

# 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: UNITA - cautious policy of Dr. Jonas Savimbi

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

The coup in Portugal provided Savimbi with the welcome opportunity to increase his influence among the plentiful Ovimbundu people living on the



*Dr. Jonas Savimbi, dynamic leader of UNITA*

southern highlands, without military action. He had also seen opportunity in a ceasefire.

Through the mediation of a priest, Father Antonio de Aranjó Olivera, he met with the local Portuguese authority on 14 June 1974 and came to an agreement with the local commander, Lt-Col. Ramos.

This made the other two movements indignant. Savimbi was accused as a traitor and coward and UNITA was labelled as a movement of no importance. Savimbi wisely kept his tact and continued with his reconciliatory policy. His comments were reported favourably in the Portuguese press.

Afterwards, Savimbi tried to increase his following by means of political propaganda. During August UNITA entered the political arena of Luanda in the form of pamphlets, posters and combat slogans.

For Savimbi things revolved around increasing the numbers of his supporters through political propaganda. This he did in a very practical manner. Thanks to an exceptional oratory gift he managed to instil great enthusiasm amongst his supporters through numerous speeches. Between 23 and 26 August a meeting of UNITA's central committee was attended by representatives from Luanda, Lobito, Benguela, Nova Lisboa

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Featured Gallery:



*PLAN Guerillas advancing through the thick bush in Angola*



*Koevoet members use smoke to mark a landing zone for a gunship*



*Cuban instructors show PLAN guerillas the ropes on a ZPU-4 AA gun*

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### Next Week's Features

- The Historical Background series of articles on the POWER STRUGGLE IN ANGOLA continues: "Prelude to Alvor"
- Featured Equipment: The simple but effective Uzi submachine gun
- "The FNLA in war" Looking at Portugal's desperate efforts to keep Angola
- Operation Moduler: the battles continue with "The destruction of 47 Brigade, Part 3"

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## Historical Account:

## Operation Moduler: The Destruction of 47 Brigade, Part 2



The Ratels of 61 Mech Bn Gp getting ready to move across the border into Angola

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

The attack was to be a combined one with the local Unita forces. Colonel Tarzan of Unita having in any event intended an attack on 47 Brigade's position.

The Unita part of the operation included an attack on the southern portion of the 47 Brigade position in the bush south of the flood-plain,

and one on the former 47 Brigade position. Their main attack was to be carried out by two companies of Lieutenant-Colonel Setti's 3rd Regular Battalion. The 5th Regular Battalion and the 275th Penetration Group would deploy to the south-west of the Lomba-Cunzumbia confluence to fix 47 Brigade for the attack, and the 13th Semi-Regular Battalion would launch a feint attack on the 59 Brigade positions north of the Lomba. 120 mm mortar and 107 mm multiple rocket launcher

batteries would support the operation.

On the South African side. Combat Groups Alpha and Charlie would carry out the main attack on the Fapla forces between the bushline and the Lomba.

Dawid Letter's Combat Group Charlie came back under 'Bok' Smit's command for this operation, which meant that 61 Mech was at last operating as a unit. The attacking force comprised the armoured car squadron - C - and the two mecha-

*(Continued on page 5)*

## From the Diary of Lieutenant Colonel Igor Anatolevich Zhdarkin

## Link to this story:

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

"Just at that moment, a soldier flew in and, as he stood in the ditch near the dugout a fragment of the shell cut his hand."



Advisors supervise the FAPLA deployment on the battlefield

**October 31, 1987**

Yesterday, between 18:40 and 21:00, the enemy launched intensive artillery-mortar fire, but today it was quiet the whole day! What might this well signify? Perhaps this is the last day of the month for the enemy and therefore either devoted to room cleaning or to stock taking? Such quiet is not a good sign.

I recalled a film about the Great Patriotic War (World War II). There our soldier tosses and turns on a plank bed in a dugout and finally speaks out with disappointment "If they would only shoot, otherwise we can't sleep at all!" Such is the situation with us, roughly speaking - we too have already gotten used to falling asleep during a cannonade. But right now there is such a silence.

