

# 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: Decolonisation

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

As Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mario Soares was tasked with the decolonisation negotiations. First it was Guinea-Bissau followed by Mozambique. In the case of both countries the negotiations went smoothly because in each of their cases there was only one liberation movement acknowledged, namely PAIGC and FRELIMO. There were only a few white colonists in Guinea-Bissau and therefore the transition was much easier. In Mozambique it was more difficult because there were more white colonists. In Angola the situation was complicated because there were three liberation movements, none of which



*The tail-rotor of an Allouette III helicopter frames the stunning sunset you get to see when in Angola*

were willing to stand back for any of the others. There was also a much larger white population of approximately 350 000 or more. (The figures vary a lot, from 750 000 to 320 000. Many authors are prepared to accept approximately 500 000, possibly as a mean of the two extremes.

A consular information page name the white population in 1974 at approximately 600 000. It is also the figure that appears in the Yearbook of 1975 of the **"Grote Winkler Prins Encyclopaedia"** with the appendage that it is about double the number of whites in Rhodesia. The **"Africa Contemporary Record"** 1973-1974, p. B521, declares that, calculated from figures from the 1970 Census, the total population in 1973 to be 5,7 million, but that the white population for 1973 is to be calculated at 390 000. In contrast to these figures, the authors Bender and Yoder, also basing their calculations on the Census of 1970, estimated the number of whites to be 100 000

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Featured Gallery:



A BM-14 Multiple Rocket Launcher of the Angolan forces



SWAPO guerrillas being trained on the use of the RPG-7



UNITA regular forces being briefed for an attack (Photo © Jim Hooper)

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### Next Week's Features

- The Historical Background series of articles on the **POWER STRUGGLE IN ANGOLA** continues: "Political parties in Angola"
- **The anachronistic Simonov SKS rifle**
- "The revolution of 1961, Part 2" Looking at Portugal's desperate efforts to keep Angola
- Operation Moduler: the battles continue with the First Clashes against 47 Brigade, Part 3

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## Historical Background: Decolonisation (continued)



Angolan FAPLA infantry

(Continued from page 1)

less, that is, at 290 000, and by the end of 1974 at 335 000 (**"Africa Today"**, Vol. 2 No. 4, "Whites in Angola on the eve of independence. The Politics of Numbers", p. 23-28). They made an analysis of the census reports since 1900 and the growth of the white population: 9 198 in 1900, 20 700 in 1920, 44 083 in 1940, 78 826 in 1950, 172 529 in 1960, 290 000 in 1970.

The last figure is merely an estimate because the census at this time did not separate the numbers of white and black any longer. Bender and Yoder claims that the whites tended to inflate figures of themselves to accommodate the political circumstances of that time. That's where the figure of 600 000 originates from which was generally accepted. Marcum accepts the figure of 335 000 from Bender and Yoder and

points out that another author, Frans-Willem Heimer, the figure sets to as little as 320 000. (J.A. Marcum, **"The Angolan Revolution"**, Vol. II, p.426, footnote 20.) )

Early in August there were unrest and fighting between white and black in Luanda which claimed 37 lives, 400 arrests, and caused an exodus of 50 000 to 70 000 blacks from the city.

### Link to this story:

<http://www.warinangola.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1085>

## From the Diary of Lieutenant Colonel Igor Anatolevich Zhdarkin

"As we were sitting at the table, all of a sudden, at 06:50, a South African plane swooped down towards us."

### October 15, 1987

Yesterday and today we settled down in our new positions, making the acquaintance with the Commander of our 21st brigade and major Batista, the Group Commander, and, at brigade headquarters, we familiarized ourselves with the situation. The day passed quietly. South African planes flew by and from the direction of the 16th and 59th brigades, the rumble of cannon fire was heard. There was shelling there and our brigade gave them support with artillery fire.

