

# 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: Political parties in Angola

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

In the meantime a large number of political parties were formed, by the end of May 1974 already more than 30. Various parties that existed before and were forbidden, were revived when their leaders returned from captivity. Most were but short lived. (J. Marcum, "The Angolan Revolution", Vol II p.245 provides a short analysis of the parties.) There were some larger parties that started through white initiative and which, even though they were not exclusively directed at whites, strived for the continued existence of the white community.

That all these parties failed miserably, is a fact that belongs to history. Marcum asks the question why the whites of Angola did not push for a one-sided declaration of independence like the whites of Rhodesia's UDI did. He suggests the answer as being the fact that the whites of Angola were inexperienced in political issues, and did not exhibit the same degree of boldness or organisational capabilities. Because they generally lived in the cities, they did not experience the war as close and were thus completely unprepared for what happened. (J. Marcum, "The Angolan Revolution", Vol II pp.234-244.)

Even so, it seems that the idea of a one-sided declaration of

independence did occur to the above mentioned parties. It is difficult to build a complete picture of the many secret discussions and negotiations and the roles that the individual parties played in it from the little information given. Apparently the

*(Continued on page 2)*



*An Allouette III helicopter coming in to land against the backdrop of a glorious Angolan sunset*

## Featured Gallery:



A deadly combination: South African Eland-90 (back) with Eland-60



Captured Yugoslavian M-55 triple-barrel 20mm AA gun



The Ratel-20 - mainstay of the South African Mechanised infantry

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### Next Week's Features

- The Historical Background series of articles on the POWER STRUGGLE IN ANGOLA continues: "Reaction of the black liberation movements"
- The trusty R4 battle rifle
- "Ideological background of the whites" - Looking at Portugal's desperate efforts to keep Angola
- Operation Moduler: the battles continue with the First Clashes against 47 Brigade, Part 4

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## Historical Background: Political parties in Angola (continued)



Angolan FAPLA Officers in conference

**Link to this story:**

<http://www.warinangola.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1086>

*(Continued from page 1)*

PCDA – **Partido Cristão Democrático de Angola** (Christian Democratic Party of Angola) and the FUA – **Frente de Unidade Angolane** (United Angolan Front), came the closest to a counter-revolution. It appears that the Angolan Junta was sufficiently informed to nip their plans in the bud.

On the other side, one may ask why Portugal abandoned all its white subjects in Angola, because the reality of the situation comes down to that fact. Must it be at-

tributed to the leftist attitudes that got the upper hand in Portugal during 1974? Was everything simply sacrificed for the sake of “de-colonisation” and foreign pressure? One may certainly assume that nobody expected the lot of the whites of Angola to degenerate as catastrophically as what happened in reality.

Spinola initially took Angola on as his personal responsibility and tried to conduct the negotiations personally himself. In his representation of the future of Angola there was also a place for the

whites. Gradually Spinola lost control over this matter, and he had to follow the direction of the government which he served. In August 1974 he made a statement on behalf of the interim government that the colonies’ rights to independence would be recognised, and that Portugal would work with the UN in this regard. This statement was followed up on with a visit to Lisbon by Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the UN Secretary-General. In an effort to heal the divide in Angola, it was undertaken to approach

*(Continued on page 9)*

## From the Diary of Lieutenant Colonel Igor Anatolevich Zhdarkin

“There was artillery fire in the direction of our brigade, but once again, everything turned out safely.”



Soviet advisors posing with their FAPLA guard

### October 18, 1987

Today is Sunday and we have decided to spend the day resting in the hope that there won’t be any airplanes and that the South Africans are also taking the day off. The day passed quietly and only at 19:05 did the alarm announcing the enemy aviation suddenly ring.

Indeed, as it subsequently was made clear, the South Africans began to bombard the 59th brigade (15 kilometers away from us) from a jet propelled “Kentron” system. Its missiles shone and therefore we clearly saw them.

### October 19, 1987

Today at 4 A.M., the brigade commander, N’Geleka, received an order: to depart and to go to the source of the river Cuzizi, in the area where the 59th brigade

was situated, and to be ready to launch a counter attack. After putting into effect a preliminary artillery bombardment, we departed from our place at 11:30. We covered 16 kilometers that day dodging a lot. We were not fired upon.

