

WAR IN ANGOLA

Volume 3, Issue 8

24 February 2012

www.warinangola.com

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

Operation Makalani

Extract taken with the author's permission from: "32 Battalion - The Inside Story of South Africa's Elite Fighting Unit", by Piet Nortje.

On 20 February, Sector 10 headquarters issued Operational Order 2/80, authorising 52 Battalion and 32 Battalion to conduct an operation to clear the area north of Beacon 6 to Beacon 13 of SWAPO. From his tactical headquarters at Ogongo, Commandant Ferreira would command six platoons from 32's Bravo, Echo and Golf companies, consisting of 171 men; three companies from 52 Battalion totalling 277 men; two groups from 1 Parachute Battalion; and mine-laying and mine-locating teams from 25 Field Squadron.

It was to be a seek-and-destroy operation, with 52 Battalion sweeping north from the border to an imaginary line called Bravo, moving east to west through Nepolo. The six platoons of 32 Battalion would sweep south from positions 45 km north of Cuamato to the Bravo line. In the second phase,

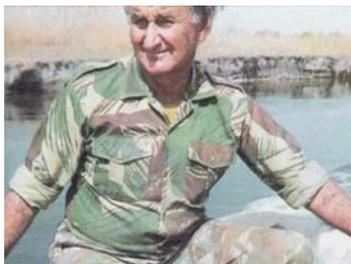
52 Battalion had to establish dominance of the area between the border and Bravo, while 32 Battalion conducted an east-west sweep to another imaginary line, Alpha.

The 32 platoons arrived at Ondangwa on 22 February, and three days later were transported to Ombalantu in Buffel armoured personnel carriers. At 07h45 on 26 February, they were airlifted in Puma helicopters to positions 45 km inside Angola.

The companies from 52 Battalion first saw action on 1 March, when they captured one of six SWAPO guerrillas after a contact at Caco, about 20 km north of the border. Under interrogation, the captive admitted he was a member of a forward reconnaissance patrol, due to link up with a larger group armed with 82-mm mortars and a B10 recoilless gun, prior to attacking the bases at Mahanene and Okalongo. He also led his captors to a cache, about ten kilometres away, of 21 anti-tank mines and mortars.

(Continued on page 7)

Featured Gallery: 32 Battalion



The indefatigable Commandant Jan Breytenbach, founder of 32 Bn



32 Battalion on parade, all spick and polish



32 Battalion in the field, dirty but deadly

Inside this issue:

Training base Capolo	2
Featured Equipment: The No. 8 anti-tank mine	3
Memoirs of Lieutenant Colonel I.A. Zhdarkin Part 32	4
Operation Displace: The last battle...Part 2	5
The English-Afrikaans thing in the SADF, Part 4	6
This past week: "Somewhere on the Border..."	9
Last week's latest topics on the Forums	12

Next Week's Features:

- Operation Savannah: The South African Defence Force Directly involved in Central-Angola: The war from July to September 1975
- Northern Angola: MPLA Strategy
- Featured Equipment: The TM46 and TM57 anti-tank mines
- Operation Displace: The air attack on Calueque
- The English-Afrikaans thing in the SADF, Part 5
- Memoirs of Lieutenant Colonel I.A. Zhdarkin Part 33

THIS PAGE SPONSORED BY:

The South African Hobby Showcase

www.sashowcase.com

Training base Capolo



UNITA soldiers being trained

Link to this story:

<http://www.warinangola.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1281>

"The training team had to first disassemble the foreign weapons in order to establish how they work"

THIS PAGE SPONSORED BY:

The South African Hobby Showcase
www.sashowcase.com



SAAF DC-3 transport planes provided essential supplies to the remote locations in Angola

The twenty-second and last article on the prelude to the participation of the South African Defence Force in the Angolan Civil War:

The next day the training team, most of which were already at Rundu, left for Silva Porto. On 29 September 1975 two of them, Maj. J. Coetzer and Capt. J. Holm, accompanied by Cmdt. van der Waals, visited the training base to discuss the training.

There was a UNITA commander, but almost no organisation. Training was still focused on guerrilla-warfare. The South Africans suggested that the recruits be reorganised by platoons.

It is clear that the training

programme here was at a much larger scale than in the case of the FNLA, that things were planned and executed at speed, and that the training was geared towards immediate operational deployment.

