackers. In Zambia they would steal a car, they would go in the bush they'd strip off the parts and they leave the whole body there. Right, but to us it was a ...we we ... out of that scrap metal you could cut it and produce your own spoon from there. Yes, and the material which we were using you know in every shoe especially underneath the sole, in beneath there's a metal, a steel metal meant to ... so that the shoe the sole of the shoe you know is not weak; so that is the thing that we were using to cut that metal, those metal from the scrap of the stripped cars and then from there they could make our spoons there, and from that thing ...that metal removed for the cutting ... it was also being used as a file yes and also some were even able to make their own needles. You see, you can see a beef tin that thing you use for opening ... already it has a hole so you just take it and straighten it and that thing we used for cutting the ...that metal to turn it into a spoon, you also use it as a file |
| MN | To file that thing down. |
| EN | Yes, even an ordinary wire you can smoothen it at the back, then you make a needle out of that as well. |
| MN | So you became very inventive |
| EN | Very inventive, just because even you could make black shoe polish |
| MN | From what? |
| EN | You just burn a tire, you grind it, you sieve it, then from there we ... soap like lifebuoy - you just boil it, the soap, until it dissolves, once it has dissolved then that powder from the tire you mix the two, then you produce your nice black shoe polish. |
| MN | So you had lots of time to try out all these things. |
| ZN | Suppose there was serious evaluation of the talents of these young boys, what do you think some would have been, since there were some young people there also fighters, carrying some weapons like guns; don't you think some could have been trained to produce weapons like AKs? |
| EN | Yes there were a number of skills there but unfortunately they remained untapped. If they were tapped definitely they .. we would be having some of them doing nice things here, especially in the technical field. Like I remember we had a certain young man called Vundla. He of course with no name. You see, he could shoot from that gun. Right, then there's ...you see these pins for the tents, he could cut the end sharp of that thing. Having cut it he I don't know where he was getting some used cartridges, then from there he'd take some matchsticks .. he would take the head and then peel them, peel them and put them in that used you know ... |
| ZN | His gunpowder |
| EN | Yes using that as powder you see you could even hear the sound of the gun yes |

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| MN | And what did the what did the commanders of the camp do when they found that somebody had made a gun? |
| EN | You see they ... everybody was just surprised but I don't think anything was ever taken to try to assist the young man to improve on his skills; it was just talked about and ... |
| MN | Did they allow him to keep the gun? |
| EN | Oh no no he could not be allowed he could not definitely for security reasons nobody you could not be allowed even any sharp object or any object which could be used to harm anybody we were not be allowed to use to have them; but of course as young people as we are you know ... |
| ZN | What kind of punishment was given to any offender or any indisciplined ... |
| EN | There were maybe numerous punishments, like ... basically it was exercises and physical training, yes, you know we would be especially number six and number nine in the rolling ... yah you were made to roll and put in a pool of water and then you are made to roll ... even at times you could even be given some punishment you know to say today you are on ... on guard room ... instead of the usual two hours maybe you are given the whole night as punishment |
| MN | To do what? You would be detained somewhere? |
| EN | The the... actually there were some... some security measures put in place and the ... it was not only the trained personnel to do that. It was also part of you know ... training people to be on the vigilant side and also knowing some of the things practically. Right, normally the trained personnel and of course armed would be on duty to guard the camp; so you might be ... as part of punishment o.k. you have done you have done mischief or you were mischievous, maybe you were fighting each other ... you know as young boys you can't stop fighting, so maybe they'd say OK you are going on night duty to guard the camp, and of course with nothing other than just some, you know some, a piece of log as part of punishment. There were various punishments. Mostly it was in the form of usual exercises but you would be merely asked to do it more than necessary |
| MN | So you'd get extra. And then was there constantly recruitment from amongst the boys. Were they constantly taking people to be trained? |
| EN | Yes, like when was it when they started taking even from JZ .. I think it was in 1979 it was now in Solwezi yes we we had some ... some of us I remember even most of the guys who went to Libya for military training, those who came back in 1982 they were from JZ. Even a number of guys here who were in the armoured cars, they were from JZ. We also had others who went to Roumania to train as police... policemen, they were also from JZ There was some constant selection of others whilst there was a school there taking people for military training. I remember even like when you talked about police, armoured cars you need someone who can easily understand or apprehend just because there are some technicalities here so therefore at JZ you see we find that someone would have been doing his grade 7 or someone is Form 1 or Form 2 now some element of education is applied, hence they could come and take some of those who want to take for A Level training from there. There was an element of education now here which was also being applied |
| ZN | In these camps you had commanders and very popular people who happened to be very instrumental in setting up or directing all these activities in these camps. Who were these people? |

