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## DEFENCE REPORTER CHRIS REYNOLDS

*THIS is a story of indescribable horror. It is the story of the bayoneting of baby Natasha Glenny—as told by*

*the baby's parents themselves. They telephoned me yesterday and asked me to see them so that they could tell*

*me a story they want the whole world to read. It is certainly a story you will never forget...*

# THE KILLING OF NATASHA

MY MEETING with Michael and Marinda Glenny was the most moving experience I have had during the many months I have reported on Rhodesia's terrorist war. It wasn't an interview as such. It was a conversation between three people

two of them pouring out their hearts.

The peaceful garden in the Salisbury suburb of Highlands, with the rolling, rich green lawns and the geraniums a cascade of brilliant colours, seemed a far cry from the Highlands Estate at Chipinga where the Glennys lived through a nightmare last Thursday morning.

Michael (26) and Marinda (22) have been married for three years. Natasha was their only child.

"She was such a dear little child," Marinda said. "She was so happy. She laughed a great deal and her little face would break into a radiant smile."

Michael said: "She couldn't even talk and they did this to her. I think that if I could get my hands on those responsible for her death I would torture them. Yes, I think I would. I would hang them up for days."

## Blood

It was Michael who found his daughter in a pool of blood on the veranda of their home.

"She was lying face down," he said. "Her back was a mass of lacerations and her flesh was white and pulpy. Before she was bayoneted she was thrown across the veranda."

I asked him whether reports that the baby's hands had been cut off were true.

"I don't know," he said. "I really don't know. I just turned her over and gazed into her face. I only remember her face."

Natasha was asleep in her cot when the terrorists attacked the homestead on the Rhodesian Wattle Estates.

"There were about 25 of them," Michael said. "Our nursemaid, who was in the kitchen, rushed into the bedroom and snatched Natasha from her cot. She strapped Natasha to her back and

covered her head with a towel.

"One of the terrorists grabbed her and wanted to know what she had on her back. She said it was her baby. But the terrorist pulled back the towel

and saw the white face.

"She yelled out that the baby had been born white, that it was an albino. But the terrorist ripped Natasha from her back and threw her across the veranda. Then she was

stabbed.

## Beating

"The terrorists gave the nursemaid a sound beating and told her to clear

off. But she was waiting for us when we returned. Thank goodness she is still alive. We have moved her to a place of safety where they can't harm her."

Then the terrorists

rampaged through the house throwing petrol over furniture and setting a number of rooms on fire.

Fifteen minutes earlier Michael and Marinda had been ambushed at a cattle grid about 300m from the homestead, where a group of terrorists had set up a road-block.

"We were returning home after looking at our cattle," Michael said. "Suddenly I saw three terrorists in the road."

"They started firing and bullets zapped through the windscreen. I yelled to Marinda to get down on the floor of the truck and threw it into reverse."

"But it jumped out of gear and skidded into a culvert. The dirt road was wet from the rain. I saw a terrorist walking up the road firing and I dived out of the cab and into the culvert. I crawled into the long grass."

"I had a pistol with me and I let off one shot. I am sure I hit one of the terrorists in the stomach. I hope I did. I hope he is suffering."

## Scream

"Then I heard my wife scream, and I thought I had lost her. Then I heard a noise and thought it was a terrorist coming after me. I was just about to shoot when I saw Marinda's blonde hair tumbling over her face."

Marinda said: "I was lying on the floor of the truck and through a crack in the door I saw three terrorists walking towards me, shouting that they were going to kill me. I screamed and rolled into the culvert. I must have covered 50m before I reached Michael."

For the next hour Michael and Marinda fled from the terrorists until they reached the safety of a factory on Silverstream Estate.

"At one stage I didn't think I would be able to keep going," said Marinda. "The country was so thick and rough, but will-power made me keep up with Michael." At one stage Marinda fell into a river.