That same evening, 28 September 1975, the rest of the training team moved from Silva Porto to Capolo. The strictest level of security was applied. They were all provided with bogus names and were instructed to only converse in English. In South Africa they were not allowed to take money with them and all identifiable markings were removed from their equipment.

The training team com-

prised of 25 officers, warrant-officers and non-commissioned officers drawn from various departments of the South African Defence Force. Maj. N.J. Visser initially commanded the training project. Later, after Cmdt. Webb had been involved at Capolo for only a short while, Maj. Visser became the full time commanding officer until late in October 1975. It can be mentioned here that Cmdt. Webb, supported by Maj. Holtzhausen and Capt. Holm, managed the training of the soldiers which were already deployed to the front.

There were only two weeks left before the first group had to be ready. During this short period, training were provided in

Training were provided in basic attack- and defence tactics

basic attack- and defence tactics which included shooting, support weapon training, infantry training, artillery training and limited explosives handling. Furthermore, exercises involving the merging of infantry and armour were also done.

The base had a wide variety of weapons. Some were so foreign that the training team had to first disassemble them in order to establish how they work before they could train the recruits on their use. There was a shortage of small arms because those which were available had been issued to the fighting soldiers. Some recruits thus had to practice with sticks, and the first group was only issued with rifles

three days before their departure to the front. Many of the weapons were poorly maintained and rusted.

There were problems with food for the training team until ration packs were received from South Africa about a week later. The local staple diet of meat and maize porridge, with an acute shortage of fruit, bread, butter, jam and milk, did not appeal to them. Language issues also caused problems. Very few recruits could speak English, a group Portuguese, while the rest could only speak Umbundu.

Many recruits only then had their first experience with rifle fire. Some fled after the first shot. There

was a big age difference among them, from old men to young boys. They were physically not strong due to under nourishment. According to Dr. Barrett, a member of the SA Medical Service, 40 percent of them suffered from tuberculosis.

Still, the training progressed well, and UNITA leaders were satisfied with the quality of the training. After 14 days, the first company's training was complete on 15 October 1975, and two days later, another three. There were now two offensive and two defensive companies with one 81mm mortar platoon, one 60 mm mortar platoon, and the crew for

(Continued on page 7)

Featured Equipment: The No. 8 anti-tank mine

Made of non-metallic materials except for the initiator's striker mechanism, this high-explosive mine is extremely difficult to detect with normal equipment. The main charge of 7 kg RDX/TNT 60:40 is fired by a 6.5-g LZY waterproof detonator which fires, in turn, a 3-g tetryl booster and a 58-g RDX Wax 88:12 charge. It requires a variable minimum impact load of 150 to 220 kg to set it off. An empty plug takes the place of the detonator while the mine is in storage or being transported.

All main components are injection moulded in various thermo-plastic materials. Two mines are packed in the standard plastic box.

The South African Nr. 8 anti-tank mine was developed to be safely handled but not easily detectable once laid.

From "South African Arms & Armour", by Helmoed-Römer Heitman; and

SADF's Border War, [SA-truth.Co.Za](http://SAtruth.Co.Za), copyright © [Omutumua Oshili](http://Omutumua.Oshili) - text available under the terms of the Creative Commons Licence 2.0

For more information on the No 8 mine also see Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No_8_mine



Devastating effect of an anti-tank mine on a normal vehicle

Specifications

Country of Origin:	South Africa
Diameter:	259 mm (10.2 in)
Height:	175 mm (6.9 in)
Weight:	7.4 kg (16.3 lb)
Body Material:	Plastic
Charge:	7 kg (15.43 lb) RDX/TNT
Detonator Mechanism:	Impact load of 150 to 220 kg firing a waterproof detonator loaded with booster and charge

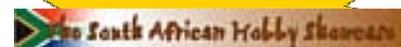
"Developed to be safely handled but not easily detectable once laid"

The No. 8 anti-tank mine



Downloaded from the SADF's Border War, SAtruth.Co.Za, copyright © [Omutumua Oshili](http://Omutumua.Oshili) - image available under the terms of the Creative Commons Licence 3.0

THIS PAGE SPONSORED BY:

 South African Hobby Showcase

www.sashowcase.com

Memoirs of Lieutenant Colonel I.A. Zhdarkin, Part 32



SWAPO leadership in conference

"You received a Cuban medal for the defense of Cuito Cuanavale."

