

Hi. Thank you for reading “The Many Wars I Fought.”. Here below you will find the photos referenced in the book. The Page Numbers below correspond with the Photo Numbers in the book, so ‘Photo 1’ referenced in the book will be on Page 1 below, ‘Photo 2’ will be on Page 2, etc. An Index of all the photos can be found at the end on Page 63 below.

There are two really interesting addendums here below that you do not want to miss. These are . . .

Pages 46-48 - link to some of the most popular (older and newer) songs about the war. Some of them are so moving that you will tear up.

Pages 49-62 - contain some of the deepest reflections of other men who have served in the SADF or their families and friends. These are true-life comments from real-life soldiers—wow!

I harvested most of the photos in this book from two phenomenal sites on the web. The first is a Facebook page called “**GRENSOORLOG 1966-1989 – BORDERWAR,**” managed by Tertius Zitzke – with close to 100,000 members, [HERE](#), and the second is “**War in Angola,**” managed by Johan Schoeman - with over 100,000 views per month, [HERE](#). These are phenomenal troves of information and represent an incredible amount of hard work and authentic research. These men are truly champions.

If you have comments, corrections, or questions, please feel free to email me at Emile@TheManyWarsIFought.com. I cannot promise to answer each email, but I will definitely read them all and respond to as many as I can. Thank you.

Feel free to download this photo album to reference as you read if that makes sense.

DISCLAIMER

I did not take any of these photos myself; all of them are sources from the web. To the best of my knowledge, I have not used any that are copyrighted. If you find a copyrighted photo, please let me know, and I will remove it or get the necessary permissions to use it. Thank you.

South African Border War

The Angolan War of Independence morphed into the South African Border War



A Comprehensive List of Political and Military Forces Involved in the South African Conflict.

MPLA - Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola - Popular Movement for the Libera

FAPLA - Forças Armadas Populares de Libertação de Angola - People's Armed Forces for the Libera

FNLA - Frente Nacional de Libertação de Angola – National Front for the Liberation of Angola

ELNA - Exército de Libertação Nacional de Angola, or the Army for the National Liberation of Angola – military wing of FNLA

FLEC - Frente para a Liberação do Enclave de Cabinda - Front for the Liberation of the Cabinda Enclave, a terrorist organisation based in the Cabinda district, opposing MPLA infiltration into Cabinda in the mid-1960s

UNITA - Uniao Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola - National Movement for the Total Liberation of Angola

FALA - Forças Armadas de Libertação de Angola, Portuguese for UNITA's armed wing, the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola

SWAPO - South-West African People's Organisation

PLAN - People's Liberation Army of Namibia, the military wing of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO)

RSA - Republic of South Africa

SADF - South African Defence Force (prior to 1994), also SAW ("Suid Afrikaanse Weermag")

SWA - South West Africa

SWATF - South-West Africa Territory Force, the Security Forces of South-West Africa from August 1980

MINFAR - Ministerio de las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias, Spanish name of the Cuban Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (above the FAR)

FAR - Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias, Spanish name of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces

MMCA -Mision Militar Cubana en Angola, Spanish for Cuban Military Mission in Angola

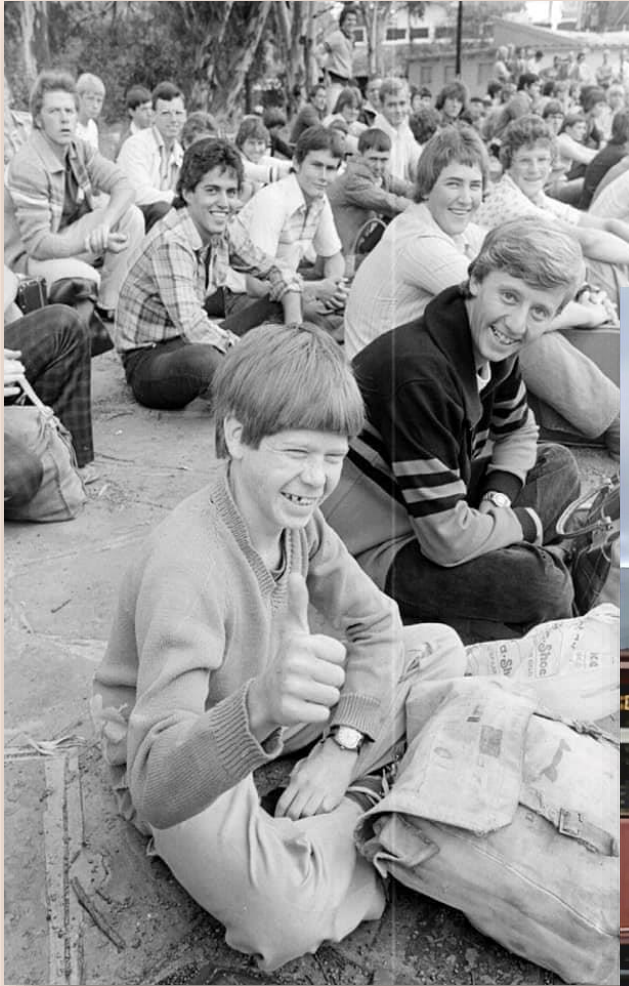
USSR - Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Forças Armadas - Portuguese Armed Forces

CoBeTCKaA BoeHHan mmccma b AHrojie - **Sovetskaya voyennaya missiya v Angole**, the Soviet Military Mission in Angola (no abbreviation)

