

# 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

## The English-Afrikaans thing in the SADF, Part 2

From the WarBlogs ([www.warblogs.co.za](http://www.warblogs.co.za)), written by: The Ancient Armourer

The other memory of the English-Afrikaans thing also comes from Grade 10, my first at PHS. Of the 15 prefects, one was from the Afrikaans stream; a big, tough guy named André Nel [ironically, one "I" short of a later army buddy]. The general opinion amongst my classmates in the English stream was that he was there solely because he played in the 1st XV. One first break, quite near the beginning of the year, as I walked down towards the field, a number of guys walked past, making kissing noises at me. I was then felled by a smashing kick to my behind by one of the bigger Matrics. Quite a crowd joined them. I was totally confused, not to say intimidated.

At once the crowd parted. A booming voice cried out: "Los hom uit!" It was André Nel. He helped me up and removed from my back a sign saying "Kiss me or kick me". "Is jy oukei, boet?" he asked. When I nodded, he turned to the others.

"Julle los hom uit!" he warned, turning away. The others left me one by one, not without comments such as "Your stupid rock-spider chum!" I wasn't too concerned by them at this point. I was gawping after André, who had rejoined his fellow Afrikaans-speaking Matrics. He saw me looking at him and winked. I turned away, embarrassed at having been caught staring.

From that day I rather hero-worshipped him, and from time to time found the odd excuse to talk with him. He was always very kindly, spoke his excellent English with me. I had not yet reached the point of realising that I probably owed it to him to try and speak a little Afrikaans. If I was seen talking to him, the usual remarks were made later, in class, when he was no longer around.

This was the state of my thoughts as I finished my Matric, and prepared myself for the ordeal of military service. I had grown up in the midst of English-speaking prejudice, which had been directed against both me and Afrikaners. My only, limited

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Featured Gallery: Operation Packer



*This SADF Olifant tank was captured practically intact by FAPLA*



*A discarded SADF mine-roller is examined by FAPLA soldiers*



*The G-5 155mm guns of the SA Artillery did sterling work as usual*

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- The English-Afrikaans thing in the SADF, Part 3
- Memoirs of Lieutenant Colonel I.A. Zhdarkin Part 31

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## Liaison with UNITA



Infantry training included the art of camouflaging oneself in the bush

### Link to this story:

<http://www.warinangola.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1277>

"Countries such as Zambia, Zaire, and the RSA should stand together against the communists."

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SWAPO cadres in training somewhere at a base in Angola

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

On 17 September 1975, Lt.-Gen. van den Bergh and Maj.-Gen. Viljoen conducted an interview with Savimbi in Kinshasa. It had been planned that Holden Roberto should also have been present, but due to a misunderstanding he did not arrive.

Savimbi impressed the others with his judgment and insight of military matters. He explained that the rapid advances of the MPLA forces created a new and very critical situation. Whereas he had previously believed that he had enough willing, although unarmed soldiers, he now realised that his men would not be able to keep the situation under control.

He also did not have any

tactical communications systems. He told of the advanced weaponry of the MPLA which, according to him, comprised of 81mm mortars, 76mm guns, RPG 2-, RPG 7- and 122 mm rockets, armoured cars and even tanks. Against this, Savimbi simply did not have sufficient firepower. He was convinced that the situation could only be saved by obtaining aid for UNITA and the FNLA from outside. He felt that countries such as Zambia, Zaire, and the RSA should stand together against the communists.

During their flight back from Kinshasa the two generals agreed with each other that the gift of weapons alone would not be able to save the situation. It would only mean a waste of very expensive materiel, because neither the FNLA, who were at that stage better trained, nor

UNITA, would be able to use it properly. Training, such as which was already provided at Mpupa, would be essential. The fact that the MPLA had armour was worrying and Lt.-Gen. van den Bergh was of the opinion that a small number of armoured cars would be required to execute the operation rapidly.

In order to ascertain themselves of the situation in UNITA's operational area, the Kinshasa visit was followed up a few days later with a visit to the UNITA headquarters at Silva Porto. Officers of the SA Defence Headquarters, the South African Army and Air Force, the Chief of Staff Intelligence as well as representatives of the Bureau of State Security participated in this conference.