| Speaker | Dialogue |
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| EN | Like I have said before .. like when you were JZ 1 which is Lusaka, just because there was JZ 1, JZ 2 but I was never to JZ 2, I was at JZ1 and JZ 3. But JZ 1 for instance the set up was just a military set-up. |
| ZN | Who was in charge? |
| EN | There was the camp commander ... this old man I only realized after Independence that he came ... we came from the same place Tshongwe before he was replaced by Makanyanga, you know Makanyanga uDoug. And we had some, then from communications we had Todd, the commissar we had Fungai, yes, we had Fungai ... |
| ZN | What was the role of Makanyanga? |
| EN | Makanyanga was the overall camp commander |
| MN | And then the ...once you had the school and the teachers would be under the commanders. |
| EN | Yes, that was just a military set-up, even though there was a headmaster, at the end of the day but he simply fell under ... he was the command of the camp commander |
| MN | Were there any women at all there, like as matrons, or some motherly figures for the younger boys |
| EN | You mean at JZ? |
| MN | Yes |
| EN | It was specifically for young men. It was not ...women and any other person were at VC. We had two distinct camps which were specifically designed for that, whereby women and the young children are there ... then JZ ... male teachers, the other instructors and young .. and the boys there. When we were in Nampundwe if you could ...at one given time I remember I can't even remember I think she was from the health department ... they had a clinic there; you see then there was a team from Lusaka. Then that team we had one or two females ... you know everybody, even the old people, they just wanted to go there and have a glimpse of a woman. That was something really to look at because they would have stayed there for many years there without having a glimpse of a woman; even the women would do the same but maybe as for the women it was a little bit better for them there because those you know the security providers would be men; they would have a glimpse of him at his guard post. |
| MN | And there would be more visitors I suppose at Victory Camp as well. |
| EN | Sorry |
| MN | Did you have visitors you know like foreign visitors or Zambians coming to see the camp? |
| EN | As for V.C. I would be lying; we only went there once when there |
| ZN | No I mean JZ |
| EN | Visitors .. |
| MN | Did Visitors come to JZ |
| EN | Actually it was not important to have visitors. It was very unnecessary in terms of .. All our things were determined by the security; the security people would always decide to say this is necessary or not, yes. Maybe I don't know whether he was part of them, I'm not quite |

| Speaker | Dialogue |
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| | sure ... they were the determiners... otherwise there was no need that's why our camps were in the bush. |
| ZN | How many times can you remember Nkomo visiting the camp. Any other ...we had very senior party officials who visited these camps on a regular basis. |
| EN | At JZ I don't remember seeing any senior ... any senior official coming there. I only remember of course when we were still at Nampundwe I think it ... at one given time I remember Nkomo himself he came with a delegation from it was from the then Soviet Union, where there was a big parade and we were made to toyi toyi with a group of the old people and the young people. I remember as for our ... our group that toyi toyi was led by this guy Finish; then as for the old group there was Tonderai and Mandevu |
| ZN | Tonderai Sithole |
| EN | <p>Tonderai Sithole even though during that time I remember he was not feeling well and he was very good at that actually when it came to you know he he he was skilled in terms of you know for toyi toyi and sloganeering. He was very good at that ... I remember that he was not doing well even when we started that Nkomo quickly released that Tonderai, there's no Tonderai here ... he asked "Where is Tonderai?" You see and he was made to come even though he was not feeling well that particular day but a soldier is a soldier, you know, he came in and his presence just made a difference just because he was gifted in that area, yes.</p> <p>Like the other people who could come I remember at one given time these guys the late uNikita Mangena when he was the army commander even uLookout Masuku who also is now late when he was the commissar by then, and also these other guys, the chief of staff, Ambrose Muthinhiri. At times we could have these guys the chief of personnel when the chief of personnel were the likes of uGele and uGumula .. those were some who could frequent Nampundu, but when we were in JZ really it was mostly about schooling and these other ... I think nobody was concentrating on visiting that camp simply because there were no about-to-be soldiers ... they were concentrating in the main yes, there</p> |
| MN | O.K. but when but those who were recruited from JZ to go for training, did they volunteer, did they ask them what they wanted to do, or they just came and said right you, you're going there |
| EN | We were we were in a war situation. In a war situation you are not asked what you want to do or ... or what you think about, but you ... you are you are simply told that we want a group, let's suppose we want a group of twenty people or fifty people and then they will simply say the age group is like this, maybe even there since we were now even having a school they will say maybe even those with this level of education, then they will choose from there, yes. There there there was no situation whereby you say what you think is right for you. |
| MN | And there must have been young people who really wanted to go for training who never got the chance. |
| EN | Actually everybody, every young person who was there was very ... you know it it was very nice you know even to see some we had some even when we arrived in Nampundu the majority of the guys who came from the Manama group, they were very young but ourselves when we came there they were already trained. You see they were young as ourselves and they were receiving us, vetting us, doing everything you know ... so it was |