Thank you to Johan Schoeman of “TheAngolaWar.com” for this list

Off to Become Soldiers



South African Trains

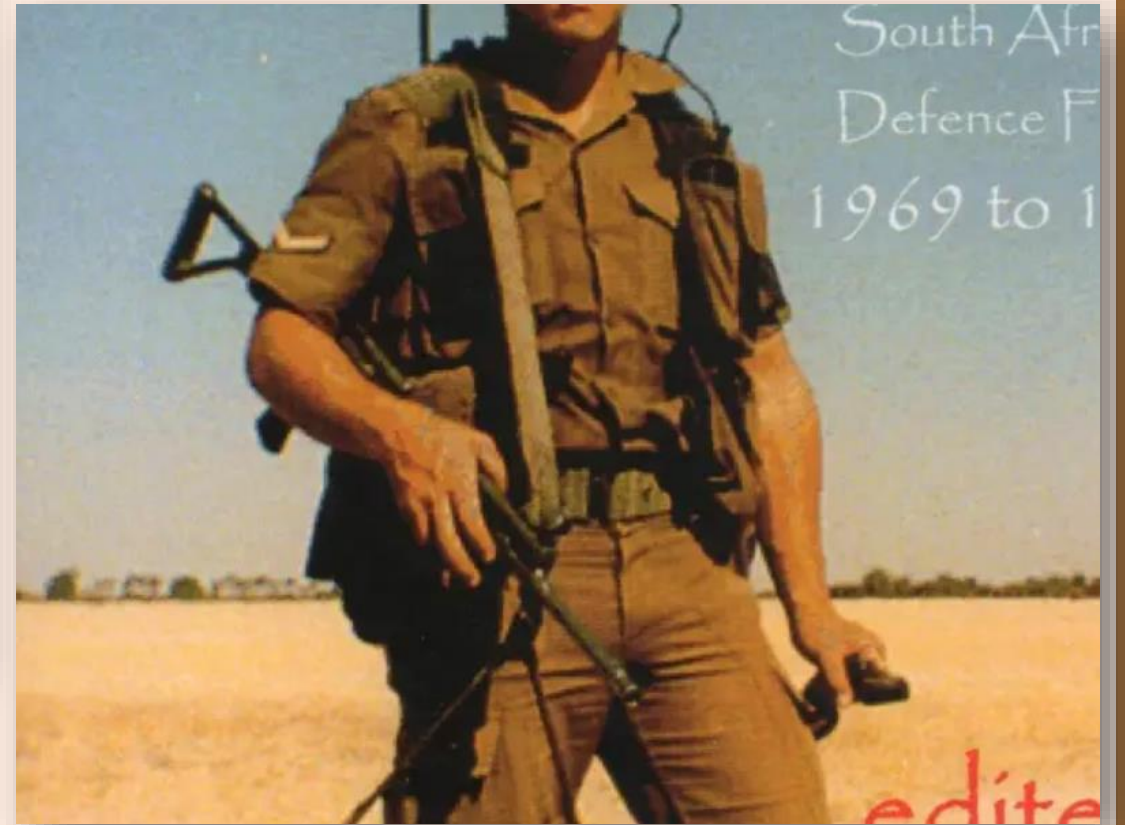


South African Trains





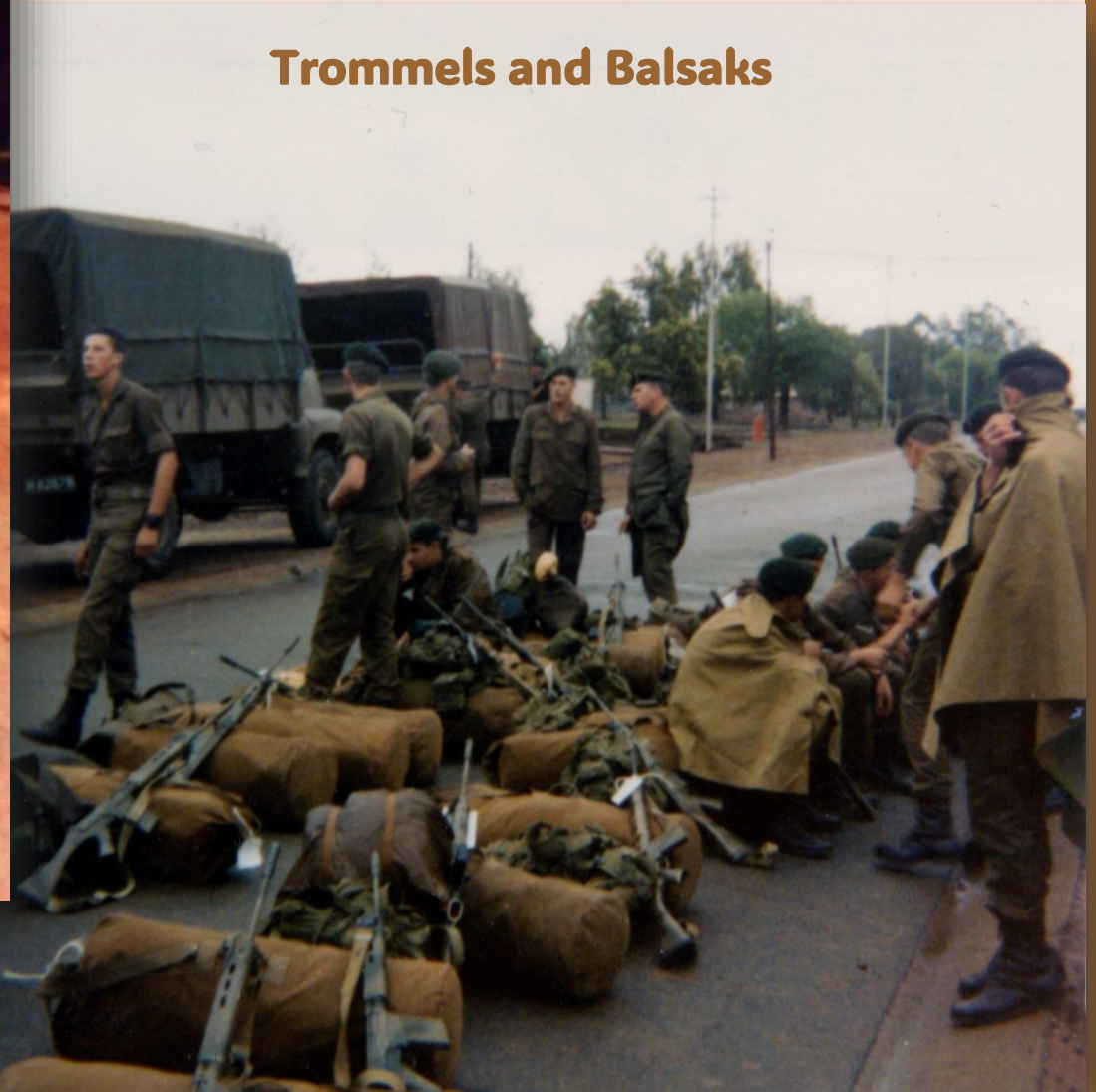
A Two-Liner and a One-Liner





An old SADF Bedford, now in the Museum fleet
Bloemfontein, Tempi - 2003

Photo: Craig Duckham ©



Home, Sweet Home – Army Style



Leopard Crawl and Push-Up Masters



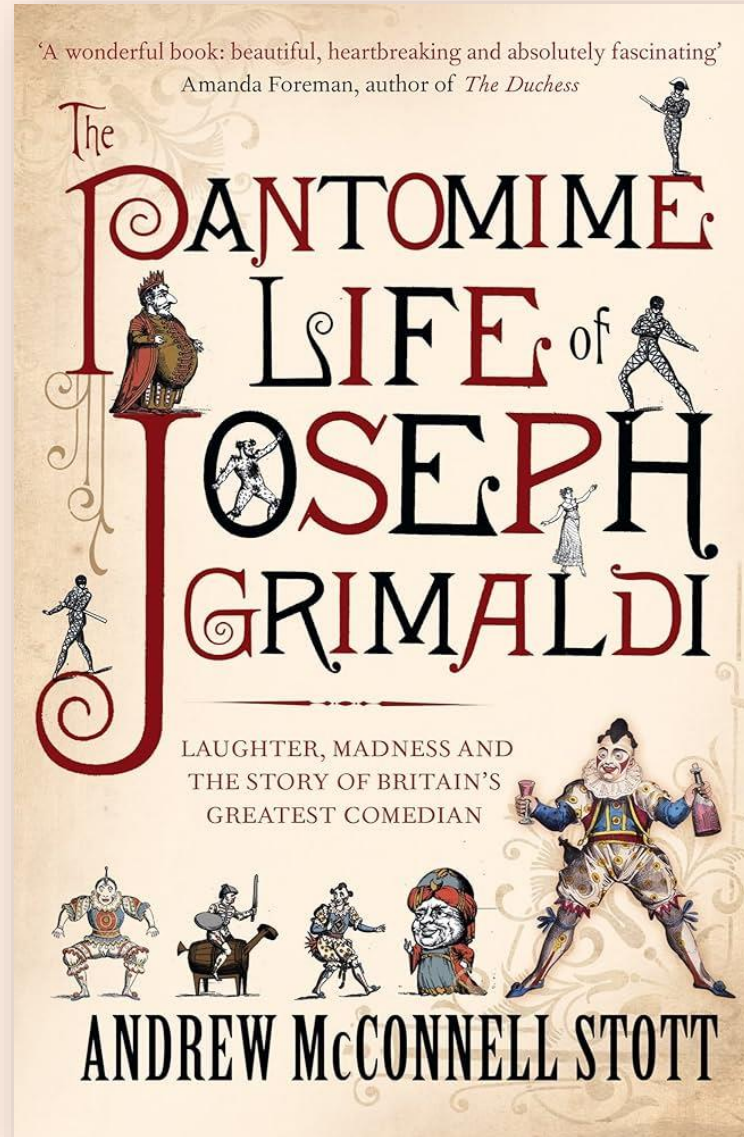
**The R1 – SADF Weapon of
Choices in the 80s**

