

INTERVIEW SHEET

936
Annex n° 01 to report n° 828/94 of
09 June 1994 of the Police Squad
JUDICIARY DETACHMENT OF
BRUSSELS

On 09 June 1994 at 08:30, the following was interviewed by me/us, the reporting officer(s):

IDENTITY: André Renouprez

Surname and first name: Frédéric Maufroid
Place and date of birth: Charleroi, 03 August 1972
Profession: career volunteer **Marital status:** single
Address: 5630 Scumoy, rue Trieux del Croix [*illegible*] 73
For soldiers: **Grade and enrolment number:** Mat sergeant B73477
Unit: 12 in company 2 BCDO Flawinne
who declared:

DECLARATION:

“I wish to talk in French and make the formal choice of proceedings in this language.

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

On 06 April 1994, I was on a mission with my company in Rwanda; on site I occupied the post of section manager (3), of platoon B. Our base was in “Don Bosco”.

B. ATTACK

On 06 April 1994 at 20:30, I was on patrol with my section close to the Amahoro stadium. This patrol was known as “Safety”.

I did not see the missile fire nor hear the explosion of the President’s aeroplane.

I think it was around 20:45 that we learned on our battalion network that two missiles had been fired at the President’s aeroplane.

At this time, on learning this news, I made the decision to go with my section to do a tour of the town to check out the situation.

In leaving Amahoro, between junctions N6 and N7 we met Lt Rodrigue, from whom we had learned the news. He did not give us any particular order and we continued our progress towards the town centre of Kigali via Rwandex.

After Rwandex, about ten metres from junction C7, we encountered a roadblock of Rwandan policemen. This roadblock was checking the people leaving the town of Kigali itself.

I went to find the leader who indicated to me that it was an absolutely normal roadblock.

I then notified the battalion CP of the establishment of this roadblock, before continuing my route.

Before arriving at junction E4 (roundabout), I received the order from S3 (Cpt Choffray) to go into all civil establishments where Belgian soldiers could be found and to take them back to their respective camps.

I began with the “Kigali Night” and by chance it was there that I found most of the soldiers, who I led out of the establishment and boarded them into the Unimogs that the companies had sent us.

For my part, I took Staff soldiers in my vehicle to “Don Bosco”.

Once everyone had arrived at this place, we organised the defence of the establishment.

I [*illegible*] with my section until 02:00 in the morning, and at around 02:05 in the morning I received a mission from the 1st sergeant Faumart to go to the camp of Manobe where the wreckage of the aeroplane should normally have fallen.

My specified mission was to approach the wreckage and report on it.

We left “Don Bosco” and arrived at junction M4; three civil vehicles were abandoned on the road; after approaching these vehicles we were able to pass them and continue our progress towards Kanombe.

It was in leaving this junction that our CP notified us that we had to wait after junction N9 and before the airport for Lt Vermeulen. We also had to meet a liaison officer of the FAR who was to permit us to enter the camp in Kanombe.

Lt Vermeulen came to join us at the designated place, and after quite a long wait for the liaison officer, who never came, the lieutenant made the decision to go and look without him.

We presented ourselves at the entrance of the Kanombe camp and Lt Vermeulen went to find the guard (5 or 6 Rwandans). They immediately loaded their weapons. A member of my section (corporal Detinne) then warned me that in his night vision glasses he could see some fifteen Rwandans take position all around us.

Lt Vermeulen was refused entry to the camp, so made the decision

to withdraw by around a kilometre. After this withdrawal, we then waited again for the arrival of the liaison officer [*illegible*] who never came. While we were waiting, we could observe a shuttle of Rwandan trucks. When they left the Kanombe camp, these trucks were full of soldiers of the FAR; when they returned they were empty.

Hearing on the company network that Sergeant Bullinckx had problems with the hotel "Meridien", our officer decided that we were to move towards this place to go and help. Apparently it was shot at several times on its position.

I should indicate that before the meeting with Lt Vermeulen, I went as ordered to find a policeman from the Rwandan police force. The police station was located right by the Amahoro stadium.

