

# WAR IN ANGOLA

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[www.warinangola.com](http://www.warinangola.com)

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

## Historical Background: Reaction of the MPLA

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

The MPLA enjoyed more prominence in foreign countries, especially the socialistic states and also in Portugal. Next to a description of "racist, disorganised and brutal", a spokesman for the commander in chief of the Portuguese Army in Angola, Martins e Silva, described the MPLA also as "a well organised, realistic and progressive movement with a level-headed leader who had good background and political experience." (SADF Archives)

Agostinho Neto was therefore in the advantageous position of being favoured more and more

by the leftist government of Portugal. The continuing leadership crisis in the ranks of the MPLA caused great damage, however. Efforts, between the end of 1973 and the beginning of 1974, to bring the three factions, the **Revolta de Leste** of Chipenda, the **Revolta Activa** of De Andrade (also known as the Committee of Nineteen), and the Neto-faction, to an agreement, was unsuccessful.

Of the three, the Chipenda-faction with its seat in Zambia, was Neto's biggest thorn in the flesh. Chipenda was a capable commander and an authoritative negotiator. Daniel Julio Chipenda was the son of a tribal chief of the Umbundu tribe. After his schooling in Benguela he



*South African Mechanised Infantry on their Ratel silhouetted against the sunset*

was invited as a football player to continue his studies at the Coimbra University in Portugal, where he obtained a degree in Geology. Because of his revolutionary activities amongst the student he had to flee Portugal

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Featured Gallery:



*Loading the 12.7mm machine gun on top of the Casspir*



*Guerillas in their trenches with both Soviet and East-German helmets*



*UNITA infantry riding to the front on top of a truck*

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### Next Week's Features

- The Historical Background series of articles on the POWER STRUGGLE IN ANGOLA continues: "UNITA – cautious policy of Dr. Jonas Savimbi"
- Featured Equipment: The robust PPSH-41 sub-machine gun
- "Foreign Assistance Part 2" Looking at Portugal's desperate efforts to keep Angola
- Operation Moduler: the battles continue with "The destruction of 47 Brigade, Part 2"

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## Operation Sceptic: Alouette shot down by RPG-7, Part 2



Alouette III gunship and crewman

Extract taken with the author's permission from: "BORDERSTRIKE!", by Willem Steenkamp

Sure enough, "suddenly I heard a voice, and another replying. I fell to the ground, and, as there was no dense foliage about, crept on my hands and knees to a deserted kraal." He knew he had to keep moving,

although he was so weak by now that after a while even the small weight of the AK-47 became too much of a burden, and so "I hung the rifle in a tree and crawled on..."

About 4.30 the tactical headquarters transmitted fresh orders to Dippenaar. He was to move to the scene of the crash as rapidly as possible and remove both the

bodies and the wreckage. [Major] Fouche of Combat Team 1 was ready at this stage, and Dippenaar gave him two tasks.

He was to move with all speed to the scene of the crash, where he would later be joined by the rest of the battle group, but he also had to pick up the 57 members of the stopper groups,

*(Continued on page 6)*

## From the Diary of Lieutenant Colonel Igor Anatolevich Zhdarkin

### Link to this story:

<http://www.warinangola.com/default.aspx?tabid=1090>

"At 13:10, the enemy had bombarded the 59th brigade, situated in our vicinity, with chemical weapons containing poison gas. "

### October 28, 1987

Today, from morning to night, there was enemy artillery fire from all sides and in every direction. It is easier to calculate how much time we were outside than hiding.

During the day, the brigade chief of staff, accompanied by two infantry battalions, merged to the Tactical Group so as to get supplies brought for us by the 25th brigade, they did not reach our location. On their way, they were to make contact with the 59th brigade so as also to join them.

### October 29, 1987

Last night, the enemy hit the 59th brigade with 148 shells. In the morning, we found out that as a result one officer, one sergeant and four soldiers from our brigade had been killed. There were many wounded and one officer and one soldier were missing.

At 6 o'clock, the enemy decided to bid us "good morning" and "good appetite". We were having

breakfast when suddenly, not far off as usual, there was a shot. Through habit, we cocked our ears to hear in which direction the shot was flying. And then our Air Defense specialist Slava shouted, "Lie down!" Right after, a powerful explosion reverberated and I fell from my chair, hitting the ground. I immediately felt a sharp pain in my left shoulder, maybe I had either bruised or dislocated it. But then, in the next second, I leaped up under our armored troop carrier. Everybody ran off in every direction too.

