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**END OF TOUR REPORT  
FOR  
NEW ZEALAND ELEMENT  
OF THE  
AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENT  
UNTAG NAMIBIA 1989-90**



United Nations  
Transition Assistance Group  
in Namibia

END OF TOUR REPORT

FOR

NEW ZEALAND ELEMENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENT

UNTAG NAMIBIA 1989-90

FOR: Comd LF Comd

BY: Capt G.P. Shirley, RNZE

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ORDER FOR THE REPORT

1.      Origin:      On the 20 Jan 90 the Comd NZE ASC UNTAG was ordered by signal from LF COMD (NZ) to prepare a written report on the TOD as part of the ASC UNTAG NAMIBIA.
  
2.      Information to be provided:      The Report is to include the following information:
  - a.      Pre-deployment Training
  - b.      Service in Namibia including the following;
    - (i)      Organization & Structure of the ASC UNTAG,
    - (ii)      Location of NZ personnel,
    - (iii)      Overview of the Political events in motion,
    - (iv)      Types of tasks employed on, and
    - (v)      Information on the Namibian Elections.
  - c.      Training Value
  - d.      Administration Matters
  - e.      Overview of Other UN Military Contingents in theatre.

## SUMMARY

PRE-DEPLOYMENT TRAININGGeneral

1. During late June 1989, the 14 man RNZE team for service in Namibia was announced. Although final approval for participation as part of the United Nations Transitional Assistance Group (UNTAG) was still undecided, preparations began for the RNZE team to fly to Australia and participate in pre-deployment training as part of the 304 strong Australian Contingent.

2. The RNZE team was to be known as the New Zealand Element Australian Contingent UNTAG (NZE ASC UNTAG). The NZE ASC UNTAG departed for pre-deployment training in Sydney on 6 Aug 89, complete with personal toolkit, FSMO and M16 rifles.

Reinforcement & Concentration Training (7 Aug 89 - 4 Sep 89)

3. Pre-deployment training was divided into two separate courses; Reinforcement Training Course and the Concentration Training Period. Each Course was of approximately two weeks' duration and covered a wide variety of both Infantry & Combat Engineer skills. (see page 2&3 para 4-12 and Annex A). All personnel also received extensive country and medical briefs with particular emphasis being placed on the Aids threat in Africa.

4. At the beginning of Concentration Training the NZE ASC UNTAG were distributed evenly between the two Construction Troops with CAPT Shirley being attached to the 17 CONST SQN HQ. (see page 2 para 9). Whereas Reinforcement Training covered individual soldier skills, the Concentration Training period focused on Unit and sub-unit level. During this period the 304 strong contingent was broken up into its two main groupings namely, HQ ASC UNTAG and 17 CONST SQN. (see page 2 para 7 and Annex C). During both training periods the NZ pers performed creditably and it was found that normal NZ Army training had provided a sound base for the variety of subjects covered.

5. Pre-embarkation Leave: On the 3 Sep 89 the NZE ASC UNTAG returned to NZ for final administration and leave. NZ participation was still undecided at this time, however given this and other abnormalities related to the deployment, final administration was effected in good time. Approval for NZ participation as part of the ASC UNTAG was received on 19 Sep 89. The NZE ASC UNTAG departed for Namibia via Australia on 22 Sep 89. (see page 3 para 13-15).



Pre-Elections: (28 Sep 89 - 2 Nov 89)