### October 16, 1987

In the morning, major Batista drove off to the command post of the First Tactical Group, took leave of us, thanked us for everything, and asked us to provide help to the brigade commander.

The order came from the District Command: brigades must take defen-

sive positions in those places where they already find themselves, and assume responsibility for each allotted zone where it is necessary constantly to provide thorough searches in order not to permit enemy infiltration and to hinder any enemy activities. This was so to speak a series of local operations which were conducted with the forces of up to two battalions led by brigade commanders.

This afternoon, we moved our mission to a new position, closer to the Brigade Command Post.

### October 17, 1987

This morning, as we were sitting at the table, all of a sudden, at 06:50, a South African plane swooped down towards us. Our troops did not evidently succeed in taking note of it in time. The fire was opened with much delay only. The aircraft hit the forward positions of our brigade's

first infantry battalion. Luckily, there were no losses.

The second such incident was at 08:15. In both cases, our anti-aircraft gunners were not able to react in time. The problem was that the South Africans, for their part, had become resourceful. They are well aware that an anti-aircraft missile system is located here and therefore, they proceed at a low altitude along the bank of the Cunzumbia, so as not to be seen by the missile system and then, making a U-turn, they fly over the target they intended to bomb.

The third incident occurred at 10:10. Four "Mirage" aircraft struck on brigade at the area of the 3rd battalion. This time, our anti-aircraft gunners performed won-

(Continued on page 5)



High-ranking Soviet officers oversee the planning of the Fapla offensive

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## Featured Equipment: The hard-hitting R1 battle rifle

The South African R1 series of rifles are based on the **Fabrique Nationale de Herstal (FN) Fusil Automatique Léger** (light automatic rifle) or FAL. Formally introduced by its designer Dieudonne Saive in 1951, and produced two years later, it has been described as the "right arm of the free world."

After a competition between the German G3 rifle, the Armalite AR-10, and the FN FAL, the South African military adopted three variants of the FAL:

- a rifle under the Com-

monwealth pattern with the designation R1

- a variant of the FN FAL folding-stock rifle fabricated locally under the designation R2
- a model designed for police use not capable of automatic fire under the designation R3

The license-built R1/R2/R3 was built by Lyttelton Engineering Works (LEW) and the Armaments Development and Production Corporation of South Africa (ARMSCOR).

The R1 rifle in South African service had been super-

seded in the 1980s with the locally built R4 assault rifle, a license-built copy of the Israeli Galil. The R1 rifle was superseded but not replaced and soldiered on till the end of the Border War.

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For more detailed information on the R1, see Wikipedia:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FN\\_FAL](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FN_FAL)



The R1 being used in training in the bush somewhere in northern South-West Africa.

## Specifications

Country of Origin:	Belgium/South Africa
Caliber:	7.62 mm (.308 in)
Length:	110 cm ( in)
Weight:	4.31kg (9.5lb)
Barrel:	53 cm (21 in)
Feed/magazine capacity:	20 round detachable box magazine
Operation:	gas-operated, tilting block
Max rate of fire:	650 RPM (Cyclic)
Muzzle velocity:	823 m/s (2,700 ft/s)
Effective Range:	600 m (656 yd)

"The R1 rifle was superseded but not replaced and soldiered on till the end of the Border War."

## The R1 battle rifle



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## PORTUGAL'S DESPERATE EFFORTS TO KEEP ANGOLA The revolution of 1961 Part 1



FAPLA officers conferring

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"According to other sources about 1 000 were killed, while as many as 10 000 black inhabitants fled..."

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The year 1961 was a bloody year of revolution such as Angola had never experienced before.

It was not completely unexpected, though. As anti-colonist tendencies won ground, the Portuguese government kept a close eye on the colonies. The PIDE discovered more and more suspicious movements and arrested suspects. The unsettling events which occurred in the Belgian-Congo during 1960 with the liberation of that colony, contributed to the reasons to be cautious and aware.