As it then turned out, the enemy had bombarded us from a 120 mm. mortar and one shell exploded 20 meters from us during breakfast. My shoulder now hurts very much and I am unable to raise my arm.

But at 14:00, we received frightening news. At 13:10, the enemy had bombarded the 59th brigade, situated in our vicinity, with chemical

weapons containing poison gas. As a result, many people had been poisoned. Four had lost consciousness and the brigade commander was coughing blood. The Soviet advisors in the brigade were also affected. The wind was blowing nearby and everyone was complaining of violent headaches and nausea. This news greatly disturbed us since, you see, we didn't have any gas masks whatsoever.

And so ended today's events.

### October 30, 1987

At night, the enemy continued to strike at us by means of large caliber heavy artillery, launching shell after shell past our heads.

Our brigade's artillery reconnaissance simply cannot not locate this

*(Continued on page 5)*



Cuban and Soviet advisors confer about the situation on the battlefield

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



## Featured Equipment: The Remington 870 Shotgun

The Remington 870 shotgun was one of several types of shotguns used by the SADF. The Remington's action was typical of these shotguns' operating action.

The Remington 870 Wingmaster shotgun was introduced by Remington in 1950, and since then become one of the most popular USA-made pump action all-purpose shotguns.

Technically the Remington 870 is a manually operated, pump-action shotgun with

dual action bars and tilting breech lock, which locks directly into the barrel extension. A tubular magazine is located under the barrel, and, depending on the version, may hold from 3 to 8 cartridges. Usually the police Remington shotguns have 14 inch or 18 inch barrels capable of firing buckshot, slugs and special purpose munitions (tear gas grenades, non-lethal rubber bullets etc.).

Downloaded from the SADF's Border War, [SA-](#)

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For more detailed information on the Remington 870, see Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Remington\\_870](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Remington_870)



The Special Forces made good use of the Remington shotgun (not in this photo) in close encounters.

### Specifications

Country of Origin:	USA
Caliber:	12 gauge (cartridge length: 70mm)
Length:	1060mm (41.73in)
Weight:	3.6kg (7.94lb)
Barrel:	533mm (21in)
Feed/magazine capacity:	7-round integral tubular magazine
Operation:	Pump-action
Muzzle velocity:	Variable, depending on type of ammunition
Effective Range:	100m (328ft)

"It become one of the most popular USA-made pump action all-purpose shotguns."

### The Remington 870 Shotgun



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## PORTUGAL'S DESPERATE EFFORTS TO KEEP ANGOLA Foreign Assistance Part 1



Guerrilla's crossing a river in a crude boat

**Link to this story:**  
<http://www.warinangola.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1060>

"The MPLA found a home in Brazzaville after it was not welcome in Kasavubu's Kinshasa anymore by 1962... From there the MPLA launched its campaign in Angola."

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SAAF Mirage F1 fighter jet

The war in Angola was not waged in isolation. The rest of the world had shown interest and had interest in the conflict. Not one of the combatants could wage war without the support of sympathetic foreign institutions.

In the first place, events elsewhere in Africa were strongly influenced by the events occurring in Angola.

It is common sense that the establishment of so many independent African states would have a big influence on the battles for independence in the Portuguese colonies. The winds of change were also blowing over Angola. Other than just the inspiration that the liberation process infused, the different states, while independent from each other but still related through organisations that were created amongst them, provided help to the nationalistic Angolan forces.

In the first place there were the bordering states, the National Republic of the Congo, Za-

ire, and Zambia, each of which were housing liberation movements and without which the terrorist struggle would not have been possible.

The MPLA found a home in Brazzaville after it was not welcome in Kasavubu's Kinshasa anymore by 1962. There the organisation's headquarters were established while training camps for its soldiers were installed elsewhere in the country. From there the MPLA launched its campaign in Angola.

Kinshasa was also the home of Holden Roberto and his UPA-FNLA organisation and the refuge of many Angolan refugees. The insurrections that Zaire experienced between 1960 and 1964 did complicate the position of the Angolan liberation movement, but after Mobutu took over power in 1964, Roberto and his entire organisation found it a consistent home. Kinshasa remained his headquarters while training camps for his liberation army, ELNA, were established in Kinkuzu,

also in Zaire. Even so, Zaire remained opposed towards the MPLA, probably because of the movements ties to communism.