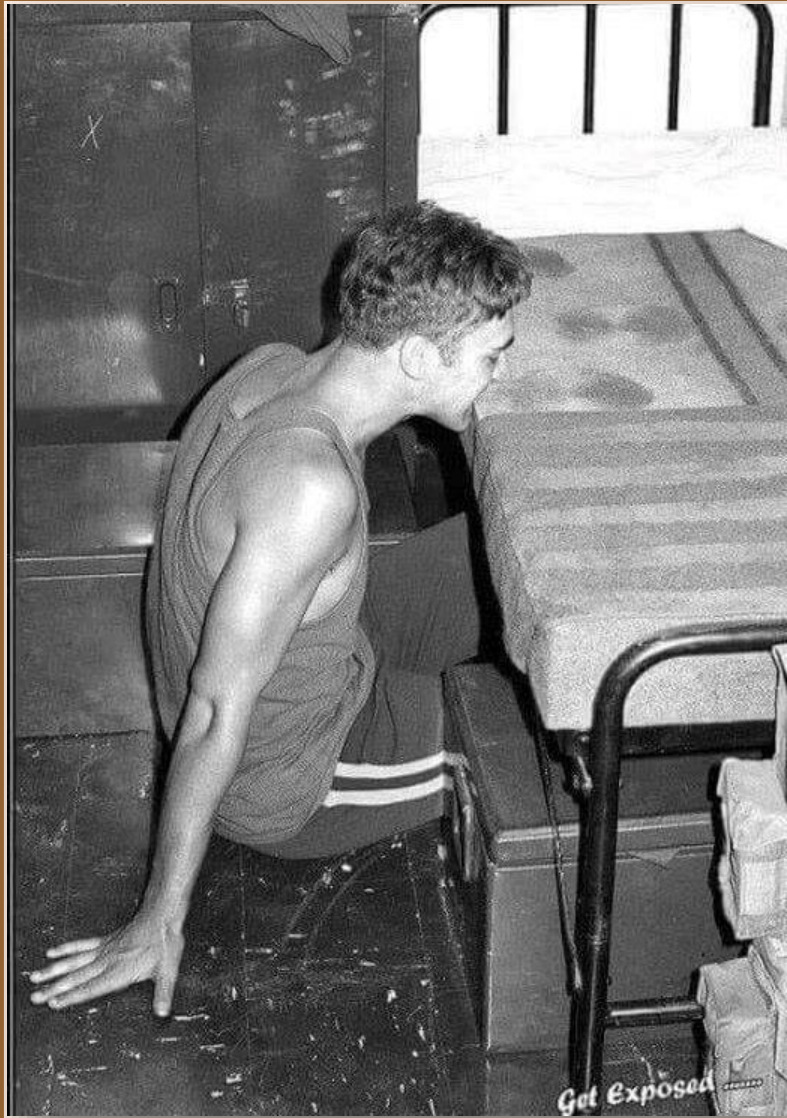




2,4 and Skaapdra

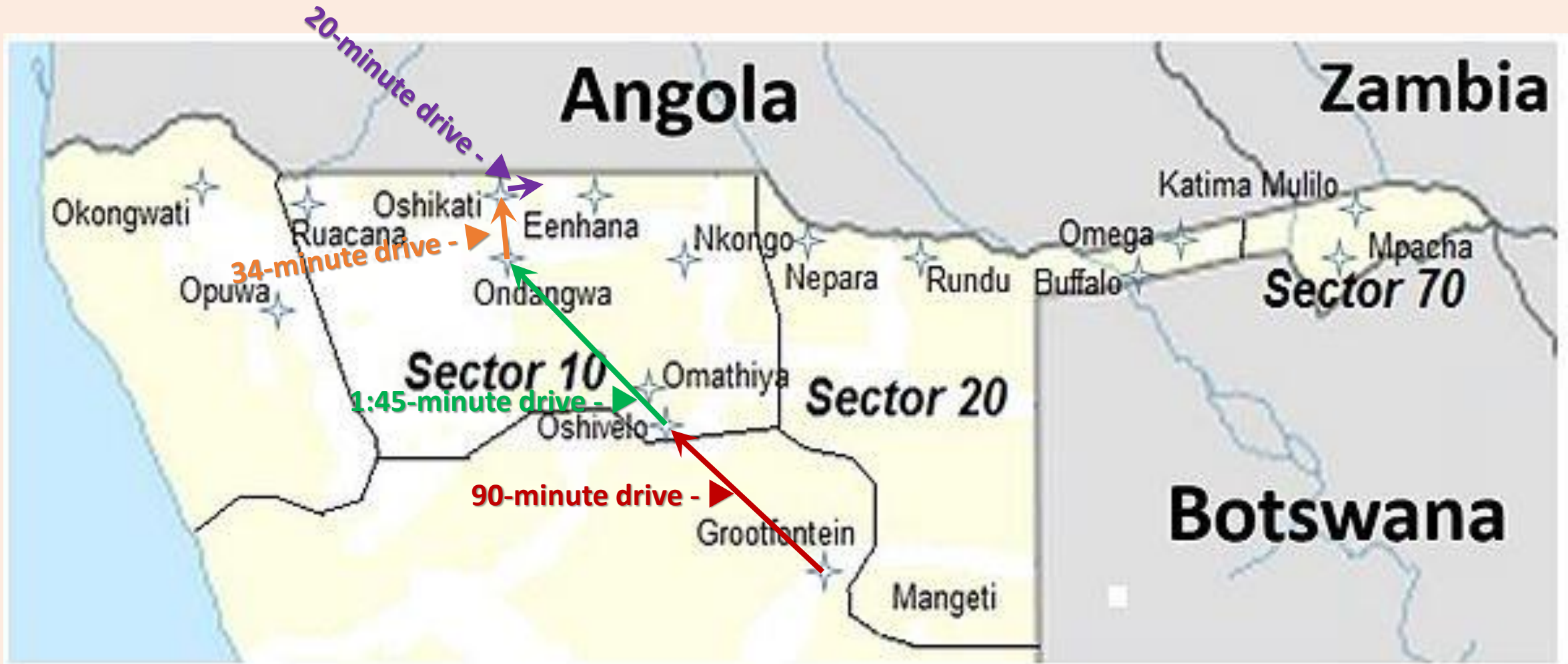






Inspections





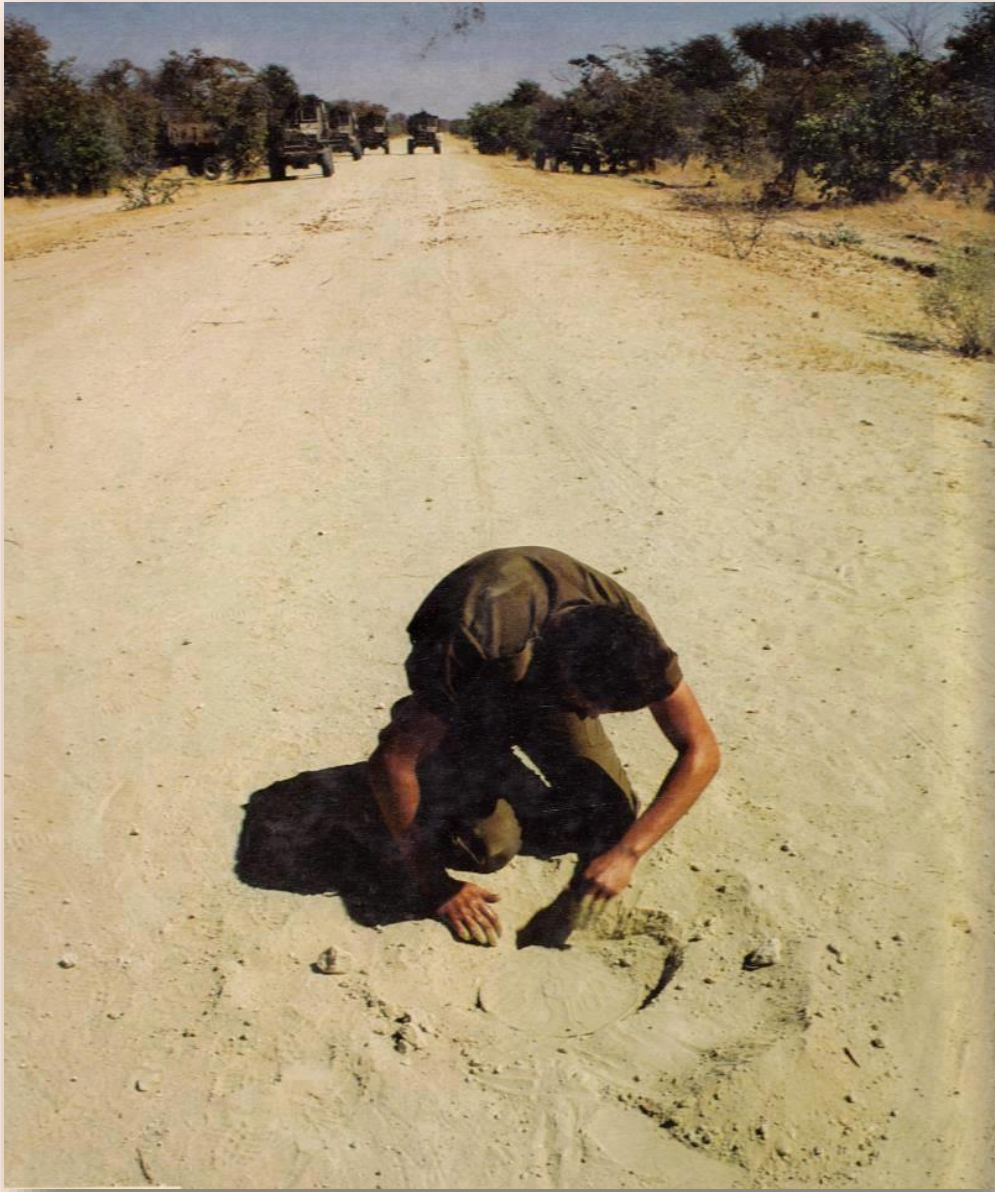
**From Grootfontein to Oshivelo (154 km), Oshivelo to Ondangwa (154 km),
Ondangwa to Oshikati (35 km), and Oshikati to Etale (7 km)**



**The Flies of Oshikati
and Eenhana**

The Buffel





**A Sapper digging out land mines
with his hands as the Buffel
troop carriers keep their distance**

53 Modular Battalion base Etale



Choppers on standby at Etale base



53 Battalion base, Etale
(SADF Base)

Ohangwena Namibia 17°31'29.18"S 15°52'42.09"E

-17.524772 15.878358

[View larger map](#)



Etale base -defence bunkers





**Sun Tanning with Brake Fluid
and Movies on the Border at
the Home Base**

Patrollie naby Etale basis.





