

	TAPE # 1 INTERVIEW WITH ANSIE TURTON (WIFE OF DR ANTHONY TURTON) 28/04/08
Interviewer	Can you tell me a bit about yourself, you're Afrikaans speaking, where did you grow up, and when did you marry Tony?
Ansie	I grew up in Namibia, Windhoek. I was born in Namibia. We got married in April '79 and I met Tony through my brother-in-law.
Interviewer	And then you married him and then he was involved in the military in various ways, he was with the Light Horse Regiment, during that period he got called up to do border duty a number of times, and then latterly township duty. What was it like for you when you remained behind at home, when your husband was going off to these strange places?
Ansie	For me it was basically to care for our children. You cannot actually think what dad is doing, you've got to think of their safety, whatever schooling and stuff and try and make it easier on them and also on the family, not to show really that you are stressed and concerned about the husband. But deep down there's this fear, are you going to see him? It's a young father and...it's quite lonely but you handle it because I think I can handle a family pretty well.
Interviewer	Did you have friends who were in the same position with their husbands or boyfriends or brothers going off to the border?
Ansie	Yes, my sister-in-law she stayed with me, at the time her daughter was about the same age as our son, and they went to the border the same time, my brother and Tony. So friends, not really.
Interviewer	When the guys came back did they chat to you about what was happening up there, what their experiences were?
Ansie	No, not really. It was like it was a bit of a reluctance to say anything. I think they don't want to share their experiences as such, but you can see there's a strain and different person that came back and it took them a while to actually get over that, to become more family orientated again.
Interviewer	At that period were you wondering to yourself, why must my husband be involved in this? Why must he do these things?
Ansie	You think like that but you also think your country needs him and you think that's why he's there, so why not my husband? What makes me better than other people? My husband, someone else's husband, I cannot say why mine shouldn't go, I think it's his duty to our country.
Interviewer	And when you're back at home and you're looking after the kids and things like that - looking after children is a pretty full-time task - were you ever resentful to the state of affairs in the country saying, I'm trying to live a normal life bit there's a lot of stuff here that's not so normal?

Ansie	You do think that but you also think that for your children's safety and that's why dad's got to do that. So you've got to keep it as normal going for the children at the time, you don't think of your own needs. So you've got to be the stronger of the two I'd say.
Interviewer	Now a lot of the fighting in Angola or northern Namibia wasn't well reported here for a whole bunch of reasons, and often the government would actually deny that South African soldiers were in Angola. Did that cause concern with you and say well something doesn't add up here?
Ansie	It did yes, because you think what if something happens to your husband up there, are they going to deny it? Are they going to say, he wasn't even there? So that was a fear that we had. How are they going to treat you afterwards? That was a concern yes, definitely.
Interviewer	And how did you deal with that fear and that concern, did you talk about it when Tony came home?
Ansie	We did, because I just wanted to know what happened, how did they treat him and how does he feel about it? Does he think they're going to deny the fact that they were up there, protecting our country and...I didn't always get the answers I wanted but...yes, I think I got a bit of better feeling for it.
Interviewer	And when he was coming home from the border you say it took him and other guys a while to sort of get back into civilian life as it were. How would he be different? Would he be withdrawn? Would he not be sleeping at night? Would he just want to go off and play golf with his friends?
Ansie	<i>Laughs</i> No, nothing as dramatic like that. No, they would be different, it's almost like they are very nervous, but you can understand that living under circumstances like that. It's not normal, you do not know are you even going to go home? When are you going to see your family? There's not much contact and when you write a letter it also...they go through your letters and stating just you're eating and you're sleeping. You don't get really lots of information on that. So I would say they are different people and they come back but...it takes a while, but they do get back to their normal self.
Interviewer	Did you ever get letters from the border with censor's blue lines through them?
Ansie	Oh, definitely, numerous, that's why I'm saying you really <i>laughs</i> had to work out a couple of times, read it a couple of times to know what he said. I had a couple of blank spaces, yes.
Interviewer	And when he got home did you say, sit down and fill in these blank spaces for me?
Ansie	No, I knew Anthony well enough to know that you know...the things he would try to say I know his way of saying things, so yes.