| Speaker | Dialogue |
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| | just a serious challenge to everybody to say if these ones were trained why can I not be. So that that was the situation, with the scenario anyway, yes, like you find that even him carrying an AK rifle you know when you look at someone ... |
| ZN | ...just carrying it |
| EN | ... just carrying it on its own was enough even though you see like at Nampundwe you were trained some sort of the combat tactics, so that even when you are attacked by the enemy you'd be knowing exactly how to try to escape. We were taught all those things yes, even how to strip and assemble a you know weapon we were taught all those things in the event I'm with him, he's trained and I'm with him and he is shot I should be able to pick that gun and fight; you see that was the, the situation anyway. |
| MN | O.K. and then we liked this picture of these three boys and we wondered what do you think they were dreaming about ... what would they be thinking about? [4A-08-24] |
| EN | You ... I can't really tell what they were thinking about but |
| MN | If it was you, what were you thinking about? |
| EN | Like you see specifically when you were in in JZ 3 there were a number of activities which were taking place. There were those who were in the playing soccer, we had a number of choirs especially choirs. I can't remember how many were there like this old man, uNare he had his own choir. We had this other guy we used to call him Unyamana; we had ichoir we had also ichoir <i>lokuzeni</i> eCuba where there was a competition amachoir ama liberation movements. You see there were a lot of activities which were taking place. Maybe I don't know maybe these guys maybe they were watching a choir singing or they were watching a football match you know you can't really tell or they were just relaxing on their own maybe after having come from a classroom where we used some bamboo as our ... our benches because in Lusaka... |
| MN | What would they be hoping for do you think? |
| EN | Sorry |
| MN | What would they be hoping for |
| EN | There was always a slogan <i>ukuthi siyalithatha lonyaka</i> [trans: we'll take the country today] everybody and those who had been there would be there for three years, they would be saying <i>siyalithatha lonyaka</i> you arrive today meaning ukuthi "we are getting freed today", or this year so and as such it would have been very nice for somebody to say ukuthi the country has been liberated and I'm part of that - even when the people come home I'll be welcomed you know as someone who has gone to war you see. Like actually most of the young people who grew up in the rural areas you know they always liked to to be part of the victors; it's like even when you are at home you find that even a very young boy you find you meet him in the thick of the bush with his dogs and axe and a knobkerrie you see, these are the types of the people otherwise almost they even these who are in the struggle they were developed into into such into such young people; they could think of anything, you know |
| MN | But yourself you stayed at JZ until you came home at Independence. You didn't go for training |
| EN | No I stayed in JZ 1 then also stayed in Maheba; then it was after bombardment and the camp was deserted, then this is when we went to JZ3 |

| Speaker | Dialogue |
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| MN | O.K. it was also in that area, near Solwezi. |
| EN | Yah, that is in the Solwezi area, yes that is in the Solwezi area just because like in Maheba it had the main camp then there was camp 1 and camp 2. The main camp was the general camp, then camp 1 it was for those who were on stand-by meaning for going for military training then camp 2 it was mainly for those who survived but were injured in the FC attack. So but after the bombardment and the whole camp was deserted and we we stayed in the in the bush I think for two weeks or so and we were just cooking in the bush there and imagine that is the equatorial region, where it rains on daily basis ... and we even developed some skills like just a mere blanket you just turn it into a tent, it is a good tent you see, those are some of the experiences anyway. It was then after those two to three weeks staying in the bush it was only then later we were told that everybody is going to JZ 3 even the ... we had some very very old guys who went to JZ3 and then there was formal education we find that almost someone maybe is 26 years or more and doing his grade 1 and someone at ten years is doing grade 5 and you see that was the scenario anyway. That is how I went to JZ 3. |
| ZN | Probably taking you to a later stage where we have come from war ... JZ ... young boys came, some were still young, some a little bit grown up; what happened to them when they came back home, where are they? |
| EN | They're just scattered all over. They are now individuals on their own some ... some they ... they joined the army, some they joined the police, some they went into private life some they went back to school, you know, they they are just all over; some even went to South Africa when there was this Gukurahundi era, some they decided to go to Botswana, specifically they went to South Africa and Botswana I remember there were some even who went to Botswana since then I haven't even met them I understand they are now residents of Botswana |
| MN | But you you came from ... when did you come from JZ 3. Was it after Independence or before |
| EN | Yeah we came after |
| MN | You came after |
| EN | JZ 3 we came in 1980 - August |
| MN | Oh so they didn't bring you back for the election? |
| EN | No we came after the elections when everybody was disappointed; we were just disappointed anyway. |
| MN | O.K. I think that's ... thank you very much. |
| EN | You're welcome. |