

## INTRODUCTION

The collection of Dr Ronald Edwin Press is contained in 1 box. It covers the years 1929-2006, and includes an Autobiography, a multimedia CD, photographs and various reliquaries of the South African anti-Apartheid struggle.

The collection was compiled by Dr. Ronald Edwin Press, (Ron Press), during his recent years of retirement. It reflects on his lifelong involvement in the Union movement of South Africa, the 1956 Treason Trial, banning, exile and subsequent activities as a technician of the ANC underground struggle, in various operations, including Operation 'Vula'.

## SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Ronald Edwin Press was born on the 28 August 1929 in Johannesburg. He was schooling at the Marist Brother Observatory school, where he matriculated in 1946. He then went to further his education at the University of the Witwatersrand. He graduated in 1951 with a BSc (Chem.Eng.) Cum Laude and in 1952 completed his PhD.

It was in the same year 1952 when he became interested in South African politics, and soon got involved in various political activities. He joined the underground South African Communist Party in 1955, became the Secretary of the South African Textile Workers Union in 1956, and was arrested for Treason in 1956, together with the other 156 trialists.

His political involvement and subsequent arrest led to his dismissal from the University of the Witwatersrand in 1955, where he had held a lecture post in Chemical Engineering. After being banned twice in 1957, he finally left South Africa in 1962 with a one way exit permit.

He settled in the UK with his wife and daughter.

Ron Press became actively involved in the ANC's underground and MK structures. He provided scientific and technical expertise and support, as well as the development of electronic communication systems and services. These activities culminated in the Operation 'Vula' in 1988.

His wife Sybil died in 1989. His daughter's family still live in the UK.

Dr Ronald Press died on the 28 October 2009, he was buried in London on the 5 November 2009.

## COLLECTION

### A AUTHOBIOGRAPHY

A 1 Accompanying letter to the collection, dated 17 November 2006

A 2 Autobiography - "To Change the World! Is Reason Enough?"  
1 book, softcover

### B CD

1 CD with multi-media content, ie. Text, scans of newspaper articles, sound clips, video clips, photos

Divided into the following content:

#### Published

Own publications from 1957-2006, in various journals, newspapers, booklets, discussion papers, submissions to annual reports and newsletters, e-mails

#### Articles about me

Publications about Ron Press from 1956-2005, with excerpts from the 1956 Treason Trial, journal articles – one journal articles by Tim Jenkin with e-link to “Escape from Pretoria” by Tim Jenkin, in PDF format, newspaper articles, union pamphlets

#### Unpublished

Various writings and poems from 1998-2006

#### Press to Press

Articles and reader opinions sent by Ron Press to journals and newspapers

#### Autobiography

“To change the World! Is reason enough? London, August 1995

#### Craft work

Photos of various craft work, some of which were submitted to exhibitions and received prizes. Divided into the following sections:

Science / Politics / Maths / Art - Broken Glass – Lighting – Marquetry (own spelling) – Bowls mixed wood – Bowls solid wood – bowls with mixed media – Assorted

#### Meetings

Listing of meetings attended from 1955-2006, divided by Date, Meeting, Place, Representing

#### Cronology (own spelling)

Listing of his life from 1929 (birth) to present, divided in Year, Events and other items, Picture – with link to photographs

#### BBC World TV

Copy of a TV programme on BBC World Service, 9/5/1994, 13.00

#### TV Clips

“Vula”-clip of the TV programme on Global Village

“points West Lobby”, clip on BBC TV programme

#### Radio & 16mm Clip

Various clips from radio programmes

#### Family Pics (own spelling)

Links to various photos, divided into Sections

Me from near birth to near death – Mom Dad Lydia – Sybille and Estelle – Enter the Hankinsons

## C PHOTOMATERIAL

Original photos and colour copies of photographs, with description at the back

- C 1 Going to peace conference in Helsinki via China, 1956/57
- C 2 As the Secretary of the Textile Workers Union of South Africa, 1957
- C 3 With comrades outside the Treason Trial, 1954 (?)
- C 4 Textile workers in Durban on strike, 1957
- C 5 On the way to NEC via Moscow, with Solly Smith and Zola Zembe

- C 6 Sophy Williams laying a wreath at the cenotaph Johannesburg / Slogans on wall by Congress of Democrats
- C 7 Reports in South African Press / Loud speaker gadgets for broadcasts in South Africa / Badges made for UK support / Leaflet Bomb
- C 8 Result of Matola raid / Computers used to develop and operate Comms in operation 'Vula' / Workshop in Bristol, UK
  
- D MEMORABILIA
  
- D 1 Newspaper cutting from a South African Newspaper photo, surrounded by 52 international badges. The cutting originates from the Sunday Times, 13 March 1994, and depicts the shooting of AWB members by Bophuthatswana Police, after an attempted coup by the AWB.
  
- D 2 Historic reliquaries of the South African anti-Apartheid struggle
  - D 2.1 SACTU plaque, 13x20cm
  - D 2.2 key fob
  - D 2.3 4 SACTU badges
  - D 2.4 1 SACP badge
  - D 2.5 Bronze medallion of Nelson Mandela, 7cm dia., French
  - D 2.6 Homemade badges – 4 wooden, 6 tin material
  - D 2.7 Walking stick, carved from wooden broom stick, with signatures of Rusty Bernstein, DC. Thompson, Joe Slovo, Leon Levy and self
  - D 2.8 1 time circuit (reference to p.125 in Autobiography)
  - D 2.9 1 DTMF reader (reference to p.162 in autobiography)