Interviewer	And I know that period, you're also trying to do things around the house, were you working at that time?
Ansie	No, I stopped working when I had our son so I didn't work at the time, no.
Interviewer	But you're trying to be a mom and then some things sometimes go wrong around the house, the plumbing goes crazy or whatever, but there's also maintenance to be done. Would you sort of say, well now what? Do I have to fix this myself or...?
Ansie	Yes, I basically...I think it's my background, maybe the Afrikaner part <i>laughs</i> I do not know, but I do know how to fix things around the house, but I also had a dad that would come and help out a bit.
Interviewer	That must have been happening right across society, you had mothers and wives like you, right across the country who were hopefully having dads who had to help them, so it must have put a lot of stress on the day to day life of people.
Ansie	Yes, because at the time we were actually...we had a farm and you know on a farm numerous things can go wrong but fortunately have a good partner that would help out as well. But yes, other people were stressed, they didn't know how to handle it but they would then contact us, other women that are part of it, and hear how you are handling the children and sometimes meet them for coffee or tea or something, just to speak to someone, and then you found that changes their feelings and...everybody's actually supportive.
Interviewer	Did you ever send any messages on Forces Favourites?
Ansie	<i>Laughs</i> No. No, not at all. No. Definitely not.
Interviewer	And then that's the sort of straight military thing where your husband would go far away to Namibia on operations or Lohatla for exercises and so on. Then there were also call ups to the townships, to areas not far away physically but in terms of what was happening...
Ansie	But far.
Interviewer	A very, very long way away culturally and politically. How did you feel about that?
Ansie	I would say I felt more stressed for the townships than actually for the border, because I think you didn't know at that point in time what actually is happening in the townships. There were big I would say, things that weren't explained properly to us. Where when they go to the army you know basically what to expect, and I think that was one's biggest concern.
Interviewer	And when you...there wasn't much, I mean I know fairly well because I was working there, there wasn't much on SABC television...

Ansie	No.
Interviewer	And there wasn't too much in the papers, it depends on which paper you read and you would have had to read between the lines. But amongst your friends and the people you would interact with, other parents and things like that, were you starting to say to yourselves, goodness gracious, what is going on here?
Ansie	Yes, you felt like that and also lots of people would say their sons aren't going to go to the townships and then you start saying how can you be so selfish not to send yours? Why must my husband be there and you don't want to send your son. We're looking after your future as well for my husband to be there, so...that got me a bit annoyed as you can...
Interviewer	Why would they say that their sons aren't going to the townships?
Ansie	Because they don't see it as, it's their duty as such, they see ok, go to the border, it's your army thing so you have to do that, but townships they feel why should my son? You know the risk is quite phenomenal, as you know, and that's why I was quite unimpressed.
Interviewer	So the way you interpreted it these mothers were saying their sons aren't going to the townships because it's not a declared war?
Ansie	Correct, correct. And they do not know what it's about and they feel the uncertainty. Why should my son do that? But I think we're all South Africans, we should. If that's what they ask of you, you should be there.
Interviewer	And did Tony talk about what was going on there at all?
Ansie	There, not really. At that point no, no. We didn't really know much but you could see he was quite stressed coming back. That I must say, even more so than coming back from the border. I've got to judge that one.
Interviewer	Did you ever try and say, listen, you're getting old now, stop being a soldier?
Ansie	<i>Laughs</i> Do you think he'll listen to me? <i>laughs</i> No, no not at all. Because I was brought up, this is your country, whatever it takes you're going to do it, so, no.
Interviewer	How did you deal with those fears though?
Ansie	By trying to do something else to keep my mind busy. You know, I paint a bit, I'm a bit of an artist, and that kept my mind sane I'd say, and also you forget about yourself, you've got to think of your children, like I told you now now, so keep it as normal as possible for them I would say and yes...
Interviewer	I suppose one advantage of the townships was at least they were a little bit closer than Ondangwa or Oshakati or Angola, and so you could perhaps see him more often when he was on call up.

