

# 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

## Training of FNLA units planned

*The seventeenth article on the prelude to the participation of the South African Defence Force in the Angolan Civil War:*

In order to ensure that the weapons would be utilised properly, it was decided to also provide training. Commandant D.J. Breytenbach, the founder of 1 Reconnaissance Commando, was placed under the command of Brigadier Schoeman specifically for this purpose. He was appointed at the head of a training programme which he had to select himself. He started this part of his task even before he left Pretoria. He arrived at 1 Military Area on 28 August 1975 and already had a training programme ready which he discussed on 29 August with Brigadier Schoeman, Commandant Knoetze and high ranking FNLA representatives.

For the sake of secrecy it could not be treated as a normal operation. As few people as possible were informed about it. It was emphasised that the operation had to be controlled separately from the normal headquarters facilities and that liaison with Army Headquarters could not occur through

the normal channels. As a cover story, the FNLA soldiers were told that the training personnel were mercenaries, which they believed.

After initially considering Bwabwata in South-West Africa, it was decided to establish the training base at Mpupa. Mpupa was located on the Quito River, and was linked to Calai, DFirico, and Vila Nova de Armada by road. There was also a runway for planes and was therefore ideal for training purposes. Mpupa had previously been a Portuguese military base for about a battalion and even though the camp was dirty and neglected, it turned out very useful after improvement.

It was planned that within about two weeks, the first group of 200 FNLA-soldiers would have been trained as a mortar platoon, a Vickers-machinegun platoon, as well as three platoons proficient in basic infantry tactics.

this first group would then be followed by second and third groups of 200 each, etcetera, until battalion-strength is reached. For this purpose the

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Featured Gallery: Katima 1978



"Red Eye" 122mm MRL blast hole (Bobby Thomson)



The base at Katima (Bobby Thomson)



Testing and adjusting the Radar (Bobby Thomson)

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- Operation Packer: The 3rd attack on Tumpo Part 1
- "WE'VE GOT A RUSSIAN!", Part 3
- Memoirs of Lieutenant Colonel I.A. Zhdarkin Part 28

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## Training of FNLA units planned

(Continued from page 1)



FNLA guerrillas being briefed before training starts

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*"...we could ensure that the FNLA would win and act in a disciplined way."*

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Training of the FNLA would cover basic infantry tactics

FNLA would send their best soldiers to Mpupa. It was also planned to mount Vickers machine-guns on captured Land Rovers, Land Cruisers and Jeeps for close support during battles. It would also provide support to stopper groups. Personnel would also be trained for these specific tasks. Training started on 15 September.

Commandant had presented a complete training programme during the meeting at Rundo on 29 August 1975. This occurred after Maj.-Gen. Viljoen and Commandant Knoetze had left the meeting because they had to return to Pretoria. He and Brigadier Schoeman worked out the details and also discussed it with Commandant P.

even Lobito. Thereafter, securing Nova Lisboa (Huambo) and Silva Porto (Biè) could also be considered. Captured areas would need to be secured, and activities normalised through proper administration. Here the Portuguese could be of great value. Finally, the creation of the militia from the local population, were envisaged.

The piece ended on an optimistic note. "There had been a report of strong military build-up by the MPLA, supported by Russians, Cubans, Chinese, etc., but we seriously feel that if we can provide leadership down to a reasonably low level, we could en-

du Preez. This detailed planning was itemised in a letter dated 3 September 1975, from Commandant Breytenbach to Brigadier J.J. Geldenhuys, who was then Director of Operations with the Chief of the Army.

It is clear from this letter that Commandant Breytenbach was convinced that only arming and training the FNLA would not be sufficient, and that operations would have to be conducted under the leadership of South African officers. "Personally, I think," he wrote, "that the success of the operation depends on good control right down to the lowest level, i.e., under white South African control, as well as logistical support."

In fact, this was also the request made by the

FNLA representatives during the conference: "They requested, even before we could suggest it, that we should support them not only with training, but also with the actual planning and control of operations." (SADF Archives)

As the war progressed, he foresaw the creation of more battalion groups. Because the Angolans would gain in experience and because there may be more Portuguese joining to fill key positions, he considered it unlikely that South African participation would need to necessarily increase.