'Black is Beautiful'





The South African Ratpack



Each Ratpack came with two Esbits to heat your food.



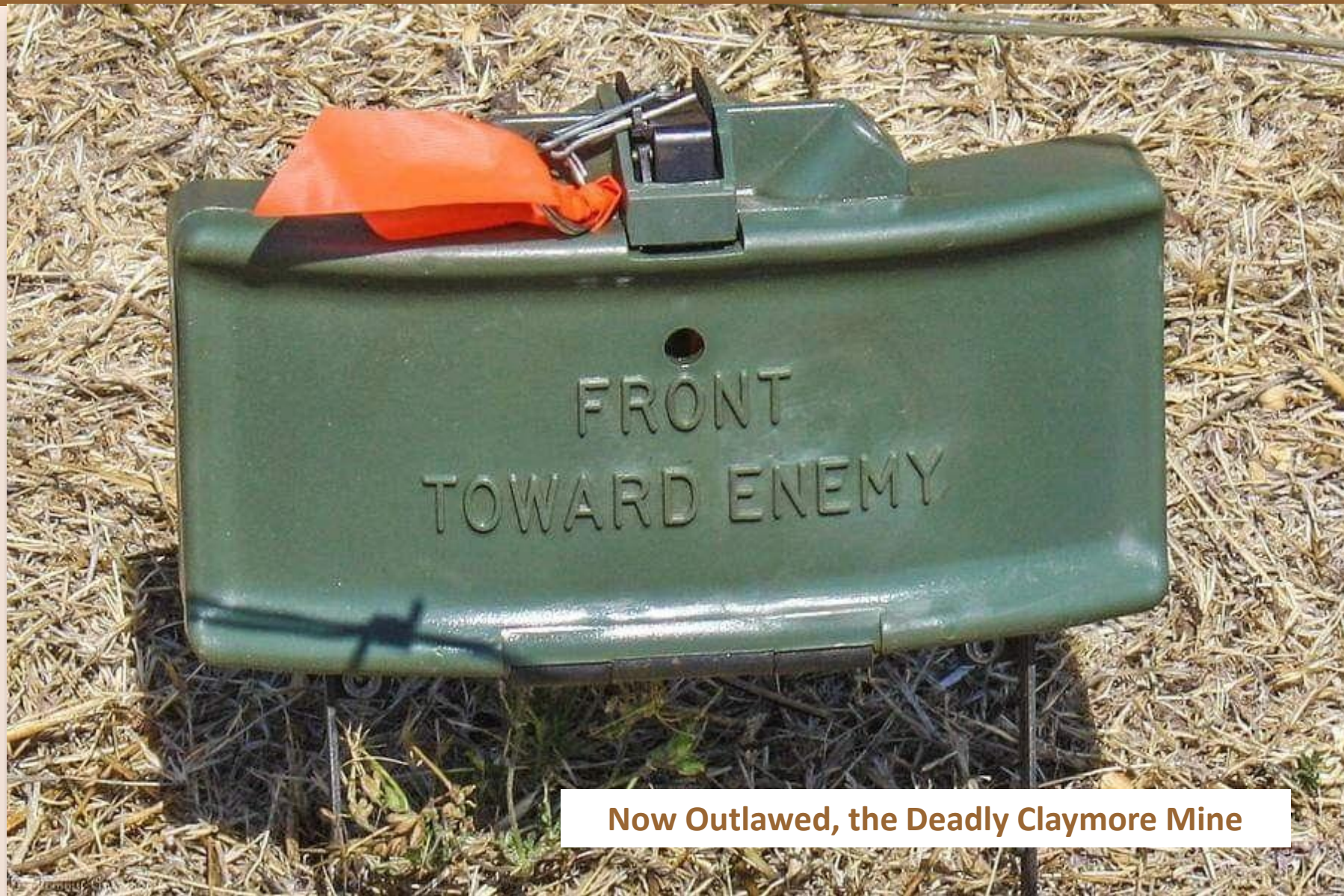
When the only water around . . .





You do what you have to do!