This is the thirty-second 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

But not all of us were able to succeed this way by making a scandal. To me, for example, they said that, according to the instructions of General Gusev's those Soviets, who had received a Cuban medal for participation in the battle of Cuito Cuanavale, were not allowed to get any Soviet military decorations. Therefore, this included advisors and specialists as well as interpreters.

Nor did they give any decorations to my friend

Oleg Gritsuk who had also completed civil institution of higher education, even though he too had wasted two years in jungle. What happened to him also happened to me. He was recommended twice for the "Order of the Red Star" and then for the medal "For Combat Merits." Again nothing!

"You received a Cuban medal for the defense of Cuito Cuanavale. Well, everything is good and this is enough for you. Go home, thank you!"

After such words we simply raised our palms in a gesture of helplessness and set off for home. What an interesting system for awarding decorations, don't you think!

Now I still want to refer

to the system of payment. People actually, except for fulfilling their international obligations, and transmitting their knowledge and providing a training of the Angolan side, apparently still expected to earn money.

I consider that this was fair, because, if you please, to live in such circumstances which were completely alien to us, both in terms of climate, disease, war, etc. and to do all this for virtually no particular reason – well, this was of course unrealistic! After all, the Americans and Europeans received good payment for this same type of conditions, and in terms of the exchange rate at that time, we knew that these same western specialists earned five to six

Western specialists earned five to six times as much as we did

times as much as we did.

On the other hand, in comparison with the USSR, we received of course a lot and were considered to be rich by Soviet standards, by those people who never went abroad and stayed in the USSR... And there was an interesting point: if you came without a wife, you would receive 80% of your salary in basic pay, and 20% in so-called road chits (traveller's cheques).

– What in fact were these road chits (traveller's cheques)?

– Well, you had to sign each cheque but you didn't have the right to use them up. For this, you had to take them

back to Moscow and somewhere, for example, in the office of the hotel Ukraine, to convert them into Soviet rubles on a one-to-one basis.

– And how many chits did they pay you in Angola?

– Well, I earned per month some 1500-1600 chits. This was a lot of money in Soviet times. Our advisors received up to two thousand chits. But the rule was that if you came without a wife, then you received only 80% of this. As they said jokingly about women, they also worked – they earned another 20% for their husbands. This meant that if you were in a given military district without a wife, you re-

ceived 80%, but if you served in an actually fighting brigade, then you received the full 100%, but only if you were an advisor or a specialist.

Interpreters serving in the same fighting brigade received in any case only 80% in accordance with some mythical order, D-54. That was all we could find out. According to an annex to D-54, if you were an interpreter, then you received only 80%, even if you had during this period participated more than 300 times in battle.

To be continued next week in Part 33...



Triumphant FAPLA soldiers cross the Cuito river wearing their "Defence of Cuito Cuanavale" medals after the South African withdrawal (Photo source: Unknown)

THIS PAGE SPONSORED BY:

South African Hobby Showcase
www.sashowcase.com

Operation Displace: The last battle, Part 2

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

About 09h00 Nortmann's force reached the second crest-line on its path, about thirty-five kilometres from Calueque. He stopped just short of the crest, climbed out and stood on his turret to scan ahead of his force. Seeing nothing, he continued the advance, as he had still not found a position he liked. As they entered the bush in the valley below the crest, a Ratel-90 on his right was hit by an RPG-7 fired from twenty-five metres to its right. The Ratel was badly damaged by

internal explosions and could not be recovered in the middle of a developing covering force action, so it was quickly blown up.

At 09h12 G-5s began shelling the advancing tanks. The forces in contact continued to exchange heavy fire. Another Ratel-90 was now hit and badly damaged, this one by a 100 mm projectile fired by a tank. The troop leader, Lieutenant Meiring, was killed and three members of his crew were wounded. This Ratel-90 was also blown up to prevent its capture.

Hannes Nortmann had shot out a tank and then found himself fully engaged dealing with infantry and RPG teams that

had come too near for comfort, using his turret-top machine-gun to keep them away. He was hit in the neck and hand during the fighting. The other Ratel-90s of the anti-tank platoon also engaged the infantry, tanks and other vehicles that had appeared, using fire and manoeuvre to hit the enemy without exposing their thin-skinned Raids to the fire of the tanks. They shot out a BTR-60 and some trucks and caused heavy casualties among the dismounted infantry with coaxial and turret-top machine-guns and 90 mm cannister rounds.