Commandant Breytenbach held the opinion that the first trained battalion could be used to capture cities like Moçamedes, Sá de Bandeira (Lubango), and

### *The first trained battalion could be used to capture cities*

sure that the FNLA would win and act in a disciplined way". (SADF Archives)

As a result, the following personnel were appointed under Commandant Breytenbach: Captain J.P. Dippenaar in command of B Company, Second Lieutenant J.C. (Corrie or Corné) van Wyk in command of A Company, and the Portuguese, D.F. (Danny) Roxo in command of C Company. In command of the support weapons and also at platoon level, were Sergeants M.L. (Vingers) Kruger, F. van Dyk, P.G. Soeiro, J.C.P. de Ribeiro and Almerindo Mourão da Costa. The last three were Portu-

guese. (By February 1980, with the exception of one, these personnel were all out of action. Captain Dippenaar lost his sight and his hands were badly hurt in an explosion on 29 May 1979. Sergeants P.G. Soeiro and José de Ribeiro were in a mine incident in which the first died of his wounds on the 24th and the other on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1976. A few short weeks later, Danny Roxo also died in a similar way. Thereafter, Sergeant M.L. Kruger was killed in action on 29 October 1977, Captain J.C. van Wyk fell on 23 May 1979, and Sergeant A.M. de Costa died in clashes with SWAPO during the weekend of 23-24 February 1980.)

*Featured Equipment:*

*The PMD-6, PMD-7 and PMD-7ts anti-personnel mines*

The Soviet PMD-6, of similar design to the Czech plastic PT-Mi-D, is an anti-personnel blast mine consisting of a wooden two-piece casing, the top folding on to the bottom, containing a 200 gm block of TNT and a pull-type MUV fuse which projects through intersecting apertures cut in one end of both casing sections. Although it is possible to use this mine with a tripwire, it is more effective to set the lid so that a soldier can set off the mine by stepping on it (or placing something on top of it). In this way, the striker-retaining pin is pulled out by the downward movement of the edge of the

cover. In a similar manner, it is possible to booby-trap the PMD-6 by attaching a cord or wire to the striker-retaining pin and anchoring the other end of the string to the ground. This mine is of such simple design that it is perfectly feasible to make one in the field and, consequently, although the explosive power will remain about the same, the dimensions may vary slightly. Pressure required to detonate these mines varies from 1 kg to 9 kg. The PMD-7 and PMD-7ts Soviet blast anti-personnel mines are identical except that the lower casing of later model is cut out of a single

wooden block. The working principles and method of employment are the same as those of the PMD-6, which is larger and heavier and contains more TNT (200 gm as against only 75 gm). Again, the amount of pressure needed to detonate the mine can vary from 1 kg to 9 kg.



A SWAPO bunker could be a death trap for the unwary, rigged with booby-traps

*From "Brassey's Infantry Weapons of the Warsaw Pact Armies", edited by J.I.H. Owen*

*Specifications*

Country of Origin:	USSR	
Model:	<b>PMD-6</b>	<b>PMD-7, PMD-7ts</b>
Height:	65mm (in)	51mm (in)
Length:	200mm (in)	152mm (in)
Width:	7.5cm (in)	76mm (in)
Weight:	0.4kg (lb)	0.3kg (0.16lb)
Body Material:	Wood	Wood
Charge:	200gm (ounces) TNT	75gm (ounces) TNT

*"It is perfectly feasible to make one in the field."*

*The PMD-6 and PMD-7ts anti-personnel mines*



Images from *From "Brassey's Infantry Weapons of the Warsaw Pact Armies", edited by J.I.H. Owen*

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## Memoirs of Lieutenant Colonel I.A. Zhdarkin, Part 27



Russian advisors assisting with the planning of operations (photo: © Igor Ignatovich)

*"With you, Geronimo, no one will kill you. By now, everybody knows you."*

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Russian translator and medic doing a medical examination (photo: © Igor Ignatovich)

This is the twenty-seventh part of a 50-part series taken from **"We did not see it even in Afghanistan"**. Memoirs of a participant of the Angolan war (1986-1988)", by Lieutenant Colonel Igor Anatolevich Zhdarkin

### –Were there many snakes there?

– I personally killed 12 snakes in two years...

