

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 beautiful Angolan sunsets will be remembered by all who have been there...

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

On 22 February 1974 the much talked about book of Spinola, **"Portugal e o Futuro"**, was published which, against his intentions, became the cause of a major turn of events in Portu-

gal. Spinola was a distinguished man who was celebrated as a hero after his return from Guinea-Bissau where he took a liberal direction as governor-general.

If the book was written by an unknown person, it would probably not have caused so much excitement. After Spinola's positive suggestion that the unity of the Empire should be maintained and that it should take the form of "a great Lusitanian community" inclusive of Brazil, his negative comments may have made more of an impression. It comes down to the fact that the wars in Africa could not be won militarily and that a political solution should be found through negotiations with the opposition. (Antonia de

Spinola, **"Portugal and the Future"** (English translation), Chapter III.)

In the meantime a group of junior officers formed the **Movimento das Forças Armadas** (MFA, which meant the Movement of the Armed Forces). In a very capable manner a coup was prepared by the MFA. The DGS did have a slight suspicion, but could not determine the planned date.

That date was 25 April 1974. The coup was so well planned and executed that it was practically bloodless. President Thomáz and Prime Minister Caetano was relieved of their posts and a military junta under the leadership of General

(Continued on page 2)

Featured Gallery:



Angolan FAPLA soldiers on parade for inspection



Soviet-supplied BM-14 and BM-21 Multiple Rocket Launchers



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

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Next Week's Features

- The Historical Background series of articles on the POWER STRUGGLE IN ANGOLA continues: **"A new regime in Angola"**
- The SVD Dragunov sniper rifle is discussed in our Featured Equipment section
- "The Forming of the FNLA"... **Frente Nacional de Libertação de Angola** – FNLA (National Front for the Liberation of Angola)
- Operation Moduler: the battles continue with the First Clashes against 47 Brigade

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



Mi-8 Hip helicopter landing somewhere in Angola

(Continued from page 1)

Spinola took their place, which would have only been an interim government. That was the end of the dictatorship which started with the appointment of Salazar in 1928.

The coup was followed by a period of revolution and uncertainty which had a paralysing effect on one interim government after the other which largely affected the situation in Angola.

Spinola was chairman of the Military Junta of National Salvation (**Junta Militar de Salvação Nacional**) which was formed soon after the coup.

The junta immediately released all political prisoners and acknowledged all political parties, except those that were branded as fascist. One after the other the exiles returned, and were enthusiastically greeted by the countrymen. The

best known was the 50-year old socialistic leader, Dr. Mario Soares, after a four year long stay in Paris, and the 61-year old communistic leader, Dr. Alvario Cunhal, after 14 years of exile in Moscow and Prague. Both of them were taken to Spinola immediately after their arrival with the intention of forming a provisional government.

The coup of 25 April created a feeling of ela-

"The coup was followed by a period of revolution and uncertainty which had a paralysing effect on one interim government after the other "

The first provisional government rapidly came to a fall

tion and freedom, a true euphoria, in the largest part of the Portuguese nation. Maybe it even led to a feeling of unrealism in some. It culminated in exultant joy-parades with the red carnation in the gun barrel, liberty speeches on 1 May and the streets and plains of Lisbon and other cities filled with jubilant crowds.

The first provisional government rapidly came to a fall and was replaced

on 17 July with another, more leftist one. Against the wishes of Spinola, Lt-Col. Casco Gonçalves, who was a well-known member of the left wing of the MFA, was appointed Prime Minister.

What complicated matters even more, were the economic problems that Portugal increasingly encountered. Spinola would have rather wanted to see the establishment of a socialistic democracy in Portugal,

after the western European model, with a healthy economy and a comparable living standard (to European states). His goal was to be included in the European Economic Community. An ambitious economic plan was produced for this purpose, but with the world wide economic recession of the early 1970s, this was a futile dream. On top of that, the workers, in their new-found freedom,

A significant tendency towards the right

launched a series of strikes for higher wages which increased hand-over-hand.

In the meantime, Spinola's position became still weaker. His conservatism and his tendency towards the right started irritating the MFA more and more. On 30 September 1974 he was forced to resign as President of the Junta. He was succeeded by

General Costa Gornes, and the following year, on 25 April 1975, another election was held which put the Socialist Party under Mario Soares in control. His government also failed to bring stability and various other interim governments followed.