**November 1, 1987**

During the night the silence continued. And today is the birthday of our group leader, Anatoly Mikhailovich. He is 40 years old. The day was fine and not too hot, but the South Africans managed to spoil our fun. At noon, planes flew over the 59th brigade, located nearby, and they dropped over them more than ten 500-kilogram bombs. So far we still don't know the extent of the casualties.

Then our artillery decided to put out of action the enemy's 155 millimeter howitzer, which had been constantly bombarding us. The Angolans fired once from a BM-21 but then contact with the launcher was broken off. In response, the embittered South Africans opened fire from their own howitzers. They fired very accu-

rately and at small intervals. During one of these intervals, we moved, together with our group leader, to the Brigade Commander to find out what new task he had received.

We were sitting in his so called "study" when suddenly the shooting again began, and this time they were shooting up the Command Post where we were, with a 155-millimeter howitzer. One of the shells landed in a tree near the dug-out - the Brigade Commander's "study" where we were situated. At first, I didn't understand what had happened. The dug-out had crumbled, and because of the dust, we couldn't see anything.

My ears rang as at

*(Continued on page 5)*

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## Featured Equipment: The robust PPSH-41 submachine gun

The PPSH-41 was designed to meet the urgent need for submachine guns in the Soviet Union in the wake of the German invasion in 1941. Designed by Georgiy Shpagin, it had a simple blowback action and relied on processes of metal stamping for ease of production, although it also had a chromed barrel lining. More than five million were made by manufacturers ranging from industrial plants to village workshops. Loaded with either a 71-round drum or 35-round box

magazine, it could fire at 900rpm with astonishing reliability. The PPSH-41 was robust, resistant to mishandling and dirt, and powerful, and therefore both Soviet and German soldiers were eager to get their hands on the weapon and it became almost a motif of Soviet resistance to the Nazi invasion. It equipped the many partisans which were such a thorn in the German's side, and would continue to function without any form of regular maintenance, although field stripping was

very straightforward, thanks to the hinged receiver. Following the war, it was used extensively by the North Koreans and other communist countries and still turns up in action today.

[Twentieth-Century Small Arms, by Chris McNab]

*For more detailed information on the PPSH-41, see Wikipedia:*  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PPSh-41>



This Portuguese mercenary of the ELP proudly displays his PPSH sub-machine gun

## Specifications

Country of Origin:	USSR
Caliber:	7.62mm M1930
Length:	838mm (33in)
Weight:	3.64kg (8lb)
Barrel:	266mm (10.5in) 4 grooves, rh
Feed/magazine capacity:	35-round box or 71-round drum magazine
Operation:	Blowback
Cyclic rate of fire:	900rpm
Muzzle velocity:	490mps (1600fps)
Effective Range:	120m (400ft)

"It could fire at 900rpm with astonishing reliability, was robust, resistant to mishandling and dirt, and would continue to function without any form of regular maintenance."

## The PPSH-41 submachine gun



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## PORTUGAL'S DESPERATE EFFORTS TO KEEP ANGOLA Foreign Assistance Part 2



Angolan revolutionaries armed to the teeth, ready to take on Portuguese armed forces

### Link to this story:

<http://www.warinangola.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1060>

"In the beginning, the OAU supported Roberto's FNLA, but later, in 1963, also supported the MPLA. Even later, they also supported UNITA."

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SAAF Mirage III fighter jet ready for take-off

### *Foreign Assistance to Angola continues...*

Even the UNITA movement of Jonas Savimbi found a home in Zambia when the movement was created in 1966, until their sabotage of the Benguela railway made the organisation unwelcome in Lusaka, and they had to establish a new headquarters inside Angola.

If the attention is focused on organisations in Africa that influenced the conflict in Angola, the most important is definitely the **Organisation of African Unity – OAU**.