Nevertheless, the MPLA still managed to operate with a few cells in Luanda, while the UPA, with its headquarters in Kinshasa, remained busy in the border districts of northern Angola.

The direct cause of and the exact sequence of events are difficult to

reconstruct: a lot of information is confusing and contradictory. According to Pélissier, the revolutions started rather spontaneously. (D.L. Wheeler and R. Pélissier, "Angola", chapter 8.) Marcum points out the fact that the revolution occurred during an economic recession in Angola, caused by the dropping in world prices of coffee and cotton. (J.A. Marcum, "The Angolan Revolution. The anatomy of an explosion (1950-1962)".) The liberation of a great number of colonies in Africa in 1960 and especially the bordering Belgian-Congo, was definitely also an encouragement. It would have created excessive expectations for the successfulness of the revolution.

The year of unrest was started with the so-called cotton-revolution of the Cassanga area east of Malanje, where the com-

pany Cotonang, was developing large scale cotton planting. It was most probably the low cotton prices of 1960-61 which caused social unrest in January 1961. The revolution was led by a self-proclaimed prophet, António Mariano, and his Maria sect, therefore the name: the Maria War. While singing revolutionary songs, they broke into shops and missions while the whites fled from the area.

As the revolution started spreading, the Portuguese authorities squashed it rapidly and by March 1961 it was all over. Mariano himself died as a captive. According to Portuguese news the casualties were light, but according to other sources about 1 000 were killed, while as many as 10 000 black inhabitants fled and resettled in the Cuango province of Zaire.

### Unrest broke out in Luanda ...

While the cotton revolution was happening, unrest broke out in Luanda in February 1961. According to the census of 1960, Luanda was by this time a city with 273 732 black, 14 719 coloured, and 58 256 white, in total 346 707 inhabitants. Next to the better areas which with the large buildings and wide streets, had an European appearance, there were extensive *muceques* (literally meaning sandy places) which made up the slums. In this city unrest

simmered, enflamed by the Marxist propaganda of the MPLA and probably some other resistance movements.

In Luanda the unrest started on the night of 3 to 4 February with the onset of a strong attack on the prison of the fort of Luanda. It was beaten off with high loss of life: 40 rebels and seven policemen. During the funerals of the policemen on 5 February, emotions were running high, followed by an enraged attack of whites (which organised themselves

into a militia) on suspected blacks in the slums. This is followed by renewed unrest and an attack on the radio building by the rebels, and five days later, an attack on another prison – both without success. According to some sources the casualties were high, even as much as 300 killed.

After this the secret police practically destroyed the MPLA and other related organizations. Many of the black popu-

(Continued on page 8)



## Historical Account:

## Operation Moduler: First Clashes — 47 Brigade, Part 2

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

*The battle continues, Part 2...*

Having already passed through two Fapla lines, the command group now found itself among stray Fapla infantry. The first Wilken knew of it, was when he heard Hartsliel

shouting "Shoot him! Shoot him!" and then the impact of bullets on the side of the Ratel. He quickly ducked inside for cover. Hartsliel told him that there was Fapla infantry on their left. Bobbing up out of his hatch again, he was in time to see the Unita liaison officer, Captain Mickey who was still lying back comfortably on the camouflage net piled on the top deck of the Ratel, shoot one of three or four Fapla soldiers only

three metres away. Wilken then also shot at them with his R-5.

Hartsliel now reappeared in his hatch, promptly drawing fire from his right, to which he replied with his cupola-mounted machine-gun. Nearby, Bert Sachse was fighting a small private fight against a small group of infantry, using his Casspir's 12,7 mm machine-gun and a 40 mm grenade launcher. Moving

*(Continued on page 6)*



South African Mechanised Infantry advancing with Ratel-90 anti-tank vehicle in support

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

**Friday, 22 January 1988: Another Fapla convoy arrived in Cuito Cuanavale**

On 22 January another logistics convoy, under 36 Brigade, arrived in Cuito Cuanavale. The main body of 21 Brigade was now reported deployed south of the Dala and west of the road....