Zambia was already a safe haven for refugees from eastern Angola, even before it became independent in 1964. Only after President Kaunda came to power did Zambia start to play a meaningful role. In 1965 Agostinho Neto opened an office in Lusaka in order to orchestrate his new front in eastern Angola; he maintained good relations with Zambia throughout. Neto could not use Zaire for the import of weapons from overseas, but had to use the long route from Dar Es Salaam (where he also established an office) through Tanzania to Zambia and Angola. It became known as the Agostinho Neto route.

*Next Week: Part 2 of Foreign Assistance continues...*

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

### Friday, 19 February 1988: Attack on Fapla Elements on the Dala

On 19 February it was discovered that a Fapla battalion and three tanks were deployed north of the Dala. Mike Muller quickly formed a combat group from the Regiment Molopo squadron, his armoured car squadron, a mechanised infantry

company and a mortar fire group under his personal command to clear up this Fapla force....

### Saturday, 20 February 1988: SAAF Mirage wreckage rocketed

The Special Forces team covering the area where the Mirage wreckage was located, reported a large number of Fapla

and Air Force intelligence personnel picking through the wreckage. It was within range, so Pierre Franken hit the spot with a half-ripple from his rocket-launcher troop. Two trucks were needed to collect the bodies. According to some sources, as many as 143 Cubans and Fapla

*(Continued on page 5)*



Historical Account:

Operation Moduler: The Destruction of 47 Brigade, Part 1

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

Colonel Ferreira had meanwhile begun planning a final attack to remove 47 Brigade as a potential threat south of the Lomba, and 47 Brigade itself was preparing to pull out of its positions and withdraw across the Lomba.

On 30 September a small detachment from 47 Brigade made contact with 59 Brigade, passing over their most seriously wounded, and receiving

limited supplies of food and critical ammunition. This activity was watched by Pierre Franken, back on the north bank, who also noted that 59 Brigade and elements of 47 Brigade were again busy preparing the crossing at a point just to the east of the Lomba-Cuzizi confluence, some 1 500 metres from where he was settled in cover on a minute hillock north-west of the confluence. Working parties were cutting trees and laying down the logs to make a firm roadway for several hundred metres on both banks, to allow vehicles to cross the marshy flood

plain. The TMM bridge had also reappeared, but it could apparently not reach the river proper until a corduroy roadway had been laid on the north bank also.

This development left Colonel Ferreira in some doubt as to whether 47 Brigade was preparing to withdraw or 59 Brigade intended to cross to the south bank. On balance, the former seemed to be the most likely in view of the withdrawal of the 21 Brigade from the Lomba on 27 and 28 September. He decided to continue with his attack on 47 Brigade in any case,

*(Continued on page 6)*



Destroyed Angolan T-54 tank

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

*(Continued from page 4)*

may have been killed by that half ripple....

**Sunday, 21 February 1988: Angolan fighters struck**

Angolan fighters appeared over the area again on 21 February. A number of aircraft attacked Unita's 5th Regular Battalion, the Tactical EW (Electronic Warfare) Team and the psychological warfare team with

cluster bombs at 14h00. The attack was actually flown against a moving column, but the aircraft missed that target and hit the laager instead. Several bomblets fell near and in foxholes. Three South Africans were killed and one wounded....

**Monday, 22 February 1988: Plan for the attack on Tumpo approved**

Fresh intelligence re-

ports indicated that Fapla had moved additional 23 mm guns forward and was placing even more than the usual emphasis on them. The plan for the attack on Tumpo was approved on 22 February, and an operations order was issued. 20 SA Brigade was to co-operate with Unita to either destroy the Fapla forces in the Tumpo area or drive them across the Cuito

*(Continued on page 7)*

"Several bomblets fell near and in foxholes. Three South Africans were killed and one wounded...."

From the Diary of Lieutenant Colonel Igor Anatolevich Zhdarkin

*(Continued from page 2)*

battery. The scouts have problems constantly. Either they do not receive any radio signals or they lack the appli-

ances, themselves, or they cannot operate them. And it is like that the whole time. An evident reluctance to do anything is to the fore and, of course fear of the South Africans, particularly after they had used poison gas.