The OAU was created during a conference between independent African states in Addis Abeba in May 1963. The liberation of areas in southern Africa that have not yet been "liberated" became one of the main goals of the organisation. (Yassin El-Yyouty (ed.), **"The Organization of African Unity after Ten Years"**, p. 136)

While a polarisation of liberation movements almost always occurred in every area, it was still

a problem for the OAU to know which of the organisations to support. Often it was insisted that such movements should unify, mostly without success. That was also the case with Angola. Here, in the beginning, the OAU supported Roberto's FNLA, but later, in 1963, also supported the MPLA. Even later, they also supported UNITA. For the purposes of financial assistance they created a special fund, which was administered by the **African Liberation Committee (ALC)**, which was based in Dar Es Salaam.

Another movement was the **Conferência das Organizações Nacionalistas das Colónias Portuguesas (CONCP)** which coordinated the different liberation movements in the Portuguese colonies through conferences. The CONCP enjoyed the support of the Soviet Union.

The training of their fighting units was of cardinal importance to the Angolan liberation movements. In 1970 the fol-

lowing countries had training camps: Zambia, Zaire, National Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Sudan, Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria, while outside of Africa there were also training centres in China, Russia, East-Germany, Czechoslovakia and Cuba. According to Al Venter, basic training were given at Dolisie and Pointe Noire in the National Republic of the Congo, at Kinkuzu in Zaire, at Kongwa, Bagamoya and Nachingwea in Tanzania, and at Balovale. Sikongo, Chavuma and Shangombo in Zambia. Many of the recruits were sent from these bases elsewhere for further training: those of the MPLA to Algeria, Cuba, Russia and China, those of the UPA (FNLA) to Ethiopia, Egypt and India. (Al J. Venter, **"The Terror Fighters"**, pp. 29 and 133)

After training the supply of finance and weapons were essential. Here it is also very difficult to report comprehensively about the quantities and countries of origin.

Holden Roberto man-  
(Continued on page 6)

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

### **Friday, 26 February 1988: Planning for a renewed attack**

Considering the details of the failed attack, the South Africans came to the conclusion that any renewed attack would be an engineer-intensive operation. It would also require a detailed, deliberate appreciation. A debriefing conference

was held on 26 February, attended by General Demosthenes, and this meeting also set out the initial guidelines for a renewed attack....

### **Saturday, 27 February 1988: Operations order for the attack issued**

The operations order detailing the renewed attack on Tumpo was issued on 27 February....

### **Sunday, 28 February 1988: Tank attack to be launched**

A final coordinating conference was held on 28 February, with General Demosthenes again present. It had been decided to launch a tank attack during the night of 29 February to 1 March....

(Continued on page 5)



## Historical Account:

## Operation Moduler: The Destruction of 47 Brigade, Part 2

*(Continued from page 2)*

nised infantry companies - A and B (Lotter's) of 61 Mech, reinforced with G Company of 32 Battalion. Supporting elements included 61 Mech's anti-tank platoon, two of its 81 mm mortar groups and an anti-aircraft troop.

One troop each of G-5s and rocket launchers would be in direct support, and one troop each in support. Sierra Battery would stand by to carry out counter-bombardments against the 21 Brigade artillery if it became involved.

A concentration of 47 Brigade vehicles had

meanwhile built up in the area of the crossing point. Pierre Franken engaged it to good effect with the G-5s of Quebec Battery, directing fire from his vantage point north-west of the confluence. Among his victims was an SA-9, which he shot out on the bridge. This had been one of two among the first vehicles to cross once the TMM was in place. The 59 Brigade elements on the north bank sent out several tanks to pull damaged vehicles off the bridge and out of the crossing area, but they were hampered by shelling which was kept up for much of the night

whenever Franken saw movement. When the efforts of Fapla began to wane, Franken went to sleep, leaving one of his protection teams watching the crossing point with the night vision equipment and instructed to wake him whenever there was a renewed effort to cross. Towards 07h00 on 3 October, 47 Brigade gave up the attempt to cross for the time being, and its elements began moving south into their main positions in the bush.

