

Mike Hoare – Script 2

Looking back, I am haunted by the choices I made and the innocent lives caught in the crossfire. The path I trod, paved with the suffering of others, weighs heavily upon my soul.

I estimate that I have killed between 5,000-10,000 Congolese rebels with my mercenary unit 5 Commando.

These rebels were in reality socialist revolutionary youth movements inspired by the message of Patrice Lumumba, the first democratically elected Prime Minister of Congo, who was killed in 1961 by Belgian secret services.

In December 1963 rebellion broke out in Congo. The unrest spread fast, and I was hired to crush the leftist rebels with my unit, 5 Commando.

Among the few rebel groups active, the Simbas were the most notorious and organized. Their leader was Pierre Mulele, who had been the minister of education in Patrice Lumumba's government.

In reality, Simbas were simply young men from the villages who had become frustrated with the central government.

Simbas were very poorly armed and trained, they even believed that fetishistic powers would protect them from gunfire if they ran into battle bare chested. This made it easy to kill them with our automatic firearms. We massacred thousands of unarmed rebels.

Things escalated when a detachment of black Cubans arrived to help the Simbas, commanded by Che Guevara. The communist block was supporting Che Guevara via Tanzania, and the United States was supporting our side with aircrafts flown by Anti-Castro Cubans, recruited and paid by the CIA.

The war ended when the Belgians sent paratroopers, and the Americans sent more support. We gained control of the region and so the threats of the rebels faded away.

In 1965 I left 5 Commando. In the years that followed I tried my best to get involved in the Nigerian civil war, as well as conflicts in the Persian Gulf, Angola, and Mozambique. In 1976 I founded the Wild Goose Club, a mercenary recruitment agency, to supply more wars with soldiers for rent.

My loyalty was always for hire, but I have been consistent in working for South African paramilitary groups for several decades. These were groups who abducted and tortured anti-apartheid activists, with covert support from the secret services.

Not enough is known about my role working for these brutal organizations. I was part of the government's secret hands, soaked in the blood of the oppressed.

Apartheid was nothing less than a crime and I am complicit with it.

The South African paramilitary groups and secret services I was serving were also linked to the assassination of UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld in 1961, a crime which to this day remains unsolved.

Not enough is known about the role of the UK and US in his murder. The CIA, the MI6, Belgian mining companies, and my friends in the South African secret services were all involved.

Many years have passed, and now I regret that I fought so many times against democracy and the international rule of law. What greater shame can an officer have than to say that he fought against the United Nations on the battlefield?

I was an instrument of war in an era that saw continents as chess boards, soldiers and civilians as pawns.

Only now I acknowledge my role, my responsibility.

History needs to judge me for who I truly am.