After some minutes of intense fighting, the enemy broke contact and began to withdraw. The



Olifant tanks in action at the Army Battle School during an exercise

"The Ratel was badly damaged by internal explosions and could not be recovered"

The enemy broke contact and began to withdraw

crews of the two Ratels that had been hit were picked up by the other Ratel-90s. They then pulled back a little to be clear of the bush and any infantry still lurking in it with RPGs, which were very dangerous to them at the close ranges imposed by the bush. Major Vermeulen had meanwhile in any case ordered the Ratels to pull back out of range of the opposing tanks. Nortmann, who had been wounded in the neck and hand, was the last to withdraw, having fought on his own for a while as the rest of the Ratels retired.

The tank squadron had by now come up and engaged the enemy as

they withdrew. The Olifants shot out another tank, a BTR-60 and several other vehicles before contact finally broke off when the enemy force drew out of range at 10h00. The fighting had lasted about an hour. The G-5s had kept fire on the enemy force through most of this period, together with the 120 mm mortar battery.

Two Pumas flew forward and collected the casualties at 10h30. Signals intercepts revealed that a large Cuban tank force was on the way to join the force engaged in this lighting. With only a single tank squadron available to him, Mike Muller pulled it and the other combat team back

to let the situation develop a little before deciding where to engage again. He also suggested that 32 Battalion should withdraw its elements from the area, as the situation was developing into one that they were not equipped for,

By 10h40 the opposing force had regrouped and was probing in an attempt to turn the flank of the South African force. Several of the 32 Battalion patrols were now encountering enemy elements. They broke contact under cover of G-5 fire and withdrew. Several MiG-23s dropped bombs six kilometres from 102 Battalion elements deployed



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

(Continued on page 8)

The English-Afrikaans thing in the SADF, Part 4



South African soldiers pouring fire onto a target during an exercise

"G5G1, jy gaan bloed pis! Fokken Italiaanse hondedrol"

THIS PAGE SPONSORED BY:

The South African Hobby Showcase
www.sashowcase.com



SAAF Bosbok light aircraft provided crucial observation over the battlefield

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

Those seven boertjies were the greatest, and we spent twelve of the best [if agonizing] weeks of my life together.

Now I want to go back to the main issue. There were many Afrikaans-speaking instructors who gave us hell during our army days, not the least those monstrous individuals known as PTIs. They would use anything at their disposal to break you down, and for your later survival it was vital that they did. So their rondfok was part of the process. At the times, rondfok could be painful and even humiliating; but if you had the guts to go through with it, it worked.

a consummate bastard who hammered me unrelentingly for the first six weeks. Few people can have been as victimised as I was by him. And yet, at the end of it, I ran the 8 Km with three minutes to spare, and as I staggered in, totally buggered [sorry, it's the only word to describe how I felt], he gave me the thumbs-up! His monstrous harshness had actually made me tough enough to survive that run. I quote again briefly from An SADF ou man looks at conscription in the '70s – Part 1:

The SADF had only three months in which to achieve this transformation. This time constraint to a large degree deter-

"Vetseun Engelsman" "Rooineek", "Soutie/ Soutpiel or "Engelse hondedrol" was no worse than some of the epithets "my" PTI used on me: "G5G1, jy gaan bloed pis!"; "Fokken Italiaanse hondedrol"; "Mammie se klein Geentjie"; "Onnosele klein fokkertjie". And these were amongst the milder ones. With my glasses, my weakness and my voluntary change from G5 to G1K1, I came in for more than my fair share of rondfok.

Some of the English-speaking guys liked to think they were being tough by resisting the "Dutchmen" who were training them. They weren't. In fact, they were working against their own best interests. Co-operating with the guy who is breaking you

down in order to rebuild you as a soldier is damned hard work, and you need to be mentally strong to accept the training and to go through with it. If you did, you'd certainly be extremely fit and tough at the end. The instructors had to do it, and chances were you had a bigger chance of cracking if you resisted. Not because they made it worse for you; it was because they were doing the toughening up, and you lost it by resisting. In any case, most of the guys who "resisted" knew there were limits beyond which not even the PTIs would go. It wasn't nearly as brave or as dangerous as it can be made to look.