### – With what?

– With whatever was appropriate. With a knife, a sub-machinegun, a pistol, anything appropriate.

### – With what did you travel there?

– We travelled either by UAZ or by «ambulance car» (a military version of RAF in camouflage col-

our and of ordinary cross-country ability), or by GAZ-66 two ton truck.

### – How did the Angolans produce their home-made liquor?

– For the local home-made liquor, there grew such a completely remarkable tree, producing the local «maboko» fruit. What was it? It was the size of two large apples. When it is green, nothing can break it open, not even an axe. But when it ripens, it is possible to open it and to eat its seed and become drunk.

And especially in the 5th Military District, in the province of Cunene, there were very large groves, called "Mabokairo". As for the local name, the drink was called "canioma" or "caporote" depending on

the province where it was produced. Therefore, if you wish to obtain really normal canioma or caporota, you must come at the time when they are ripe.

How did we look for that canioma during my first year in Angola, 1986-1987, in the Huila Province. We sat down in a car, in UAZ, with sub-machineguns and grenades and went forward, looking for that local spirit. There it was known as canioma.

We arrived at the village. There the elder of the village was coming towards us, armed with a spear. He was covered with feathers. We were, for our part, accompanied by a person who was Portuguese-speaking and who could

## The inhabitants there spoke no Portuguese

translate into the local language because the inhabitants there spoke no Portuguese. In other words, I would translate from Russian into Portuguese and he would further translate this into the local language.

He said, "Aha, canioma –well, just drive in that direction there. We drove on literally for ten minutes, to the following village where everybody already knew that we were about to arrive.

### – How did they find out?

– I do not really know. Maybe by tom-tom. As we arrived, they were already coming out to greet us. So you are looking for canioma?

Here we arrived in one village and one of our Russian specialists was a great expert in all those drinks. He wanted to obtain first class spirit.

"No, not here would we take anything because the canioma here is poor".

So we drove on to the following village and then from one village to another. I then spoke to our Senior Adviser: "Excuse me, but doesn't it seem to you that we are being followed?" "Huh? What a load of shit!" But I persisted: "Excuse me please, but I want to stay alive. I want just to survive". I continued: "We have already visited several villages, and everywhere we were met.

They knew already everything. From where?"

The main thing is that the Angolans greeted me first and only then other our specialists.

One time, the following occurred. We had arrived at the next village. The Angolan who translated from Portuguese into the local language was with us as usual. I again became suspicious – "And no one right now is going to kill us?" And he said to me, "With you, Geronimo, no one will kill you. By now, everybody knows you." I was, however, frightened.

*To be continued next week in Part 28...*

## Historical Account: Operation Hooper: The second attack on Tumpo Part 3

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

At 13h25 Muller's force came into an area that had been cleared by Fapla to give a good field of fire. Muller deployed his force into combat formation and prepared to cross this terrain by bounds, asking the artillery observers to guide him as he approached the objective. Tim Rudman had seen a radar scanner above the trees and reported it to Theo Wilken who, back from leave, was the forward artillery co-ordinator. He passed it to Charles Fuchs, who engaged it

with the G-5s. Fuchs also engaged two other radars seen by the forward elements, and a BM-21 spotted on the west bank.

At 13h55 the force was only some 3 000 metres from the bridge. A mine-roller detonated several anti-personnel mines, and Fapla immediately opened fire with 23 mm guns and 120 mm mortars, D-30s and BM-21 s. Muller replied with 81 mm mortar fire and, by 14h02, Fapla resistance began to crumble.

Soon after this first contact, at 14h22, one of the tanks detonated an anti-tank mine, and Fapla opened fire with anti-tank weapons from the front and the left flank. The South Africans and Unita

now found themselves stopped by a high-density minefield on ground slightly lower than the surrounding terrain on which the Fapla anti-tank weapons were deployed. Three other tanks soon detonated mines, although only one suffered immobilising damage to a track. Fapla was now firing from the front and both flanks with B-10s, AGS-17s and various other weapons, including at least three Sagger anti-tank missiles fired from the west bank.