## Contempt

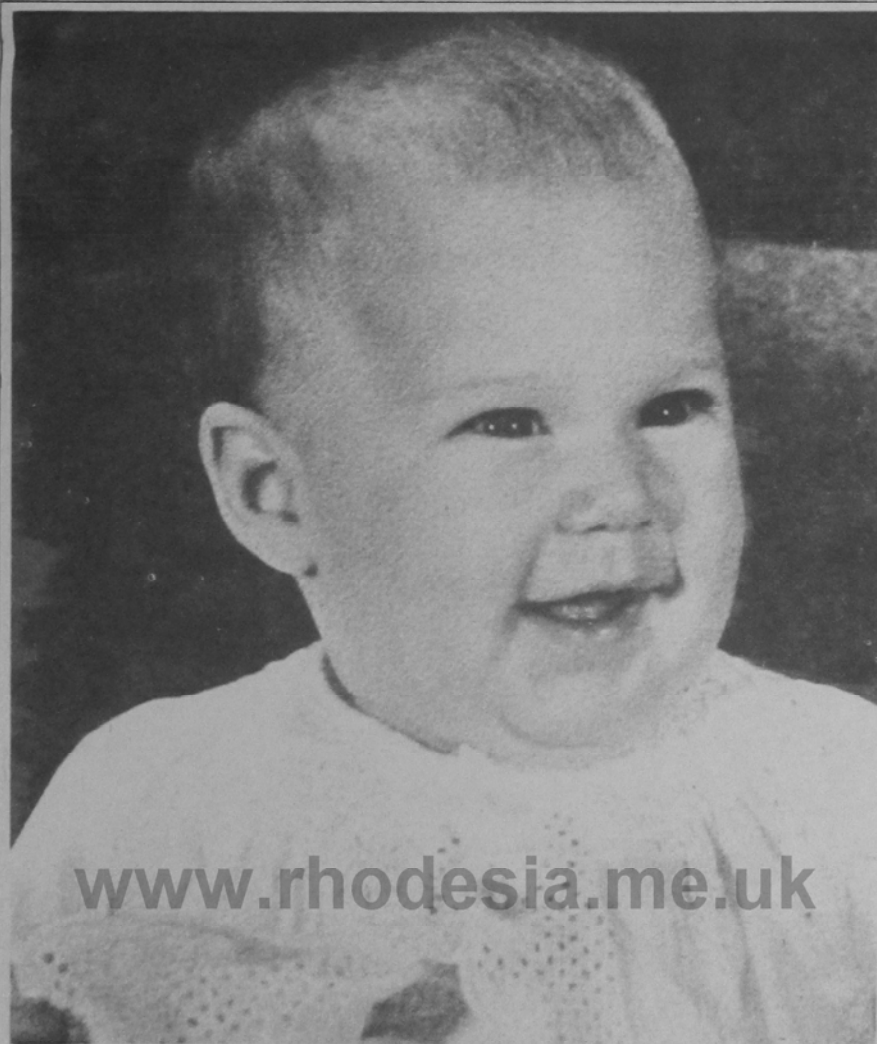
Michael said: "We have since learned that the terrorists had been living in one of the compounds on my estate for two weeks. Not one member of the labour force reported their presence. As far as I am concerned they are just as guilty as those who murdered our daughter."

Marinda said: "They call themselves freedom fighters. I have nothing but contempt for them. Only savages could slaughter an innocent baby."

"And this is the type of person the world wants integrated into our security forces."

Michael and Marinda leave for a holiday in South Africa later this week. But they will be returning to Rhodesia, probably to Highlands Estate, where they have lived for two months.

"We have experienced a terrible tragedy," Michael said. "But we are not going to give up. We are not going to leave. We shall stay and fight. We owe it to our daughter."



THIS is little Natasha Glenny, the happy, smiling 6½-month-old baby bayoneted to death by terrorists. The picture was taken less than two weeks ago

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