As of this morning, it was much quieter, with the exception of two air raids and the enemy's intermittent shooting here and there. Could it be that we were already getting used to this pattern? And yet what a dangerous habit...



Living in a hole in the ground—the typical lifestyle of a soldier in Angola

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## Historical Account:

## Operation Moduler: The Destruction of 47 Brigade, Part 1



Burning FAPLA truck at the Lomba River

"The guns were engaging individual vehicles with single rounds under the control of Franken, and destroyed at least eleven in this way."

## Link to this story:

<http://www.warinangola.com/Default.aspx?tabid=669>

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Lone Alouette III helicopter banking to get a better view of the battlefield

(Continued from page 5)

as it would be necessary to deal with 47 Brigade in either case.

The attack was planned for 5 October, and both the artillery and the SAAF kept up the pressure on 47 Brigade in the interim, with sporadic shelling and an air attack at 16h40 on 30 September. A signals intercept shortly after the air raid confirmed that the brigade had been ordered to begin moving north. Colonel Ferreira decided to continue his planning, but to wait to see what the Brigade ' would do next before deploying his forces. The guns were engaging individual vehicles under the control of Franken, and destroyed at least eleven in this way. The SAAF also kept up the pressure on

47 Brigade, using mainly 250 kg pre-fragmented bombs, which caused severe casualties and widespread damage to vehicles and equipment.

The commander of 47 Brigade had meanwhile been ordered to withdraw to the north bank of the Lomba. He argued unsuccessfully that he was in a good position and should rather hold it until he could be reinforced. Finally, on 1 October, he was threatened with a court martial if he did not obey his orders.

The situation now clarified quite quickly. Some advance elements of 47 Brigade moved on 2 October to an assembly area on the south bank of the Lomba more or less opposite its confluence with the Cuzizi. Here they were within artillery support range of

both 59 and 21 Brigades, and believed that they could make a safe crossing. Nevertheless, the main infantry body of the Brigade took up defensive positions in the bush south of the Lomba flood plain, digging in and siting the 23 mm guns to cover both their positions and the crossing point. Their positions were, however, not in bush as dense as that covering their previous positions, and this made an attack feasible.

Colonel Ferreira seized his opportunity and ordered an attack on 47 Brigade to intercept and destroy it before it could rejoin the main Fapla force.

*Next week the destruction of 47 Brigade continues, in Part 2...*

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## Operation Sceptic: Alouette shot down by RPG-7, Part 2

(Continued from page 2)

who had been dropped off about eight kilometres north of Cuamato, and about 30 kilometres from where they were supposed to be. Since they were laden with heavy equipment, it would be impossible for them to march to the cut-off positions in time to be of any use at all, so Fouche was to load them on his Ratels and take them with him.

Within 10 minutes of receiving his orders, Fouche and his combat team, less the anti-tank troop, were moving out of Cuamato, and Dippenaar began to reformulate his plans. The remainder of Battle Group 61 – the headquarters, Harmse's Combat Team 2 and the artillery troop – would leave Cuamato at 5.30 next morning [24 June] and head for the crash scene. Five or six kilometres south of it the

battle group would form up while an aerial reconnaissance was carried out to pinpoint the location of the objective.

This having been done, Dippenaar would advance with his force, subdue any opposition, recover the bodies and wreckage and then withdraw, beating off any essay at intervention that FAPLA may mount. "Everyone," Dippenaar commented later, "was

(Continued on page 7)

## Operation Sceptic: Alouette shot down by RPG-7, Part 2

(Continued from page 6)

fairly tense about this mission, because it was generally realised that the enemy was present in large numbers at nearby Xangongo.”

Van Rensburg's painful journey home continued while this was all going on. Dried blood masked his face and clogged his nostrils, and his back was so painful that when he stopped to rest he could not sit or lie down; instead he would prop himself up against the nearest tree. But in his mind there was no question of surrendering, if only because he was so near to the end of his tour.

He saw numerous boot spoors along the dusty footpaths, but no PLAN or FAPLA members in

the flesh, although at one point he encountered a local civilian, who took one look at the dusty, bloody-faced scarecrow before him and fled. The encounter was equally unsettling to Van Rensburg, who was sure at first that it heralded his imminent capture. But he did the only thing he could in the circumstances, which was to keep struggling southwards.