6. General: The Contingent travelled to Namibia by RAAF 707 and landed in Windhoek at 280800B (local time) Sep 89. The HQ ASC UNTAG remained in Windhoek whilst the 17 CONST SQN moved north to its main base at Grootfontein. For functions and organization of HQ ASC UNTAG and 17 CONST SQN see page 4 para 16-22 and Annex C.
7. Immediately after a 4 day indoctrination period involving range shoots, briefings, etc., the 17 CONST SQN deployed its Field Troop and 9 Construction Troop to Ondangwa Base in Owambo; at the same time 8 Construction Troop deployed to Rundu in Kavango. (see page 5 para 23-26 and Annex B & D).
8. All personnel whether on construction tasks or not were required to be armed when out of base. This applied to Grootfontein and all areas North. Construction teams were usually of section strength and travelled in either Unimogs or Buffels when off road. (see Annex E).
9. Political Situation: During the period leading up to the elections the political situation remained reasonably stable. However as election date (Nov 7 - 14) drew near the number and frequency of violent incidents increased dramatically. In the Oshakati area alone 17 people were killed and another 100 injured. (see page 5&6 para 28-32).
10. Construction Tasks: The construction tasks leading up to the elections concentrated mainly on providing support to the many UN CIVIL POLICE (UN CIVPOL) stations spread throughout North Namibia. (see page 6&7 para 33-37 and Annex F). During the final two weeks before the election the 17 CONST SQN was also involved with the reconnaissance of 127 proposed polling station sites. Once reconnaissance was done these sites had to be upgraded to provide minimal sanitary, power and water facilities.
11. Section Commanders came into their own during the 6 weeks leading up to the elections as they spent periods of up to a week away from base. They were responsible not only for the successful completion of tasks but more importantly for their sections' personal safety and security.
12. Field Engineering Tasks: Field Engineering tasks for the whole tour were many and varied and included the following:
  - a. destruction of Mines and Explosive Ordnance (DMEO);
  - b. mine clearance;
  - c. construction of Bunker Systems;
  - d. instruction on Mine Warfare and awareness to other UN Contingents; and
  - e. construction blasting tasks.

13. Field Engineering tasks were in the main conducted by the Field Engineer Troop however, many were also completed by personnel from the Construction Troop's. NZ personnel were involved in several DMEO and construction blasting tasks. (see page 7 para 38-52 and Annex G,H,I,J). Mines remained a constant threat throughout the Tour and several incidents on local roads used by ASC UNTAG personnel served to reinforce the need for mine awareness. (see Annex G, I).

Elections (see page 9 para 53-54)

14. General: During the election period the 17 CONST SQN deployed to Owambo to provide concentrated support to all facets of the election. The 17 CONST SQN devised and operated under a Plan known as Operation PollGallop which lasted from 2 Nov - 14 Nov 89.

15. Operation PollGallop: (see page 9 para 55-70) OP PollGallop was based on the provision of the following:

- a. 17 CONST SQN TAC HQ;
- b. 13 armed roving maintenance teams;
- c. Ready Reaction Force (Tp (-); and
- d. 30 Election Monitors (provided by HQ ASC UNTAG and 17 CONST SQN).

16. During OP PollGallop all 17 CONST SQN personnel worked extremely long hours. The roving maintenance teams were the backbone of the Operation, they patrolled their allotted sector and visited each polling station at least once every 48 hours. The maintenance teams were of section strength and commanded by a Corporal. The maintenance teams did much to maintain a reassuring military presence in an area that had the potential for outbreaks of violence.

Post Elections: (see page 12 para 71-85)

17. Construction Tasks: Construction tasks remained very much the same as those prior to the elections. Emphasis shifted from election support to improvement of other UN Contingent Living accommodation and facilities. The type of construction was both vertical and horizontal and involved anything from renovation of a hospital to refurbishment of an airfield. (see page 12 para 73-80 and Annex F). Because of a delayed Wet Season and a subsequent drought, 17 CONST SQN was also involved in the installation and running of several water points on the Kavango River. (see page 13 para 77-79).

18. Political Situation: The political situation after the election remained tense but stable as individual partys' declared the elections "Free & Fair". A shadow cabinet was formed with the two major parties gaining a proportionate amount of key cabinet seats. SWAPO won 57% of the votes with DTA scoring 28%. (see page 11 para's 70, 81-82). Independence was set for 21 MAR 90 and the last SADF combat units left for South Africa on 24 NOV 89.



Training and Administration: (See page 15 para 86-100)

19. **Training:** The training and experience received by the NZ personnel was invaluable. The opportunity to practice a wide range of both soldier and trade skills within a realistic scenario and unique environment will be of enormous benefit to them in the future.

20. These types of deployments are too few particularly where JNCO's and soldiers of private rank can be involved. JNCO's in particular often found themselves in a position where they had to exercise command and judgement without immediate guidance from superiors.

21. **Administration:** The NZE ASC UNTAG was fortunate that it could use the UN and Australian Signal net and various support systems already in place. Given this the support from NZ more than met the requirements of the NZE ASC UNTAG.