It was clear to everyone that the situation was

## The situation was "rather critical"

"rather critical", as the report put it. Only 50 days were left before the independence of 11 November 1975. The MPLA had occupied all the most important ports south of Luanda as well as a strip of land from Luanda eastward in the direction of the Zambian border. In the north the MPLA had advanced towards Ambriz and in the south towards Nova Lisboa, which was the second largest city in Angola. The FNLA and UNITA had to be put in a position to hold the

south, recapture the ports of Benguela and Lobito, and to clear their enemy from the entire area south of the Benguela railway-line.

Thus there were three phases of action envisaged. Phase one would comprise the holding and keeping the UNITA- and FNLA areas currently in their possession. Phase two would comprise of the clearing of the south-western corner of Angola including the cities of Moçamedes and Sá de Bandeira, and the recap-

ture of Benguela and Lobito, and Phase three would be to obtain control over the entire Benguela railway-line. This all had to be achieved before 11 November 1975. What was proposed was a huge aid programme in which South Africa would actively participate. It was approved by the State Security Board and the Minister of Defence also added his approval, emphasising that everything had to be handled very carefully and secretly,

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Featured Equipment: The M18 "Claymore", or Shrapnel mine No 2

The M18A1 Claymore is a directional anti-personnel mine originally developed by the U.S. military. It was named after the large Scottish sword by its inventor, Norman A. MacLeod. Unlike a conventional land mine, the Claymore is command-detonated and directional, meaning it is fired by remote-control, shooting a pattern of metal balls into the kill zone like a shotgun. The Claymore fires steel balls, out to about 100 meters within a 60° arc in front of the device. It is used primarily in ambushes and as an anti-infiltration device against enemy infantry. It is also of some use against

un-armoured vehicles. The M18A1 Claymore mine consists of a horizontally convex green plastic case. The shape was developed through experimentation to deliver the optimum distribution of fragments at 50 m (55 yd) range. The case has the words "Front Toward Enemy" embossed on the front surface of the mine, and the words "Back M18A1 APERS Mine" on the rear surface. A simple open sight on the top surface allows for aiming the mine. Two pairs of scissor legs attached to the bottom support the mine and allow it to be aimed vertically. On both sides of the sight are fuse wells set

at 45 degrees. Internally the mine contains a layer of C-4 explosive behind a matrix of about seven hundred 1/8-inch-diameter (3.2 mm) steel balls (about as big as #4 birdshot) set into an epoxy resin.

Ideally, the mine is detonated as the enemy approaches the killing zone 20 to 30 m (22 to 33 yd), where maximum casualties can be inflicted. Controlled detonation may be accomplished by use of either an electrical or non-electrical firing system.



When used as part of an ambush, the Claymore had more than proven its deadly effectiveness

For more detailed information on the Claymore, see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M18\\_Claymore\\_mine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M18_Claymore_mine)

### Specifications

Country of Origin:	USA
Length:	216 mm (in)
Width:	38 mm (in)
Height:	124 mm (in)
Weight:	kg (3.5lb)
Caliber:	700, 3.2 mm (1/8 in) steel balls
Muzzle Velocity:	1,200 m/s (3,995 ft/s)
Charge:	680g (oz) C-4
Range:	Effective: 50 m (yd)' Max: 250 m (yd)
Detonator Mechanism:	Two detonator well for electrical detonators

"It is used primarily in ambushes and as an anti-infiltration device against enemy infantry."

## The Claymore shrapnel mine



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## Memoirs of Lieutenant Colonel I.A. Zhdarkin, Part 30



Russian advisor demonstrating the use of the B-10 recoilless gun (photo: © Igor Ignatovich)

“Shells explode, shrapnel cracks and pops, but he sits and continues to repair the tank.”

This is the thirtieth part of a 52-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

And how, for example, to appraise the feat of one of our senior lieutenants (who would receive his captaincy at Cuito Cuanavale)? He was a maintenance specialist – tanks, armoured personnel carriers, armoured cars, and armoured reconnaissance patrol cars. He was a quiet, unassuming fellow. His last name was Mosoliov.

The Angolans were simply crazy about him, war or no war, bombardment or no bombardment. If it was necessary to repair

tanks, he went to repair them. He would crawl inside the tank. The bombardment begins, the shells explode, shrapnel cracks and pops, but he sits and continues to repair the tank. Those Angolans, gazing at him also began to repair. More than half of the technique repaired at Cuito Cuanavale was his, Mosoliov’s merit.