### October 20, 1987

We continued to move. During the day, we covered 26 kilometers. The column was shelled during a day. Fortunately, many shells fell short of their targets so that we suffered no losses. The brigade commander and the artillery captain dealt all day with two «global problems»: our exact location and the location from where the enemy artillery was shelling us. The problem was very complicated: they had to work out all the shell calibers, the range of the shells, the possible loca-

tions where the enemy was situated, but did not succeed to come to consensus of opinion.

We settled down for the night. There was artillery fire in the direction of our brigade, but once again, everything turned out safely.

### October 21, 1987

We sent reconnaissance groups to find the river and determine more precisely where we are situated. We stayed put all day, waiting for them. The whole day, a 107-millimeter gun on the «Land Rover» bombarded us. It was located somewhere between us and the 59th brigade and was firing alternately upon us and upon the

*(Continued on page 5)*

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## Featured Equipment: The anachronistic Simonov SKS rifle

First designed and produced during the closing stages of World War II, the SKS was the first Soviet weapon to use the now standard 7.62 mm intermediate cartridge.

The action of the weapon is locked by the bolt being tilted into lugs in the receiver by the bolt carrier. The gas system uses a piston with a piston-rod to unlock the action and force it to the rear for the first 20 mm, thereafter inertia takes over, combined with the return-spring to complete the loading cycle. The SKS is loaded using either a 10

round charger (or stripper clip) or individual rounds. The magazine is non-detachable, but it can swing downwards, allowing rounds to be spilled out during unloading. It also has a permanently attached folding bayonet. No longer in first-line service with the Soviet Army since the late 70s, it was still used in most communist countries up to the late 80s and early 90s, including Angola. It is still widely used for ceremonial purposes, especially the Russian honor guards. The SKS was a stop-gap until the arrival of the newer

AK-47, and was to be a fallback if the AK-47 design proved to be a failure.

For more detailed information on the Simonov SKS, see Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simonov\\_SKS](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simonov_SKS)



Simonov SKS rifles being waved in the air by jubilant SWAPO guerrillas on parade during training

## Specifications

Country of Origin:	USSR
Caliber:	7.62 mm (.308 in) x 39 mm
Length:	102.1 cm (40.2 in)
Weight:	3.85kg (8 lb 8 oz)
Barrel:	52.1 cm (20.5 in)
Feed/magazine capacity:	10 round non-detachable box
Operation:	Short stroke gas piston, tilting bolt, self-loading
Max rate of fire:	Semi-automatic
Muzzle velocity:	735 m/s (2,410 ft/s)
Effective Range:	400 m (440 yd)

"it was still used in most communist countries up to the late 80s and early 90s, including Angola."

## The Simonov SKS rifle



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## PORTUGAL'S DESPERATE EFFORTS TO KEEP ANGOLA The revolution of 1961 Part 2



Foreign assistance: Chinese officials can be seen here with senior Angolan officers

**Link to this story:**  
<http://www.warinangola.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1057>

"The brutality and destruction were terrible. Not only whites, but also many more black workers, mostly Ovimbundus, were massacred."

Already on 12 March some farm workers attacked white colonists on some remote plantations. On 14 March the incident on the Primavera plantation occurred. The white owner had replied with gunfire to a demand by his labourers to pay wages that were some months in arrears, whereupon he and his family were murdered. This was followed by several similar attacks of black workers on their white employers on the morning of 15 March. A great number of terrorists under the leadership of Batista had streamed across the border already the previous day, and joined many local revolutions and brutal murder parties.

It is, of course, difficult to confirm the numbers. Morris claims: "All in all, Roberto had managed to mobilize some 5 000 men for the onslaught, mainly from inside the

Congo." He also claims that some 25 000 terrorists were involved in some of the heaviest fighting, while even the number of 60 000 is mentioned. The brutality and destruction were terrible. Not only whites, but also many more black workers, mostly Ovimbundus, were massacred. It is difficult to obtain trustworthy figures. Statistics vary from 1 000 whites and 6 000 loyal blacks killed, to a number of 2 000, all included.