	You spoke earlier on about an incident when he came driving by and you had an impromptu visit.
Ansie	Yes, it happened...he phoned me, he was close to our farm and he was in a Ratel at the time and he phoned and says, I'm right here, can you quickly come and see me? And I quickly grabbed our son who was like two at the time and we met with one another, we could see at least for a couple of seconds or minutes or whatever you call it, and that was quite nice. At least there was a little bit of contact.
Interviewer	Did you take along a couple of cookies and a cold beer?
Ansie	Laughs No, not at all. At that point you don't think of taking cookies, you think of you're going to just see him for a while and it was great seeing him there. And our son enjoyed going in a Ratel so yes...
Interviewer	I can imagine at the age of two a Ratel is...
Ansie	Two, yes, he really was like impressed. And seeing dad.
Interviewer	Of course that's important too, but dad in a Ratel is a double bonus.
Ansie	It's even better, yes. <i>laughs</i>
Interviewer	You mentioned something about, you went along and waited at the side of the road?
Ansie	When he was working at the townships and stuff, he also contacted me and said please can I just fetch him, but it was on a highway, he couldn't tell me exactly where, it was a turnoff and I had to wait on the highway on the side of the road and it was actually, like I say, many years ago and you can see how times have changed because numerous people stopped to actually ask me could they do something for me because they saw the little kids in the car and it was actually quite pleasant. But we waited and then I picked him up and we came home.
Interviewer	And then things changed even more, he took on another job and that was as an intelligence operative, and that was even more confusing because that was more secret. Can you describe to me some of the experiences you had at that time while you were at home and waiting and wondering what was going on?
Ansie	When he started, it was a matter of you weren't really allowed to discuss it with anybody, so that isolated me a bit at the time, so therefore it was very difficult. Only when he would come home we could have a discussion. And then you also had to decide how we're going to explain this to our children, dad not being there and suddenly things have changed for them as well. We only had our son at the time and we decided he may know about it but then he also had to be explained why can't you go to any party, you first had to find out where it's going to be, how it's going to be, with whom it's going to be? And then also driving and when

	you come closer to your house you see who's close to your house and if you see there's anybody close then you've got to go around the corner and come back the second time. And that you've got to explain to a...at that time he was seven years old. It's a bit difficult but that was our decision at the time. But I think it was a pleasant time anyhow, it was a challenge and actually we handled it quite well.
Interviewer	How did you explain to the other parents at school or whatever when they said, Ansie, what does your husband do?
Ansie	Then fortunately he had a "job" in brackets that you say he's doing. Consultant normally was the wording, and then they'd ask what? And then normally women all they can discuss is their children and then the house anyhow so it doesn't really matter, you just say he's a consultant and you give a vague explanation what he's doing, not even a full explanation. And yes, that's what he did.
Interviewer	But you yourself didn't know most of the time either what he was doing really?
Ansie	We did, we were actually told, we had meetings that would explain that to you, because you're very vulnerable if you don't know, and you're going to make a mistake when somebody asks you a question. You've got to be well informed what he's so-called doing, but yes, so that you can answer and not raise any suspicion that it's a normal job.
Interviewer	Did you ever think to yourself that you were living in a James Bond movie?
Ansie	<i>Laughs</i> Yes, but without Bond, yes.
Tony Turton	<i>Laughs</i> what a frigging insult. <i>Laughs</i>
Ansie	<i>Laughs</i> No, it's not as pretty as that, I must say, it's nothing like that. There's just a lot of pressure and I do believe it's quite a strenuous job to be a wife and...and that's why we decided with our daughter we're not going to let her know. Which was also not a good decision I think. Because she was told only later in life and that stressed her out a bit.
Interviewer	And on a day to day basis, there were times when Tony wasn't around for a long time and you didn't know specifically where...you might have understood the broader aspect of what he was doing but you wouldn't have known specifically where he was.
Ansie	No, you wouldn't.
Interviewer	He'd have missed birthday parties and weddings and things like that. Did that frustrate you?
Ansie	It did, yes, because...I wouldn't say for myself, like I always come back to the story, it's like the kids, why is dad not here? It's a special birthday, it's a 16 <sup>th</sup> or an 18 <sup>th</sup> , dad's not here, how do you