SADF Basics certainly toughened me up; permanently. "My" PTI was

"My" PTI was a consummate bastard

mined the process – and the intensity – by which which we were broken down and rebuilt...

Some critics have a lot to say about the injustices and brutality of SADF training. They are talking kak. Apart from the odd sadist, which one finds in any army, it was not unjust or brutal at all. It was hard, but it was necessary and for the most part, fair...

Never once did I feel I was being singled out for being an Engelsman [linguistically] or even an Italianer [ethnically]; it was army business, mostly about toughening up this soft little WOP into becoming a strong,

fit SADF soldier. I will not deny that there were sadists, fellows who messed one around because they could, rather than because they needed to. But these were sadists, not necessarily Afrikaners. In fact, the biggest sadist in Charlie Coy was a Lieuty called Hitchings. Now there was a swine! But he was a swine because he was a sadist, not because he was an Engelsman.

So the necessary hardness of our instructors and their regime was not the issue. What can account for the very different way in which I have experienced Afrikaners

(Continued on page 8)

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

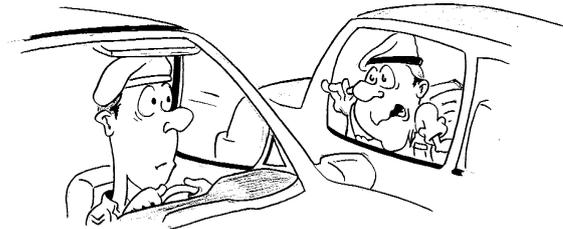
Ek het die sidedrums in die Militere orkes gespeel en ons was een naweek in Maryvale vir 'n groot optog deur die strate. Die Vrydag roep ons Koporaal ons bymekaar en vertel ons dat hy famielie het wat in Maryvale woon en hy wil graag 'n bietjie vir hulle gaan kuier. Hy vra ons toe om ons asseblief te gedra en nie die kamp te verlaat deur te AWOL nie. Hy kyk dadelik na my en sê: "Veral jy Matthee want uit ondervinding

weet ek sodra ek by die hek uit is, is jy op my hakke. Ek sê toe vir hom hy hoef nie te worry nie ek sal seker maak nie een van die ouens AWOL nie. Hy was skaars weg of ek gryp my goed en is by die hek uit huis toe. Die Koporaal het sy eie motor gehad en ek het hom seker nie genoeg tyd gegee om die pad te vat nie want nadat ek 'n ry geleentheid gekry het gaan ons hom verby op die hoofweg. Ek wou nog dekking slaan

maar dit was te laat want toe ons langs hom is kyk hy my in die oë. Hy kyk my toe net met 'n verbaaste uitdrukking op sy gesig aan en ek lig toe maar net my skouers en waai vir hom. Na

die episode het hy ons nooit weer vertrou nie.

Sapeur B Matthee
1984 tot 1985



Training base Capolo

(Continued from page 2)

one 106 mm gun, ready for the war. Training of the next group was commenced with immediately.

When the South Africans evacuated the base on 8 November 1975, the following UNITA forces were trained: three infantry battalions, each com-

prising of three companies, three 81 mm mortar platoons, three 60 mm mortar platoons, three 4.5 inch mortar platoons, and three .50 inch Browning machinegun platoons, and crews for eleven 106 mm guns. They also trained another 60 UNITA soldiers as a leader group and another 60 as instruc-

tors. These instructors were chosen from the UNITA ranks and were trained from the beginning of October in such a way that they could continue with the training after the South Africans had withdrawn. They continued with the training tasks after 8 November 1975.

Operation Makalani

(Continued from page 1)

On 3 March, 32's platoons were about ten kilometres inside Angola when a member of the local population provided information about a SWAPO base west of the Cunene River, a kilometre from Calueque. Since this was well outside the area they had been assigned to patrol, they did not follow up. At 10h45, Golf Company's second platoon was following the tracks of ten SWAPO seven kilo-

metres east of Naulila, when they found a large underground cache containing 17 bags of maize meal. After the platoon sergeant had prodded the bags to check for anti-personnel mines, Rifleman M Yenga made to remove one. It was booby-trapped after all, and an APPMISR anti-personnel jump mine detonated, killing Yenga and wounding riflemen M Bocolo and M Carlos, as well as Corporal B Dixisi.

