

WAR IN ANGOLA

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THE NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTING EVENTS, INFORMATION AND FACTS RELATING TO THE CONFLICT IN ANGOLA AND SOUTH-WEST AFRICA (NAMIBIA) FROM 1975 TO 1989

Historical Background: The fall of the Caetano government

The first part of the series of articles on **"THE POWER STRUGGLE IN ANGOLA"**

Portugal, 1970. In 1968 Salazar suffered a stroke from which he was not to recover. He died in 1970. It became the task of President Thomáz to appoint a successor. His choice was once again a professor, this time in the studies of law, one Marcello Caetano of the University of Coimbra, who was more liberal than his predecessor. He implemented reforms cautiously. Angola and Mozambique got the titles of "States" rather than "Provinces" and also more autonomy. For the first time, elections were held in Angola. Only those who could read and write could vote and that even excluded many Portuguese.

If the reform measures of Caetano had the chance to develop further, the history of Portugal might have gone in another direction. More time to gain wisdom was not afforded it. There were too much unrest in the Portuguese community and unrest against the regime from left and right.

Salazar saw the Portuguese kingdom as one undividable unit, consisting of the motherland, (the *Metropole* in Europe) and the overseas provinces or states (the *Ultramar*, across the sea). This unit, which Salazar tried to convince himself and the rest of the world of, never became a reality. The distance between *Metropole* and *Ultramar* just could not be ignored, just as the distance between



An Allouette III helicopter await in readiness with the Angolan sunset as a backdrop.

Europe and Africa could not be willed away. As the war progressed, the tension increased until something had to break. This break did not occur in the *Ultramar*, but did in the *Metropole*, with the fall of the Caetano regime. The Portuguese army

(Continued on page 2)

Featured Gallery:



ZPU-4 14.5 mm Quad AA machine gun ready for action



Cuban and Russian advisors confer



Soviet-supplied SA-9 AA Missile system of the Angolan forces

Inside this issue:

Featured Equipment: The versatile AK-47	3
Featured Organisation: Origin of the MPLA	4
Operation Moduler: First Contact	5
This week: 23 years ago...	5
From the diary of a Russian Advisor...	5
Free Colour Map of Angola:	9
Last week's latest topics on the Forums	12

Next Week's Features

- Continuation of the Historical Background series of articles: "The Fall of the Caetano government"
- The Heckler & Koch G3 rifle is discussed in our Featured Equipment section
- "The Origin of the MPLA" continues... with the roles of Mário de Andrade, and Viriato da Cruz within the MPLA
- Operation Moduler: the battles continue with the First Clash

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Historical Background: The fall of the Caetano government (continued)



Soviet-supplied BM-21s of the MPLA government on parade in Luanda

(Continued from page 1)

was not defeated in the overseas areas. But in Portugal itself, the realisation dawned that the war could not be won.

The lusotropical plant which was vaunted so much, did not thrive in the Angolan savannah. It was not strong enough to resist the tremendous growth of a black nationalism. Portugal offered its black subjects education and development,

economic and social care, according to the European pattern, but it was turned down and rejected as paternalism and exploitation.

Economically the wars in Africa made heavy demands from Portugal. It made a poor country even poorer, exhausted the country's human and economic resources. Emigration figures out of Portugal in 1971 reached 170 000, which included about 100 000 men

which were eligible for military service. About 1.5 million Portuguese found a new foreign home, especially as guest workers elsewhere in Europe. A workers force of only 3.5 million was left behind in Portugal while the population shrunk to 8.6 million. The country itself had an adverse annual trade deficit of some 400 million dollars, while inflation became the highest in Europe at 23 percent.

"11 000

Portuguese soldiers were killed over the period of 13 years and more than 30 000 wounded and maimed"

The military situation was still in favour of Portugal

The wars in Africa were unpopular with the young conscripts. While the figure of 11 000 soldiers killed over the period of 13 years was not that big, the more than 30 000 wounded and maimed that had to be assimilated by the community remained a painful reminder to a seemingly endless war.

In the final year before the coup, 50% of those called up for military service refused to report for

duty. Even a military career became an unpopular choice, resulting in a shortage of trained officers.