On the first day up to 45 towns and settlements were attacked. Everywhere where possible, white colonists and their black allies resisted and held out till they were freed, or were supplied by aircraft with essentials; later watch committees and militia units were created, mostly armed with hunting rifles. The few thousand Portuguese soldiers in the

country were all stationed in Luanda which they had to protect against possible attack. After the first week of brutal murder parties and courageous resistance in some centres, the revolution more or less came to a halt, but the confusion was unrelenting. *Confusao*, the Portuguese called it in the end.

Finally there was some direction when Salazar announced in a speech on 13 April that Portugal would not surrender its colonies. He took on the Ministry of Defence himself and started sending reinforcements to Angola. But it took months before the reinforcements were in the field.

The Portuguese Army, supported by the Air Force, gradually obtained the upper hand. Military post after military post was conquered. Wherever possible, white

### Plantation owners returned to their farms ...

plantation owners returned to their farms to try and prevent the destruction of the coffee harvest.

In the end, the rebels had shown very little real resistance. Their organisation fell apart. By October the military conquest was complete, but many areas in the north were almost completely depopulated. Many Portuguese planters were ruined, but most returned, with many of the native population. (Chapter XVIII, written by D.M. Abshire and M.A.

Samuels, "**Portuguese Africa. A Handbook**". It contains a very good overview of the revolution. The works of J.A. Marcum, "**The Angolan Revolution. The anatomy of an explosion (1950-1962)**", M. Morris, "**Armed conflict in Southern Africa**", D.L. Wheeler and R. Péli-sier, "**Angola**", were used.)

Internationally the revolution attracted world-wide attention and gave Portugal more enemies than friends. The General Meeting of the

United Nations appointed a sub-committee to investigate. Although access to Angola was denied to the committee, the report was still submitted, condemning the Portuguese actions.

After the Angolan revolution of 1961, the country found itself more and more in a merciless rapid. There followed a period of continual combat; insurgency and counter-insurgency, terrorism and counter-terrorism – whichever it

*(Continued on page 7)*

Historical Account:

Operation Moduler: First Clashes — 47 Brigade, Part 3

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

*The battle continues, Part 3...*

Nortmann meanwhile almost shot one of the infantrymen who jumped up in front of him, but a quick shout of "Major! Major!" cleared up the identity question. He

then met the crew of one of the other stuck Ratels near the edge of the shona. They thought that Alvis' crew were still inside their Ratel, so Nortmann ran over to it where it lay smoking in the shona, to check. He could immediately see that there was nothing to be done for the driver and went round the vehicle, narrowly missed by a door which was blown some thirty metres clear of the Ratel as ammunition cooked off inside.

Realising that there was no one left alive in the vehicle, Nortmann returned to the bush line. Fapla infantry now began shooting at him personally, though inaccurately, to add to the danger from mortar bombs and artillery rounds as well as 'overs' from the other fights in the area.

Nortmann now got into the Withings recovery vehicle, which had caught up with him, and

*(Continued on page 6)*



South African Infantry using UHF radios for command and control

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

**Friday, 29 January 1988: Attack postponed again**

29 January dawned cloudless, forcing another postponement of the attack. The time was used to move up badly needed spares for the Ratels. Fapla were meanwhile kept under pressure by the artillery and the SAAF. A supply point on the high ground north of the Dala source was attacked by the SAAF. The artillery went on engaging targets of

opportunity....

**Saturday, 30 January 1988: Additional troops and equipment for 21 brigade**

On 30 January the artillery observers reported additional troops and equipment moving into the 21 Brigade positions during the morning, among them four 23 mm anti-aircraft guns, which deployed in the western part of the Brigade area, near the headquarters....

**Sunday, 31 January**

**1988: MTU bridge over the Cuito in use**

Just after first light on 31 January Piet Koen reported that the ridge over the Cuito was in use. As he reported, an M-46, a BRDM-2 and a tanker were crossing from west to east. The guns later shelled the bridge, and one round scored a direct hit....

**Monday, 1 February 1988: No notable activity**

*(Continued on page 7)*

"...four 23 mm anti-aircraft guns, which deployed in the western part of the Brigade area, near the headquarters."