Indeed, he did not hurl missiles from an embrasure, nor did he rush forward with a flag, nor did he summon his troops to the attack, he simply repaired equipment. Our Regional Command decided to request for decoration to him, “In the service of the Fatherland” was the name of that decoration. In my opinion, he deserved it – he sat and

repaired under any circumstances whatsoever.

The standard answer to this, however, was “Describe a heroic deed, committed by the comrade”. But how in fact can one describe this deed?” After all, just what type of heroic deed did he commit? What nonsense, you can imagine – he repaired the materiel with which people subsequently moved and fought.

**“Describe in more detail the deed committed by this comrade!”** – Nonsense!

Such answers came from Moscow. And it was from there that such a formal reply now came.

And, moreover, very many times our Command in Angola received

“What for he should be decorated?”

a questionnaire from Moscow with the instruction, “What for he should be decorated?” concerning the people – direct participants in a given operation, participants in military activities. After all, he didn’t blow up three South African tanks, for example. “Describe this alleged deed which he is supposed to have committed, and in more detail.”

And people simply spread their hands and said, “OK, let others carry our decorations.

Although people sitting in the rear: in Luanda and the military districts’ headquarters got their awards and decorations, as we joked for «bravery and courage in the fierce

rear battles». It is always happening like this, as I have already said, those who sit at staff headquarters and at the home front – they usually wear decorations. This is in fact the misfortune of all armies, all states, all wars and all centuries. As for those in the front lines, they are forgotten. And perhaps this is not due to their lack of achievement but even rather that at the time of their achievements, they did not shout about it.

And it usually those who are in the front lines, who are just the ones not to shout about or expand on their heroic deeds, who **just do their work and fulfil their duties**.

And another point is that

they can’t always talk about their deeds, or write down their deeds on paper. If you didn’t draw in colours your “heroic deed” on paper – go away, you a not a hero...

«Without paper you are nothing, and only with paper you are somebody!» says a well-known proverb.

If you received a document proving your participation in the war, isn’t that enough? Don’t you already have your official daily privileges that go with this document?

Orders? Medals? What orders and what medals? There is nothing about your “heroic deed” on paper – no medals to you!



Russian advisor demonstrating the use of the most reliable transportation (photo: © Igor Ignatovich)

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## Historical Account: Operation Hooper: The third 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.

Unita's 66th and 75th Semi-Regular Battalions had meanwhile been doing their work on the west bank of the Cuito. At 10h30 the artillery observer reported heavy fighting in the Bambi area, with Fapla bringing heavy BM-21 fire on to Unita elements there. This fighting was still continuing half an hour later, and the observer reported heavy small-arms and mortar fire in the area at 11h05.

The situation was now complicated for both sides by a thick mist that

began settling over the general area.

The G-5s had shelled the Fapla Forward Command Post at Nancova between 11h30 and 11h50, when rain prevented the forward observer from directing their fire. Fapla's command and control had come to a complete standstill for that period while the command element sought shelter in their bunkers. The observer at the Cuito-Cuanavale confluence was driven out of his position at much the same time, when the 36 Brigade battalion evicted Unita's 118th Semi-Regular Battalion from the area. The result was that there was no longer any proper observation

of the west bank of the Cuito.

Louw had meanwhile cleared a lane through the minefield with his second Plofadder. He advanced through it with his two tank squadrons, the mine-roller leading, and left the armoured car squadron to cover it. The tanks deployed into combat formation, with A Squadron on the right, and moved off a little after 12h00. Fapla resumed intense shelling of his force at much the same time, and direct fire also began to make itself felt, including some Saggars and fire from several 23 mm guns to his east.

By 12h30 his force was drawing so much fire that Louw decided to pull it



Recovery tank in action at the Army Battle School during an exercise

"The observer at the Cuito-Cuanavale confluence was driven out of his position..."

### Louw decided to pull back into dead ground

back into dead ground. The infantry of the 5th Regular Battalion, in particular, had begun to suffer severe casualties - not least to the 23 mm guns.

His forward squadron began moving again at 12h45, but again drew heavy artillery fire, mainly from the west bank, which pinned down the Unita infantry. Eight Fapla tanks were also reported to be moving to the crossing point over the Cuito, and Fapla had put in a request for an air attack on the main South African and Unita force.

