

COLD WAR

The Forgotten Front

1966 - 1989

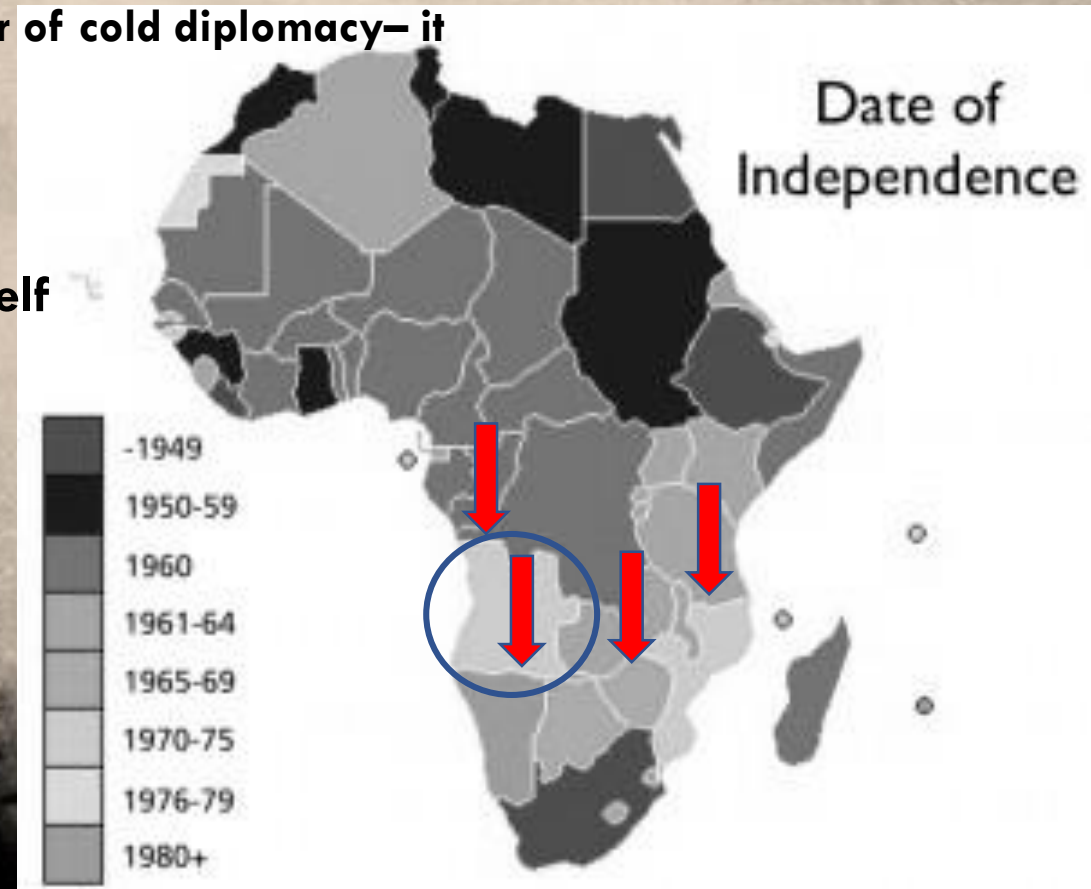
They say no bullets were fired during the cold war – that is a convenient lie.

For 23 years the longest war of the century was fought in the vast bush of Southern Africa - The Soviets using the Cubans as their proxy army and the West coaxing the RSA to fight their war on this forgotten front. Just here it was not a war of cold diplomacy– it was a **real war** fought by **real men** on both sides.

This series is dedicated to the men of these wars.

It was a time when the soldier and his soldiering skills himself decided whether he came back or not. It was the last era of supreme soldiering in a perfectly hostile terrain.

The Bush is always neutral !!



MISSION ORDERS – OPS ZEELIE

1. **Situation:** We act to protect the South against the infiltration of insurgency forces. Approximately 30 to 40 Insurgents have been sighted South, just north of the cutline, intending to infiltrate the South.

Since it is dry season, it is common cause that there are very few water sources in the area. It can thus be accepted that the insurgent forces will be looking for water. As such, Reconnaissance is underway by 2 local Bushmen scouts to establish the locations of the very limited waterholes in the area.

2. **Your Mission:** To locate and eliminate the reported insurgent group that is moving toward the South. You need to rendezvous with the local scouts –who will lead you to the few waterholes that are present just North of the cutline. Follow any trails that might be discovered in the vicinity of these waterholes. Engage any opportunity targets.