22. A number of administrative problems arose immediately prior to departure for Namibia, however these eventuated as a result of the late approval being given by the UN for NZ participation in UNTAG. The basic support systems in place within the NZ Army are considered to be satisfactory for support of a Contingent such as the NZE ASC UNTAG. A detailed summary of administrative points is at page 15 para 90-100.

23. In short the Tour with UNTAG Namibia proved to be both interesting and challenging for all ranks. Not only did the NZ personnel learn what it is like to operate within another Army's organization, but they also met many other nationalities during the course of their work. A list of UNTAG Military Units is at page 17 para 101.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

24. The following recommendations are made in respect of future UN deployments of a similar nature:

- a. that similar mail and pay procedures be implemented, as provided for NZE ASC UNTAG;
- b. that a monthly newsletter be released by LF Comd to all dependants covering general aspects of the TOD;
- c. when participating as a small element of a larger force, that consideration be given to using that force's weapons particularly when operating within an Australian Unit;
- d. that current NZ equipment and clothing issues proved both reliable and suitable for the conditions and should be used for deployments to areas similar to Namibia;
- e. once a possible area of operation is identified for a future deployment, that measures are implemented to ensure that a confirmed allowance is struck either prior to deployment or very soon after arrival in the country;

- f. that deployments of this nature are invaluable in terms of experience and training value and should be taken advantage of whenever possible.

*G.P. Shirley*

G.P. SHIRLEY

Captain

Comd NZE ASC UNTAG

4. Capt G.P. Shirley - team leader
5. Capt A. Cook - team PIO
6. Cpl W.J. Leach - carpenter
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100. Cpl W.J. Leach - carpenter

During the final days of July preparations were well underway for the deployment to Australia for pre-deployment training. This training was to begin on 2 August 1989 and would last one month. On 2 August the NZS departed from Hurlingham Camp for Australia complete with all equipment required for the mountain training, plus the 6 - 8 month fuel in New Zealand. Personal equipment included, tenting, food, water and KIA M16.



Part 1

PRE-DEPLOYMENT TRAINING

General.

1. Late in June 1989 after much speculation the RNZE team for service in Namibia was finally announced. Final approval for actual participation with the 304 strong Australian Contingent in Namibia was still a long way off at this stage, however planning for pre-deployment training in Australia began in earnest.

2. The 14 strong team to be provided by New Zealand was to contain a mixture of tradesmen led by an Officer and SNCO. After several name changes the New Zealand team became officially known as the New Zealand Element Australian Contingent UNTAG (NZE ASC UNTAG). NZE ASC UNTAG members were as follows:

- a. Capt G.P. Shirley - team leader
- b. Ssgt A. Cook - team 21C
- c. Cpl M.J. Leach - carpenter
- d. Lcpl R.J. Sturzaker - plumber
- e. Spr T.A. Hay - carpenter
- f. Spr D.W. Taurima - carpenter
- g. Spr M.D. Hughes - carpenter
- h. Spr S.R. Fleming - carpenter
- i. Spr G.H. Sumption - carpenter
- j. Spr I.M. Purvis - carpenter
- k. Spr J.M. Whitworth - carpenter
- l. Spr P.J. Tucker - electrician
- m. Spr N.A. August - electrician
- n. Spr B.D. Wilson - plumber

3. During the final days of July preparations were well underway for the deployment to Australia for pre-embarkation training. This training was to begin on 8 August 1989 and would last one month. On 6 August the NZE departed from Burnham Camp for Australia complete with all equipment required for the months' training, plus the 6 - 8 month TOD in Namibia. Personal equipment included, toolkit, FSMO and M16 Rifle.

Reinforcement Training: (8-18 Aug 89)

4. General. The purpose of the Reinforcement Training Course was to train all contingent personnel in individual combat engineer skills. The idea was to bring all personnel up to a common level before the contingent came together as a force for Concentration Training prior to departure for Namibia. The Reinforcement Training Course was held at the School of Military Engineering in Sydney.

5. Eight courses were run over a six month period with an average of 40 personnel attending each course. Accommodation was in two man tents. This course proved invaluable as a refresher and covered such subjects as; (course programme attached at Annex A)

- a. demolitions;
- b. NBCD;
- c. mine warfare;
- d. route and area clearance;
- e. vehicle check point drills;
- f. first aid, and
- g. infantry minor tactics.

6. In addition to the subjects mentioned in para 5, a number of films were shown in Namibia and its inhabitants. A number of medical lectures were also given with particular emphasis on the AIDS threat in Africa.

