
. . . 350 - 400 meters from my house.

Between the detonations and our exiting the house, the sky was lit up in "yellow-orange" as if it had been lit up by illuminating rockets but in yellow-orange colours (combusting fuel?)

By radio "Kenwood" I immediately informed CTM - Warrant Officer Daubie -, Lt-Col Duvivier and the ADC Lechat who, was already "trapped" at the airport. This shows the unusual speed of reaction of the FAR. In less than a quarter of an hour and while we were informing the MINUAR by Minuar Jeep radio, the firing started immediately, coming, in my opinion, from the end of the runway and firing in the direction of Kabuga.

According to the information that I had at the Kanombe camp and around the camp from the boys and the nuns, the Tutsis were being killed from the first night, the opponents and the suspects of the regime manhandled, looted and some killed from the 2nd night and an almost systematic massacre of all the potential eyewitnesses with effect from the 3rd night.

You should know here that an attempt had been made to lead people to believe in a shooting from the CND (FPR). As this was not credible, it seemed that the eyewitnesses had to disappear.

On Saturday morning the wife of the main Warrant Officer (FR) para-commando Jeanne Jean-Michel arrived at our house in tears, saying that his boy had been able to escape from the massacres in the neighbouring areas, that he stated that at that time they were killing everyone, that they were explaining that it was the fault of the Belgians and that we absolutely had to leave as quickly as possible.

It should be noted that I had been working at the hospital on Thursday and Friday to the great surprise of the Rwandans and that it was confirmed to me that the shooting was from Kabuga and that there were eye witnesses to say that it was the Belgians who had fired.

Our departure from Kanombe was carried out and facilitated by the French Cdt Para-Commando de Saint Quentin and the Rwandan Major (Comd Bn Rwandan Para) Ntabakuze.

It should be noted that from the time of the explosion of the Presidential aircraft I contacted Cdt de Saint Quentin in order to organise coordinated action - planning for the worst and his wife said to me that the French soldiers had already left for the site of the accident. The French Cdt then said to me that they were probably the only ones to be authorised to approach the aircraft but that we had to wait until daylight to try to recover the black box.

The people in the vicinity, refugees under the care of the hospital in Kanombe stated to the sisters that the (systematic) massacres of the 3rd night had in any event been ordered by a company from the Para-Commando Regiment...

from Kanombe - information to be verified - given the amount of rumours in Rwanda.

I can add that the former French friends from Kigali, with whom we are still in contact by telephone, seem to confirm that Brigitte Minaberi, the wife of the co-pilot of the Presidential aircraft, was listening with a personal radio to the approach of the aircraft. She would have heard several times (5 x ?) the Kigali Control Tower asking if the Burundi President was on board. Additional information but to be verified with care: "Perinne" the flight engineer would have been heard saying: "Look they have turned out the lights" (of the airport)

To my knowledge the flight staff of the Presidential aircraft consisted of:

- Herault: Pilot
- Minaberi: Co-pilot
- Perinne: called "pépé" - flight engineer.

I was a frequent visitor to these people and we had friendly relations.

At your request I answer that the rumours circulate that the attack had been backed by the hard faction of government (CDR, in-laws of the President, Col Bagasora, Sagatwa, a clique of "hard men" to which Baransalitse and Serubuga also belonged.

With regard to the murder of our 10 paras, Colonel Marchal telephoned me on Thursday evening at about 23.00 hours to ask me where to get bags for mortal remains. He informed me then of the massacre of our 10 paras. I do not know any more.

With regard to the 1000 Collines radio, I did not listen to it much. I did not hear Ruggiu but I know that there was a European who broadcast anti-Belgian propaganda. We lodged a complaint and the Ambassador spoke to the President himself. The President replied to him that he could not do much and that this RTLM also made fun of him.

I can add that on Radio Rwanda (official radio) any French activity or donation was described and inflated out of proportion and repetitively, whereas our colossal donations and our concrete actions were only mentioned as significant interventions of the Ambassador. There was, therefore, obviously a desire to denigrate the Belgians and Belgium.

At your request I reply that I am totally unaware whether the FAR had missiles or not.

(after being read out, he maintains his statement and signs in our information book)

[signed]