The elections of 25 April 1975 brought a significant tendency towards the right to light. The

Socialist Party (PS) of Mario Soares won 116 seats, the **Popular Democratic Party (PPD)** 80, and the **Communist Party (PCP)** 30. This did not mean that the socialists came directly to power. The leftist

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Link to this story:
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FAPLA officers in conference



Featured Equipment: The G3 Battle Rifle

The G3 (which stands for *Gewehr 3*) is a family of select fire battle rifles manufactured by Heckler & Koch. It was adopted as the standard service rifle by the Bundeswehr in 1959, as well as several other countries to varying degrees.

Its first known combat use was by Portuguese Armed Forces during the Portuguese Colonial War. G3 rifles were issued to both regular army and reserve forces as well as special forces. The Portuguese found the G3 to be reliable, but judged its weight a

handicap when tracking lightly-armed guerrilla forces in heavy bush and jungle.

Many G3s were left in Angola after Angolan independence. South Africa suddenly became the owner of a number of G3s after Operation Savannah. It was decided to issue them to the South West African Territorial Force when it was formed. SWATF soldiers carried the G3 with the parade on 1 August 1980 in Windhoek. The G3 was not very popular with its new owners. They nickname it the 'Pep Stores Gun' and,

unofficially, complained about its lack of dropping a Kudu. Shortly after issuing the G3s were redrawn and SWATF reissued with R1 rifles.

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For more detailed information on the G3, see Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heckler_%26_Koch_G3



Portuguese soldiers with G3 rifles during the Portuguese Colonial War, 1961-1974

Specifications

Country of Origin:	Germany
Caliber:	7.62 mm (.308 in)
Length:	1 026 mm (40.4 in) [G3A3]
Weight:	4.41 kg (9.7 lbs.)
Barrel:	450 mm (17.7 in)
Feed/magazine capacity:	20 round detachable box magazine
Operation:	roller-delayed blowback
Cyclic rate of fire:	600 round/min (cyclic)
Muzzle velocity:	790 m/s (2 600 ft/s)
Effective Range:	500 m (546 yd)

"South Africa suddenly became the owner of a number of G3s after Operation Savannah. "

The G3 Battle Rifle



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Featured Organisation: The origin of the MPLA



FAPLA soldiers of the MPLA on the move

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"These two figures did much to promote the cause of the MPLA. De Andrade was chairman and Da Cruz secretary of the main foreign management structure."

This week: *The Origin of the MPLA continues...*

Mário de Andrade, a *mulato*, was born in 1928 in the Dembos. After his schooling in Luanda, he went to Europe in 1948 where he studied philosophy until 1955 at the University of Lisbon. He then moved to Paris to do a course in social sciences at the Sorbonne and the **Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes**. Here he attracted attention due to his revolutionary poetry and political articles. Together with other banned figures and refugees from the Portuguese colonies, he was responsible for the creation of the **Movimento Anti-Colonialista** (MAC). In 1958 he attended the Afro-Asiatic Writers Conference in Tashkent, Russia. (D.M. Abshireen and M.A. Samuels, "**Portuguese Africa. A Handbook**", p.391; J. Marcum, "**The Angolan Revolution**", Volume I, pp.40-41.)

The third person, Viriato da Cruz, also a *mulato*, was born in 1928 in Kikvuva close to Amboim. He received his training as a bookkeeper at the *Liceu* of Luanda, where he until 1957, first worked in the Department of Education and then in a private firm. He also had literary interests and collaborated with the magazine **Mensagem**, which was banned after only two issues. As a convinced Marxist he got involved with clandestine organizations like the MPLA. When he learned that the secret police was on his tail, he fled to Europe and joined De Andrade in Paris. (J. Marcum, "**The Angolan Revolution**", Volume I, p.41.)

These two figures did much to promote the cause of the MPLA. De Andrade was chairman and Da Cruz secretary of the main foreign management structure. In January 1960 they participated in the **All African People's Confer-**

ence in Tunisia. Here they created a unified front of organizations with the purpose of obtaining liberty for the Portuguese colonies, namely **Frente Revolucionário Africana para à Independência Nacional das Colonias Portugueses** – (FRAIN). There they failed to convince Holden Roberto, who also attended the conference, to join.

