

UNSUNG HEROES: AFRICAN EX-SERVICEMEN AND REVOLUTIONARY MASS NATIONALISM IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA (COLONIAL ZIMBABWE), c. 1945-1979

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This study discusses the experiences Southern Rhodesia's African ex-servicemen in civilian life after the Second World War. It specifically examines their influence on the labor activism and mass nationalism that revolutionized the struggle for independence in colonial Zimbabwe after 1945. It argues that military service in the imperial forces radically transformed African soldiers in a variety of ways and was to translate well in the aftermath of the war as African ex-servicemen together with other trade unionists and politicians mapped out a plan for the prosecution of mass political action against colonialism and white minority rule. This challenges conventional interpretations that have argued that African ex-servicemen were primarily preoccupied by their individual welfare and not national political issues.