It was at this critical point that the South Afri-

*(Continued on page 6)*

The Ratel of the Troop Commander of Delta Troop, Quebec Battery (call sign G25A) being replenished in the field

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

*(Continued from page 4)*
**Tuesday, 1 March 1988: Second Attack on Tumpo**

The purpose of this attack remained the same as for the previous attack: to destroy the Fapla force east of the Cuito or to drive it across the river. As soon as the bridgehead was taken, the bridge was to be destroyed. For a historical account of this en-

counter, see the Historical Accounts section on the website....

**Wednesday, 2 March 1988: The South Africans digest their failure**

The South Africans spent the next day after the attack, 2 March, digesting their failure to make any headway. The units spent their time looking after their equipment, and the artillery changed its observers,

some of whom had been deployed for a long time. As before, the recovery teams had spent the night recovering damaged vehicles that had been left behind during the day....

**Thursday, 3 March 1988: SA artillery re-deployed**

It was decided to withdraw Quebec Battery to the Brigade Administrative Area on 3 March.

*(Continued on page 7)*

"The purpose of this attack remained the same as for the previous attack: to destroy the Fapla force east of the Cuito or to drive it across the river."

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

## From the Diary of Lieutenant Colonel Igor Anatolevich Zhdarkin

*(Continued from page 2)*

Easter. Just at that moment, a soldier flew in and, as he stood in the ditch near the dug-out a fragment of the shell

cut his hand. The brigade command ordered him to hurry over to the clinic. When I finally got out of the dug-out, my clothes and right hand were stained with the blood of this soldier. Apparently, during the confusion, he had smeared me.

As the group leader said later, at that moment, we were reborn. I had been sitting straight in front of the entrance and it was remarkable that not a single shell fragment had hit me. Then we noticed that, within a radius of 30 meters from the explo-

*(Continued on page 9)*

Soviet advisor relaxes with the command element of the FAPLA brigade he is attached to

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**The South African Hobby Showcase**  
[www.sashowcase.com](http://www.sashowcase.com)

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## Historical Account: Operation Moduler: The Destruction of 47 Brigade, Part 2



Destroyed FAPLA T-54 tank

“The arrival of the Ratels caused panic; many of the Fapla soldiers simply abandoned their equipment...”

(Continued from page 5)

can mechanised force arrived on the scene.

Smit had formed up his force at the old Unita logistic base preparatory to approaching 47 Brigade from the east. They moved up at 08h00 on 3 October, preceded and screened by a Unita reconnaissance platoon and guided in by Pierre Franken, who could see both 47 Brigade's vehicles and the advancing South African force from his observation post. Much of 47 Brigade was strung out along the shona south of the Lomba-Cuzizi confluence, several hundred metres from the corduroy road leading to the crossing point. The reconnaissance platoon made contact with the enemy about 10h17 and broke away to the flanks,

clearing the way for 61 Mech to advance on Fapla.

61 Mech moved in with C Squadron in front, in extended line, followed by A Company in immediate support and ready to move up into the line with its Ratel-20s as needed. One platoon of B Company moved along the shona line to cover the right flank of the force, and the remainder of B Company followed in reserve with the two Ratel-90 troops of the anti-tank platoon and one of the Ratel-81 mortar groups. Smit moved with his command group just behind A Company, together with the other Ratel-81 group. G Company brought up the rear, with the task of mopping up as the mechanised force swept forward. Lieutenant-Colonel Setti and an

interpreter travelled with Smit.

The arrival of the Ratels caused panic; many of the Fapla soldiers simply abandoned their equipment and made for the crossing point on foot. With the bridge still blocked, 47 Brigade was trapped. Then someone had a bright idea, and drove several armoured recovery vehicles into the river. Their flat tops made them a quite usable improvised bridge. A BTS-4 ARV then moved down from the bushline on the north bank to help vehicles on to firm ground. Several SA-13 vehicles, some tanks and some trucks now made a dash for this bridge. Three SA-13 vehicles succeeded in crossing, but then a tank and a GAZ arrived at the makeshift bridge simulta-

(Continued on page 7)

## PORTUGAL'S DESPERATE EFFORTS TO KEEP ANGOLA Foreign Assistance Part 2

(Continued from page 4)

aged to increase the prestige of his organisation by visiting many countries in the early nineteen-sixties. Between 1962 and 1969, he was secretly supplied with weapons by the **Central Intelligence Agency** (CIA), mostly with Zaire as intermediary, although never in huge quantities.