Concentration Training: (19 Aug - 4 Sep 89)

7. Concentration training was held at Ingleburn Camp and began immediately after the Reinforcement Course. Once the force was in location it was split into its two operational identities as follows:

- a. Headquarters Australian Contingent, UNTAG (HQ ASC UNTAG)  
- 29 persons, and
- b. 17 Construction Squadron - 275 persons.

8. The main emphasis during this phase was to exercise the force in the skills introduced on the Reinforcement Course and weld the unit into an efficient team. Training during this period was very intense and made as realistic as possible. (see Annex A for Training Programme).

9. Distribution of NZ Personnel. At the beginning of Concentration Training the NZ pers were distributed evenly between the two Construction Troops. Capt Shirley was attached to Sqn HQ as the Construction Officer. SSGT Cook was employed as a Troop Ssgt, and CPL Leach and LCPL Sturzaker as Sect Comd and 2IC, respectively. The NZ pers remained in these appointments for the duration of the tour in Namibia.



10. Subjects Covered. The subjects covered were similar to those mentioned in para 5 except that live ammunition was used wherever possible. The final week of this training period was spent in the field where all the skills were practised within an exercise scenario. The major subjects covered were:

- a. vehicle mine incident drills;
- b. live fire break contact drill;
- c. route & area clearance drills; and
- d. first aid.

11. Apart from training, a lot of time was spent receiving issues of kit and preparing equipment for travel to Namibia. Each soldier was restricted to a field pack, steel trunk, and echelon bag for carriage of personal kit. At this time soldiers also received extensive country and medical briefs.

12. Preparedness of NZ Personnel. Although both the environment and some of the subjects were new, the NZ pers performed very well alongside their Australian counterparts and soon became an integral part of their respective Troop organizations. The level of training received in NZ during the course of normal unit activities, provided a more than adequate base for the activities covered in Australia.

#### Pre-Embarkation Leave (4-21 Sep 89)

13. On 4 September all NZ pers returned to NZ for final administration and leave. UN approval for NZ participation in Namibia had still not been received at this stage, which created a great deal of uncertainty among the Team. The delay in approval affected the Australians most, because the 14 NZ pers had replaced 14 Australians in the 304 strong contingent, who remained unsure of their actual status until the very last minute.

14. Given the state of uncertainty over NZ participation, the final administrative procedures for deployment were implemented in good time. Credit should go to LF COMD and individual donor units for rectifying the myriad of problems that emerged during this period. Overall the deployment of the NZE ASC UNTAG went relatively smoothly considering the number of abnormalities present during the mounting of this deployment.

15. Final Approval. Final approval for NZ Army pers to participate as part of the Australian Contingent in Namibia was received on 19 Sep 89. The NZE ASC UNTAG departed for Australia on 22 Sep 89. Final administration was conducted in Sydney and the Contingent departed for Namibia on 26 Sep 89.

Part 2

SERVICE IN NAMIBIA

Pre-Elections: (28 Sep 89 - 2 Nov 89)

16. General. The Contingent travelled to Namibia by RAAF via Adelaide, Perth, Mauritius, and landed in Windhoek at 280800B (local time) Sep 89. At this stage the HQ ASC UNTAG and 17 CONST SQN split; the HQ ASC UNTAG remaining in Windhoek and 17 CONST SQN moved north to its main base at Grootfontein. (see Annex B for Namibia Map)

17. The squadron remained concentrated in Grootfontein for a 4 day period, during which time an indoctrination course involving lectures, range shoots, etc., was conducted. Immediately following this period the Field Troop and Two Construction Troops deployed North to their respective forward bases, where they would remain for the majority of the Tour.

18. Function of HQ ASC UNTAG. HQ ASC UNTAG consisted of the command element of the Contingent plus several sub-sections that covered matters such as: Legal, Pay, Postal, Intelligence and Works. The HQ CE UNTAG acted as the controlling body for 17 CONST SQN and was the single approving authority for all tasks undertaken by 17 CONST SQN. (see Annex C for Organization Diagram).

19. The works cell was responsible for the final approval on issues of tasks plus the acquisition of building supplies for the different projects. This cell also arranged civil contracts for area's South of Windhoek where the 17 CONST SQN did not operate.