Louw made another attempt to advance, but was again brought to a

standstill by intense fire of all calibres. At 13h30 the first of the MiGs were in the air above him to further complicate his situation. He nevertheless persevered with his attack. By 13h46 the attack had, however, stalled again in front of another minefield in which two tanks were damaged. Some of the anti-tank mines in this field were boosted, and Louw was treated to the sight of a complete Olifant suspension unit sailing through the air when one tank detonated a mine. Heavy mortar fire now fell among the tanks, and soon became so intense that the tanks were almost hidden by the smoke and dust.

Louw sent back for another Plofadder and moved his mine-roller forward to clear a lane through this new field. It promptly hit a boosted mine, which blew off a rear suspension unit.

By now the tanks were also running short of diesel fuel as a result of all the to-ing and fro-ing between the minefields. At 13h48 Louw had reported this problem and suggested breaking off the attack to avoid a situation in which some of the tanks might run out of fuel before they could get back to the forward assembly area.

Colonel Fouche agreed with his assessment and at 14h05 ordered him to

*(Continued on page 7)*

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South African Olifant tank crew taking stock of the situation

## The English-Afrikaans thing in the SADF, Part 2



South African Parabats jumping from a SAAF C-160 Transall

"You mean you changed their minds and got yourself made G1K1, you stupid fucking arsehole!"

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SAAF Impala in waiting at an Air Force base

(Continued from page 1)

experience of Afrikaners, at high school, was either neutral or positive [André Nel, Mnr Venter and our extremely stimulating history teacher, Mnr JP van der Westhuizen, who was a classic Afrikaner liberal]. None of the prejudices of my English-speaking classmates seemed to have any foundation in fact. Perhaps I should mention that in Matric we did Afrikaans with our German Deputy-Head Ulrich Oellermann, who was very positive towards the language and probably my best Afrikaans teacher.

My first major exposure to a largely Afrikaans environment was in fact in 5 SAI, Ladysmith. In the army, everything takes on an extreme

form, and the English-Afrikaans thing was no exception. In this place I was to learn both the extent of these prejudices, and also the profound depths of their untruth. My Afrikaans-speaking comrades at Ladysmith were not neutral background characters, as were most of the Afrikaans-speaking pupils at my school. They accepted me as one of them, and stood by me during the early days of my diensplig, when I was a weaking who barely survived the [to me] torturous PT sessions.

One major discovery here was the sheer degree of prejudice arising from the Durban English-speakers. Nowhere in the country was there a group more hostile to Afrikaans and Afrikaners, who hated the very

sound of the language. They referred to it as "forced down our throats". Most of them had no doubt never heard about how brutally English was forced down the throats of Boer children after the War. I will not speculate on what their response to this might have been.

Two stories illuminate the general attitude of Natallers on this issue rather well. In one, a visiting American academic had been invited to a wealthy home in Kloof [pronounced "kloef"]. At the dinner table, he tried a line of poor, heavily-accented Afrikaans. In the ensuing silence, the hostess said to him, "Professor, you can be forgiven, as a visitor, for not understanding these matters. But please, never again

### Never again speak that crude patois in this house

speak that crude patois in this house."

The other occurred during a conversation in which Afrikaners were generally being sneered at. One of those present was sitting silently. During a lull in the conversation, he said, "I think I should tell you that I am Afrikaans-speaking." At once, one of the others turned to him and said, "Yes. But you're not a typical Afrikaner."

Again, these are not speculation, but straightforward accounts of actual situations. And now, I am going to ask you to read one of my other blog entries on this site, An SADF ou man looks at conscription in the

'70s – Part 1. I have taken a few excerpts from it so that you can get the main gist of what it has to say on the English-Afrikaans thing. The background is that I was a G5 who asked to stay on, and managed to persuade the Medics to reclassify me as G1K1. This first excerpt takes up the ensuing story [the full account is in the blog]:

I am taken back to bungalow C3...[the] corporal looks at the relevant page [in my groenboekie], whistles and shakes his head. But he's decent enough to say,

"Mooi so, troep!  
Welkom terug! Gaan

neem weer jou ou plek in!" The others are amazed to see me.

"What're you doing back here? We thought you were going home!"

"I was; but they changed their minds."

"They made you G4K3?"

"G1K1."

"You mean you changed their minds and got yourself made G1K1, you stupid fucking arsehole," says Ritchie-Robinson, a G2K2 from Durban who clearly doesn't want to be here. "What are you, some kind of kop-toe hairy-back?"