The MPLA's weapons were almost exclusively of communist origin: Russia, Eastern Europe and China; approximately 63 million dollars worth from Russia by 1974. Agostinho Neto

did visit the United States in 1963, but returned disappointed and approached the communist world. In 1964 he visited Moscow and in 1971 also Peking (Beijing).

The MPLA also received assistance from many organisations in Western Europe, amongst others, the **Kwacha-Angola** in Sweden, the **Angola Comité** in the Netherlands as well as the **World Council of Churches**. Already in the nineteen-sixties, Cubans were assisting with the training of recruits in Brazzaville. In 1966 a group of 90 MPLA re-

cruits went to Cuba for military training.

Portugal also received aid in the form of weapons. In his book "**Portuguese Africa and the West**", William Minter provides an analysis of Western aid to Portugal. Thanks to the traditional friendship between Britain and Portugal, and the air-landing facilities the American Air Force enjoyed on the Azores Islands, Portugal became a member of NATO in 1949 as a matter of course. According to a table provided by Minter, Portugal received

(Continued on page 8)



Even the Red Chinese provided assistance to the liberation movements, as seen here with SWAPO's Sam Nujoma

## Historical Account:

## Operation Moduler: The Destruction of 47 Brigade, Part 2

*(Continued from page 6)*

neously, collided, and fell off to either side, landing in such a way that they effectively blocked it. The drivers and crews of vehicles that had been approaching the crossing, now panicked, abandoned their vehicles and rushed across on foot.

C Squadron's Ratel-90s swept forward and fell on the dislocated 47 Brigade elements. Some very intense fighting developed as the Fapla soldiers recovered from their surprise and began to fight back. Five of their tanks fell to Ratel-90s shooting by troops to make up for their inadequate firepower, and the South African advance continued. About 12h00,

C Squadron began encountering some real resistance and asked for support. Smit pulled it back while he had the enemy pounded by the G-5s, also giving the Ratel crews time to replenish their ready ammunition from the hull racks.

Smit also reinforced C Squadron with one of the Ratel-90 troops of the antitank platoon and a mechanised infantry platoon. This was not much, but he was concerned by reports of tanks moving to his south, which might envelop his force. Also, the EW team had reported that at least thirteen Fapla call-signs were still active. Given these two items of information, he

was reluctant to commit his entire reserve.

The dug-in elements of the brigade began firing on the South Africans with 23 mm guns, causing some problems. This situation was rectified shortly after by the delayed arrival of Unita's 3rd Regular Battalion, which attacked the Fapla positions in the bush to the left of the South Africans. This attack drew the full attention of Fapla and drove the dug-in elements out of their positions and scattered them, many fleeing in front of 61 Mech's guns in their attempt to escape.

*Next week the destruction of 47 Brigade continues, in Part 3...*



Burning FAPLA vehicles barely visible through the bush

"Five of their tanks fell to Ratel-90s shooting by troops to make up for their inadequate firepower..."

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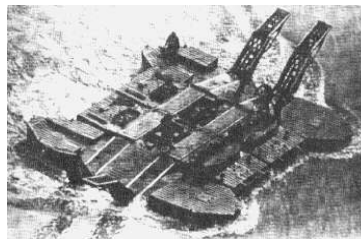
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## Link to this story:

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



Soviet Amphibious Bridging System - Wheeled (ABS-W)



Soviet GSP Heavy Amphibious Ferry in action



Soviet K-61 Tracked Amphibious Cargo Carrier (later the PTS-M)

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

*(Continued from page 5)*

Romeo and Sierra Batteries and the rocket launcher troop would continue to put pressure on Fapla. The rocket launcher troop was to re-deploy during the day to a position west of the

Chaminga source....