At 08h05 on 5 March, Bravo Company's first

platoon spotted five SWAPO about 12 km south of Naulila. As they opened fire, the platoon came under attack from a group of buildings 400 m away. With two enemy confirmed dead, the first and second platoons joined forces and swept through the buildings, but SWAPO had already moved on. The platoons continued moving south, arriving at Beacon 3 around last light, then returned to Ruacana. This marked the end of Makalani

THIS PAGE
SPONSORED BY:

South African Hobby Showcase

www.sashowcase.com

"An APPMISR
anti-
personnel
jump mine
detonated,
killing Yenga"



A South African Eland-90 armoured car, for many years provided support to the infantry, until replaced by the Ratel-90

Operation Displace: The last battle, Part 2



South African Parachute Infantry (Parabats) being dropped during an exercise

Link to this story:

<http://www.warinangola.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1053>

"Nortmann could not use his Ratel: all six tyres were flat."

(Continued from page 5)

north of the river. The South African covering force was now ordered to break contact and withdraw. The artillery began withdrawing at 12h55 and crossed the Cunene into South West Africa, while the elements of 61 Mech remained deployed forward to cover their withdrawal. The tanks crossed the Cunene later that afternoon. The other elements withdrew to the river.

The Cubans, however, did not resume their advance but withdrew to

Techipa.

Intelligence later revealed that Nortmann and the tank squadron had clashed with one of three columns that had moved out from Techipa. The force seems to have been a mixed Cuban and Fapla motorised infantry regiment, with 35 tanks and some 600 infantry mounted in APCs and trucks. The column that clashed with the 61 Mech force lost 302 men killed and two T-55s, two BTR-60s and eight trucks destroyed. The South Africans had first estimated about 200 enemy killed, but revised

the figure upwards two days later on the basis of intelligence from various sources.

Nortmann drove back to Calueque in his Ratel to get his wounds seen to. The Rinkhals ambulance having already left with the other wounded. He arrived at Calueque to find that the casualty evacuation Puma had already left. The doctor treated him in the Rinkhals and then took him along with him. Nortmann could not use his Ratel: all six tyres were flat.

** Please note that the above extract is copyrighted under the Berne Convention in terms of the Copyright Act (Act 98 of 1978). No part of this extract may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical including photocopying, recording or by any information storage and retrieval system without permission in writing from the publisher. Published by Ashanti Publishing Limited, Gibraltar, a division of Ashanti International Films Limited, Gibraltar.*

The English-Afrikaans thing in the SADF, Part 4

(Continued from page 6)

throughout my life, then? Why should I, who for my first eighteen years grew up in the same way as my then fellow English-speakers, have had such a colossally different experience of Afrikaners? Because my experience is real. I have not in any way speculated on motivations. I have confined myself to facts. It is almost as though we were speaking about two totally different peoples.

I can only really speak with any knowledge for Durbanites. I have gone

back and back to this issue for years, without finding any satisfactory answers by way of explanation for the phenomenon.

I have often asked of Durban English-speakers why they do not learn to speak Afrikaans properly. The most common answer is that Afrikaans is not an "international language" like English. But it was then an official language, and even today it is one of the biggest of the 11 official languages. Italians, Hungarians, Finns and Romanians do not refuse to speak their

language simply because it is not "international". What does English being an "international" language have to do with it one way or another?

Continued next week...



Puma helicopter of the SAAF in flight

**THIS PAGE
SPONSORED BY:**

The South African Hobby Showcase

www.sashowcase.com

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

Chipenda and his supporters broke away from the MPLA and joined the FNLA on **21 February 1975**.

West-Germany, as one of the last countries of the EEC, acknowledged the MPLA-government on **20 February 1976**.

On **23 February 1976**, Angola took its place as the 47th member country of the OAU at the 26th Ministerial Summit at Addis Ababa, with Jose Eduardo dos Santos as the Angolan representative.

Cmdt Breytenbach personally led two platoons of 32 Bn in pursuit of small groups of SWAPO 14 km inside Angola on **19 February 1977**.