3. **Execution.** The Operation will be done in 6 Phases as follows:
Phase 1 - Reconnaissance (currently underway by Bushmen scouts.)
Phase 2 - Preparation & Planning at FOB Fort Vrede –this phase.
Phase 3 - Navigate to Bushmen Scouts at grid **0525-0793**.
Phase 4 - Let scouts lead the unit to the waterholes.
Phase 5 - Look for any traces of human activity, and follow-up.
Phase 6 - The exfiltration and consolidation.

5. **Guidelines & restrictions.**

- Standard Geneva Conventions law applies
- Civilian casualties to be avoided at all cost.
- Small Tactics Operation. **No more than 18 men.**
- Insurgents might be South of the cutline already, so extreme vigilance needs to be applied.
- Completion date no later than **Nov, 30th.**

6. **Coordinating Instructions.**

- Mission Planning complete by **Nov, 20th.**
- Mission order on **Oct, 25th**

7. **Timings.**

- Mission to start: 16:00
- Return to FOB: 18:30



Failure to plan is planning to fail.

RESTRICTED

BRIEFING – PART 1 – ENVIRONMENT

General terrain :

- Rural African dry winter bush
- Mostly Sparse with Medium to Dense bushes at times.
- Relatively flat region with low elevation dunes and dips.
- Very few to no rocks in most places.
- Cutline at Longitude **0793**
- **North of Cutline is Hostile Territory.**

CUTLINE



TOP SECRET

BRIEFING – PART 2 –HOSTILE FORCES

Hostile Forces:

- Soviet trained forces from Communist North.
- Armed with AK47's, RPK's, PKM's & RPG's.
- Ranging from 15 to 40. (Various accounts)
- Will be travelling on foot.



TOP SECRET

BRIEFING – PART 3 –CIVILIANS & ALLIES

Civilian Population:

- Very Rural Area, with extremely few settlements.
- Settlement sizes ranging from 3 to 8 huts.
- Civilians are mostly Pro-Western.
- Insurgents might be hiding among civilian population.
- No civilians may be harmed in any way.
- Unless they are armed, civilians are not to be detained.



Bushmen Scouts:

- From our own regiment (wearing brown vests with camo pants).
- Armed with R1 rifles.
- Native to the AO area.
- Travel only by foot.
- They will lead the way to the waterholes in the AO.



TOP SECRET

BRIEFING – PART 4 –APPROVED LOGISTICS

Forward Operating Base:

- Fort Vrede located at Lat: 05300, Long: 01300.
- Fully equipped Field Hospital.
- Munitions Bay.
- Vehicle Repair Bay.

Transportation:

- Land Rover Sabres with mounted MG's. x 4

Equipment at FOB (Munitions Bay):

- Binoculars x 20
- Compass x 20
- Map Tools x 20

Signalling & Communications at HQ (Briefing Area):

- AN/PRC77 Long Range x 3

Medical Supplies at FOB (Field Hospital):

- Bandage (Basic) x 50
- Bandage (Elastic) x 50
- Basic Field Dressing (Quick Clot) x 50
- Epinephrine Injector x 30
- Morphine Injector x 30
- Tourniquet x 30
- Saline 1000mil x 20
- Body bag x 20
- Earplugs x 10
- Surgical Kit x 4

Weaponry:

- Primary Weapon: R1 Combat Rifle x 1/per person
- 7,62mm R1 20Rnd Magazines (Webbing) x 6
- 7,62mm R1 20Rnd Magazines (Ammo Crates) x 100
- 7,62mm R1 20Rnd Magazines (Vehicles) x 100
- Smoke Grenades x 20

Grenades:

- M67 Fragmentation Grenade x 1/per person
- Smoke White x 2/per person
- Smoke Red x 1/per person
- Smoke Green x 1/per person

TOP SECRET

BRIEFING – PART 5 –MANPOWER STRUCTURE

-Command: 3 Members: CO
 Advanced Medic
 Advanced Engineer.

- Alpha 1 Max 5 Operators.

- Bravo 1 Max 5 Operators.

- Charlie 1 Max 5 Operators.

TOTAL MAX Operators: 18

TOP SECRET

BRIEFING – PART 4 – EVALUATION

KEY ISSUES.

1. **Briefing Suitability:**
Is it clear, complete, comprehensive
2. **Tactics .**
Is it suitable to the task, rehearsed, co-ordinated, planned.
3. **Skills**
Are the people trained, structured, purposeful.
4. **Comms**
Upwards and downwards – radio work hand signals etc
5. **Result.**
Was the objective reached within the guidelines given
6. **Overall.**
General perception of the mission execution and overall professionalism.



BRIEFING – PART 4 – EVALUATION

SCORE SHEET

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