	<p>explain that one? But they also, like I said, our son knew and he realised what it was about. For me, it was distressing in a sense that you cannot tell people why exactly he's not there, it's a very important birthday party for your children and why is he not here? Why can't he make an effort to be here? And he's just a consultant, why...it's not a job that he cannot say, I want to be there, I don't have to go away now, that was the big problem I would say.</p>
Interviewer	<p>Yes. And I should imagine there must have been times you desperately wanted to pick up the telephone and say, hello, howzit?</p>
Ansie	<p><i>Laughs</i> Yes, you did, but you know, he would go away for quite a while. Yes, that's true, and there's no contact, there cannot be any because that would endanger his life. So that's why you then also realise you can't do that, put your feelings aside, you want him home safely so it's a small price to pay then.</p>
Interviewer	<p>And then when he does come home he must have been very stressed from these events, you're stressed as well, how did you deal with it? Did you chat with each other, did the intelligence services offer any guidance, how did it work?</p>
Ansie	<p>Guidance was basically, when he first started, to say what to expect. But obviously they don't give you all the information, that's what NI is about. But when he'd come home there was a bit of, I think, a strange feeling because you're trying to work out what did he do, he can not tell you everything, you can have a vague idea of what he did, and gradually you'll get back into normal relationship and family life.</p>
Interviewer	<p>Did you ever try and find out by sort of saying, well were you near a river with a big palace on it and Houses of Parliament?</p>
Ansie	<p><i>Laughs</i> No. No, not really. You realise when you're in that situation, it sounds strange, but there's certain questions you just don't ask. And you've got to accept that and they also tell you that. Your 'need to know' basis. It's for your own safety and his. Because the little you know the better for you actually, when you end up in a situation where somebody might think that you know more than you do, then you don't really have to act or anything. So that could be better for your own sake.</p>
Interviewer	<p>And did it put a pressure on your relationship with other people when for example he was back and you get invited to a party or some social gathering and everybody is standing around chatting and doing whatever people do at parties, did you ever find yourself trying to withdraw because you didn't want to be pushed into a place where somebody started saying, well where were you last month? How come you missed the birthday party?</p>
Ansie	<p>Yes, at parties you would, you'd try and just discuss anything or keep asking them questions about themselves. You know, people are so self centred that they'd rather speak about themselves, so</p>

	that's what you try to do, to try and avoid that kind of questions, where have you been, what have you been doing? That's one way of solving that one.
Interviewer	Did you yourself study when you left school?
Ansie	Yes, I did dental assistant studies and I worked for quite a while till I had our son. And then I stopped working for that time.
Interviewer	Did you ever feel that you wanted to go back to your career?
Ansie	Yes, I did, but you know with AIDS the way it is now, I was a bit reluctant so that's when I started working for the Boston Business College as well and for a while that was quite pleasant, education and after school education, it was excellent.
Interviewer	Was that a full time job?
Ansie	That was, yes. It first started off as a part time job and then it became full time job when I became principal at the Boston.
Interviewer	What years were those?
Ansie	Those were 2004-2006.
Interviewer	Looking back on those days, the eighties and the early nineties, do you sort of feel any anger towards the government of the day at the time for taking your husband away and pushing him to these fairly odd places, or do you simply consider it as part of the course of time that could happen to anyone?
Ansie	I think I'll be wrong by saying that I didn't feel anger because of course you do. Because you also have got this feeling of why me? It's also wrong but it's human. But then you also think that he's looking after your country, he's looking after you, the safety of your families as such, then you've got to accept. You've got to just...this is how it works.
Interviewer	And do you ever feel, why didn't he become a flower grower again or a bank clerk?
Ansie	<i>Laughs</i> Well I don't think the way I know my husband I think that's not challenging enough. <i>Laughs</i> So, no.
Interviewer	But you never felt deep down saying, you wished you lived a normal life like the person down the road, going to hockey on a Saturday afternoon or rugby?
Ansie	Yes, sure, but I also like that little bit of something different. ok, it's not what you really wanted but he enjoyed it I think and in a way we also enjoyed it and it's not for everybody to be honest, it's not.
Interviewer	And now all these years later when you've read for example Shaking Hands with Billy, and you read the history books and you see what actually happened in Angola or some of the townships, are you shocked at all?