**Saturday, 23 January 1988: A new convoy were on the way**

Early on 23 January the Angolan Minister of De-

fence ordered the withdrawal of all forces and 'structures' from Cuito Cuanavale to be prepared, and bunkers to be constructed at Menongue. A new convoy with seventeen tanks and assorted supplies was, however, already on the way, confirming that this was merely contingency planning....

**Sunday, 24 January 1988: The convoy was spotted**

The convoy was spotted

between Luasinga and Catumbela on 24 January. It included 114 trucks, eight T-34/85s, six T-54s and three T-62s, two BM-21s, three BM-14s and two M-46s. This was the fourth convoy since 24 December. A Cuban tactical group was also reported to be accompanying the convoy....

**Monday, 25 January 1988: 21 Brigade reoccupied its old positions**

*(Continued on page 7)*

"The convoy included 114 trucks, eight T-34/85s, six T-54s and three T-62s, two BM-21s, three BM-14s and two M-46s."

## From the Diary of Lieutenant Colonel Igor Anatolevich Zhdarkin

*(Continued from page 2)*

derfully well. Two planes were shot down – one by a Strela-10 anti aircraft missile system and the other by a ZU-23-2 (automatic two-barrel anti-aircraft cannon). Both fell very close to us. The Angolans, indeed, insist that they brought down a third airplane as well but that it allegedly fell onto the far bank of

the Cunzumbia River. The brigade commander sent task forces to the two downed planes. For the moment, we are still awaiting the results.

In the evening, the task forces returned. As often occurs with the Angolans, they claimed not to have found the planes, they don't know where they are, etc., etc. The explanation, of course is

simple: they were afraid to run into UNITA.



A Soviet advisor posing with his personal weapon

## Historical Account: Operation Moduler: First Clashes — 47 Brigade, Part 2



The South African Ratel-20 Infantry Support Vehicle with crew

*(Continued from page 5)*

on, they came up to Pierre Franken's Buffel stuck in a trench and being stalked by a Fapla soldier armed with an RPG-7. Wilken shot at him, and some Unita infantry finished the job.

The Ratel-90 troop had some difficulty in moving through the objective, and two of the Ratels fell foul of some trenches. A third was attempting to pull one of them out, when a number of tanks appeared from their

front. The troop leader, Lieutenant Alvis, had just reported the tanks when he was shot in the neck by a sniper and died. The troop sergeant came on the air, but then his Ratel fell into one of the deep trenches, and communications were again broken off when it was abandoned. The third Ratel now took over from its unhappy position stuck in a trench. Alvis' driver, startled when his commander was hit, inadvertently drove into a small shona and solidly

mired his Ratel. The entire troop was now immobilised in the face of the very aggressively handled tanks.

Major Hannes Nortmann, controlling the recovery vehicles and the ambulances for this attack, was following about 500 metres behind the leading elements. He could hear the calls for help from the immobilised Ratels, but he could not see them in the thick bush. He managed to break into the signals traffic and told them to

### The shell passed under one of the Rinkhals ambulances ...

fire smoke to mark their position,

At this point the command group were startled to see Maritz's Casspir come rushing out of the bush towards them at about 40 km/h, its antennae swept all the way back and someone throwing out smoke grenades in all available colours. "Right out of Apocalypse Now" someone remarked. The Casspir just missed Bert Sachse's coming from

the side with someone shooting towards its rear as well as possible with the pintle-mounted 12,7 mm machine-gun. Hardly had the two Casspirs disappeared in the bush again, when the reason for Maritz' burst of speed became evident - a T-54 moving fast in pursuit but with its turret traversed to the rear. Unable to traverse forward in the dense bush, it was trying to catch up with Maritz and ram his Casspir.