There existed a lack of initiative with the soldiers and they often acted with poor judgement. Many just did not believe in the cause they were fighting for any longer. Due to a shortage of senior officers, an effective relieving system could not be implemented and those in command were often

completely overworked and over-extended.

Even so, the military situation was still in favour of Portugal at the eve of the coup. The MPLA was unsettled by an internal leadership struggle and it was no better at the FNLA. Although his men have always been excellent fighters, Holden Roberto could not manage to find many able commanders. UNITA, in its isolated position in the Moxico

The future for Angola did not look that bleak.

Link to this story:
<http://www.warinangola.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1081>



Soviet-supplied truck-mounted SA-2s Air Defence Missiles of the MPLA government on parade in Luanda

district, never posed a serious threat to the Portuguese.

Even economically, the future for Angola did not look that bleak. Despite the terror attacks which were limited to certain areas, the country experienced a period of growth. Production of coffee, cotton, maize, tobacco and rice increased significantly. In terms of mining, the an-

nual export of iron ore increased to over six million tonnes, oil to over eight million tonnes and diamonds to over two million carats.

In Portugal the Caetano regime was not too steady. In December 1972 there was a first attempt at a coup, led by a group of rightwing officers and other people that were unhappy about the liberal measures of

Caetano. It was smothered by the DGS.

For the events leading up to this series, see the "About" section on the website.

Next Week: the second article of this series...

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Featured Equipment: The versatile AK-47

The AK firearms are the most produced and distributed series of small arms in history. The series started with the AK-47, which was developed just after World War 2 to provide an intermediate-range infantry weapon which was resilient and fast-firing. Part of Mikhail Kalashnikov's inspiration was the German MP44 and its use of the new 7.92mm Kurz cartridge. Although Simonov produced a weapon to the new specification which

went into production before the AK-47, it was the latter that met with incredible success. The AK-47 was a simple gas-operated design using a rotating bolt. It had a chromium-plated barrel and generally high-quality machining and finishing. It took until 1959 to perfect the design and production processes, but once this had been achieved, the Soviets were left with a truly seminal firearm. It could operate under the

harshest of conditions without malfunction, was easily maintained and could compete with any western firearm. It was also capable of extremely swift production and the AK-47 spread around the globe.

"Twentieth-Century Small Arms", by Chris McNab



The Soviet-supplied AK-47 assault rifle were used by most of the participants of the War.

Specifications

Country of Origin:	USSR/Russia
Caliber:	7.62mm Soviet M1943
Length:	880mm (34.65in)
Weight:	4.3kg (9.48lb)
Barrel:	415mm (16.34in), 4 grooves, rh
Feed/magazine capacity:	30-round detachable box magazine
Operation:	Gas
Cyclic rate of fire:	600rpm
Muzzle velocity:	600mps (2350fps)
Effective Range:	400m (1312ft)

"The AK firearms are the most produced and distributed series of small arms in history" - Chris McNab, Twentieth-Century Small Arms

The versatile AK-47



For more detailed information on the AK-47, see Wikipedia:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AK-47>



Featured Organisation: The origin of the MPLA



Members of the MPLA shout their slogans

“Portuguese colonialism cannot be defeated without revolution. That is why there remain only one road to freedom for the Angolan nation – that of revolutionary conflict”

The MPLA (**Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola** – Popular movement for the liberty of Angola), were formed in 1956 in Luanda during a secret meeting of some anti-imperialistic groups. (D.M. Abshire and M.A. Samuels, “**Portuguese Africa. A Handbook**”, p. 391.) The most prominent of these were the **Partido da Luta Unidade dos Africanos de Angola** – PLUA (Party for the united struggle of the Africans of Angola) which itself evolved from a number of other movements. Very prominent was the **Partido Comunista de Angola** – PCA

(Angolan Communist Party), which was really a branch of the then illegal Portuguese Communist Party – PCP.

“Portuguese colonialism cannot be defeated without revolution. That is why there remain only one road to freedom for the Angolan nation – that of revolutionary conflict” – rings the first manifest of the party in 1956. (Don Barnett and Roy Harvey, “**The Revolution in Angola**”, p.2.)