Muller pulled his force back slightly, redeploying to engage to the front and both flanks, and initiated a fire belt action against the Fapla elements around them. A



Ratel 20 Infantry Fighting vehicle in action at the Army Battle School during an exercise

*"A 120 mm mortar bomb exploded in a tree just above his cupola."*

### A forty-five minute fire-fight followed

forty-five minute fire-fight followed, during which all but the 23 mm guns and 120 mm mortars were silenced. The direct fire of the Olifants, Ratel-90s and the infantry of Unita's 3rd Regular Battalion on the Fapla positions opposite them, was supplemented by the Ratel-81s. They engaged observed and suspected Fapla positions and put some 500 bombs on them in a short time. The artillery also began firing at various Fapla positions. Muller's Ratel was grazed across the nose by a 23 mm projectile. Another Ratel was hit in a back wheel by a 23 mm round and one of its antennae was shot off. Others were also hit, but none

were penetrated. Tim Rudman was lucky when a 120 mm mortar bomb exploded in a tree just above his cupola. He had just shut his hatch and was unhurt. Some of the Unita infantry still sitting on the back of his tank were killed or wounded, and his machine-gun was blown off the turret roof.

The South Africans and Unita had hardly begun firing, when Fapla artillery began to place accurate fire on them. Eighteen Fapla gun positions were identified, and the artillery switched its attention to them. With only six guns then available, there were none left for close support, which left the troops in

contact entirely dependent on their mortars. Their direct fire and the fire of the 81 mm mortars proved adequate to the situation, and the opposing Fapla positions were silenced one by one. The tanks and the Ratel-90s fired some twenty to thirty rounds each in this clash, and the Ratel-20s averaged 200 rounds of 20 mm. Once the bulk of the opposing direct-fire weapons had been silenced, Muller slowly pulled his force back some 2 000 metres to be clear of the killing ground. At 14h28 the force again drew fire from a flank, causing Muller to pull back farther. One 23 mm gun that was bothering them

(Continued on page 7)



South African 81mm mortar crew in action

## "WE'VE GOT A RUSSIAN!" Part 2



Vlamgat... Mirage F1 taxis on the runway before taking off

*"A BM-21 MBRL started to burn, sending its load of 122mm rockets streaking wildly across the sky."*

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Mirage F1 taking off to strike at some distant target

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Charlie Company had deployed inside a treeline bordering an open chana (savannah) when they observed enemy vehicles moving through the trees on the far side of it. Van Staden again advised HQ, but as the result of confusing reports from other sources, he again received an order not to fire for fear of killing friendly forces.

"Well, when two BRDMs moved out of the far treeline with about 20 troops, all of them shouting 'Avanca!' (Forward!) in Portuguese, we definitely knew they were FAPLA," Van Staden said. "I moved the company up the side of the chana into a better am-

bush position, with eight RPGs in the centre to face the side of the advancing enemy. At that point I received another order from HQ not to fire. As they came abreast of our position the first FAPLA soldier saw us and his eyes bugged out, then he just looked straight ahead and kept on walking without even telling his own people." Charlie Company watched impotently as the enemy moved past them.

The FAPLA unit was still within range when Van Staden received the order to withdraw again. He pulled his company back to the NE and dug in. "At that stage I was feeling bloody frustrated," Van Staden admitted. "Finally I said the hell with it, left one platoon there and returned

to our last position. The BRDMs were gone, but we could still see the log vehicles on the far side of the chana. I knew there was still the first group of vehicles and troops - the one with the Land Rovers - stopped between the two roads behind us, but decided to first attack the one we could see."

Under covering mortar fire they attacked across the chana. A BM-21 MBRL started to burn, sending its load of 122mm rockets streaking wildly across the sky. A flight of Alouette III gunships which had responded to Van Staden's call for air support arrived but were ordered out of the area by the young CO until the rockets had finished cooking off.