Before he could look for the smoke that he had called for, Nortmann saw this tank coming towards him only 150 metres away. It had at last managed to traverse, and fired at his group of vehicles. The shell passed under one of the Rinkhals ambulances. A second shell also just missed it, passing behind it as it accelerated out of some soft sand that had almost trapped it. The tank now turned its attention to Comman-

"someone throwing out smoke grenades in all available colours. 'Right out of Apocalypse Now' someone remarked. "

### The gunner at last saw the tank himself...

dant Sachse's Casspir, which had returned to the little clearing. The shell exploded in a tree just above the open top of the Casspir, severely wounding Sachse. It then fired at Hartsliefs command vehicle, the shell passing just to its right.

Nortmann had meanwhile warned Hartslief by

radio, and he looked up to find the tank heading straight for him. Its crew appeared, however, to have lost sight of his Ratel for the moment. Fortunately he had chosen to use a Ratel-90, and not a 12,7 mm armed Command Ratel. He pointed the gun at the tank but the gunner, seated lower in the vehicle, could not see it in

the bush. The tank turned slightly away, exposing its side to the Ratel at a range of 150 metres. Hartslief now ordered his gunner to fire anyway, to raise dust between the tank and themselves to blind it. That round on the way, the gunner at last saw the tank himself and engaged it. One round

*(Continued on page 7)*



A Casspir of 101 Bn with its crew

## Historical Account:

## Operation Moduler: First Clashes — 47 Brigade, Part 2

*(Continued from page 6)*

went over and one landed ahead of the tank. The fourth hit, but it took another six hits to set it on fire and force the crew to abandon it. Hartsliet meanwhile had a badly burned hand to add to his worries, not having worn the glove that goes with the vehicle commander's secondary role as loader. Later examination showed that only two of the 90 mm HEAT rounds had penetrated the turret of the

tank.

But stopping this tank did not solve the problems. Inside the speeding Casspir was one of the artillery observers, Captain Mark Brown, and it took some time before he could get back to the scene and control fire again.

Nortmann now got out of his Ratel and ran along a trench line to Hartsliet's Ratel - which had just dealt with the tank - to ask if he knew where the

immobilised Ratels were. He did not. Nortmann went back to the recovery vehicles, running down the line until he found Sergeant Rihan Ruppings's vehicle. Ordering him to follow, he ran off to find the stuck Ratels. Ruppings followed him, pausing only to pull Franken's stuck Buffel out of a trench.

*To be continued next week, in Part 3...*



The silhouette of a South African Ratel-20

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

*(Continued from page 5)*

8 Brigade had helped 21 Brigade to reorganise and had accompanied its first elements to establish the position at the Dala source. Once the old 21 Brigade positions had been reconnoitred and found clear of Unita - who had withdrawn eastward to be out of artillery range - 8 Brigade passed its heavy equipment over to 21 Brigade, which reoccupied its old positions. 8 Brigade then crossed back to the west bank to resume its escort work. 36 Brigade was being moved across the river to reinforce the brigades on the east bank....

**Tuesday, 26 January 1988: MTU-20 mobile bridge placed over gap**

**in Cuito bridge**

During the night of 25 to 26 January, Fapla brought up an MTU-20 mobile bridge to place over the gap in the Cuito bridge. This meant that Fapla could again move heavy equipment across the river, while the ferry continued to move supplies across. Fapla troops and vehicles moved over the repaired Cuito bridge throughout the night of 25 to 26 January. There was also considerable vehicle movement between Tumpo and 21 Brigade. When the mist lifted at 07h30 on the morning of 26 January, Piet Koen reported that a large number of vehicles were moving slowly over the bridge, and that large numbers of vehicles had

concentrated on both banks....

**Wednesday, 27 January 1988: Attack on 59 Brigade postponed**

The original D-Day for the attack on 59 Brigade was postponed on 27 January, to allow for the change-over of some men from the 1st Battalion Regiment Northern Transvaal, who had been called up to work with the brigade headquarters, and to bring up additional stocks of diesel fuel....