Until March 1959 the newly founded MPLA operated clandestinely in Luanda and apparently also in other cities, recruiting members and

distributing literature. The first president of the movement was Illido Machado, a post office official. He was arrested in 1959, where after the flame of the party burned rather poorly.

What saved the party, were a few rather effective and dedicated people that worked for and promoted the cause of the MPLA overseas. They later took over the leadership of the MPLA. Among them were three main figures. All three, Augustinho Neto, Mário de Andrade, and Viriato da Cruz, were poets of eminence.

Dr. Augustinho Neto

Dr. Augustinho Neto, a Mbundu, was born in 1922 in the town of Bengo close to Catete not too far from Luanda. After completing school at the **Liceu Salvador Correira** in Luanda, he started working as personal secretary of the Methodist bishop, Ralph E. Dodge. Later he became an official in the Department of Health. By means of a church bursary, he was able to go to Portugal in 1947 to study medicine at the universities of Lisbon and Coimbra. He ends up in jail due to his active membership in a Marxist, anti-Salazar youth movement and his revolutionary poetry, first for a few weeks in 1952 and then again from 1955 to 1957. Despite this, he managed to complete his

studies in 1958 and returned with his white Portuguese wife to Angola to start a medical practice in Luanda.

In Luanda Neto immediately took a leading role in the activities of the MPLA and was again arrested in 1960. A protest for this release in his hometown, Catete, resulted in a clash with the Police ending in a bloodbath with 30 dead and 200 wounded. (J. Marcum, “**The Angolan Revolution**”, Volume I, pp.37-40.) Apparently he became a martyr for the MPLA, because he was very controversially nominated for honorary-president of the movement. He was banned to the Cape Verde Islands where he spent a year, followed by six months of isolation in a prison in

Lisbon, and finally under house-arrest. In 1962 he escaped and appeared again in Leopold City where the headquarters of the MPLA was by then established. He was chosen as president of the MPLA in December 1962. (D.M. Abshira and M.A. Samuels, “**Portuguese Africa. A Handbook**”, p. 393; A.P.J. van Rensburg, “**The Tangled Web**”, pp.11-13.)

Next week: *The Origin of the MPLA continues... with roles of Mário de Andrade, and Viriato da Cruz within the MPLA*

Link to this story:

<http://www.warinangola.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1049>



Fidel Castro of Cuba (in uniform, centre) with Dr. Augustinho Neto (centre, in white)



Historical Account: Operation Moduler: First Contact

Extract taken with the author's permission from: "War In Angola - The Final South African Phase", by Helmoed-Römer Heitman

The first contact between South Africa ground forces and Fapla took place on 6 September. Les Rudman's Liaison Team 2 and a 32 Battalion reconnaissance team had moved to the west to cover Pierre Franken who, back on the south

bank for a while, was monitoring 47 Brigade near the Lomba source.

Rudman depolyed with Robbie Hartsliel's headquarters on 5 September. The same day they received information that a Fapla battalion had crossed at the Lomba-Cuzizi confluence, and was moving east. Hartsliel decided to withdraw Pierre Franken from the Lomba Source, where he was monitoring 47 Brigade, and employ him

against this battalion, which he might catch in the open to good effect. Short of men, Hartsliel asked Rudman to provide protection and close support for Franken. Rudman was not enjoying much success liaising with Unita at that stage, and was quite happy to oblige.

He arranged a rendezvous with Franken and agreed to move to the north from there.

(Continued on page 6)



South African Casspir APC's move through the Angolan bush

This week, 23 Years Ago, In South-East Angola...

Friday, 1 January 1988: Preparations for the attack on 21 Brigade

At 19h00 4 SAI moved out of its assembly area to its forming-up place for the fire belt action against 21 Brigade. The artillery meanwhile continued to keep Fapla largely pinned down in their positions with harassing fire and fire on targets of opportunity....

Saturday, 2 January 1988: Operation Hooper: First Attack on 21 Brigade

The Attack on 21 Brigade would comprise of three phases: Phase 1 - An attempt to bring 21 Brigade to give up its positions under pressure of shelling, direct fire, and psychological action; Phase 2 - Failing that, Unita was to attack 21 Brigade with indirect fire

support from the South Africans; Phase 3 - Should that fail, the two South African combat groups would attack the brigade. After Phase 1 failed to dislodge 21 Brigade, the first attack on 21 Brigade was launched. For an historical account of this encounter, see the Historical Accounts section of the website....