### *We found over two dozen children hiding under the trees*

"At about 1600 hours we moved forward again and found over two dozen children hiding under the trees. There was nothing we could do at the moment, so I left them there and we began checking the vehicles, all of which were full of ammo. Then I received a call from one of the Alouette pilots to tell me they'd spotted what appeared to be tank tracks."

Fully aware of the destruction heavy armour could inflict on thin-skinned mechanized infantry vehicles, Van Staden took one platoon, found the tread marks and began following them at a run in the fading light. When they

came across a new Soviet-made jeep, he assumed it belonged to the FAPLA commander. He left one section to guard it and carried on with two sections. More and more abandoned vehicles were discovered, and Van Staden continued dropping off men to guard them. He was down to one section when automatic weapons fire exploded from their right. Van Staden and his men attacked immediately, killing three of the ambushers. Of the four seen to break and run, three were chased down and killed.

Van Staden quickly turned his attention to the bodies, noting that the second one was

wearing new FAPLA fatigues. "When I turned him over I was stunned to see he was white. I can't tell you why, but I knew instinctively that he was Russian." He was right: the Buffalo soldiers had just killed a Soviet lieutenant colonel. Night had fallen and Van Staden ordered six troops to guard the body. With Lt Naude, one of his platoon leaders, and his last two troops, he continued following the tracks. Within minutes the four men stumbled across two PT-76s. Van Staden climbed silently onto one with a grenade, listening for any sound from the crew. When he found both abandoned, he radioed back for one of the

*(Continued on page 7)*

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

In die Army het ek aan die weermag se marathon club aangesluit net om so nou en dan 'n bietjie uit die kamp te kom al beteken dit om 'n marathon of twee te hardloop. Ek het sommer met die gewone ou Army tekkies gehardloop wat nie regtig geskik was vir langafstande nie. Met een van die marathonne waaraan ons deel geneem het dek ons Army ouens, met ons weermag atletiek klere,

die agterhoede van die honderde mense wat die marathon hardloop. By een van die waterpunte staan daar 'n Hoërskool laaitjie ons en aanmoedig. Toe hy sien ek is van die Army skree hy vir my: "Mooi so oom, oom is amper klaar" Ek sien toe hierdie ou is seker net so 2 jaar jonger as ek en sê vir hom dat ek nie sy verdomde oom is nie. Hy skree toe terug

vir my: "Sorry tjomma, Julle lyk nog goed tjomma en hou net aan julle is amper klaar tjomma!"

Onder Korporaal H Matthee

1992



## "WE'VE GOT A RUSSIAN!" Part 2

(Continued from page 6)

two remaining platoons to move up and guard them.

Exhausted, the four soldiers headed back to rendezvous with the platoon and lead it to the PT-76s. On the way, they passed a kraal and detoured slightly away from it. Van Staden was leading, followed by Lt Naude and the two troops, when an AK-47 opened up on them from a thicket alongside the kraal fence. They immediately returned fire and advanced to find two

bodies, one of them white. It was the second Soviet lieutenant colonel to die that day, and, as Van Staden would later learn, the commanding officer of the Ongiva logistics base.

"I was examining the body when Lt Naude suddenly shouted at someone not to move. On the other side of the kraal fence were three whites in FAPLA uniforms, one trying to crawl away. I jumped over the fence and took the weapon away from him, then saw that the other two were women, both

dead. Although we didn't know it at the time, one had been the wife of the lieutenant colonel we'd just killed, and the other the wife of the Russian sergeant major we'd just captured. The prisoner was uninjured, and as we were tying his hands he began speaking in Portuguese, desperate to know about his eleven-year-old son, who had been with them just before the shooting began.

Continued next week, in Part 3...

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"...saw that  
the other  
two were  
women,  
both dead."

## The second attack on Tumpo Part 3

(Continued from page 5)

was silenced by a single G-5.

A signals intercept at 14h30 indicated that Fapla had suffered quite heavy casualties in this brief engagement.

At 14h35 a reconnais-

sance team reported that the Fapla tanks at New Samaria had started up and were preparing to move. Colonel McLoughlin ordered 32 Battalion to draw back and the rest of the force to wait. Muller was meanwhile having mechanical problems with some of his

vehicles and was also still taking 23 mm fire. He decided to pull back still farther to regroup in a safer area. At 14h50 a 23 mm round hit one of the Ratels, but caused no casualties or serious damage.