*Continued next week...*

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

Met een van ons oefeninge in die bos moes ons ontruim word met 'n Puma Helikopter. Ons was almal natuurlik baie opgewonde omdat die meeste van ons nog nooit in 'n Helikopter gevlieg het nie. Ek was die nommer een van een van die LMG's en ons moes laaste in die Helikopter klim. Ek en my nommer twee sit toe langs mekaar in die oop deur van die Helikopter. Ek sit toe met die LMG op my skoot toe ons opstuig en wonder nog waar die veiligheids gordels is toe die Helikopter, met sy gat in die lug, met 'n vaart opstuig. Ek kon dit nog hanteer maar toe die Helikopter skielik regs swenk en ek loodreg in die

grond vaskyk skrik ek my boeglam. ek dink toe by my self: "Vandag val ek uit hierdie Helikopter!" Ek los toe sommer die LMG en gryp na die ou langs my, hy gryp toe weer op sy beurt na die LMG en die ouens agter ons. Die ouens agter ons lag te lekker vir ons maar

doen toe dieselfde toe die Helikopter weer links swenk. Dit alles was natuurlik baie snaaks vir die Helikopter bemanning wat dit natuurlik moedswillig gedoen het.

Skutter J du Toit  
1990 tot 1991



The Puma helicopter was the primary trooper of the SAAF



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## The third attack on Tumpo Part 3

(Continued from page 5)

pull back to the area of the first minefield while he recovered the damaged tanks, and then to move back to the forward assembly area.

While the Brigade Headquarters considered the situation, Gerhard Louw had begun making efforts to recover the immobilised tanks. One was pulled out successfully by an armoured recovery vehicle, but the other two proved impossible to recover. His own tank and an armoured recovery vehicle failed even to move the one Olifant that had lost its left rear suspension unit;

it simply dug deeper into the sand and became totally unmovable. The tank attached to the mine-roller, also missing a rear suspension unit, was hooked up to three others, but it dug a metre-and-a-half deep furrow in the sand as it was dragged along. The four tanks were reduced to a crawl of about 500 metres an hour, still under heavy fire from a variety of weapons. Louw finally decided to drop off the damaged tank. They then encountered another problem. The strain of the heavy tow had been too much for the shackles, and they could not be released. After struggling fruitlessly with the

tools carried on the tanks, Louw finally shot through the towing cables and the three towing tanks moved off.

The entire recovery operation was fraught with danger, for Louw and his men had to move among the tanks in the minefield, which was known to include a generous proportion of anti-personnel mines. Luck was on their side, and no one stepped on any of them. The tank that Louw had hitched up to his own, however, detonated several anti-personnel mines in the few metres that it moved before it finally dug into

(Continued on page 8)

"The strain of the heavy tow had been too much for the shackles, and they could not be released."



South African mechanized infantry supported by their Ratel Infantry Fighting Vehicle

## The third attack on Tumpo Part 3



A UNIMOG-based ambulance used by the SA Medical Services

“The third attack on Tumpo had, like the first two, broken down...”

Link to this story:

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A target area at the Army Battle School is perforated by the artillery bombardment

(Continued from page 7)

the sand; all in the area over which he, his crew and the recovery crew had moved while hitching it up. Apart from the mines, this work was also carried out under intense artillery and mortar fire, spiced with occasional bursts of 23 mm fire. A BM-21 also began to engage the force from 6 000 metres away, shooting directly at them.

With recovery impossible in the circumstances, Louw asked for permission to destroy the two immobilised tanks with gunfire. The fire falling around them was by then so intense that it was not even possible for their crews to recover their personal possessions safely. General Liebenberg now intervened to order that the tanks should not be destroyed, but left to be recovered later.

Angolan fighters meanwhile again took an interest in these events. Several MiGs attacked Louw's force at 15h03, 'toss bombing' their weapons while some others apparently marked the target with

lasers. The attack was unsuccessful;

some of the bombs fell as far as 7 000 metres from the South African vehicles.

At 16h30 Louw began to move back to the first minefield. In the smoke and dust they could not at first find the cleared lane through it. Louw asked the armoured car squadron to fire some flares to mark the lane, and then took his force through. As they moved back, another tank fell victim to the mines. Its track had been damaged earlier and now broke. With no more cables to tow it, Louw was forced to leave this Olifant behind also.