Meanwhile Fouche had loaded the stopper groups on to his Ratels and progressed to a point about 16 kilometres north of Cuamato before the failing light forced him to go into laager. Not too far away Van Rensburg was still struggling through the bush, heading south. He circled successfully around several inhabited kraals, and

around 7pm, “as dusk set in I again took heart.”

Soon it was totally dark. Van Rensburg's strength gave out temporarily and he stopped to rest, the pain in his back so bad now that he could find ease only by lowering himself into a shallow aardvark hole which rested his legs but held him upright. He stood-lay there for about 15 minutes and then heard voices. Was he being tracked by torchlight? Van Rensburg could not take the chance; wearily he hoisted himself out of the hole and staggered on.

About 30 minutes later he came to a waterhole, which cattle had trampled into an ocean of mud. Van Rensburg was past caring. Stepping carefully only to prevent

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Close up view of the outside of an Alouette III helicopter's cockpit

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

(Continued from page 5)

River. A troop of tanks had been allotted to the flanking force for the attack. The 23 mm guns - very familiar to the soldiers - were to be dealt with by a fire belt action, mortar fire or, if necessary, artillery fire....

**Tuesday, 23 February 1988: "All Fapla forces to withdraw from Cuito Cuanavale"**

On 23 February a signal was intercepted from the Angolan Ministry of Defence, instructing the commander of the 6th Military Region to withdraw all forces and structures; from Cuito Cuanavale, and to prepare bun-

kers at Menongue, As no Fapla action followed the receipt of this signal, it was interpreted as an attempt at deception....

**Wednesday, 24 February 1988: Preparations for the attack**

At 11h00 on 24 February Unita's 4th Regular Battalion attacked Fapla elements at Capamba, supported by the G-5s. The forces allocated for the attack on Tumpo moved into their forward assembly areas from 20h20....

**Thursday, 25 February 1988: First Attack on Tumpo**

The main force com-

prised 61 Mech with both its Regiment Molopo tank squadron and F Squadron, minus one troop detached to the flanking force. It thus had two tank squadrons less one troop, one mechanised infantry company, one 81 mm mortar group, two anti-tank groups, one assault pioneer platoon, one anti-aircraft group (20mm and SA-7), and an engineer troop. It was to carry out the attack in close conjunction with 32 Battalion and Unita's 3rd, 4th and 5th Regular Battalions. For an historical account of this encounter, see the Historical Accounts section on the website....

“The 23 mm guns - very familiar to the soldiers - were to be dealt with by a fire belt action, mortar fire or, if necessary, artillery fire....”

Link to this story:  
<http://www.warinangola.com/Default.aspx?tabid=574>



Olifant tanks in action supported by Ratels

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



Na 'n roofride vanaf Kroonstad stasie na die basis toe besluit die *bright* Koporale hulle sal ons wys hoe goed hulle 'n Bedford kan bestuur. Een sal dan op die kantoor gebou afpyl en probeer om op die laaste oomblik te stop waarby die ander die afstand tussen die *bumper* en die muur met 'n vier-

houtjeboks meet. Die doel van die oefening was om so naby die muur te stop as moontlik sodat die vierhoutjeboks nie op die grond val nie. Dit was nie lank nie of een van die poepolle misgis homself en tref die muur so hard dat van die bakstene uitgestamp word en binne die gebou val.

Die Koporale word toe sommer voor die nuwe rekrute opge@#\$ wat natuurlik baie snaaks vir ons was. Natuurlik is ons weer deur die Koporale opge@#\$ omdat ons vir hulle gelag het maar dit was die swoeg en sweet werd.

Sappeur B Kruger  
1970



Alouette III helicopter lifting off

## Operation Sceptic: Alouette shot down by RPG-7

(Continued from page 7)

his shoes from getting wet and possibly adding to his woes by chafing him later, he started drinking. It was an unforgettable experience; the water, he said later, "was as thick as chocolate, but it tasted like honey".

When he had slaked his thirst he washed most of the blood from his face and set off again, much refreshed. About 2am he came across a road and followed it, staying well clear of the surface itself

in case of mines, and in course found a road sign from which he learnt it was another 28 kilometres to Cuamato. He walked on with renewed strength, occasionally resting against a tree and softly singing songs popular among the helicopter pilots: "I was due to return home that day, and realised I would not make it unless I walked as fast as possible."