On invitation by President Sékou Touré of Guinea, De Andrade and Da Cruz established their headquarters in Conakry from where they managed the MPLA during the Angolan insurrections of 1961. Here a fourth figure, Lucio Lara, a son of a rich Angolan sugarcane planter, joined them. In 1962 the headquarters moved to Kinshasa. (J. Marcum, "**The Angolan Revolution**", Volume I, p.42.)

Next week: *The Forming of the FNLA*

The fall of the Caetano government

(Continued from page 2)

groups in the MFA continued to impose their influence in some of the interim governments

which followed each other. (A good overview of the progress of the revolution in Portugal can be found in the authors, Insight Team of

the Sunday Times, "**Insight on Portugal (The year of the Captains)**", and Neil Bruce, "**Portugal, the last empire**".)



23mm AA gun in front of a BM-21 Multiple Rocket Launcher



B-10 82mm anti-tank gun used by the Angolan forces



A T-55 tank, with the business end of its 100mm gun

Images from "Grensoorlog" series, by Linda de Jager, reproduced with kind permission by MNET

Historical Account:

Operation Moduler: First Clash—21 Brigade on the Lomba

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

20 SA Brigade's appreciation was that 21 Brigade might attempt a crossing of the Lomba just east of its confluence with the Gombe. On 8 September it instructed Combat Group Bravo to deploy elements there to monitor

the situation and prevent a crossing. Hartsliet sent Major Hannes Nortmann with his anti-tank squadron ahead, and followed with the rest of his force. Nortmann arrived there between 03h00 and 04h00 on 9 September. Examining the site at first light, he found that the flood plain was too marshy for a practicable vehicle crossing.

21 Brigade on the Lomba: 9 and 10 September

Early on 9 September, Unita reported Fapla infantry crossing the Lomba 12 kilometres east of its confluence with the Cunzumbia, and some vehicles on the northern bank. 21 Brigade had made its move. Hartsliet quickly despatched one of his two 101 Battalion motorised infantry companies (14 Casspir APCs) and a Ratel-90 anti-tank troop to move west and establish contact with a Unita

(Continued on page 6)



South African Valkyri 127mm Multiple Rocket Launcher firing a rocket

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

Friday, 8 January 1988: Mirages attacked 8 Brigade convoy

Three Mirages attacked an 8 Brigade convoy on the way to Cuito Cuana-vale at 07h50 on 8 January. Three SA-7s were launched after them three minutes after the raid, and the 23 mm guns also opened fire then. Several helicopters flew out to the convoy later to collect wounded, and MiGs flew top cover

from 10h00 until last light...

Saturday, 9 January 1988: Activity by the air forces and artillery of both sides

Two MiG-23s dropped a line of eight bombs 1 000 metres south-east of Sierra Battey at 11h35, presenting an excellent target for the Stingers, which again did not engage. At 12h51 it was the turn of the SAAF.

Four Mirages attacked an 8 Brigade convoy two kilometres west of the Cuatir bridge en route from Menongue. Forty of the convoy's 170 vehicles remained behind when it moved off again, some burning. At 12h56 several MiG-23s attempted to intercept the Mirages, but they were already well on their way home. The commander of 59 Brigade was killed

(Continued on page 7)

"Several MiG-23s attempted to intercept the Mirages, but they were already well on their way home"

From the Diary of Lieutenant Colonel Igor Anatolevich Zhdarkin

October 11, 1987

The day today was rich with events.

At six in the morning, the column gathered in military formation for the day's march. We stood for half an hour, waiting for news from the head of our column as to where they were to pave the way. By six thirty, UNITA began to fire its

mortars. This time, the majority of mortars were being discharged to release incendiary bombs with the exclusive aim to set our cars on fire.

Although the firing continued for thirty minutes, UNITA did not achieve its objectives. Thereupon, we pushed forward.

During the course of the

day, South African planes appeared twice. The first time was at 11:10 and then at 14:30.

Our anti-aircraft missile system, "Osa-AK", tracked them but the two aircrafts were actually shot down in the region of the 21st brigade.