Ansie	Yes, because we didn't know all of it, but I'm just glad that he could write it and get it off his chest I think, because he wouldn't speak about it sometimes and I think it's good for him.
Interviewer	Does that explain a lot to you about your husband?
Ansie	It does. We know one another pretty well I would say <i>laughs</i> but yes, it does. Certain things that he liked and enjoyed and...I think it explains him more, better, yes. Because as a child didn't know things and now you do know.
Interviewer	And from your point of view are you going to ever write down your thoughts and feelings about the period we're talking about?
Ansie	No, I don't. No. I'd rather discuss it with people, friends and so forth and they can...like I've got a very good friend, she listens, her husband was also in the police force so she...and it's good to speak to people like that because they know the feelings and he was also in the townships and stuff. So we could comfort one another in that sense, yes.
Interviewer	And also now these days, with friends who you've known for a long time, and they get to hear what Tony did in those days, do they ever say, you've got to be joking!
Ansie	They don't know. You don't give them that kind of...I think you leave that rather.
Interviewer	So many of them just have no idea.
Ansie	No idea whatsoever. No. And we prefer it that way. Let them think, otherwise there are going to be way too many questions I'd say. Unnecessary ones, so no thank you. <i>laughs</i> Keep it and...no...and I think it's also not fair to the people that are in NI at this point in time too. So I don't think you boast about things like that now.
Interviewer	And your kids now? How do they feel about it all now?
Ansie	Our daughter learned at a late age that this is what dad did, so she was a bit shocked. But now there's a better understanding why dad wasn't there and...so it's better.
Interviewer	And your son knew from a...you had told him.
Ansie	He knew yes. We told him from very early on. So now he's proud of dad and...both are, but our daughter, at her 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday she gets told this, it was quite rough. Writing matric so it was a bit heavy going. But now she's happy and she knows what it's about. She even said, we could have told her earlier, but that was our decision at the time. Because we thought our son was unnecessarily under stress when he was told at such a young age.
Interviewer	Looking back at it, do you ever miss some of the sort of excitement, because there must have been excitement in it? Do you ever miss that sort of excitement or is there still lots of

	excitement?
Ansie	No, I think we can go without <i>laughs</i> I think that's something I can go without to be honest. No, I can go without that kind of excitement to be honest with you. Because you know you're dealing with people that's ruthless and no, I'm not missing that excitement. I can get it other ways, I would say.
Interviewer	Is there anything you want to add about this period of our recent history, how it affected you, how it affected your husband, how it affected your family?
Ansie	I would say it affected us in a sense of, you know, when we're talking about many years ago, like all this colour problems and stuff. To look at it differently we do, but you think of your parents and theirs, it was a totally different story. For us, our kids even, when they were at school, they didn't have a problem with integration. Nor did we actually at our stage, I think you know, in your life it was also not that difficult. But I think it was a change, you know, when the kids, suddenly they bring different people home, but for us it was not a problem. We wouldn't look at colour, you'd look, is it a nice man or is it not a nice girl? It would go for anybody. I would say, that was the only difficult part to integrate, for them as well. Because there people with very different opinions, especially where we are. It's very strong racism in this town of ours as you know, so that was difficult, yes, I would say.
Interviewer	We were just talking off tape and it was mentioned that at times you used a leadership role sometimes to go and speak to the wives of other operatives to try and perhaps bring a little bit of calmness to their lives and point them in the right direction so that they didn't compromise operations. Can you tell me a bit about that?
Ansie	The NI people would ask me to do so seeing that Tony and I have been in it for quite a while. And then I would have all these young women that were a bit worried about their husbands and how to actually handle their children and what can they say and what can't they say and how to select friends. And I had to basically then just explain to them how to handle situations, whether it is when somebody asks you certain questions, how are you going to reply to that, and try not to make it too complex because then you're not going to remember what you said after a couple of months so you've got to stick basically to very basic things. And also your children, you've to check their friends, you've got to check where they're going, because you do not know like, you are NI, someone else can also be an NI, and that could be a risk for your children. So those kind of things I had to explain to them, and also for themselves, for their safety, and also to explain that it's not a bad thing if your husband goes on one of his trips, and it's well organised and not to have a big concern, that they should know they should run the house and home and bring them back to comfort as well.