(Continued on page 8)



A Command Ratel on the move during an exercise at the Army Battle School

## The second attack on Tumpo Part 3



The friendly end of a Ratel 20 IFV (I am not sure what the yellow flashes are... anyone?)

*"They certainly planned and executed their defence very cleverly indeed."*

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Aggressive stance of a SA Infantryman with his R-4 and a 50-round magazine

*(Continued from page 7)*

At 15h22 Muller requested permission to pull back to where his reserve was, in order to carry out a quick re-appreciation. By 15h30 he was down to only five serviceable tanks and could no longer operate an effective armoured force. Colonel McLoughlin discussed the situation with Generals Liebenberg and Meyer, and then gave his permission.

Muller meanwhile went on pulling farther and farther back in an effort to get out of range of the 23 mm guns, which were still giving trouble. Try as they might, the forward observers seemed unable to locate the 23 mm positions to silence them with fire from the G-5s. At 16h20 a Ratel moving just off the 'rolled' trail detonated a mine. It suffered only slight damage, however, and was able to continue with the force.

Muller at last got out of range of the 23 mm guns. Although his force was still being engaged by M-46s and 120 mm mortars, they did not present a serious threat at that time.

At 15h50 Colonel McLoughlin and Muller discussed the possibility of a night attack together with 32 Battalion, but Muller felt that it would not be feasible given the small number of service-

able tanks. Some of his Ratels were now also beginning to give trouble, and he was also drawing increasingly heavy artillery fire.

At 17h00 McLoughlin decided to call off the attack and gave permission for Muller to withdraw to the forward assembly area. A covering force was to be deployed in the former 59 Brigade positions as before, to prevent any interference from Tumpo or any attempt to reoccupy these positions. This task fell to 4 SAI and a Unita battalion. 4 SAI deployed its armoured car squadron, a mechanised infantry company, an assault pioneer section and four anti-tank missile teams. Both 61 Mech and the main body of 4 SAI then moved back to their assembly areas.

Mike Muller summed up the outcome tersely: "The enemy is strong and clever." While Fapla did not have a strong force in the bridgehead, they did have very strong artillery elements that did most of the fighting, and they - or, rather, General Cintra Frias - certainly planned and executed their defence very cleverly indeed. It is an open question whether they would have been able to deal with a night attack as effectively. Their artillery, which relied on observers to some extent, would have been less

effective. Their air force would have been out of the picture altogether.

One outstanding characteristic of the Fapla defence was their use of an anti-tank reserve, which could move quickly to deploy in support of that part of their positions threatened by imminent attack. The use of mines to 'announce' the attacking force before it could see the positions and to slow it down long enough to allow the mobile anti-tank reserve to deploy, worked as planned. The next stage would probably have been to bring up the tanks - although they were down to five mobile ones, the rest being dug in - either to beef up the defence, or to destroy the weakened attacking force. That that did not happen, was due to the superior fighting ability of the South Africans, who managed to subdue the Fapla elements in contact, and then to extricate themselves and Unita before the tanks could come up. The Fapla reaction to the main attack was also delayed by the confusion caused by Les Rudman and his deception team. For some time the Fapla commander thought that their sound-effects might be the actual attack, and he did not react to the warning by his outpost of the South African approach from the north.

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*This past week, "Somewhere on the Border..."*

In **January 1961**, the low cotton prices of 1960-61 caused social unrest in Angola.

During **January 1968**, the MPLA started military activities in Zone D under Daniel Chipenda, which included most of the Cuando-Cubango district.

By **January 1975** UNITA was definitely the strongest force in southern Angola.

The Alvor Agreement between the FNLA, MPLA, UNITA and the Portuguese government was signed on **15 January 1975**.

During the election of the Owambo Board from **13 to 17 January 1975**, the voting percentage was 55%, despite a SWAPO

boycott.

On **14 January 1976**, the South African Cabinet decided that the South African Defence Force must withdraw from Angola with the exception of the Ruacana-Calueque area.