From the Diary of Lieutenant Colonel Igor Anatolevich Zhdarkin

*(Continued from page 2)*

59th brigade. As a result, until now, we have not figured out where we are. Surrounding us is forest and nothing else.

**October 22, 1987**

From morn-

ing, we formed a column and advanced. At 15:30, we reached our destination at the Cuzizi River.

The enemy's artillery bombards almost non stop but so far without any direct hits against us. It would seem that we so confused the enemy that they are unable to locate us and instead are just trying to find us

haphazardly. The shells fall quite near our brigade, but our artillery doesn't respond.



Another Russian advisor somewhere in Angola

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## Historical Account: Operation Moduler: First Clashes — 47 Brigade, Part 3



South African Ratel-20s moving up

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"The driver, Trooper Nel, sitting high up in the Withings cab, shouted that he could see Fapla tanks coming towards them."

*(Continued from page 5)*

drove to the two mobile Ratels of the troop. Ordering them to cover the Withings, he ran over to the stuck Ratel. He saw a pair of boots protruding under the door, ran round the vehicle and found a Fapla infantryman pointing his AK directly at him. He quickly brought up his R-5 and shot him. Another Fapla soldier rummaging about among the sleeping bags and rations, took fright and ran off. Nortmann

fired after him and killed him too, wondering why the man did not fall as round after round hit him. Looking later, he found that several rounds had been stopped by ration tins in his back pack.

Nortmann now waved the Withings nearer, to hook up to the rear of the stuck Ratel. The driver, Trooper Nel, sitting high up in the Withings cab, shouted that he could see Fapla tanks coming towards them. Nortmann decided that he would rather not look. Pulling

the Ratel from behind did not work, as there was a tree trunk jammed underneath it. The first effort failed and the Ratel's towing eye snapped off at the second. Nortmann decided to try from the front. That worked. Nortmann got into the driver's seat of the Ratel and drove off after the Withings, having seen one tank and a lot of dust as he did so, and almost getting stuck again on the way back.

The Ratel troop had done well after its un-

### One tank had finished off Alvis's Ratel...

happy start, having shot out at least two of the tanks in a desperate fight despite being partly immobilised. One tank had, however, finished off Alvis's Ratel before itself being shot out by one of the Ratels. Another of the Ratels was damaged by a tank while briefly stuck in a trench.

Hartslief was meanwhile struggling to build up a picture of the situation. He had no clear idea of what had happened to

his south, because there was no communication with that Ratel-90 troop. He had no communications with one of his company commanders, who had left his vehicle to deal with some problem or other, and the other company commander had lost all communications with his platoons. With almost no radio communications with any of his elements, and totally unable to see anything in the bush, Hartslief was very un-

happy about his situation. He was also far from keen to be in this trench-infested area with his wheeled vehicles after last light. His concerns were then capped by a signals intercept saying that six additional tanks had set off - presumably from, or even with, the Tactical Group - to support the Fapla force facing him. Hartslief now decided to pull his force out of the objective to regroup, and they withdrew towards

### ...came under intense fire from some 82 mm mortars, ...

the Unita position, calling back the other Ratel-90 troop, which he had sent to deal with any tanks still on the objective.

As they fell back, the troops came under intense fire from some 82 mm mortars, which caused a few casualties. The G-5s and the 120 mm mortars fired at possible baseplate positions

deeper in the bush to silence them. One 120 mm troop then brought its fire closer in to protect Nortmann and his 'tiffies' against infantry seeking to interfere with them as they struggled to recover the stuck vehicles. Fire control was difficult throughout this fight because of the very poor visibility and broken contact with the observers.

While they were covering the withdrawal of Bravo, Sierra Battery drew artillery fire from the north bank of the Lomba. Some rounds fell inside the positions but did not cause any casualties.

With the fighting over for the day, Combat Group Bravo settled down to replenish its vehicles and

*(Continued on page 7)*



Angolan vehicles burn furiously during the battles in 1988

## Historical Account:

## Operation Moduler: First Clashes — 47 Brigade, Part 3

*(Continued from page 6)*

rest. It had lost eight men killed and four wounded, and one Ratel-90 and two Casspirs destroyed.