Interviewer	You mentioned that,you talked to them about how to select friends. How do you select friends? Surely friendships just happen?
Ansie	They do happen but you've got to basically just meet the parents, meet the kids, let them first come to your house and see what they're like and stuff, and then eventually see where they live, and not to see if it's like a fancy house or not, it's just who are their friends and your child at any risk for maybe other NI people that's not so friendly. And that's how you check friends and their behaviour and would they risk your kids by taking them somewhere that you don't know, but could also put them at risk. So you've got to know where they are all the time, that's basically what it comes down to.
Interviewer	Did you ever find yourself in a position where you had to actively excise friends from your relationship and say these people aren't safe?
Ansie	Yes, we had to...our son had a friend that we thought was a bit suspect, and I had to tell him you cannot be friends. Fortunately our son, because he's got the background he could then...ok, he didn't like it, as you know a youngster at that age, you really don't like what mom and dad says but he listened and we can be grateful for that. And he basically dropped a friendship.
Interviewer	Did you find that very difficult?
Ansie	Very, because you know as you were just saying, that people just make friends and it just happens, you go and visit somebody at their house, and suddenly take that childhood away by saying, you've got to stop them from having friends and when and where and which party to go to, it's difficult, yes.
Interviewer	What about the issue of identity? Tony writes that at one stage he was working under a different identity. Did you have to assume that identity as well as your husband?
Ansie	Yes, you have to, identity was a matter, like Tony was explaining, to him being someone else and suddenly your surname also is something else, that's a different identity as well. And also the way he is. You've got to change your attitude as well, become someone else so it is identity change as well, I would say.
Interviewer	Were you issued with a different ID book and did you assume a different name?
Ansie	I got a different name because he's got a different name, so I get basically introduced to somebody what his surname is at the time, so you've got to basically also keep up with that one <i>laughs</i> But no, not a different ID, no. Because I never went out on these NI things at all.
Interviewer	But would you ever have found yourself in a position where somebody says, Ansie I remember you from the hockey tour in 1978 and you married a guy called Tony Turton. What

	happened?
Ansie	I'd probably say, I divorced him and I got someone else. <i>laughs</i> Probably...I could say maybe, you're making a mistake, no, I told you many years ago, this is actually our surname. So you've got to like quickly think on your feet, very, very quickly and look them in the eye and really look like you're telling the true story.
Interviewer	So you were actively working as an intelligence operative yourself?
Ansie	Yes, you do actually.
Interviewer	Did you get paid for this?
Ansie	<i>Laughs</i> No. Not at all. No.
Interviewer	You said something interesting about the childhood friendships and where you did have to nudge your son in the right direction and say, listen, this isn't really appropriate. You mentioned taking their childhood away because childhood is about making friends with odd people, sometimes your best friend is not always good for you but you make friends that way. Do you feel that your kids lost some of their childhood because of your work, both of your work actually?
Ansie	Our son, yes. Our daughter no. Our son, I would say so because it was quite strict on him. Like I said, you cannot go to certain parties because...yes, you're correct by saying some friends are never good for your parents, would say, you shouldn't have been friends, but it's not just as easy as that. For smoking and drinking and those things. We're talking about now your child's safety and that's what you're protecting I would say, my opinion.
Interviewer	And you mentioned that your son was actually involved in one or two operations. Can you tell me a bit more about that?
Ansie	Our son, we had to explain to him, please, just to help dad out a bit he had to deliver certain parcels and stuff for Tony. And we would take him wherever it had to be delivered and he had to go in. Fortunately he knew the people he had to give it to, then he would actually go and hand over the parcel. He of course enjoyed it. What teenage boy would not enjoy it. And he did well, he did very well in doing so, helping us out and played his role...
Interviewer	How old was he at that stage?
Ansie	I would say he was 11, 12 at that stage.
Interviewer	As a mother you must have been having ants.
Ansie	<i>Laughs</i> Yes, but you also knew you wouldn't send him into something that would really put him at risk. You know you would also look out and see, stay behind him and be in the back all the time, covering his back, if something goes wrong, pull him out immediately.