At 5.30am Dippenaar set off from Cuamato as scheduled, unaware that Van Rensburg was now

within an hour's walk of the headquarters. Van Rensburg himself did not realise how close he was still, soon after 6am, he came to a deserted mission station six kilometres from Cuamato over which had flown the previous day on his way to the stopper groups' landing zone.

He rested a while and then carried on. After covering another two kilometres or so he met his first South Africans, a platoon of soldiers cook-

(Continued on page 9)

## Historical Background: Reaction of the MPLA

(Continued from page 1)

in 1962. At this stage he was already married to a Portuguese woman.

Back in Africa, Chipenda joined the MPLA, and gradually held increasingly important positions in the hierarchy of the movement. Already in 1972, he started his fight against Neto for the MPLA leadership – a fight in which he enjoyed great success.

With his personality, he gained prominence amongst his followers. Gradually a divide developed between him and Neto. Chipenda accused Neto of tribal favouritism as well as the misappropriation of funds, bad administration, and "presidentialism".

This led to inner-fighting between the supporters of Neto and those of Chipenda where they were established in Zambia. On that, Neto re-

called his trusted followers from Zambia and Eastern Angola and focused on the conquering of Cabinda, with which he had hoped to neutralise the "great offensive" of the FNLA. Huge quantities of material of Russian origin were moved to the border of Cabinda, while 800 soldiers received special training in night operations by Russian instructors.

Next week: UNITA...

Link to this story:

<http://www.warinangola.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1104>



Sophisticated equipment like mobile radar and control systems supplied by the Soviet Union

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## Operation Sceptic: Alouette shot down by RPG-7

*(Continued from page 8)*

ing breakfast. It was a puzzling and curiously undramatic meeting: "I was covered in blood and mud, and one of them just looked at me ... and then continued going about his tasks as if nothing had happened. I thought to myself: 'What a welcome.' Not a word was exchanged between us. I walked on."

A strange reaction indeed ... Did the soldier think he was hallucinating? Or was he simply one of those individuals, encountered in any war, who are incapable of relating to what is going on around them? Van Rensburg never received an explanation for his casual reception. He

kept walking, and a little later he arrived at the base, where "I was so happy to see [the officer in charge] that I cried."

A pain-killing injection numbing the nagging pains in his back, Van Rensburg was eased on to a stretcher to await evacuation. There he received a final shock. The paperback he had been reading before his near-fatal takeoff fell out of the pocket of his flying suit, and he saw that a FAPLA bullet had cut it almost in half. If the bullet had not been stopped by Garrett's fat tome it would have gone into his leg and he would not have been able to undertake his epic escape [another bullet, he discovered, had passed through his cap without

touching his head].

"I'm basically a poor Christian," he said later, "but my experience in Angola has done much to strengthen my belief."

At 7am, meanwhile, just about the time Van Rensburg tottered into Cuamato, Dippenaar joined up with Fouche, and 15 minutes later set off for the crash scene. They progressed well, covering about 20 kilometres, before the tactical headquarters came through on the radio at 8am to tell them of Van Rensburg's safe return and issue new orders.

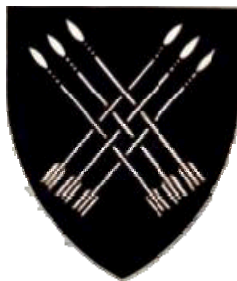
In the circumstances, Dippenaar was told, the march to the crash scene was to be abandoned and Battle Group 61 was to revert to its



South African Infantry on patrol

earlier planned operations against Swapo targets south of the Xangonngo road and in the vicinity of Mongua.

29 months after Dippenaar's force finally pulled back over the Cutline [on June 30th], the body of Sergeant Koos Cilliers, South African Air Force, was returned to South Africa as part of a larger exchange of prisoners.



### TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE SADF!

Write the names of the units represented by the flashes below each one.

*Find the answers in next week's issue!*

### Last week's unit flashes:



**2 Reconnaissance Regiment** was the Citizen Force unit of the South African

Special Forces.

This unit was established in Pretoria as 2 Reconnaissance Commando in 1974. In 1981, 2 Reconnaissance Commando was redesignated as 2 Reconnaissance Regiment, and continued to carry out its Special Forces activities with distinction until 1992.



**4 Reconnaissance Regiment** is the Seaborne Special Forces Regiment in

South Africa.