**Thursday, 28 January 1988: MiGs circled Mavinga air field**

Two MiGs circled the Mavinga air field on 28 January, suggesting that air attacks on it or the BAA might be intended....

"Fapla brought up an MTU-20 mobile bridge to place over the gap in the Cuito bridge."

**Link to this story:**

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G-5 Gun/Howitzer been readied for action

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



South African infantry all bombed up for a patrol



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

Die prosedure vir die ontvangs van nuwe troepe by 1SDB in Bloemfontein het soos volg gewerk: Hulle word op die stasie afgehaal en na die paradegrond geneem. Dan word hulle wegge-masjeer en in twee lang rye voor die gimnastieksaal opgestel. Daar word hulle een na die ander by tafels geregistreer. Hierdie worsmasjien werk dwarsdeur die nag. Een so 'n laatnag met die 1958-inname, kom 'n groepie slap ouens in feestelike stemming daar aan, maar val nie mooi netjies agter die rye in nie. Diè soort situasie maak 'n Samajoor wakker.

Samajoor Ben Benade skree toe die uitbinderes stil en tree hulle in reguit rye agter die ander aan. Maar toe hulle uiteindelik by die registrasietafels uitkom, is hulle name ook nie op die lyste nie. Hulle was omsamehangend en het gesukkel om hulself te identifiseer - seker die resultaat van die laaste fees wat hulle gevier het voordat hulle Army toe is. 'n Samajoor het ook daarvoor raad. "Nee wat, Kaptein, hierdie kerels is so gekletter, ons sal vanaand niks met hulle uitgerig kry nie. Ek sal solank vir hulle slaapplek kry in die selle, dan kan ons hulle maar môre

uitsorteer as hulle die roes afgeslaap het. Die volgende oggend vertel hierdie ouens hulle het die munisipale bus van die stad af geneem. Hulle het by die Tempe-bushalte langs die paradegrond afgeklim en toe tree die Samajoor hulle sommer aan. Maar hulle het eintlik van die bioscope af gekom en net deur die basis teruggestap na hulle huise by Toevlug. Dit was 'n gehuggie net langs Tempe, Kimberley se kant toe. Hulle was nie rekrute nie!

Generaal J Geldenhuys

## PORTUGAL'S DESPERATE EFFORTS TO KEEP ANGOLA The revolution of 1961 Part 1

*(Continued from page 4)*

lution fled the city, among them members of the MPLA, who went to and caused more unrest among their tribe members in the nearby Dembos area. The Luanda unrests provided publicity to the MPLA and on 10 March 1971 the Security Council of the UN discussed it.

The third revolution of 1961, which broke out in northern Angola, was the most serious. It was initiated by the UPA from Zaire. Holden Roberto later claimed that it was largely a spontaneous

eruption which started on the coffee plantation (*fazenda*) Primavera, near Madimba. There is little doubt that he contributed largely to the planning thereof. While he was in Ghana earlier, he was convinced of the necessity of war and violence by Franz Fanon, the well-known Nigerian philosopher. Thereafter he recruited a number of militant figures for his cause in Zaire, like amongst others, João Batista, who deserted from the Portuguese Army and led an important but short-lived role as commander of the UPA forces.

Holden Roberto had set the date of 15 March as the start of the revolution - the date on which a debate about the Portuguese colonies would start in the UN.