Two men. Lieutenant Liebenberg and a corporal of 101 Battalion, became detached from the withdrawing force and found themselves left behind on the objective. As Fapla infantry came

back to sweep the area, Liebenberg took the corporal's rifle and an RPG and ordered him to escape as soon as he fired the RPG. He then fired the RPG at the Fapla infantry and 'played dead' while they passed by him after recovering from their surprise. He then heard some Ratels coming back and Fapla again moved past him. Even after they had

gone, he chose to keep down to avoid being shot by his own men in error if he suddenly stood up. Once everything was quiet, he crawled along the trenches of the base until he was clear of it. He then moved through the bush until he joined up with Unita elements.

*To be continued next week, in Part 4...*



The mine-resistant SAMIL-100 based Kwêvoël 10-ton supply truck

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

*(Continued from page 5)*

1 February passed without any notable activity on either side....

**Tuesday, 2 February 1988: MiGs back over the area**

2 February saw the MiGs back over the area, but no attacks were flown....

**Wednesday, 3 February 1988: An ominously quiet situation**

By 3 February the Fapla Forward Command Post

was worried about the ominously quiet situation, and warned the forward brigades to be prepared for something to happen. In Cuito Cuanavale casualties were beginning to affect the morale of the Cubans, perhaps twenty had been killed by the G-5s over the past few days alone....

**Thursday, 4 February 1988: Fapla and Cuban convoys on the way**

The next Fapla logistics

convoy reached Luasina on 4 February, and was seen to include eleven tanks. This further confirmed the feeling that Fapla intended to make a strong stand east of the river. Following a few kilometres behind, at Cuatir, there was a Cuban convoy of a hundred trucks and gun tractors - towing artillery and anti-aircraft guns, nine tanks, three BTR-60s, one BTR-152 and two BRDM-2s....

"In Cuito Cuanavale casualties were beginning to affect the morale of the Cubans, "

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PORTUGAL'S DESPERATE EFFORTS TO KEEP ANGOLA  
The revolution of 1961 Part 2*(Continued from page 4)*

can be called. It was a time of self-analysis of the pureness of certain accepted principles, and adaptations to change the course of events into new directions. It was a

time of idealism, but also of disappointment and despair. Everything was ruled by the guerrilla, the landmine exploding in the bush road, and the search-and-destroy pursuits in the tropical savannah.

*Portugal's efforts continues next week with: The ideological background of the whites...*



South African G-5 Gun/Howitzer moving into position under its own power

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



South African infantry being trained in the art of camouflage



### Link to this story:

<http://www.warinangola.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1092>

Ek was nog op skool toe my twee ouer broers in die Army was. Hulle het my gereeld vertel hoe *tough* dit in die Army was en dat daar heeltyd op jou geskree word. Ek het myself voorberei vir die ergste die dag toe ek inklaar. Ons het laat die aand in Pochefstroom aangekom en terwyl ons in rye gestaan het om al die papierwerk af te handel het die Koporale ons baie vriendelik en bedagsaam behandel. Ons is elkeen nogal met 'n *pie* en *coke* getrakteer. Ek kon toe nie verstaan hoekom my broers my bang gepraat het met al hulle *Army* stories nie. Na al die papierwerk afgehandel is, is ons na ons tente

geneem. Die Koporaal deel ons in ons tente in en beveel ons om 'n bed te kry en 'n rustige nagrus te kry en dat hulle ons die volgende oggend sal wakker maak vir ontbyt. Ek het by myself gedink: "Die *Army* is toe nie so *bad* as wat ek gedink het nie want niemand het nog op my geskree nie en almal is so vriendelik!" Ek het 'n bed gekies en "moeg" van die dag se reis en papiere invul sommer dadelik aan die slaap geraak. Dit het gevoel of ek net aan die slaap geraak het toe ek uit droomland geruk word en in hierdie skreeuende Koporaal se gesig vas kyk. Ek kyk op my horlosie en sien ek het skaars 2

ure geslaap. Daar word toe op ons geskree en gevloek deur dieselfde Koporale wat 2 ure gelede nog so vriendelik was. Daar het woorde uit hulle monde gekom wat ek nog nooit in my lewe gehoor het nie. Ons is rondgejaag en is vertel hoe sleg ons is. Daardie nag het ons nie 'n oog toegemaak nie want ons is van die een plek na die ander gejaag om ons trommels en ander toerusting te trek. Dit was 'n groot ontugtering om binne 2 ure van 'n meneer na 'n F@#\$\$% sleg troep te verander.