Now Outlawed, the Deadly Claymore Mine

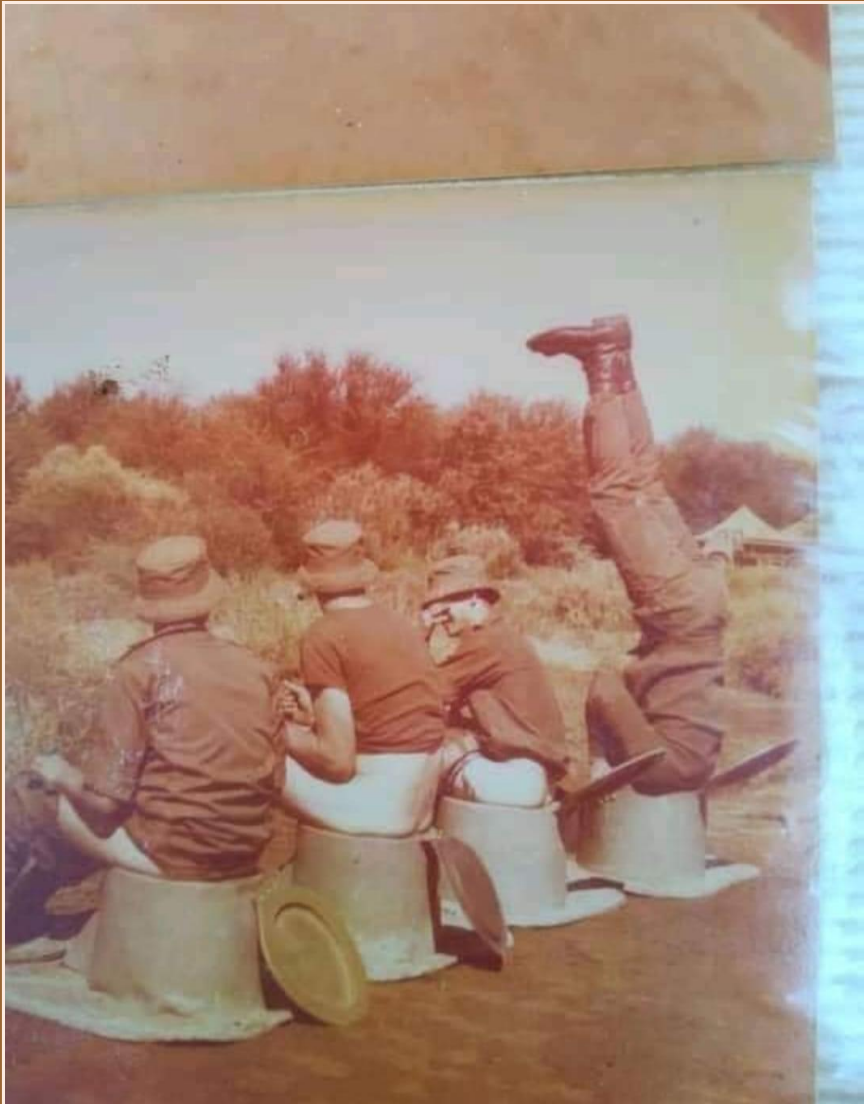


**Stop whining, sleep it off.
Patrol at 0600!**



Go-Karts and Piss Lilies





Only in the Army



**'Sometimes I sits and thinks,
and other times, I just sits.'**



Training to Master the Brenn Gun – a two-man operation





Border Patrolling in Style

**A Terrorist Boot-Print
in the Sand**





**When you were not selected to
be Perdpatrollie,
(Horse Patrol)**



Visit to a cuca shop



The Historic Canons of Signal Hill



The SAMIL-100



The Mighty Buffel



(https://tanks-encyclopedia.com/coldwar/south_africa/buffel-apc-mpv)





Humana Kalili



The 'Shaka'

The UNIMOG Ambulance



**The Jag Spinnekop
(Hunting Spider)**



Unless You've Been a Soldier

by Clive Sanders

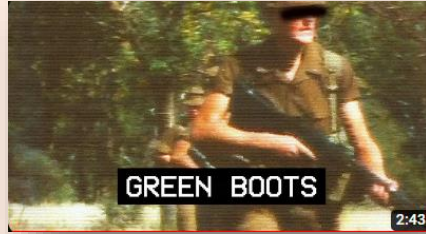
**Unless you've been a soldier,
You just won't understand.
The things that we have seen and done,
In the service of our land.
We were trained to live in combat,
And to deal with dreadful sights,
That shouldn't be seen by anyone
And keep you awake at nights.**

**We don't discuss the wounds we have,
To the body or the mind.
We just put our hurts behind us,
And turn our memories blind.
We are proud we served our country,
But remember those we lost.
For the freedom that you have today,
They paid the awful cost.**

A Selection of SADF Songs



Die Kaplyn
by Bok van Blerk



Green Boots
by Pieter Kruger



Hallelujah SADF Soldiers
by Pieter Kruger



Bar in Ovambo
by Pieter Kruger



Parabat Song
by Sonet Pienaar



Soldiers Friend
by Pieter Kruger



The Maroon Beret
by the SADF



Stille Soldaat
by Touch of Class



You Ain't No Hero
by Bok van Blerk



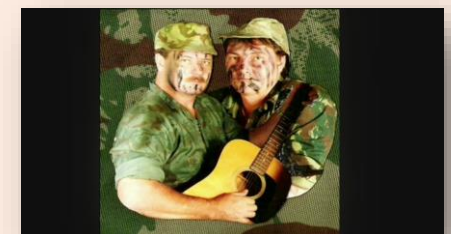
Dis Lekker Innie Army
by Leon Schuster/Ge Korsten



Bless Bridges - Troepietrein

LP: Reik na die sterre
1987

Troopietrein
by Bless Bridges



I Can See Clearly Now
by Pieter Kruger

A Selection of SADF Songs



**Seuns op Die Grens
by Bless Bridges**



**Troepie Doepie
by Rina Hugo**



**Daar's n Man op Die Grens
by Marie van Zyl**



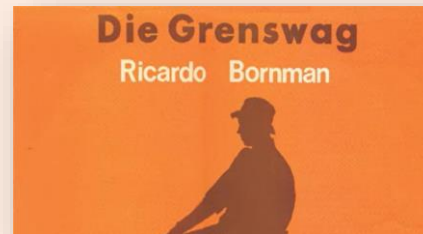
**Oshakati, Oshakati
by Rina Hugo**



**Ovamboland Song
by Pieter Viljoen**



**n Pak Speelkaarte -
Colin Dee**



**Die Grenswag
Ricardo Bornman**



**n Pak Speelkaarte -
Colin Dee**



**Ovamboland Song
by Pieter Viljoen**



**Tribute to the Old
SADF (Grens Oorlog)**



**Boy van Die Recces
• SADF**



**Sound of Silence
Military Tribute**

A Selection of SADF Songs



**At The Call
SADF tribute**



**At Thy Call
Scruff**



**So Waai Die Wind
Bok van Blerk**



**Steek Die Vure Aan
Bok van Klerk**



**Ovamboland Song
by Bok van Blerk**



**SADF TSC (TIFFIES)
1985 -1991**



**Lomba Battle Song
Sharon Bateman**



**We Fear Naught
But God**



**The South African
National Anthem**



Random Responses from Ex-SADFsers – from GRENSOORLOG 1966-1989 BORDERWAR on Facebook (translated into English by Google Translate as needed)

Jacobus Pansegrouw  **Jacobus asks a question, and some of the responses below tell an amazing story!**

Maybe I'm out of order, maybe not. 38 years ago, I was 17 years old when I got on the train in East London to join the army. Hear me well; it changed my life, and I still believe that it was for the better today. But why is it that when I watch "kaplyn" and similar songs on YouTube, my heart wants to break? We were so incredibly young but so incredibly strong. Am I the only person who feels this way? Am I the only person who longs for the feeling of "I belong"?

Jannie Calitz

Interesting that you ask this because I told my wife some time ago that it is strange that emotions still come to mind when I read about the army and the border. Every time I read the "for them the last post has sounded", emotions come to mind. Then I read about how each buddy died and the circumstances and I see the whole picture play out in front of me as I read. And it's already 40 years later. I don't think it was for nothing, that's just what war is. 100th wars around the world are fought for one reason or another and encouraged by the leaders, but it is the soldier who pays the price. Some of my buddies went back to SA in body bags at the time and I was privileged to make it, and I will always be grateful for that part of my life. We experienced something that today's generation does not know.