(Continued on page 7)

"The artillery meanwhile continued to keep Fapla largely pinned down in their positions with harassing fire and fire on targets of opportunity"

From the Diary of Lieutenant Colonel Igor Anatolevich Zhdarkin

October 10, 1987

It is already the second month during which I find myself in the 6th district and ten days of this period - in Cuito Cuana-vale.

Conditions here are very tense. On 20 August, a diversionary group from South Africa, consisting of eight people, blew up a bridge across the river

Cuito.

In September, [we] succeeded in neutralizing a group which had been bombarding Cuito Cuana-vale itself with mortar fire.

On October 1, advisors of the 21st and 25th brigades returned from an operation on the river Lomba. There, on the Lomba, misfortune had

befallen them. They had been «covered» with shells from the rapid firing guns of the South Africans. As a result, their interpreter, Oleg Snitko had his leg broken and his hand torn off. He died within a day and a half. The others also had bad luck. Four of them were wounded and shell shocked.

(Continued on page 8)



A Russian adviser in Angola

Historical Account: Operation Moduler: First Contact



G-5's of the SADF in action in Angola, supporting ground forces

(Continued from page 5)

Franken had navigational difficulties, and they linked up only on the morning of 6 September. They now moved off in search of a suitable site from which to operate. All that Unita could tell them, was that a Fapla force was about five kilometres behind them.

The group set up a temporary base north of a large shona, about nine kilometres south-west of the Lomba-Cunzumbia

confluence, and placed observation posts covering likely approaches. The liaison team's 81mm mortar was emplaced, and the team settled down to plan their actions. One problem that arose, was that the 32 Battalion protection team that had been moving with Franken for a time, was now too tired to want to go out again. Rudman did not, however, want Franken to move out on his own; the Fapla force was moving on foot, and might there-

fore be too quiet to give sufficient warning of its presence for him to evade it. Rudman solved this problem by volunteering five of his pathfinders for the close protection role. Franken then set up contact with Quebec Battery and the SAAF, to ensure that fire was available when needed.

At 09h50, ten minutes before Franken was to move out, one of the Unita soldiers came running in from an observation post to report that

Grenades started a bush fire...

"One member of the liaison team, Sergeant Sterzel, was hit three times while manning the Vickers."

there were troops approaching. Rudman mounted his Casspir while the five 32 battalion men fanned out into a skirmish line and moved north-west towards the approaching enemy. Contact followed only thirty seconds later, and the firing and grenades immediately started a bush fire, which forced them to withdraw their vehicles. Rudman covered his recovery vehicle and a 'groundshout' Casspir

that was with them, as they withdrew, firing at the enemy with a 12.7 mm machine-gun mounted on his Casspir. The other vehicles then also backed out through the flames, which rose above them in places.

Once his supporting vehicles were clear, Rudman moved up through the flames again to give covering fire over the heads of his men on the ground. He now drew fire from a group of thirty

Fapla who had flanked him and were coming in from behind. His gunner was hit and fell out of the vehicle, and Rudman covered the driver while he picked him up. The 81 mm mortar team now packed up and pulled out, having had to fire its last few bombs almost vertically to place them on the Fapla infantry, who had approached to within 30 or 40 metres. One member of the liaison team, Sergeant Sterzel, was hit three times

...brought fire down on the Fapla troops,...

while manning the Vickers. He had also had difficulty in firing accurately, as his vehicle was struggling to get out of a soft patch and constantly moving backwards and forwards while he fired.

Rudman now withdrew with his two Casspirs, picking up various people en route, including Franken and his obser-

vation officer and forward air controller, Lieutenant Deon van Rensburg, his own Unita liaison officer, Captain Paulo, and three wounded 32 Battalion soldiers. He then joined up with his two supply trucks, and they stopped briefly, while Franken climbed a tree to get a good field of view, and brought fire down on the

Fapla troops, who promptly broke off.