Onder Korporaal H Matthee

1992

## From the WarBlogs: (<http://blogs.warinangola.com>)

### "Calling For Volunteers" by Tyrone Heyl

Having just returned from a weekend pass, a little late, ok quite late, some of us had not unpacked our kit. We are suddenly asked to fall in as there was an urgent announcement, so with whispers of what could be going on we fell in.

We were told that they need a G5 gun crew to escort a gun being taken to Rundu and were calling for volunteers. With promises of a long weekend pass upon our return in a weeks or two, my hand along with 7 others guys went up. As most of us had not unpacked as yet it was to did not take long to

get ready.

We were allowed to make 2 phone calls before going to hospital (still not sure why). I called my mom and told her I was going to the border again but only for a week or two. I called my dad and told him I had a feeling this trip would be longer than "advertised". After sorting out the logistical requirements we climbed into a Samil and left for Pretoria.

Once there we were put into a corner and told to wait, and wait we did till the sun had set and the airport was quiet. At about 8pm we were called to go through and there was the familiar

C130 with the staff from Lyttleton supervising the loading of a brand new G5. Once all the additional cargo had been loaded we boarded and the flight took off for Rundu. Arriving at about midnight we helped unload the gun, parked it to one side and we were shown to accommodation for the rest of the night.

We overslept the next morning but when we surfaces we told to relax it was not a problem (warning bell 1). We were taken to the log office and given our "battle numbers", none of has had dog tags and never did despite numer-

(Continued on page 9)



South African Infantry toughened up during training



## Historical Background: Political parties in Angola (continued)

*(Continued from page 2)*

the nationalistic movements in Angola with the view on mutual negotiations.

It is clear that the interests of the whites in Angola were moved to the background. There was no consideration to allow any of their parties to attend the discussions. When the discussions of Alvor occurred in mid January 1975, Fernando Falção was still fruitlessly protesting the fact that the FUA party was not allowed to partake in the negotiations with the MPLA, FNLA and

UNITA.

As the realisation grew that they had no part in the negotiations over Angola's future, the whites placed their hopes on those black organisations which, according to them, would ensure the best survival of the whites. Initially Neto, Roberto, Savimbi and even Chipenda, spoke out in favour of the continued existence of the white community in Angola.

Gradually this changed. In October 1974, Neto commented on the statement made by the Portuguese Prime Minister

that the interests of the whites would be looked after, by saying that it was the blacks alone that fought for independence and willingly sacrificed their lives, and that only they will partake in the future of Angola. After this comment, most whites, with the exception of hardened communists, saw no advantage in their support of the MPLA, and the general tendency was to side with the UNITA-movement of Savimbi, which was seen as the most impartial and friendliest towards white interests.



South African Mechanised Infantry 60mm mortar team in action with Ratel-20 in support

## From the WarBlogs: (<http://blogs.warinangola.com>)

*(Continued from page 8)*

ous trips to the border. For the rest of the day we relaxed and late afternoon we were given nice thick steaks and a case of beer, we did not argue. Later we were told to report to the airfield at midnight, we asked for more detail of why which was ignored. At midnight we reported as ordered and were told to help load the gun in the C130 after which the rest of the cargo was added and a few extra people joined us. All efforts to find out where we were going were rather blatantly ignored.

This was in the earlier stages of Op Modular.

Off we went at about 1am with the windows of the Flossie covered and the red lights on inside the plane. The load master came up to us and

asked who can drive the G5 to which I put my hand up. He gave me instructions that when I hear the undercarriage of the plane go down I must get onto the gun, get it started and be ready to exit the plane as soon as the cargo had been dispatched.