Johan van der Bank

I think you described it well...I think most of us feel that way...I really long for days, even times that were not fun for me at the time....my army days, is probably one of the things, things, that I desire most in my life.

Random Responses from Ex-SADFsers – from GRENSOORLOG 1966-1989 BORDERWAR on Facebook (translated into English by Google Translate as needed)

Bun Booyens

I think this feeling is universal among ex-soldiers. It is such a unique situation: people are so young and at the mercy of circumstances that are so overwhelming, that in the end you really only have the people around you. The fact that you don't actually know anyone's background and everyone is in the same situation means that you forge friendships with people you wouldn't actually encounter otherwise in your life.

Bertus Burick

No Brother, you are not the only one. I miss that pride, disciplines, orderliness, law-abidingness and so I can go on. Then I'm not even talking about the smell of a diesel vehicle that is started early in the morning. I miss many things that will never be again. Strength!

Elsa Becker

I don't know you...but I pray for you and many others who feel exactly like you. Because what the eye has seen, you can never forget. Strength!!!

Random Responses from Ex-SADFers – from GRENSOORLOG 1966-1989 BORDERWAR on Facebook (translated into English by Google Translate as needed)

Marius Whitepaw Heath

You are definitely not alone in what you feel, my mate. Most of us feel this way at times. It's so long ago, for me 47 long years ago but it feels like yesterday. Here and on similar groups is, in my opinion, where we can express ourselves to a certain extent, because only we among ourselves can truly understand in depth. All strength and prosperity to you

Tee Cee Coetzee

This year 44 years also went through the same. Happily married for 42 years. 2 beautiful children. But in my soul, I feel like you. The craving is great. Fortunately, my wife and family understand. We all recognize and acknowledge each other at some point. It was poured into us (And drilled)

Frans Pretorius

I hold things so firmly in my head...we were taken as young boy . . . from everywhere and with different backgrounds and knowledge and practically no life experience . . . it was a pride for you to go serve and defend the Country and without realizing what is waiting for you, getting on a train and traveling to new challenges . . . little knowing no matter who you are or who your parents are or what money they have, you are put on an equal footing with thousands of others ..only to be completely broken down and reshaped into one of the best fighting machines in the world and one that you were proud of and for which you would sacrifice your life without a thought... this is true of us should have been ..We were proud and with Respect

Random Responses from Ex-SADFers – from GRENSOORLOG 1966-1989 BORDERWAR on Facebook (translated into English by Google Translate as needed)

Johan Stoop

There are many of us who feel this way. It's like people don't understand what we forged together. If only there were many more honest friendships, that sense of togetherness the camaraderie the sweet and sour that everyone experienced together that bond of brotherhood that will never break.

Tony Daniel

You are right .. I understand but many more questions.... for example, when I once showed a pic to a boy of a parade that time.... then he said, "THESE ARE KIDS THEN....."

Blackie Herman B Black

You are not the only one iron!!! I was a tiffie and the camaraderie between the men was "rock solid" you could trust your fellow soldier and that is the great miss in our lives. When I look back on those days, there is this homesickness that not even my wife will or can understand.

Flip Coetzee

I think we feel a lot like that. Some when I see the full moon Then I think how I stood guard in temporary base. Then I miss it, as you say. I feel I belong there.

Random Responses from Ex-SADFers – from GRENSOORLOG 1966-1989 BORDERWAR on Facebook (translated into English by Google Translate as needed)

Awie Pieterse

Not at all, I sacrificed days, months during my army days on the "hood". Many days when certain "songs" are listened to, I also just shed a tear. Today I am Professional Hunter, which is supposed to be "brave", "fearless" no fear person. I believe the "army" period took "something" out of us that we still cherish to this day..the longing for something. Many days I will just sit and listen to the sounds of the forest, you feel so small, lonely and longing for what is not there. The "army" taught us to appreciate the smallest thing today. I long for the camaraderie, the jokes and just getting back on that "flossie" and thinking I'm going to the "states". Today I get into my 4x4 and go home. Salute to all our comrades who sacrificed their lives and time for our country RSA.

Martin Crous

I simply call it: "Grateful Homesickness" and then, when you stare into the distance like this at dusk, you long for "People whom you don't know.!!" And then you also remember the men whose seats were empty on the way back. And you become quietly grateful.!

Yep British

I believe every veteran and soldier feels the same, as if something was left behind,

Random Responses from Ex-SADFers – from GRENSOORLOG 1966-1989 BORDERWAR on Facebook (translated into English by Google Translate as needed)

Leon Taylor

A blessed day to all! Jacobus, about 1 week ago I received an SMS with 2 songs from the border war, accompanied by photos. Now I'm 74 years old and I sit listening while tears freely run down my cheeks! I was in the Air Force and on Ondangwa for almost 8 years. It's long, but I'm ALIVE!!!! It was the BEST PART OF MY LIFE for me!!!! Was married and had 2 sons who went to Oshakati school. I wouldn't trade the life experience I gained there for anything!!! There I could be a person, be a friend, be a father, be a leader. And now the tears are flowing again!!!! GOD BLESS!!

Hennie Maree

I understand your feeling. I have also wrestled with the questions, did we do it for nothing and do we really get the recognition for what we did. I feel that all the veteran's groups that have sprung up on social media over the years have sprung up precisely because of that yearning for recognition for the service we have performed. Through these groups we give each other recognition and thereby also experience the camaraderie we know again. I also believe that veterans and family members who have lost comrades and sons during their time in the service get emotional closure on the social media groups.

Random Responses from Ex-SADFers – from GRENSOORLOG 1966-1989 BORDERWAR on Facebook (translated into English by Google Translate as needed)

Freda Bridger

As my late husband said: it was the toughest time of my life, but I'd do it again if I had to. Thanks to the army that we met, my broker gave Him and two friends a "lift" back to camp after a weekend pass, and that's how our "fairy tales" began. I was 16 He was 19, married, 3 children and married 55 years. Now just memories.

Peter Viviers

It really served no purpose. Made better of many people. So much death, broken marriages and disrupted children. Be sad, we are too.

Chris Burger

We/I feel the same as you old mate. I cry easily when I just think and look at photos from that time. My wife has already learned that if I get so quiet and sit and stare at nothing then I just want to be alone.