At 15:35, our column was once more attacked by UNITA forces. A fero-

(Continued on page 8)



A group of Russian advisers assisting with planning of a FAPLA operation

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Historical Account:

Operation Moduler: First Clash—21 Brigade on the Lomba



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

(Continued from page 5)

company in contact with the enemy. Their mission was to investigate this report and to harass whatever force was crossing.

When they reached the high ground on the south bank, they found a BTR-60 crossing the river and a large group of infantry deployed on the south bank. More infantry could be seen crossing the river. One of the Ratel-90s shot out the BTR-60. The company

commander then tried to organise a joint attack with the Unita company against the Fapla infantry dug in on the south bank, but liaison difficulties prevented anything being arranged before darkness intervened. Fapla had meanwhile reacted with heavy fire from artillery on the north bank. Hartsliet now ordered this company to pull back about six kilometres, while he deployed the bulk of his combat group for an attack on the crossing

point in the morning. Quebec Battery's G-5s meanwhile shelled the Fapla crossing point during the night.

The information that a BTR-60 had been seen crossing the river, suggested to Hartsliet that Fapla might already have a bridge in place. He was thus faced with what could quickly develop into a full-scale crossing by 21 Brigade and its tanks.

He ordered Nortmann to take his remaining two

Two of the pre-production Ratel-ZT3 tank destroyers...

anti-tank troops - one was with the company in contact - and the other two infantry companies to the crossing site, drive away the battalion that had crossed, and prevent any further crossing. Nortmann moved up during the night, carrying out the final approach to the river bank after 01 h30, to arrive there just before 06h00. He deployed his one infantry company facing north over the river, supported by an anti-tank troop with

two Ratel-90s and two of the very new pre-production Ratel-ZT3 tank destroyers. He ordered his 101 Battalion infantry company and a troop of four Ratel-90s to deploy to the west, to cover against any Fapla forces already on the south bank.

This company and its supporting Ratel-90 troop made contact with the Fapla infantry battalion as they began moving into position. This

quickly developed into quite heavy fighting. The Fapla infantry were supported by 82 mm mortars, 122 mm D-30 guns, and 122 mm BM-21 rocket launchers on the north bank. They were driven out of their positions despite this support, and began to withdraw towards the floodplain along the river. Nortmann now ordered his infantry's Casspirs to deploy along the bushline south of the shona, from where their 20 mm

"At least 103 of these unfortunate infantrymen were killed in their positions or on the bank of the Lomba."

Machine-guns inflicted massive casualties...

cannon, 12,7 mm and 7,62 mm machine-guns inflicted massive casualties on the infantry exposed in the coverless flood-plain as they attempted to withdraw to the north-west. The 120 mm mortars of Sierra Battery also began to fire at the Fapla infantry. At least 103 of these unfortunate infantrymen were killed in their positions or

on the bank of the Lomba.

Quebec and Papa Batteries were now also engaged, the fire of all three batteries being coordinated by Wilken. The guns shelled targets on the north bank, the rocket launchers fired on the high ground north of the river, and the mortars hit targets in the shona.

A forward observation officer, Koos Breytenbach, was engaging a mortar position on the north bank when he spotted a number of tanks breaking cover and crossing the shona towards the TMM bridge which had by now been identified. He warned Nortmann and then placed G-5 fire on the

(Continued on page 7)



Ratel-90 following in the tracks of the preceding vehicles. Notice how exact the wheels fit in the tracks

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Historical Account: Operation Moduler: First Clash—21 Brigade on the Lomba

(Continued from page 6)

tanks and on the bush whence they had come. Two vehicles were set on fire by this shelling, but it was not possible to identify them in the bush. More infantry now appeared behind the tanks, the first of which had reached the bridge and begun crossing.

The commander of the nearest anti-tank troop had been wounded in the eye by a shell fragment. Nortmann took command of the troop and mounted one of the Ratel tank destroyers. He fired one of its three 'Mongol' missiles at the leading tank, but it went out of control after 200 metres, pulling up vertically. Nortmann fired a second missile with the same result. His third

missile would not fire at all. He quickly withdrew to reload the launcher, and ordered the two Ratel-90s of the troop to manoeuvre to the flank of the advancing tanks and then engage them from the bushline. The tanks were still well out of range for the 90 mm guns, about 2 000 m from the bushline, but the fire did draw their attention away from their front. Once the tanks drew nearer, the Ratel-90s engaged again. One hit a tank with three rounds when it was some 300 metres from the bushline. It stopped momentarily, but then began advancing again.