**Friday, 4 March 1988: Recovery of damaged vehicles**

A recovery team of 61 Mech moved to the old 21 Brigade positions on 4 March to recover the

mine roller left there several days earlier, and to recover or destroy other damaged vehicles still in the area. The Olifant taken along to help with the recovery set off a mine during the move, which caused some delay but no casualties...



Olifant tank moving up in the bush



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

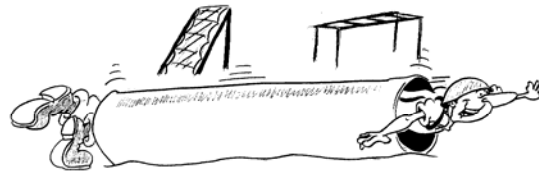


Part of the "lekker" (nice) of the army—digging latrines at a base...

Een van die *opsticles* in die *opsticle course* was 'n 5m sement pyp waardeur ons moes kruip. Met jou webbing aan is daar nie veel spasie om te beweeg nie en is dit nie 'n plek vir iemand wat engtevrees het nie. Sowragtie was daar dan 'n ou in ons pale-ton wat engtevrees

gehad het en soos dit my geluk was kruip hy agter my aan in die pyp. Ek was amper deur die pyp toe hoor ek hierdie ou agter my raak nou regtig bevrees en begin paniekerig skree dat hy wil uit. Hy probeer eers agteruit maar die volgende ou is alreeds in die pyp en kan nie

terug nie. Die ou agter in die pyp het 'n paar lekker skoppe in die gesig gekry deur die ou wat wil uitkom. Die ou besef toe die enigste pad uit is vorentoe en ek is in sy pad. Die laaste meter van die pyp is ek met *force* uitgestoot sonder dat ek enige poging aangewend het om self uit te kruip. Daarna is hy vrygespreek van die pyp kruipery en het net bo oor die pyp gehardloop as hy by die pyp kom.



Sapeur H Mostert

## PORTUGAL'S DESPERATE EFFORTS TO KEEP ANGOLA Foreign Assistance Part 2

(Continued from page 6)

aid of 349 million dollars from the USA between 1949 and 1968.

"American aid went to equip the Portuguese Army, Navy and espe-

cially the Air Force." (W. Minter, "**Portuguese Africa and the West**", p. 103)

With regards to the actual supply of ordnance, ammunition, vehicles,

aircraft, and ships from the USA to Portugal, the situation existed that it was supplied in accordance to a NATO agreement and it was not intended for use in Portugal's overseas colonies.

### Historical Background:

#### UNITA - cautious policy of Dr. Jonas Savimbi

(Continued from page 1)

(Huambo) and Luso (Luena). In a statement issued during the event, he offered, as he did to all Angolans, a refuge also for whites in the ranks of UNITA.

Thanks to the radio and press UNITA enjoyed widespread advertising. After obtaining credibility from the OAU, UNITA also received more financial and material aid from foreign countries.

Political propaganda did not exclude military readiness. Despite the agreement UNITA did not disband its military organisations. They increased. When the Portuguese forces evacuated their bases in South-East Angola, UNITA occupied them and were supported herein by Zambia.

UNITA participated fully in the negotiations with Portugal, despite the cursing about the ceasefire. On 31 October

1974, UNITA had conferred with the FNLA at Kinshasa and on 20 November Savimbi was present at a conference between Roberto and Soares, also in Kinshasa.

"It will appear as if Dr. Savimbi is developing into a great political leader", a report from Luanda stated, "and that he is enjoying increasing support in Luanda." (SADF Archives)

#### Link to this story:

<http://www.warinangola.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1105>



UNITA Infantry going into action during a training exercise



From the Diary of Lieutenant Colonel Igor Anatolevich Zhdarkin

(Continued from page 5)

sion, all the shrubbery and small saplings had been completely cut down and broken into pieces by the shell fragments. And all of a sudden, I could hardly hear with my right ear. In our leader's head, is an awful small noise. This is the way the South Africans send us birthday greetings. My shoulder hurts - it has been hit.