This unit was first established as 4 Reconnaissance Commando in 1978, at Langebaan, and comprised the original Charlie Group of 1 Reconnaissance Commando. In 1981, 4 Reconnaissance Commando was redesignated as 4 Reconnaissance Regiment.



**5 Reconnaissance Regiment** was first established as 5 Reconnaissance

Commando in 1976 in Durban, and was moved to Duku Duku in Northern Natal in 1979. In 1980, 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was moved from Duku Duku to Phalaborwa, where it has remained ever since. In 1981, 5 Reconnaissance Commando was redesignated as 5 Reconnaissance Regiment.



Special Forces Sabre team jumping into action



### Schedule of Events

- 26 - 27 February 2011 — 18th MSSA North West Board Gaming & Wargaming Championships
- 28 February - 1 March 2011 — Air Mission Planning 2011, UK
- 6 March 2011 — 3rd Annual Vintage Transport Day at the Bournemouth Aviation Museum, UK
- 10 March 2011 — SA Military History Society Durban: Major General Sir Charles Warren in Northern Natal
- 10 March 2011 — SA Military History Society Durban: My Experiences in the Armed Struggle
- 17 March 2011 — SAA School of Artillery Tiddler
- 17 March 2011 — SA Military History Society Cape Town: First In, Last Out: The South African Artillery in Action in Angola, 1975-1988

## FEBRUARY 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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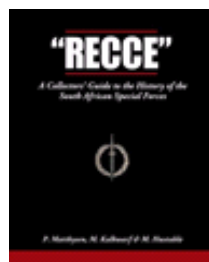
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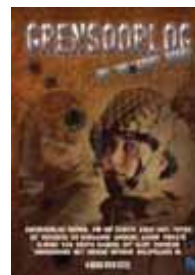
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Mark Raats has created this **SPECIAL EDITION** high quality 900mm x 600mm poster of his original artwork, "An Unpopular War", SPECIFICALLY and EXCLUSIVELY for the users of WarInAngola.com. This is the same artwork which has proven such a direct hit 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.



## 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](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: SADF music and songs by Daniematthee

Some of the songs we sang at 2SSB (Armour) Two old ladies lying in bed One role over to the other and said I want to be a Armour Soldier I want to go to the Border I want to fuckup Sam I...

### SADF music and songs by host

A Gunner's Song: We're Gunners, we're Gunners We're far away from home! We're highly bedonnerd, so leave us alone! Sing high! Sing low! Wherever we go! We're highly bedonnerd, SO LEAVE US ...

### RE: Bridge 14 by Keith Allen (guest)

Hi Bradley. Pleased to see you're out there and still going strong. I get emotional when I look back, especially at what your lot, our roofies at 14 Field, had to endure. Can't believe how young Joffe...

### RE: Planning of Operation Moduler by Dirtyoldsix

Hi everyone. I was an Intelligence NCO at Sector 20 HQ when Op.Moduler started. I wish I could remember all the sitreps I typed into that Olivetti M24 in 1987! I was first involved with SWAPO Buitela...

### Kpl van Emmines by Kpl Graat Pelsler (guest)

Soek 3SAI / vals kerm Kpl van Emmines?

### Bom van Wyk by Graat (guest)

Kpl Pelsler soek Bom van Wyk 14veld ops 75

### Sunday 14 Feb 1988 59th brigade. by Herman1

Our fallen friends of 22C.. We SALUTE you.

### RE: Background and early operations (1975 -1985) by HUGHROY

JOHAN, PUMA CHOPPER

WAS SHOT DOWN AND THE FIREFORCE TROOPS WENT TO SECURE THE AREA. A SUPER FRELON LIFTED IT OUT. SWAPO HAD FORMED DEFENSIVE POSITIONS AT 180 DEGREES AROUND THE WRECK. COL. BREYTENB...

### RE: Background and early operations (1975 -1985) by johansamin

Incursion into Zambia? I am sure we all want to hear more of that! LOL Regards Johan

### RE: Background and early operations (1975 -1985) by HUGHROY

I WAS BORN TO EARLY TO BE VERY INVOLVED, BORDER STINTS AND ONE INCURSION INTO ZAMBIA. HOWEVER WAS AT THE IN-OEFENING FOR CASSINGA, SADLY PASSED OVER. REGARDS, HUGH