The fire came from Quebec Battery, only nine kilometres away. It had its guns laid in the opposite direction, however, and the gunners had to quickly manhandle two guns around to support Franken and his men. The gunners then also

(Continued on page 7)



Casspir APC and crew

Historical Account: Operation Moduler: First Contact

(Continued from page 6)

helped bring in the scattered vehicles of the team, guiding them by radio while listening for their noise in the bush as the vehicles looked for them.

The Withings recovery vehicle had meanwhile begun to overheat seriously and had to be disabled and abandoned, together with the 'groundshout' Casspir, which had driven three kilometres after losing a wheel to an RPG-7, before being hooked up by the Withings. They now joined up with the three

Buffels of Franken's protection team, and sent the seven wounded ahead in one vehicle while they waited for Rudman's own Casspir to cool down and replaced a punctured wheel on one of the Blesbokke. One man of the liaison team, Corporal Beneke, had been killed.

Returning to the scene of the contact the next day, they found two bodies and took one prisoner. He told them that their group of forty had clashed with two battalions and a company, sent out by 47 Brigade to

make contact with 59 Brigade. Their equipment had included mortars, a B-10 recoilless gun, and an AGS-17 30 mm automatic grenade launcher. They had heard Rudman's vehicles and had formed up and attacked them when they stopped. He also told them that Rudman's 12.7 mm fire had caused many casualties.

Fapla appear to have thought that their patrol had encountered a far larger force than Rudman's forty men. 47 Brigade pulled its advance guard back for the time being.



South African mine-resistant Kwêvoël 10-ton supply truck bundu-bashing its way through

Link to this story:

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"Returning to the scene of the contact the next day, they found two bodies and took one prisoner."

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This week, 23 Years Ago, In South-East Angola...

(Continued from page 5)

Sunday, 3 January 1988: Air Attack on the Cuito Bridge

3 January brought the next SAAF effort to drop the Cuito bridge, which was critical to Fapla's efforts to replace their losses of 2 January and strengthen their defences east of the Cuito....

Monday, 4 January 1988: Cubans deployed into southern Angola

4 January brought the worrying news that the Cuban 50th Division had begun moving to south-

ern Angola on 14 December, ostensibly to take over the defence of the 6th Military Region from Fapla. By 3 January it had been reported in the press to have already moved through Menongue on the way to the front. In fact, the Cubans were deploying into south-western Angola....

Tuesday, 5 January 1988: A busy and successful day for the SA artillery.

5 January was a busy and successful day for the artillery. Apart from inflicting casualties - particularly in the 21 Brigade area and again

at its water point - it destroyed four BM-21s and an SA-9 vehicle. The guns also delivered pamphlets on the destruction of the Cuito bridge....

Wednesday, 6 January 1988: 4 SAI started rehearsals with UNITA

4 SAI moved to a new laager area on 6 January, to begin joint training and rehearsals with Unita's 3rd Regular Battalion. Jan Malan moved with the ARVs of F Squadron, the engineer troop and a mortar group to an area north of the Cuatir to set up a dummy

(Continued on page 8)

Link to this story:

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South African Ratel-20 with its crew moving through the bush

This week, 23 Years Ago, In South-East Angola...



South African G-5 155mm gun getting ready to fire

(Continued from page 7)

G-5 position for an anti-aircraft ambush....

Thursday, 7 January 1988: MiGs attacked the 4 SAI positions

7 January opened with an 06h45 air attack on 4

SAI's laager area by several Migs dropping parachute-retarded fragmentation bombs, cluster bombs and HE bombs. The first four retarded bombs fell within 400 metres of the unit, the other bombs about 700 metres away. The surprising accuracy of the attack suggested that the

pilots had seen some 4 SAI vehicles, but intercepts confirmed that they had merely attacked the last position reported by reconnaissance patrols. 4 SAI shifted its laager area during the night as a precaution, and the rehearsals with Unita continued the next day....