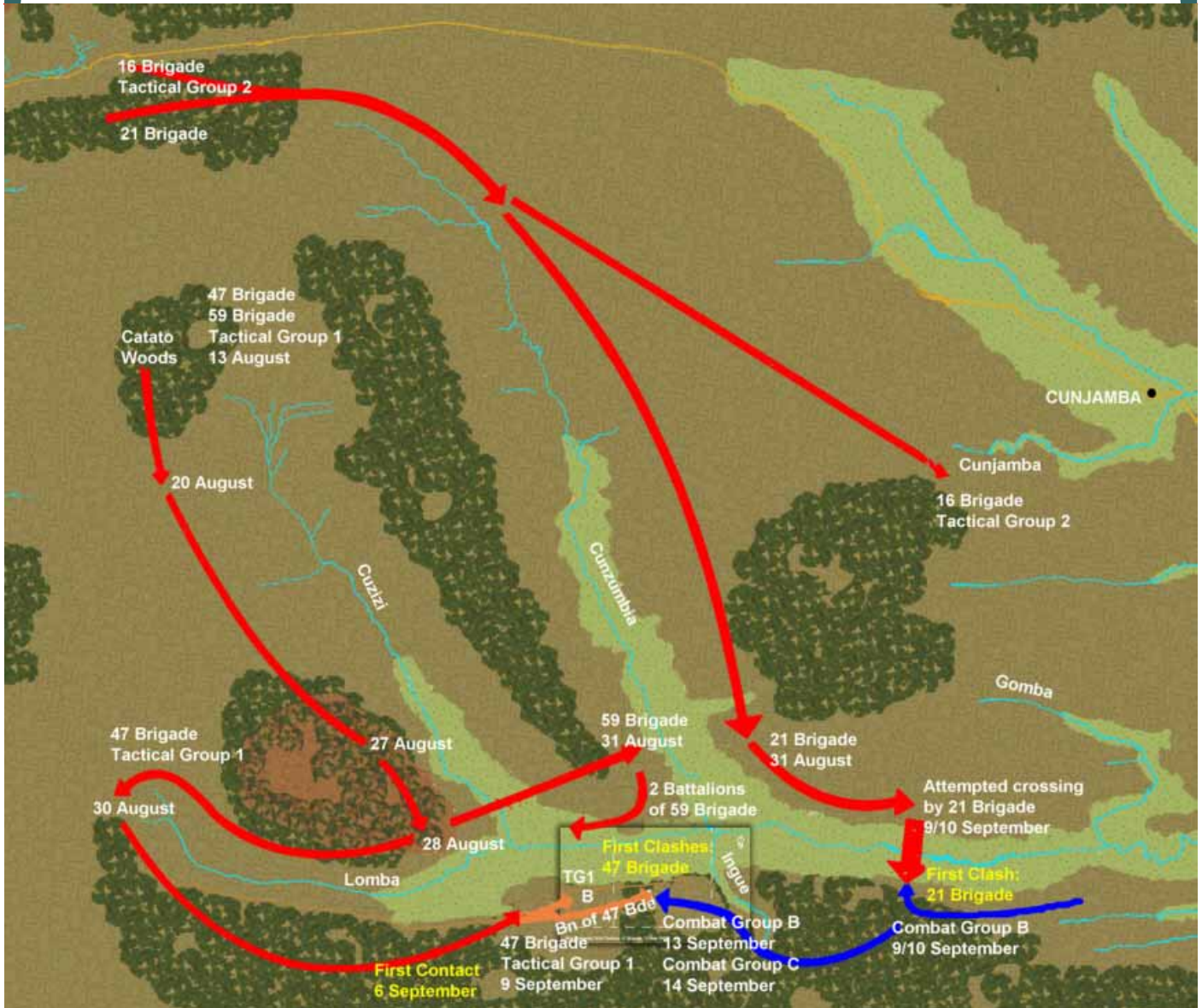
*The revolution continues next week in Part 2...*



Weapons training was an integral part of all three liberation forces.



# Operation Moduler: First Clashes, 9-16 September 1987



Fapla was concentrating the strongest and best-equipped force yet in the Cuito Cuanavale area, clearly demonstrating their intent to launch a major offensive against Unita's base areas in south-eastern Angola during 1987. Unita requested support from the South Africans to assist in stopping this offensive.