The Ratel-90s had, nevertheless, won the time for Nortmann to reload and return to the fray. He fired his fourth missile,

which hit its target. The detonation threw the turret 25 metres to one side, and the hulk then began to burn fiercely. The next tank in line turned around and withdrew-towards the river. The third continued to advance. Nortmann fired at it with his fifth missile, but it dived into the ground just ahead of its target. The sixth hit and destroyed the tank. Nortmann again pulled back to reload, and then manoeuvred into a new firing position. From there he fired at the farthest of the tanks and hit it with two missiles. The third missile of this pack was fired at a tank that they could barely see in the bush on the north bank, but it detonated when it hit a Fapla soldier who chose the

(Continued on page 9)



101 Battalion Casspirs and crews getting ready to move out

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"The third missile detonated when it hit a Fapla soldier who chose the wrong moment and the wrong place to stand up."

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

(Continued from page 5)

and three Cuban officers were wounded at 17h15 by the 120 mm mortars of Romeo Battery. The deception team was attacked by two MiGs at 11h00, and rocketed by BM-21s at 13h05 and 13h20, while it was withdrawing from the scene....

Sunday, 10 January 1988: Fapla struck at the SA guns

After several sorties directed at the Tactical Headquarters, two MiGs attempted to attack Sierra Battery at 15h52, dropping bombs 3000 metres east and south of the gun positions. Fapla

artillery also tried to hit the South African guns that day, firing a coordinated but inaccurate bombardment at 09h30. Three BM-21s and six D-30s from two mixed positions carried out the shoot. The G-5s fired counter-bombardments and both Fapla positions ceased fire....

Monday, 11 January 1988: Fapla artillery tried again

The Fapla artillery tried again on 11 January to hit the South African artillery, and the G-5s in particular. They carried out several shoots with D-30s, a BM-21 and a 130mm M-46 during the day with no success.

Each Fapla shoot drew G-5 counter-bombardment, and the offending site was quickly silenced....

Tuesday, 12 January 1988: Second attack on 21 Brigade postponed

The Tactical Headquarters and the EW teams arrived at General Demosthenes' headquarters at 01h15 on 12 January, and were ready to operate by 03h30. 61 Mech and 4 SAI were both in their forward assembly areas by 05h00 as planned. Unfavourable weather - now too good, allowing the MiGs to fly! - caused the

(Continued on page 8)

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Business side of a South African Ratel-20

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



South African Puma helicopter with a CASEVAC (Casualty Evacuation)

(Continued from page 7)

ground attack to be put back two hours. When it became clear that the weather was not going to improve - i.e. cloud cover - the attack was postponed until 08h00 on 13 January....

Wednesday, 13 January 1988: Second Attack on 21 Brigade

Thursday, 14 January 1988: Castro took control of the situation at Cuito Cuanavale

The two attacking forces - 61 Mech and 4 SAI with Unita's 3rd Regular Battalion - began their approach to contact as 12h15. For an historical account of this encounter, see the Historical Accounts section....

After the collapse of 21 Brigade, Castro told Luanda that he and his generals in Angola were taking control of the situation at Cuito Cuanavale. He ordered Gen-

(Continued on page 9)

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



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Met die uitreiking van ons vuurwapens staan ons in 'n ry voor die magasyn. Almal is vreeslik opgewonde om hulle vuurwapens te kry en diè wat al reeds hulle vuurwapens ontvang het kon nie ophou speel met dit nie. Die outjie voor my is toe volgende om sy vuurwapen te ontvang. Toe die Samajoor sy vuurwapen aan hom oorhandig sê hy hy kan nie die vuurwapen

vat nie want hy is nie oud genoeg om 'n vuurwapen te hanteer nie, hy het al aansoek gedoen vir 'n windbuks lisensie (daardie tyd was dit nog verpligtend om 'n lisensie vir 'n windbuks te hê) en is geweier omdat hy nog nie die regte ouderdom was nie. Die Samajoor het hom net so oor sy bril geloer en gesê dat hy sy bek moet hou en die vuurwapen vat want hy het nie tyd vir

nonsens nie. Na 'n tyd het ons gewens dat ons te "jonk" was om die vuurwapens te hanteer want die geweer was net 'n las omdat hy nooit skoon genoeg was volgens die Koporaal nie en oral waar jy gaan moes jou geweer by jou wees.