It was around 04:30, I think, that we went to meet the sergeant. On the way we have also seen [*illegible*] and a UN Jeep at the entrance to the airport on the access road. These two Belgian vehicles were abandoned in the middle of the road.

We overtook them and then we continued our route to junction M8, where we found a roadblock of Rwandan soldiers. The soldiers seemed quite excited. The Lieutenant again decided to withdraw and wait, towards the houses behind us close to N9.

We were hidden in the middle of these houses, and after waiting around an hour and a half, seeing that the situation was still the same, the Lieutenant and I left on foot in the direction of the roadblock to go and negotiate. This approach did not serve any great purpose; on seeing us arrive they gave us the sign to move back.

We then saw a UN convoy from the airport pass in front of us. They had also been turned back at the roadblock and so they came to join us.

In this convoy, there were Warrant Officer Cantineaux, and a few officers and sub-officers of logistics and engineering.

We then together organised the defence of the place where we were and later we were joined by two officers of the Presidential Guard.

Our lieutenant explained to them that he wanted us to cross the roadblock.

After a few endless discussions with them and with an officer at the roadblock, we were at last able to pass this place.

I would like to specify that to pass this roadblock, since the Rwandans composing it were so excited, we had bypassed them with an officer of the FAR being in our vehicle, more precisely in that of the lieutenant. For my part, I closed the march of the convoy.

We took the direction of the Amahoro stadium, via small roads that the FAR officer showed us.

We observed that over all these roads, civilian roadblocks were already established. They were armed with wood and machetes.

We presented ourselves in front of the Amahoro stadium at around 15:00.

On the access road to this stadium, there were around 300 people, mainly civilians, supervised by a dozen Rwandan soldiers.

On their approach, they stopped us and checked the content of our vehicles.

When we approached the entrance grill of the stadium they surrounded us, more and more threatening. They were all armed with machetes and various weapons. Some even had grenades. They were not prepared to respond to Rwandan soldiers' orders, but rather the orders of civilian agitators.

It was then that a Bengali officer introduced himself to us and, in a somewhat embarrassed way, told us that we were undesirables. He did not allow us to enter the stadium.

Lt Vermeulen immediately contacted the battalion CP in order to notify the situation and asked that contact be established with the CP of the Bengalis in order to allow us to enter.

In spite of a response that they were going to open for us, the grill was never opened.

We then saw 3 pickups loaded with several FAR soldiers arrive at high speed. They stopped and the soldiers got out. The civilians were moved back from us. Lt Vermeulen, seeing things taking a turn for the worse, notified his CP that if the grills were not opened in one minute he was going to use his firearms.

We heard at this moment by the civilians surrounding us

that they were going to try and trap us between two roadblocks and throw grenades at us. It was one of our officers, who has Rwandan origins, who translated what the [illegible] excited civilians.

The Rwandan civilians managed to make us move back between two roadblocks close to each other. They made our soldiers in the first vehicle of the convoy get out. They put this vehicle across the road and wanted to do the same with the other [illegible].

[illegible] Warrant Officer Cantineaux, as driver of a Toyota [illegible] jeep left his GP and targeted a Rwandan who was going to launch a grenade with its pin removed at us and forced the roadblock in place in front of us. The grenade exploded behind his vehicle. The Warrant Officer was able to pass and took the direction of the UN Staff building just next to the stadium.

At the same time, the rest of the convoy being still on site, we left the vehicles, got in line and fired in front of us. We were approached to the entrance grill of the stadium. This had been cleared for us from above. Under no circumstances was this grill going to be opened for us.

We were at last able to protect ourselves in the stadium.

I think that at the time we gained shelter it had to be around 16:30.

We remained in the stadium for 5 or 6 days to wait out the aftermath of the events. We did not know how to leave this place because all the access routes were blocked.

Later we participated in repatriations of people to be evacuated, being close to the stadium.

During these evacuations we had no problem.

Later, we went to the "Meridiens" and then to the airport in order to be evacuated to Belgium.

C. ASSASSINATION

With regard to these events, I was not on the same radio network as the mortars. I have nothing to say about what happened.

D. RADIO MILLE-COLLINES

I have never listened to this radio station.

E. END OF INTERVIEW

I have not taken any photos or recordings of the events.