Uittreksel uit "Ag man dit 'WAS' lekker in die Army" - van Danie Matthee



Link to this story:
<http://www.warinangola.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1092>

Met inklaar in 1SDB Bloemfontein is ons aangetree, nog in ons *civvies*, om hare te sny. Ons het ondermekaar vriende gemaak en het lekker gestaan en gesels terwyl ons wag vir ons beurt om hare te sny. Daar was een ou saam met ons wat 'n lekker "boskassie" gehad het. Toe dit sy beurt was sny hulle sy hare aan die agterkant dat dit soos 'n gesig lyk

kompleet met wenkbroue, 'n snor en 'n baard en teken vir hom oë met 'n pen. Hulle laat hom toe so sit en wag totdat almal se hare klaar gesny was en bewaar jou as jy vir hom lag want dan verskree die Kopo-raal jou en vra: "Wat dink jy is so snaaks?" Die arme ou moes die heelyd daar sit en wag totdat almal se hare klaar gesny was voordat hulle sy hare

"ordentlik" sny. My opinie was dat die Kopo-raal sy hare so laat sny het omdat hy jaloers was op die ou se "boskassie". Na die haarsny moes ons vanvooraf vriende maak want skielik is almal weer vreemde-linge omdat ons mekaar nie herken het met die poens koppe nie!

Kavalaris L. Cronje
 1969 tot 1970

From the Diary of Lieutenant Colonel Igor Anatolevich Zhdarkin

(Continued from page 5)

On October 8, they were flown off to a hospital in Luanda.

Then on October 9, having replaced them, we departed on a military operation.

There are six people in our group – our team leader, Artiomenko Anatolii Mikhailovich; the advisor to the chief of the brigade artillery, Yuri Pavlovich Sushchenko; the technician, Sasha Fatianov; two specialists from "Osa-AK" (the anti

aircraft missile system), Slava and Kostya, and myself.

The day before, we covered approximately eleven kilometers and at 10:30 we reached the command post of the 25th brigade. We sat there the whole day, and waited uncertainly for something to turn up. We were in fact forced to spend the night there.

At around seven o'clock in the evening, I turned on the radio receiver. A concert of Soviet popular songs was being trans-

mitted. The songs were, on the whole, both old and long known, yet all of us at once grew silent and pensive.

But today, on October 10, at five thirty in the morning, we hurriedly pushed off from our location and moved forward.

A military column, in general, moves very slowly. The point is that it is advisable not to travel on old, used roads, because they are constantly mined by UNITA.

(Continued on page 10)



Russian advisors in their BTR-60 APC move with their allocated Fapla brigade



ANGOLA

Population	1000000	10000000
Area	100000	1000000
Population Density	100	1000
Area	100000	1000000
Population Density	100	1000
Area	100000	1000000
Population Density	100	1000
Area	100000	1000000
Population Density	100	1000
Area	100000	1000000
Population Density	100	1000

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Schedule of Events

- 18-20 January 2011 — Airborne Early Warning and Battle Management, Germany
- 20 January 2011 — SAMHS Durban: The Spy who disappeared
- 20 January 2011 — SAMHS Durban: Steve versus the Kudu
- 20 January 2011 — SAMHS Cape Town: South African Air Defence Artillery, Yesterday and Today
- 20 January 2011 — SAMHS Johannesburg: The enigmatic Codebreaker - Alan Turing
- 20 January 2011 — SAMHS Johannesburg: The Battle of Teutoburg Forest 9 AD

JANUARY 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

From the Diary of Lieutenant Colonel Igor Anatolevich Zhdarkin



Fapla mortars being deployed for action

(Continued from page 8)

Therefore, our men cut a new road through the forest. The tanks move forward, and behind them, the entire column goes. For some five hours, we moved all in all only eight kilometers.

During one of our usual stops, a group of UNITA soldiers bombarded us. It occurred at 11.10, nineteen miles from Cuito Cuanavale. Our column was bombarded by mortars and submachine guns. It was our first bombardment in this operation and it happened quite close to Cuito-Cuanavale.

Thus we moved forward: we moved at most 100 meters before we had to stop and endure a tedi-

ous wait during which the tanks continued to push the road forward.

At 14:30, we achieved at last crossings over the river Shambinga.

But before this, at 13:30, we had stumbled upon a mined field, set up by UNITA. We waited a long time until [our engineers] found a safe passage or detour.