Tony	And the Mozambique operation?
Ansie	The Mozambique operation he was a radio ham like Tony, so he'd contact him in the mornings so we could speak with him and have a bit of contact. So our son helped us with that one.
Interviewer	Your son was a radio ham from a very young age?
Ansie	Oh yes, very.
Interviewer	And was that a secure form of communication?
Ansie	I would say so, yes. Because they had a specific channel that only they knew and he could log into that and...yes, I would say so.
Interviewer	And you mentioned that even your mother might have been involved.
Ansie	Yes, we didn't realise that...I was quite old when I heard, we used to go to Pretoria and my mom would always have these explanations why we're there and we were quite...I don't know...we weren't sure what she was doing there. But then later in life we learned that she was also part of NI in a way and she was also handing over parcels and seeing people and... <i>laughs</i> So it started from a very early age, that my mom was also involved in things like that. We never knew.
Interviewer	Did you deliver any parcels for your mom?
Ansie	Yes. <i>laughs</i> We did. And we thought this is just friends of hers and you go and give just something whether it's like a birthday present or something, it just came later that she told when she heard Tony was actually joining NI, then it came out.
Interviewer	How does all of this stuff affect you when you bump into somebody who, dad is a school teacher and mom's a bank manager and have fairly normal lives, 9 to 5 lives, do you ever look at them and say, goodness gracious, if I could tell you stories?
Ansie	Yes, you do. Sometimes especially when we had to speak about babies and housework and stuff like that, you do feel, if only you know what we're doing? Your hairs will come up straight and you will have a different opinion of me, you won't think I'm just a woman that looks after children and do housework and stuff. Some people you do feel like saying that because they think what do you do anyhow? I think sometimes it would have been nice. But it's never happened.
Interviewer	That must have been a bit frustrating?
Ansie	Oh, absolutely! Like you were saying, it's a Bond story, why can't I tell the story? <i>laughs</i> True.
Interviewer	And if you look at it now, I mean, essentially your son, your mom, your husband, yourself, were all involved in what was potentially

	a very dangerous exercise. You know you said earlier on you didn't miss it the stress of Tony being off on the border or in Angola or in the townships or wherever. But you must look back now sometimes and actually have to shake yourself to say, did this really happen to me? Does it surprise you that you lived that kind of life?
Ansie	It does, because upbringing and stuff was not even close to anything like this, but when you're actually in it you're quite surprised how easily you can handle something like that, so for me it was something that I actually enjoyed. It was a pleasant experience – some were, some weren't, I must be honest with you, but mostly I think I saw how Tony enjoying it and we could handle it as long as it didn't get out of hand. I think I've got no regrets on that.
Interviewer	You don't talk about it freely though, if people in a party now say, I read a book by a guy called Tony Turton, would you talk about it or would you simply do as you did in the past and change the subject?
Ansie	No, now it's different because they've read his stories, and they know what's it all about because he basically tells you what it was about, so when they ask you, you give them the answers they want, but you just, like you were taught, you just give them the answers they're asking you, you don't give extra...any answers. You've got to...just what they ask you, you answer. So that keeps it also not too much. <i>Laughs</i>
Interviewer	So how do I know that your name is really Ansie? <i>Laughs</i>
Ansie	Well you don't. <i>laughs</i> So you haven't got a clue. <i>Laughs</i> It could be something totally different, but you believe you're speaking to Ansie, so great. <i>Laughs</i>
Interviewer	You are well trained. <i>Laughter</i>
Tony	Look this is obviously a formal discussion and I just want to say a couple of things. I've been listening to Ansie now talk. It's the first time that I've ever heard Ansie talk like this. I've never heard Ansie talk like this, my wife. Ansie has been through a profound set of experiences and I would like to say firstly that I'm deeply proud of my wife, Ansie, for what she has endured. The leadership role that she has played in stabilising what has appeared to be on many occasions very volatile and very stressful situations. So Ansie, thank you very much for that, it's been a tremendous sacrifice. The other thing I'd like to say is, the role of my children, you know we never ever wanted to bring our children into jeopardy. The role that my son played, he was an unsung hero for two very important reasons. The first was, when he was deployed operationally, was during CODESA, when the ANC had a meeting in secret, and the meeting was in a place...I can't give the name of the place...but this meeting was a place where we could not get close to, and we had an agent in place there and he was giving us small little micro set recordings of