On **22 February 1977**, a

platoon of 32Bn stumbled on a well-camouflaged SWAPO base 2 km south-east of Chana Henombe.

On **24 February 1978**, A large group of SWAPO terrorists abducted 240 children and a teacher from the Anglican school at St Mary's Mission Station, 3km from the border and take 160 of them into Angola, the others escaping.

By **22 February 1980**, 55 SWAPO cadres have been confirmed killed in the 18-days of Operation Driehoek.

Despite almost daily contact with small groups of SWAPO by **16 February 1981**, no large concentrations were found by 32 Bn elements, and it appeared

that SWAPO had withdrawn from the Omupande area.

On **17 February 1981**, companies of 1 SAI Bn and 8 SAI Bn were deployed 3 km apart east of the Santa Clara-Namacunde road, while four platoons from 32 Bn were assigned to patrol the area north and west of Chiede.

A company of 32 Bn located and attacked a SWAPO base seven kilometres east of Techipa, killing 11, on **22 February 1982**.

On **19 February 1984**, 350 men of 101 Battalion is deployed to Cuvelai to prepare the Joint Monitoring Commission headquarters site.

157 SWAPO terrorists

had been killed the year up to the **end of February 1985**, with the security forces having lost 7 killed.

16 Terrorists were killed in clashes with KOE-VOET and the SWATF between **15-21 February 1986**.

During **22-23 February 1986**, 15 terrorists were killed in a running contact with SWATF.

Another 82 terrorists and two policemen died in clashes in **February 1987**.

On **20 February 1988**, 8 Mirages of the SAAF struck the Tobias Han-yeko Training Centre and a transit camp near Lubango, and five Impalas struck SWAPO targets in Ongiva.



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:



Regiment Louw Wepener was established in Ladybrand in 1934. During

World War 2 both it and Regiment De Wet were absorbed into Regiment President Steyn. In 1946, the regiment was resuscitated and in 1960, it became Regiment Oos-Vrystaat. The original designation was re-adopted in 1966. The regiment served until well into the 1990s, when it was absorbed into Regiment Bloemspruit.



The Drakensberg Commando was raised in 1961 in Newcastle as a company of

the Dundee Commando. The unit became a commando in August 1964. A company did border duty in South West Africa in 1976. It was under command of Group 11 until that Group HQ was disbanded and was then placed under command of Group 27 in Eshowe. The commando saw much duty in the internal unrest of northern Natal.



7 Provost Company was initially a company of Regiment Voortrekkerhoogte. The

company was attached to 7 SA Infantry Division. During the late 1990's, this company formed the core of 7 Provost Unit when 7, 8 and 9 Provost Company's were informally integrated into one unit.



South African Infantry being deployed

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

Schedule of Events

- 25 February 2012 — Old Dominion Open, Virginia
- 25 February 2012 — On Track 2012, UK
- 26 February 2012 — The South Cheshire Militaire, UK
- 27-29 February 2012 — Cognitive Radio Summit, USA
- 27-29 February 2012 — Joint Search and Rescue Summit, USA
- 27 February-1 March 2012 — 9th Annual Airborne ISR 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	1		

All 26 issues of the **first volume** of the War In Angola Newsletters, presented in a **single, high quality, well-bound, 310-page hard-cover A4-sized book**. The printed edition includes a complete **Table Of Contents**, a comprehensive **Glossary** of all the terms, acronyms, abbreviations and equipment used in the newsletters, a select **Bibliography**, as well as a detailed **Index**. Finally, to replace the Events Section on page 10 of every issue, a full-colour, detailed hand-drawn **Schematic Drawing** of relevant equipment has also been included. Designed to be the first of many more volumes to come...

Each full colour volume is now available to **order at R695 each, plus R50 for shipping!** (That's just over R2 per page, INCLUDING the hard cover!). Order you copy now from the War In Angola Online Store at <http://www.warinangola.com/Default.aspx?tabid=801>



THIS PAGE SPONSORED BY:

Two South African Hobby Showers

www.sashowcase.com

NEW IN THE PRINTED EDITION OF THE WAR IN ANGOLA NEWSLETTERS VOLUME 1:

26 FULL COLOUR hand drawn sketches of equipment used in the War In Angola. Every tenth page of each newsletter (that is this page) has been replaced by a beautiful full- or partial-page colour plate, each sketch drawn by Will Schoeman

("Wired"), and overlaid onto an appropriate background setting.