Later with the distinctive sound of the wheels being lowered I climbed aboard the G5, and waited.....On touch down the rear doors opened and all we could see were the candles lining the run way, the cargo was pushed out and the load master started ranting that I must get the gun started and out of the plane. I tried to point out the little fact that we not really stopped yet to which I was told to get the (\*&% (%^ thing out of the plane. Being the good soldier I obeyed the or-

der and drove out and turned right off the runway as ordered, it must be noted at this time that the rest of the gun crew had stayed with the plane and here I was in the bush on my own with a G5 and my trusty R4 both of which I had no ammo for. The rest of the guys were delivered along the runway, the Flossie made its u-turn and took off while the rear doors were still closing.

The silence was deafening, and then out of the dark these eyes came at me, it was the driver of the gun tractor who had come to fetch us, the rest of the crew joined me. We hitched up the gun and off we went, once again to destination unknown. After a few hours we stopped as it was getting light, camou-

*(Continued on page 10)*

"...here I was in the bush on my own with a G5 and my trusty R4 both of which I had no ammo for."



South African troops disembarking from a "Flossie"

## Schedule of Events

- 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 — SAMHS Jhb: 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 Cameronians, The Battle of Dunkeld and Religious Free
- 12 February 2011 — Lowveld District MOTH Annual Pro Patria Parade

## FEBRUARY 2011

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## From the WarBlogs: (<http://blogs.warinangola.com>)

(Continued from page 9)

flagged the rig and waited. We tried to get clarity for the driver but we figured we were in Angola but not sure of exactly where. During the course of the day we heard "Victor Victor" over the radio and saw these planes overhead, only after the 3rd such report and us running around

trying to see if it was a Mirage or Impala did the driver politely inform us that in fact they were Migs and we should stop trying to attract their attention! Seems much funnier now.....

After more traveling we eventually joined the rest of Quebec battery (later to become Sierra). This was the 4SAI guys and we were in fact replacing

a gun that had suffered a chamber burst, killing 7 of the crew (if I remember correctly) the only survivor was the guy in the ammo pit because he bent down to pick up another charge when the accident happened.

We took part in many engagements and I will try to put some of the events down in another Blog



**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.



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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.

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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

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<http://www.warinangola.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1088>

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: Bren and Browning 7,62 conversions by pfv

Hi, and thanks for that very funny story, Farmer Brown. Isn't it so typical of what sometimes happened! What year was it? If it was the late 70s, many of the Brens, despite their age as a weapon, would...

### RE: Bren and Browning 7,62 conversions by farmer brown

the 7.62 browning did excellent work on the hippos and other armoured vehicles. The bren has the drawback of the magazine, instead of the belt feed. I remember a very humorous incident at Katima Mul...

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

Footloose-- The same. Check [www.jimhooper.co.uk](http://www.jimhooper.co.uk) . Jim

### RE: Russian Prisoner(s) of War by Feetloose

Hi all, Another interesting site is <http://www.acig.org/artman/>

publish/article\_184.shtml . This one is on "Angola: Claims & Reality about SAAF Losses" and there are other ones too. ...

### RE: 32BN AT Squadron by johansamin

Chris, sorry that I am only replying now. The sending of the newsletters has been keeping me busy! As to the colours I used, its mostly Valejo Model Colour acrylic paints. We start by sprayin...

### RE: Sergeant Pierre Digue by Brisant

Salutations all, As Tannie Toy, Pierre Digue's mom, mentioned, I'm busy writing a book about our platoon, the Chief of the Defence Force's Platoon, of 1983/4. It was very much Pierre's creation. If ...

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

Yes, thanks, Andre. I have just loaded your article under Announcements on the Main

page... see 1985 'Aeroflot' Antonov-12 crash - By Andre Babaian Regards Johan

### RE: The Russian Veterans of Angola by andreb1

Hey, guys I don't think that at that time it really did matter which ethnicity we were - every one of us was a Soviet national. Each of us who were on the active duty was sworn to protect and act in...

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

I kept, I need to find it. It is with my Mom. I will ask. Regards, Oleg

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

Ironically these words from your senior commander: We took a boy who had just matriculated, gave him a gun, two or three months of basic training - and threw him into the middle of a country that h...