Maj.-Gen. Viljoen issued withdrawal orders to all units in Angola on **15 January 1976**. The Withdrawal was not to start before 17 January and had to be completed by 25 January.

On **17 January 1976**, Task Force Zulu was informed that they would be relieved by Civilian Force units between 21 and 26 January, except for the gunners of 14 Field, who would only be relieved in February.

On **19 January 1976** the South African withdrawal out of Angola is once again postponed, this time to 21 January.

First elements of Combat Groups Orange and Boxer starts the withdrawal from Calucinga via Andulo and Vouga to Silva Porto on **20 January 1976**.

On **18 January 1977** a 32 Bn platoon encountered 12 SWAPO at a waterhole about 3.3km north of the border.

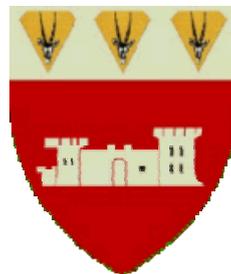
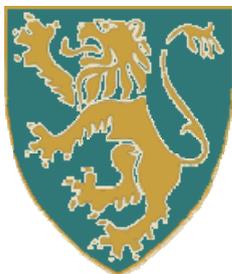
A platoon of 32 Bn and 3 platoons of 1 Parachute Bn, supported, by 4 gunships, attacked a FAPLA base north of Cuamato on **15 January 1981**.

On the same day, Lieutenant Arthur Walker earned the Honoris Crux

Gold for his dedication and exceptional courage under fire while supporting ground forces with his Alouette gunship, exposing it to heavy and continuous AAA fire to protect six Puma helicopters dropping assault troops.

On **17 January 1981**, as 2 companies of 32 Bn and a company of 201 Bn got ready to attack a FAPLA base 9km south of Cuamato, all attacks against FAPLA were halted and all troops ordered south of the cutline.

On **15 January 1988**, the SAAF carried out an air strike on the SWAPO Western Regional Headquarters.



**TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE SADF AND SWATF!**

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:*



**Defence Headquarters (DHQ)** (also known as Dekwaria) was based in Preto-

ria under the command of the Chief of the SADF providing the overall high level command and control over the three combat services: the SA Army, the SA Air Force and the SA Navy, and from 1 July 1979, the SA Medical Services. Two supporting services, the Quartermaster General and Chaplain General, were also directly under DHQ.



**The Transvaal Scottish (TS)** was formed in Johannesburg in 1902 and is affiliated to the Black Watch (Royal Highlanders). From 1913 to 1932 the TS was also known as the 8th Infantry, Active Citizen Force (ACF) and took part in the invasion of German South-West Africa. In World War 2 3 battalions saw action in Egypt, but 3 TS were disbanded after Sidi Rezeigh. Both the 1st and 2nd battalions were involved in the Bush War from 1975.



**Sector 20** was established as the headquarters of one of the 7 geographical areas within South-West Africa used by the SADF to control and coordinate military operations. Sector 20 included Kavango and West Caprivi, covering the Angolan border from the Cubango (Kavango) River east to the Cuando (Kwando) River, with its headquarters at Rundu. It was the Area Of Responsibility of both SWATF 202 and 203 Bns.



Entrance to an Army Base in the Operational Area

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

*Schedule of Events*

- 23-25 January 2012 — 6th Counter IED Summit
- 23-25 January 2012 — NCW 2012: Network Enabled Operations
- 23-25 January 2012 — 5th Annual Biometrics for National Security and Defense
- 23-25 January 2012 — 2nd Annual Military Logistics and RESET
- 23-25 January 2012 — Surface Warships 2012
- 23-25 January 2012 — Tactical Data Links
- 23-25 January 2012 — 9th Annual Tactical Power Sources Summit
- 24-26 January 2012 — International Military Helicopter
- 24-27 January 2012 — Cyber Defence & Network Security