It was soon clear that a significantly bigger commitment of South African forces would be required to stop the offensive.

20 SA Brigade was formed and Operation Moduler kicked off in August 1987, with the purpose of stopping the Fapla offensive...



### Schedule of Events

- 30 January 2011 — Militaria 2011, UK
- 1-3 February 2011 — Soldier Modernisation India 2011, India
- 7-10 February 2011 — International Armoured Vehicles, UK
- 10 February 2011 — SAMHS Dbn: Aerial Bombing of Civilian Targets
- 10 February 2011 — SAMHS Dbn: Operation Torch, 1942
- 10 February 2011 — Otto Kretschmer & The Golden Horseshoe (U Boat Captain in WWII)
- 10 February 2011 — SAMHS Jhb: The second phase of the Anglo Boer War
- 10 February 2011 — SAMHS C/T: The Scottish Jacobite Uprising, The Camerונים, The Battle of Dunkeld and Religious Free

## FEBRUARY 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	21	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

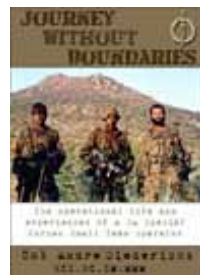
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Mark Raats has created this **SPECIAL EDITION** high quality 900mm x 600mm poster of his original artwork, "An Unpopular War", SPECIFICALLY and EXCLUSIVELY for the users of WarInAngola.com. This is the same artwork which has proven such a direct hit 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.





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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  
 34 Glen Oak Rd  
 Welcome Glen  
 Simons Town 7995 South  
 Africa

Phone: +27 (0)72 409-6271  
 Fax: 086 626-3388 (SA only)  
 E-mail: [info@warinangola.com](mailto:info@warinangola.com)

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The War In Angola website ([www.warinangola.com](http://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 Russian Veterans of Angola by johansamin**

Thanks Oleg You didn't keep a diary did you? No chance of a section called "From the diary of a Latvian Interpreter"? LOL I have loaded details of the Ops Medic for so that...

### **RE: The Russian Veterans of Angola by alainisoleg**

Yes I have contact to my Russian mates, but sometimes I think that I was the only Latvian in Angola. Ukranians should have their organisation, it was a lot of them there. Georgians were a few. I reme...

### **RE: The Russian Veterans of Angola by johansamin**

Thanks Oleg..... I have members from the Russian veterans registered as well. Are you part of the Russian Veterans or do the Latvians (and the Georgians, and Ukranians, etc.) have to organi...

### **RE: The Russian Veterans of**

### **Angola by alainisoleg**

Hi, Johan! I was your adversary staying in 1987 as a military interpreter in Chibemba (2nd Leutnant) for 7 months within a Cuban Tactical Group and I still have visions of a mountain Tonga-Tonga in ...

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

Hi Richard. Darn good photos. I had a good laugh at the one regarding your gunner shooting 12B in the tail, as they would have been directly behind me in 12! Cheers Steve

### **RE: The attack on 16 Brigade: 9 November 1987 by johansamin**

Thanks, Richard! I have received them and loaded them all with your comments - AWE-SOME! I had to reduce some commentaries to make them fit. Richard's collection of photos have been loaded as "Fr...

### **RE: The attack on 16 Brigade:**

### **9 November 1987 by richard-wiles**

Hi Guys. I have sent you a lot of photo's that I took while in Ops Modular. They are good quality and clear. I was with 4SAI and took part in the Nov 9 1987 attack plus the attacks that followed unt...

### **RE: Clarification Query by johansamin**

Hi, Gareth. The terms would both stand for Distance Meter or Distance Meter Radar, which is a device used for measuring distance between it and some identified point on the radar..... I will see...

### **Clarification Query by Gareth (guest)**

Hi. I stumbled across this site quite recently, and am, to say the least, very impressed. I have been interested in gaming African conflicts for some time, but have no military experience (save a fe...