At 17h30 Regiment Groot Karoo was also ordered to break off its operation and move back to its assembly area. The G-2 battery unexpectedly came under quite accurate artillery fire at that point, but suffered no casualties.

Louw's force reached Cabarata about last light. They stopped in that area for a time while MiGs flew overhead

searching for them in the bush. When the artillery fire began to fall too near his vehicles, Louw resumed his move despite the air threat. In the event, the MiGs did not bother him again. He moved his force through the forward assembly area and laagered for the night just out of artillery range. Next morning he handed over to Commandant Schoeman and went to the Tactical Headquarters to be debriefed on the attack.

Colonel Fouche moved back to his Tactical Headquarters at 18h39, to consider the situation. The generals accompanied him. The other units that had taken part in the attack also moved back to their assembly areas to repair and maintain their equipment.

The third attack on Tumpo had, like the first two, broken down in the defensive minefields and artillery fire. Unita had lost thirteen killed and some wounded. The South Africans had not suffered any casualties, but had to leave behind three damaged tanks.

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## Liaison with UNITA

(Continued from page 2)

because “it is a risky venture”. (SADF Archives)

One of the results of this decision was that the training of UNITA-forces had to be stepped up in haste, as was already

the case with the FNLA-forces. For better coordination it was decided to appoint a liaison officer at Silva Porto (Biè).

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

During the night of **3-4 February 1961** the unrests in Portuguese Angola start with an attack by blacks on the Prison in Luanda.

On **5 February 1961**, retaliation by whites occurred in Luanda.

During **February 1966**, SWAPO attacked a shop, killing the Portuguese owner.

A homemade landmine was discovered in the dry bed of the Kwando River on **5 February 1972**.

On **9 February 1976**, the amendment to the US budget bill through which all funding to the CIA for use in Angola was to be withheld, was enacted.

Toivo Shiyagaya, an Owambo Cabinet minis-

ter, was murdered by SWAPO insurgents on **7 February 1978**.

During **February 1979**, the largest group of SWAPO terrorists to operate inside Owambo, some 250 of them, fired at the Army base at Nkongo with small arms and mortars, and then quickly withdrew over the border.

Also during **February 1979**, a group of SWAPO terrorists mortared the SADF base at Elundu.

On **4 February 1980**, two 32 Battalion companies and two of their reconnaissance teams entered Angola to sweep the area north of Beacon 21, 10 kilometre east and south of Chiede, while the two recce teams were airlifted by

helicopter 14 km to the northwest.

Two platoons of 32 Bn killed two SWAPO guerrillas while patrolling ten kilometres north-east of Namacunde on **5 February 1980**.

On **6 February 1980**, platoons of 32 Bn found an empty base at Chana Nacondo and destroyed a cache of food.

Also on **6 February 1980**, 32 Bn recce teams ambushed a Land Rover driven by a white man and killed 3 SWAPO.

A 32 Bn platoon was attacked by approximately 40 SWAPO on **7 February 1980**, and they called for gunship support.

An automatic ambush of anti-personnel mines, set

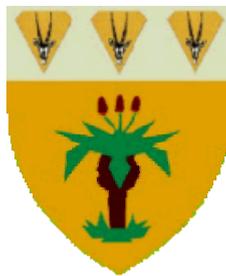
by 32 Bn recce teams resulted in two SWAPO killed on **8 February 1980**.

On **9 February 1980**, a four-man 32 Bn recce team encountered a group of SWAPO. Gunships were called in support and three SWAPO were killed.

The first SWAPO terrorists of the new infiltration were deployed to two camps in the Cubango River area, and one in central southern Angola during **Feb 1986**

On **4 February 1988**, 15 SWAPO were killed in a contact, which brought the total number for February to 35.

SAAF fighters struck SWAPO targets in Xanxongo on **4 February 1988**.



### 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

### Last week's unit flashes:



**16 Maintenance Unit** was established in 1973 at Grootfontein to render 3rd

line logistical support to deployed forces in SWA. The unit was deactivated in 1989, with the demobilisation of SA forces, and reactivated in 1992 at the SA Army Battle School, Lo-hattha. Up to 2000, it was a 2nd line institution rendering support to forces participating in exercises, as well as providing day to day support to the School.