Kanonnier D Pretorius (DT)

1987 tot 1988

From the Diary of Lieutenant Colonel Igor Anatolevich Zhdarkin

(Continued from page 5)

cious battle broke out and continued almost 40 minutes. The men covering the flanks of the column performed well by discovering the bandits in time. The attack was successfully repulsed. Five UNITA soldiers were killed, and much booty was taken.

On that day, we had to have our dinner in the dark, inasmuch as we stopped at our night lodge quite late and it gets dark here around six in the evening.

October 12, 1987

Today, from 06:45 in the morning, our column once again ran into attacking UNITA forces. The shooting continued for twenty minutes. The column was again fired upon with incendiary mortar shells. But the return fire of our combat means (B-10 anti tank guns; 120 millimeter mortars; BM-21 forty-barrel 122 millimeter caliber volley fire fired from "Ural" trucks; Grad-1P portable guns delivering 122 millimeter caliber volley fire) did not permit

the UNITA forces to aim their guns accurately at us. Only one single mortar shell ever landed on one of the cars in our column while the rest were released without any impact.

At 10:40, the South African air force again appeared, bombing the location of the 21st brigade.

For the rest of the day, nothing of any particular importance happened except that now, on the R-123 radio station, we

(Continued on page 10)



Russian advisors with the staff of the Fapla brigade they were allocated to

Historical Account: Operation Moduler: First Contact

(Continued from page 7)

wrong moment and the wrong place to stand up. As it turned out, what they had thought was a part of a tank was part of a bridging vehicle. The remaining tanks and their infantry now withdrew.

Quebec Battery had meanwhile shelled the crossing point and had also engaged the Fapla artillery, succeeding in silencing them with several hits on the gun positions and on ammunition dumps. The TMM bridge was also damaged by the shelling. 155 mm airburst and fire from the 120 mm mortars of Si-

erra Battery stopped two further attacks over the river by Fapla infantry. By evening the situation had been stabilised, and 21 Brigade had given up its attempt to cross here. It settled down in its positions on the north bank under sporadic shelling by Quebec Battery. Bravo had suffered two men wounded in this fighting. An inaccurate attack by some MiGs had caused no casualties.

Nortmann ordered his men to dig in, mined the approaches to the TMM bridge, and put out barbed wire and trip flares around his positions. He also placed night observation posts

east and west of his position. As far as he was concerned, he was now ready to deal with any further attempts to cross.

Combat Group Charlie was ordered forward in its role as Brigade reserve, to support Nortmann and Combat Group Bravo if needed. Arriving some time after the fighting had ended, Major Dawid Letter found himself in a World War One scene - barbed wire, trenches, road signs et al. He was met by Robbie Hartsliet and then took over the position from Hannes Nortmann, allowing Hartsliet to concentrate his force again.



Member of the South African Infantry armed with the R-4 assault rifle

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"155 mm airburst and fire from the 120 mm mortars of Sierra Battery stopped two further attacks over the river by Fapla infantry."

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

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eral Ochoa to send a tactical group and a tank battalion from Menongue to Cuito Cuanavale to reinforce the Cuban elements already deployed

there. After he and his staff in Havana had considered the situation, he ordered that the forces east of the Cuito should be pulled back into a small bridgehead that could be strongly sup-

ported by artillery safely deployed behind the high ground on the west bank. Nothing was done in response to this order....

Order this Poster:
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Mark Raats has created this **SPECIAL EDITION** high quality 900mm x 600mm poster of his original artwork, "An Unpopular War", SPECIFICALLY and EXCLUSIVELY for the users of WarInAngola.com. This is the same artwork which has proven such a direct hit in the form of the complimentary "OUMAN" sticker we have been sending out to all SADF

Veterans, courtesy of Danie Matthee, with the kind permission and specific design provided by Mark. This high quality poster is now available for only **R300, plus R50 handling and postage** anywhere in South Africa. Postage to the rest of the world will be added accordingly. Please enquire first as to the cost thereof.