Each Volume is printed digitally in colour on both sides of 310 pages White Bond 80 g/m² paper, folded, gathered and perfect (buffalo) bound with hard covers drawn on; Caselining (Cover) printed in colour on Gloss Art 150 g/m²



PREMIUM MEMBERSHIP

With over 6,400 UNIQUE visitors to War In Angola, viewing in excess of 167,000 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:

- Access to a growing library of information not available to other users
- A 5% discount on the Newsletters Volume 1 PRINTED EDITION
- A 5% standing discount on ALL items sold on WIA while a subscriber
- Access to your own per-

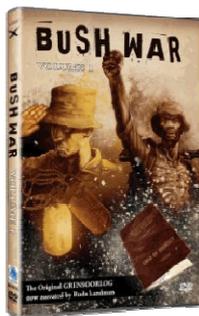
sonal WARBLOG where you can post your own stories and photos and create your own profile

- Allow or disallow public users to comment on your posts and/or photos
- Communicate directly with other PREMIUM MEMBERS
- Be the FIRST to learn of new developments and information on WIA
- Free subscription to this weekly newsletter (electronically) and access to a high-quality printable version

5% Off

Special Offer

Get 5% off your orders when you also subscribe to be a PREMIUM MEMBER. PREMIUM MEMBERS get access to stacks



of additional information which increases every week and get a 5% standing discount on ALL items ordered, such as the "Bush War" or "Grensoorlog" DVDs

War in Angola

Subscribe online or download a high-quality version of this newsletter for printing purposes from:
<http://www.warinangola.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1082>



SUBSCRIBE NOW!

Sign up for:	Period*	Price ZAR	Price USD	Price GBP
<input type="checkbox"/> PREMIUM MEMBERSHIP	Per Year	R120.00	\$15.00	£10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> This Free Weekly Newsletter	Weekly	Free	Free	Free
<input type="checkbox"/> SADF "Ouman" (War Veteran) Sticker	Each	Free	Free	Free
<input type="checkbox"/> Page Sponsorship (per page)	2 months	R300.00	\$37.00	£24.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Website Site Wide Advertisement	2 months	R800.00	\$98.00	£65.00
<input type="checkbox"/> "An Unpopular War" Poster	each	R300.00	\$37.00	£24.00
TOTAL:		_____		

Method of Payment

- EFT (details will be emailed)
 PayPal johan@veridical.co.za

Name _____
 Address _____

 Country: _____
 Email: _____

* Prices subject to change and confirmation

Signature _____

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

The War In Angola
 34 Glen Oak Rd
 Welcome Glen
 Simons Town 7995 South Africa

Phone: +27 (0)72 409-6271
 Fax: 086 626-3388 (SA only)
 E-mail: info@warinangola.com

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

War in Angola

The War In Angola
34 Glen Oak Rd
Welcome Glen
Simons Town 7995 South Africa

Phone: +27 (0)72 409-6271
Fax: 086 626-3388 (SA only)
E-mail: info@warinangola.com



Get your FREE SADF Veteran Sticker:
<http://www.warinangola.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1088>

The War In Angola website (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

THIS PAGE
SPONSORED BY:

South African Hobby Showcase
www.sashowcase.com

Last week's latest topics on the Forums

Link to the Forums:

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

RE: Please feel free to post your views and comments by Colin Reeves (guest)

Hi Guys, Came to South Africa in 1980. Served in UK Forces from 1952 to 1980 (RAF, 17/21 Lancers and Defence Fire Services). Served as a Fireman in various places in RSA and joined Nelspruit Comman...

RE: Please feel free to post your views and comments by stuart smith (guest)

why have you copied my post do you know anything?

RE: SILENT SOLDIERS MC by broer

En laastens:

RE: SILENT SOLDIERS MC by broer

En nog 'n paar:

RE: SILENT SOLDIERS MC by broer

Nog:

RE: SILENT SOLDIERS MC by broer

En nog meer:

RE: SILENT SOLDIERS MC by broer

Nog meer van sy motorfiets:

RE: SILENT SOLDIERS MC by broer

Ek het die man by 32 se boom ontmoet. Kyk net die ongelooflike werk op sy motorfiets:

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 understand 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.