what was happening in those meetings and we vitally needed to know what was going on. And I would never have placed my son in any jeopardy, but what we needed to do was get those micro cassettes, and no-one would pay any attention to a little boy. So he was trained to go in and to pick up these micro cassettes. To go under the nose of active surveillance, active, active defensive measures and his job was to go in, act very relaxed, act very calm, and these micro cassettes were placed in a certain position...in fact in a car park, on top of a tyre in a car, and his job was to go in there, pick up the micro cassette and come out. So he's an unsung hero in this business because he played a significant role in couriering that intelligence to us that we needed on a real time basis because we needed to inform some of our people what was going on. Because this was a confidence building exercise. So that was the one role that he played. The other role that he played that was very, very important was, you spoke about the radio ham stuff. My son today is an electronic engineer. He was the youngest ever radio ham in South Africa. no-one younger than him has ever been licensed, because to get your radio ham licence you've got to pass a technical examination. And what we used him for was, his role was to talk to me when I was under deep cover with Renamo. We never passed any intelligence down that channel. That was never the role. The role was, hello dad, how are you? And I would say, my son I'm missing you, blah, blah etc. And that was monitored by our technical people and in intelligence terms that is called a sign of life. I was simply stating I'm alive and well and things are going well. The fact that I'm talking to my son. But the stress that I placed my son was he could not talk about any operational things. He could not give names, he could not give any of those details. So he was actually an operator without being paid, without being recognised for this role. And he played, once again, a very, very important role in stabilising the situation, he helped my wife know that I'm ok. I could never talk to Ansie on the radio but a lot of that radio contact with my son was done under the full surveillance of Renamo, because my cover with Renamo was that of a radio engineer. And they knew that I had a son who could talk to me so they gave me permission, but they actually had me under surveillance because they thought that I might be a spy, I might be sending intelligence back, and they monitored me all the time. So he was under intense scrutiny, not only from our side but more importantly from Renamo's side. So the important thing there, there was no flow of intelligence down that line, it was simply a sign of life. The flow of intelligence flowed through other channels which we can talk about off line at some other time. But I want to just say, I'm profoundly proud of my wife, Ansie, you played a very important role, I thank you for that role, and I'm also very proud of my children. And in fact one of the problems we're dealing with today, and I'll put it on record now, one of the problems we're dealing with, this life we've been through and this benchmark of what is normality...this benchmark...or has our abnormal life, how do we deal with what has been a profoundly

	<p>abnormal life? And as our children now marry and their spouses, do we judge those people by the standards that we went through <i>laughs</i> or not? And that is a whole new ballgame, and that is something I don't want to place on record now but I just want to say, this is a big issue. When we judge ourselves, when we judge our generation, what was it to be a man or what was it to be a woman under those conditions, how do we translate that now into the future generation? And that has been one of my most difficult learning experiences ever.</p>
	<p>END OF INTERVIEW (counter at 483)</p>



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