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

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30	31					

From the Diary of Lieutenant Colonel Igor Anatolevich Zhdarkin

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Fapla mortars being deployed for action

hear, quite clearly and precisely, South Africans discussing among themselves. Thank God that I still remember a little English.

And today, they suddenly began talking Polish on the air. I could make out clearly a few phrases in Polish: "What do you want?" "Very good." And then, "I am listening attentively." "Thank you." The answer of the second speaker was not audible.

For a long time we speculated as to what this signified, until we realized that in fact maybe these were Polish émigrés in the South African army.

October 13, 1987

Today at 05:10, four South African planes

appeared in the area of the 21st and 59th brigades. The brigades opened up furious fire from all types of weaponry. The entire sky looked like a rainbow or a salute. As a result, one plane was put out of action, while a second was hit on the nozzle by a "Strela-3" type rocket, and although hit, managed to escape. The rest dropped their bombs in disorder and made off.

Our "Osa-AK" anti aircraft missile system had begun work already at 04:30.

On that day, there were three more South African air raids – at noon, at 15:00 and at 17:00, as if it was according to schedule. This day, we stayed at the night lodging near the old UNITA base. There we could see the huts which were

still intact, communication trenches and so forth? A real fortress I would say.

I completely forgot that on this same day, at 14:30, we had discovered a large store house belonging to UNITA at the source of the Kunzumbia river. There, ammunition dumps of Chinese origin were found:

for 60-millimetre mortars – 120 mortar shells;

for 81-millimetre mortars – 111 mortar shells;

for a modified manual antitank grenade launcher (RPG-7V) – 100 items;

cartridges for an updated Kalashnikov sub-machinegun (with a wooden butt), or "AKM" (1947 model) – 15 440 items.

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NEW: PREMIUM MEMBERSHIP

With over 3,800 UNIQUE visitors to War In Angola, viewing in excess of 56,000 pages per month, the time has come to allow a select few to rise above the rest.

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.

To this effect, some new information will only be made available to Registered users that have subscribed to the annual PREMIUM MEMBERSHIP.

This subscription will have a number of advantages:

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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

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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: The attack on 16 Brigade: 9 November 1987 by Glynn

Hi Johan I have not really spoken about the war for the reasons you have mentioned and one or two others. I was with School of Armour Bloemfontien and was a tank driver for both Modular and ...

RE: Remains of 3 SADF members killed in Cessna crash near Ebo in 1975 by johansamin

Hi Mark... That was some interesting reading.... I would really like to be kept up to date with developments about the returning of the remains of those guys... The end of the war was a...

Remains of 3 SADF members killed in Cessna crash near Ebo in 1975 by mark2701

I am friends with Rowley Medlin and as you probably know General Opperman is assisting him to get the remains returned of 3

SADF members that were killed in a Cessna crash near Ebo in 1975. It would...

RE: 32BN AT Squadron by chriswim

Johansamin, I like the painted scheme of your Ratel 90s, what colors did you use. What about the Casspir? Thank you. My figures are primarily spray painted Dark Tan (by Testors) and then bla...

RE: The attack on 16 Brigade: 9 November 1987 by steveh

Excellent site! I was gunner (4SAI) on 12 with Lt Bruwer and was a few metres behind 12B on 9th November when Cpl Duvenhage and Buddah were killed by a mortar (4 others wounded). On 11th in the att...

RE: My military service by pfv

Hi, Johan, and many thanks for the e-mail. Here comes a long reply. I am of neither Afrikaans nor English, but of Italian de-

scent. I went up from Durban to 5 SAI Ladysmith in September 1973. As far ...

RE: 20mm wargames model manufacturer just joined by johansamin

Thanks Shaun, Some of your products will soon be listed for purchase here on War In Angola..... Please feel free to post some photos of your excellent models. Regards Johan

20mm wargames model manufacturer just joined by sandsmodels

hi all, i would just like to introduce myself to the forum members who game in 20mm, (1/76-1/72 scales). we make a huge range of coldwar and other period vehicles and figures a lot of which are s...