**11 SA Infantry Battalion (Jozini Base)** was a border protection unit responsible for

the for the area from about Pongola to Kosi Mouth, including the Makhatini Flats. It had no permanent troops, only an Headquarters unit, a Signal Troop, a logistics component with its own base below the dam, Military Police station, and a sick bay. Troops allocated by Army HQ from other units were deployed here for border control duties.



**The South African Defence Force Chief of Staff Personnel** provided per-

sonnel-based staff services to the Chief of the SADF and was the first of the six departments and thus numbered as One. The staff functions were all based at the Defence Force Headquarters in Pretoria. Each service: the SA Army, the SA Air Force, the SA Navy as well as the SA Medical Services, had its own Personnel Staff function.



South African G-2 140mm gun in action at the Army Battle School

## Schedule of Events

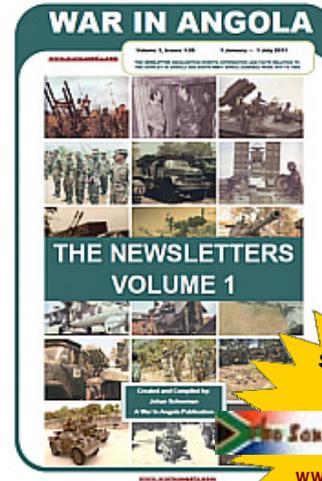
- 11 February 2012 — Hobby Expo 2012, California
- 11 February 2012 — South West Model Show 2012, UK
- **11-12 February 2012 — 18th MSSA North West Board Gaming & Wargaming Championships**
- 15-17 February 2012 — Mission Assurance and Information Security Summit, USA
- 18 February 2012 — CoMMiESFest 2012, Colorado
- 18 February 2012 — ModelFiesta 31, Texas
- 18 February 2012 — Blizcon 2012, Ohio
- 19 February 2012 — Huddersfield 2012, UK

## FEBRUARY 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			

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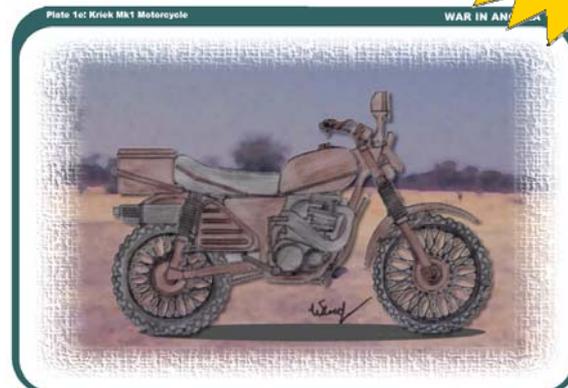
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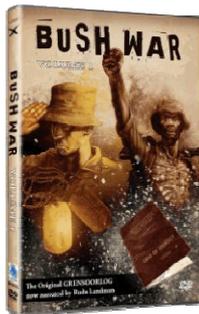
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THE NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTING EVENTS, INFORMATION AND FACTS RELATING TO THE CONFLICT IN ANGOLA AND SOUTH-WEST AFRICA (NAMIBIA) FROM 1975 TO 1989

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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>

### **SOLDIERS OF WAR MC by Ninja**

Ons het verlede jaar November 2011 n nuwe motorfiets klub gestig, naam van club is: SOLDIERS OF WAR MC. Ons is in die Gauteng area, Springs. As daar ou soldate is, wat inbesit is van n mo...

### **RE: SILENT SOLDIERS MC by broer**

To the Silent Soldier...

### **RE: Angola 1987 by Mark (another one) (guest)**

I was in 4 SAI anti Tank Platoon and deployed in Angola during OPS Hooper, the Milan missile system was primarily used by the 90mm Ratel group (using a 3 man team) and as stated to supplement 32 BT f...

### **RE: Please feel free to post your views and comments by 4man**

Posted By n/a on 12/1/2011 3:03:53 PM hello i live in yorkshire near castleford were i un-

derstand mr marchant is after his release if he comes on this forum i would be very grateful if he would sp...

### **Repatriation of the mortal remains of the Ebo Four by host**

"Dear Friends You are hereby cordially informed that the Angolan authorities have now also given their consent for the exhumation and repatriation of the mortal remains of the Ebo Four. Key role...

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

"The noise was deafening as we moved forward past 12 Bravo and took their place in the advance formation. Bullets kept smacking and pinging off the armour and I was straining to see anything other th...

### **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