**November 2, 1987**

This morning, our group, consisting of the first and third infantry battalions of our brigade, a tank battalion, air-assault companies attached to it from the Tactical Group, and subdivisions of the 59th brigade, launched an operation on «combing» through the area. The operation will take 4 days. The brigade's chief of staff heads our two

battalions. So far we have not received any news about them.

At 15:30, as we subsequently found out, the 3rd battalion of our brigade got into conflict with the enemy, UNITA. The results of that battle: 4 UNITA soldiers were killed, while our men captured a 60-millimeter mortar, one AK machine gun and 4 cartridges belonging to it. Our



Soviet influence through a poster—a PLAN guerilla guards a doorway to a command post

losses: 1 soldier killed, 3 - severely wounded and 6 - lightly wounded.



Soviet MTU-20 Tank-Launched Bridge



Soviet PMM-2 Amphibious Bridging System - Tracked



Soviet PMP Heavy Folding Pontoon Bridge



**TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE SADFL!**

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 operator doing a parachute jump



### Schedule of Events

- 6 March 2011 — 3rd Annual Vintage Transport Day at the Bournemouth Aviation Museum, UK
- 10 March 2011 — SA Military History Society Durban: The Raid on the Medway
- 10 March 2011 — SA Military History Society Durban: My Experiences in the Armed Struggle
- 10 March 2011 — SA Military History Society Johannesburg: The Role of Great Yarmouth in WW I
- 10 March 2011 — SA Military History Society Johannesburg: Sherman and his march to the sea
- 14 March 2011 — SA Military History Society Eastern Cape: AGM & The Fall of France 1940 Part Two
- 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**

## MARCH 2011

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

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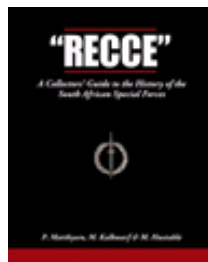
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Mark Raats has created this **SPECIAL EDITION** high quality 900mm x 600mm poster of his original artwork, "An Unpopular War", SPECIFICALLY and EXCLUSIVELY for the users of WarInAngola.com. This is the same artwork which has proven such a direct hit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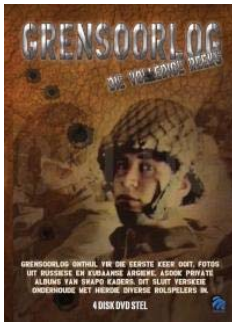
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War in Angola

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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

### "Zulu, Zulu Golf" by Arn 'Jim' Durand, by Jim Hooper

Johan-- I wanted to give you and the readers of [www.warinangola.com](http://www.warinangola.com) a heads-up on a new memoir of the Border War coming out this year. Arn 'Jim' Durand was one of my first mentors during the time ...

#### RE: My 1/72 scale Models by mikes

More...

#### RE: My 1/72 scale Models by mikes

More...

#### RE: My 1/72 scale Models by mikes

More...

#### RE: My 1/72 scale Models by mikes

More...

#### My 1/72 scale Models by mikes

Hi Johan I finally got round to

taking photos of some of my AFV models. Mike

#### Books and Book Reviews by host

Please feel free to list related books and add your review of books on the subject of the Bush War and the War In Angola here. All posts are subject to moderation and may be edited by the Host or Admi...

#### RE: Bridge 14 by Bradley

Hi Keith It is fantastic to received your message and how fast the years rolled back to those days and before. To think that after all this time the stories may be heard and put into persp...

#### 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...

#### RE: Planning of Operation Moduler by Louwerens

On behalf of Johan van der Merwe, who was Troop Commander of the Engineer troop attached to 4 SAI: Johan, we were part of 4 SAI. I don't know what your background is, but 2 Field Engineer Regime...

#### 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