At 16:10, we stopped in a little wood on the other bank of the Shambinga River. Here we will spend the night.

The crossing of the Shambinga River is quite uncomfortable. Sufficient to say that it is completely open on both its banks and moreover swampy. The Angolans

call such a surface area, "shana", the same as "flood lands" in Russian. Only one single road, mined on each side, leads to the river through this "shana", so that nowhere can one turn around. If the enemy is able successfully get this road within his gun sights, and then it can become one of the seven circles of biblical hell.

In fact, here on the September 25 of last year, the leader of our group, Anatoly Mikhailovich was seriously wounded. They had been until then, for all of five days, not able to get across. A [shell] fragment had hit him in the head. But we, this one time, were able to cross without mishap.

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In order to continue expanding the site and adding additional functionality it is essential that some sort of revenue is generated to overcome the ever-increasing costs.

While by no means minimising the information available to Public and Registered users (which is what attracts all the attention in the first place), it takes considerable time and effort to research, find and publish new information all the time.

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War in Angola

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THE NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTING EVENTS, INFORMATION AND FACTS RELATING TO THE CONFLICT IN ANGOLA AND SOUTH-WEST AFRICA (NAMIBIA) FROM 1975 TO 1989

The War In Angola
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The War In Angola website (www.warinangola.com) is dedicated to recreating and re-fighting the battles between the adversaries of the Angolan War (or Border War as it is also known), that is, the SADF and UNITA on the one side and the Soviet-supplied FAPLA, Cuba, and SWAPO on the other side. In order to recreate the battles as accurate as possible, a lot of research is required about the equipment, organisation, quality, uniforms, command, support and logistical structures behind the different forces.

There are two sides to the website: the gaming and recreation of the miniature battles; and the historical facts and research of the forces behind the battles.

The dividing line between the two sides is deliberately blurred in order to expose both sides to all the users, thereby promoting and exposing the wargaming and modeling hobby to the historically inclined and vice-versa.

Johan Schoeman

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Last week's latest topics on the Forums

Link to the Forums:

<http://www.warinangola.com/Default.aspx?tabid=590>

RE: 32 Battalion ("Os Ter- riveis") by lion

I was there in 1987- 1989 and it was a pleasure to fight shoulder to shoulder with a unit like 32. 32 Was the best unit at its time in the world and we will always remember them. If you wanna...

RE: Russian Prisoner(s) of War by Jim Hooper

I did a bit of googling and found the following three sites. although I was correct about the Cuban shoot-down, I had the date wrong. As you'll see, there's no record of a Soviet pilot shot down or ...

RE: Russian Prisoner(s) of War by Jim Hooper

Johan-- Never heard of a Russian pilot being captured, but two Cuban pilots were shot down by Unita. LtCol Rojas was the CO of an Angolan MiG-21 squadron. When his Angolan pilots refused to fly bec...

RE: The Russian Veterans of Angola by andreb1

Dear Johan, Thank you for your kind words, greetings and wishes! I have to agree with what Max's wrote. I guess I won't make a mistake if I express the same from my brothers-in-arms. This time of t...

RE: The Russian Veterans of Angola by Cuca

Johan, Thank you so much for the Greetings. On behalf of Russian Angola Veterans Union, I extend our warmest Seasons Greetings to you, and all members of your veterans' community and their families...

RE: Russian Prisoner(s) of War by Cuca

None of the entire corps of Soviet military advisors in Angola seem to remember it, including airdrome technicians, etc. Max

RE: Russian Prisoner(s) of War by Helmoed

I am not aware of any other Russian POW. There were some Cubans, but no Russians that I know of. There were, however, a Russian spook in our jails at one time – Yuri Loginov, if I recall correctly, ...

RE: Russian Prisoner(s) of War by johansamin

I was the OPO on the Chaminga highground east of Cuito Cuanavale and the Tumpo Triangle during March and April 1988. A big part of my task as observer was not only to bombard and counter-bombard tar...

Russian Prisoner(s) of War by host

The only Russian that have been captured that we KNOW of was Sargeant Major Nikolai Pestretsov who was captured during Operation Protea (see Jim Hooper's interview with Thinus van Staden about this i...