*JANUARY 2012*

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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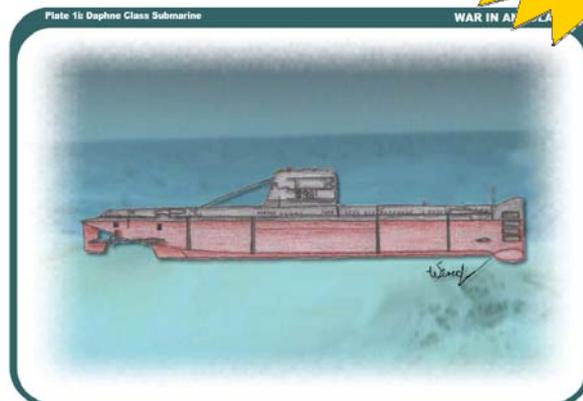


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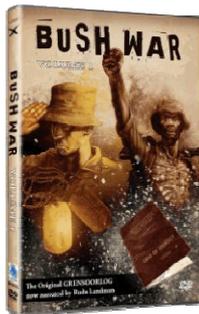
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THE NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTING EVENTS, INFORMATION AND FACTS RELATING TO THE CONFLICT IN ANGOLA AND SOUTH-WEST AFRICA (NAMIBIA) FROM 1975 TO 1989

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 E-mail: info@warinangola.com

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The War In Angola website ([www.warinangola.com](http://www.warinangola.com)) is dedicated to recreating and re-fighting the battles between the adversaries of the Angolan War (or Border War as it is also known), that is, the SADF and UNITA on the one side and the Soviet-supplied FAPLA, Cuba, and SWAPO on the other side. In order to recreate the battles as accurate as possible, a lot of research is required about the equipment, organisation, quality, uniforms, command, support and logistical structures behind the different forces.

There are two sides to the website: the gaming and recreation of the miniature battles; and the historical facts and research of the forces behind the battles.

The dividing line between the two sides is deliberately blurred in order to expose both sides to all the users, thereby promoting and exposing the wargaming and modeling hobby to the historically inclined and vice-versa.

Johan Schoeman

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### Last week's latest topics on the Forums

**Link to the Forums:**

<http://www.warinangola.com/Default.aspx?tabid=590>

#### **RE: Engineers in Oshakati by Chris (Broer) (guest)**

Hier is ek weer vir hulp Is daar medals gegee indien jy langer as 6 of 9 maande op die grens was behalwe die diens medal en propatria

#### **RE: Engineers in Oshakati by Broer (guest)**

Onthou asb die datum 03-06-2012 dit is die dag van die muur van herrnering by die monument WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

#### **RE: 2 Special Service Battalion by Need2Know (guest)**

Thank you for the link Johan, Appreciate it! So this was a armour regiment. How easy was it in the 1980's to transfer between regiments? Lets say from this armour regiment to other regiments? ...

#### **RE: Engineers in Oshakati by ammazulu (guest)**

Happy 2012

#### **RE: 14 Light Artillery Regiment by Tjoops**

PLEASE PLEASE forgive me, again the age played it's mistakes on me! It is NOT 14 Light Regiment (Which was in fact fact an "berede" horseback regiment according to Wikipedia! I was in fact in 18 Li...

#### **RE: 2 Special Service Battalion by johansamin**

I also don't have much on 2 SSB, other than what is here: <http://www.warinangola.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1239&Parameter=65> I do have a bit more on 1 SSB, which is here: <http://www.warinangola.com>....

#### **RE: 14 Light Artillery Regiment by Tjoops**

Hi Johan, Yeah, I can't really remember ALL the details, but found a fantastic write-up on Wikipedia on 44 Parachute Brigade. I was at Cuito in 1988, got shot to shit, as you mentioned, still ...

#### **RE: 14 Light Artillery Regiment by johansamin**

Hi, Deon... Great to hear from you! I was aware of a 120mm Battery deployed bewtween me and Cuito during Packer but had NO IDEA who they were... even though as OPO I even had the opportunity...

#### **14 Light Artillery Regiment by Tjoops**

Hi, I was in 44 Parachute Brigade and was in 14 Light Artillery Regiment. We were rather VERY active outside Cuito, laying no more than 1500m from the town, doing daily bombing of the town with ou...

#### **2 Special Service Battalion by Need2Know (guest)**

Where can i find more info on "2 Special Service Battalion, which was based in the town of Zeerust" Anyhelp would be appreciated.