Dirk Meyer

You are definitely not alone, when I look at videos from those days I shed a tear every time, not because I am sad but out of pride to think that I was there, I was part of it all, learned what is camaraderie and trust in the person next to you even if he wasn't really known, I mean he wasn't family, school friend or similar. I also believe it was definitely not for nothing.

Random Responses from Ex-SADFsers – from GRENSOORLOG 1966-1989 BORDERWAR on Facebook (translated into English by Google Translate as needed)

James Botha

The camaraderie between you and the guys from your section is something you will never forget, and I agree with Jacobus that you felt there that you meant something and had a real purpose in life.

Ralf Iskra

No, you are not the only one..!!! It is the same with me because I long for that respect, conscientiousness, bravery and service again. No one will be able to take it away from us.

David Venter

About a year ago, my wife watched the video of the "Kaplyn" About halfway through the video I start crying like a baby and tell her that people have no idea what "we" went through. Can't explain it to this day and I didn't go through a tenth of what most guys went through and experienced. A big relief to know I'm not alone. Good luck to everyone

Niel van Deventer

Because something of you (of all of us) has been left behind Something that one cannot describe in words. It's engraved deep in your being. You are not alone. We will go to our grave with it.....

Random Responses from Ex-SADfers – from GRENSOORLOG 1966-1989 BORDERWAR on Facebook (translated into English by Google Translate as needed)

Herman Vd Merwe

Janee . . . it's like that . . . feel the same . . . must addendum..picked up another thing too..it's adrenaline...the statement is that war in contact situation pumps adrenaline through you..and that's what the body lacks thinking back . . . sort of addiction . . . but be that as it may...I turned 18 on the border . . . every time I went . . . got a makeover which I was very happy about . . . to get fit again and after that to go chasing terrors.

Andre Brand

Boy's . . . Our duties were simple . . . Protect our country REGARDLESS OF RACE OR COLOR from "foreign and domestic abuse"!! We were results driven . . . IT'S BLOODY GONE!!!! "I FEEL IT AND MISS IT!!!!!"

Andre Mouton

100% I relive my army days sometimes emotion overwhelms me, and I openly roll the tears, I was a proud young soldier of 17 years old in the top 2sai Bateljon group in Walvis Bay and Rooikop 48 years ago, and Border Service began in 1978 Oshakati regiment East Rand, but we stay brothers in arms, 2 sai greetings sktr Ac Mouton 74772559 bg

Random Responses from Ex-SADFers – from GRENSOORLOG 1966-1989 BORDERWAR on Facebook (translated into English by Google Translate as needed)

Naomi Maritz

You are not alone. All of us, especially the women and girls who stayed behind, lost our identity. The pride we knew in those years is gone. We only exist now and weep when we think back to that time. I wish I could send my two sons to the army. It would certainly have made a difference in their lives.

Riaan M Oberholzer

That song still brings tears. Every time I hear this people look at me funny and ask what's wrong with me. Few people understand what we have been through. Those were hard times.

Santi Bulter

Definitely right! It's as if national pride, the distinction between right and wrong, and respect for yourself and others have been left behind somewhere in the past. Some days, I look at the country and its people and wonder what has become of us.

Francois Coetzee

I feel the same old mate, it's something that has stayed behind in us from that time. I get sad when I listen to all those old songs and think back.

Random Responses from Ex-SADFers – from GRENSOORLOG 1966-1989 BORDERWAR on Facebook (translated into English by Google Translate as needed)

Philip Du Plessis

Unfortunately, this is something that will stay with you. You can't make peace with it either

Robbie Terblanche

Yes, it's a void in me, I don't belong, I was part of a way of life with different values

William Dyman

I believe for most of us there was something left behind. Then you get people saying forget it and move on. How do you forget something if the something doesn't forget you. I have talked to many veterans from all over the world and all of them also know that empty spot and everything else that we know too. If you are/were a real soldier I believe you will go to your grave with it. Good luck mate and no you are not alone.

From Hamilton

The worst is that you are forgotten, your sacrifices are forgotten, the purpose of your sacrifices is forgotten and not appreciated. Now we are the villains in the story . . . ex-soldiers live like vagabonds. There is no justice for the ex-soldiers.

Random Responses from Ex-SADfers – from GRENSOORLOG 1966-1989 BORDERWAR on Facebook (translated into English by Google Translate as needed)

The camaraderie between you and the guys from your section is something you will never forget, and I agree with Jacobus that you felt there that you meant something and had a real purpose in life.

No, you are not the only one..!!! It is the same with me because I long for that respect, conscientiousness, bravery and service again. No one will be able to take it away from us.

About a year ago, my wife watched the video of the "Kaplyn." About halfway through the video I start crying like a baby and tell her that people have no idea what "we" went through. Can't explain it to this day and I didn't go through a tenth of what most guys went through and experienced. A big relief to know I'm not alone. Good luck to everyone

Random Responses from Ex-SADFsers – from GRENSOORLOG 1966-1989 BORDERWAR on Facebook, (translated into English by Google Translate as needed)

John of Thunder

No, you are in no way out of order. I feel the same. I can't even listen to the Kaplyn without shedding a tear. It brings back too many memories for me. The worst is Christmas. That time of year it's worse for me. As you say yourself, we miss that feeling of belonging to something bigger and stronger than ourselves. I was also eighteen years old, and I think the transition from Civy to the soldier was so sudden and without emotion, and then just as suddenly, the army cleared you, and you were in no way prepared to adapt to Civy Street again. I was very confused. I left the border, cleared and went home. After about two weeks at home, I was bored and put on my browns again one day. My mother wanted to know what I was doing then. I then told her no, I was just checking to see if everything was still there and if it still fit. Why would know. I then said no, but only if they call me back to go to war. She couldn't understand it. But I knew I craved the company. That feeling of belonging and then I realized I was a soldier. The metamorphosis is complete. I will never be a Civy again. I firmly believe that if you take some of our old men again today and fall in, we will return to the military routine in a week or so. We are no longer eighteen and the pot bellies, buffalo rut and all the pains and farts are there but the basic skills never leave you again. I can still take my R4 apart in my head and put it back together again. Sometimes my wife asks "are you sleeping" I say no. I just like it with my eyes closed. "Now what do you think?" Then I reply, "I'll just quickly disassemble and clean my gun and pack my kit". I also wonder if I'm crazy. But yes, you are certainly not old.

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