20. The last function within the HQ CE UNTAG organization was the Garrison Engineer (NORTH). This cell was responsible for the acquisition and supervision of civil contracts in the Northern areas for tasks that could not be undertaken by 17 CONST SQN.

21. Organization and Function of 17 Construction Squadron. The Squadron consisted of the following elements:

- a. HQ;
- b. Field Troop;
- c. 2 x Construction Troops;
- d. Resources Troop;
- e. EME Workshops; and
- f. Plant Troop.

Except for the addition of the Field Troop, the Squadron was at it's full operational strength. (see Annex C).



22. 17 CONST SQN was responsible for all engineer support to the United Nations Civil Police (UN CIVPOL), plus all other UN Contingents. The main area of operations was in Owambo, Kavango and the Caprivi Strip. (See Annex B for Map.) These areas are the most underdeveloped and required the most engineer support. Security was also a major factor in these areas due to the proximity of the Angolan border and the recent incursions by PLAN fighters (Peoples Liberation Army of Namibia).

23. 17 Construction Squadron Bases. The Squadron HQ plus the Plant Resources and WKSP Troops were all based within the Logistic Base Grootfontein (LBG). The LBG was the home of Merlyn Force, who were the remaining SADF in Northern Namibia. The LBG was a Brigade sized camp that had been the main supply base for SADF operations in Angola.

24. Apart from the SADF the 17 CONST SQN shared the LBG with Polish, Swiss, Danish and Finish Contingent members.

25. Forward Bases. Apart from the main SQN HQ at Grootfontein, 17 CONST SQN established two forward bases in the middle of the two main AO's; Owambo and Kavango. Both bases were old South African Defence Force (SADF) bases recently evacuated by SADF forces returning to Walvis Bay and South Africa. The base in Owambo was Ondangwa and the one in Kavango at a place called Rundu. (See Annex B & D.)

26. Both these forward bases had basic but functional amenities. The Ondangwa base was manned by the Field Troop and 9 Construction Troop. The Rundu base was manned by the 8 Construction Troop, who were co-located with; Italians, Spanish, Finish and SADF pers. For the first three months of the tour there was still a strong SADF presence in Grootfontein, Ondangwa and Rundu.

27. Movement of Personnel. All personnel whether on construction tasks or not were required to be armed when out of base. This applied to Grootfontein and all areas North. This situation remained throughout the tour and although weapons were never used in anger, it is thought that they at times proved to be a useful deterrent. During the period leading up to the elections, there were a number of incidents where UN personnel were attacked in crowd situations. In all incidents the UN pers involved were unarmed. Construction teams were usually of section strength travelling in either Unimogs or Buffels when off road. (See Annex E.)

28. Political Situation. On arrival in country the political situation was fairly stable with only a small number of violent incidents being reported that could be linked to the forthcoming elections. The common factor during this period was a general feeling of uncertainty as to what would happen and if it did; when. Assessments ranged from a completely peaceful transition, to full scale hostilities and the return of SADF forces.

29. As was commonly predicted, the political situation began to deteriorate as election time drew near. The two main Party's involved were SWAPO and DTA, who between them had the majority of electoral support. Friction between supporters of these two groups began to increase, resulting in several violent incidents.

30. SWAPO was generally supported by the local Owambo and Kavango people, where as DTA was generally supported by the white/coloured community and ex-SADF personnel. Many of the ex-SADF personnel were black soldiers who had been demobilized and now lived in close proximity with SWAPO supporters. Consequently intimidation from both sides became a common occurrence.

31. During the final two weeks before the elections, violence in the Oshakati area flared up and resulted in 17 dead and over 100 injured. In addition to traditional weapons; automatic weapons and a variety of grenades including rifle projected grenades were used. A number of white phosphorous grenade attacks on Kraals, shops, a school and vehicles were also reported.

32. Whilst the main area of concern was in Owambo, there was also a number of smaller incidents in Kavango and the Caprivi Strip.

33. Construction Tasks. Immediately after arrival in country, construction projects began in earnest in preparation for the forthcoming elections. Tasks were varied and included both vertical and horizontal construction. The tasks on their own were simple, but were made difficult by the hot dusty conditions, the need for security precautions and slow erratic material supply.

34. Material supply was split evenly between local (Namibia) sources and supplies from South Africa. Generally key items such as septic tanks, pressure reducing valves, etc., had to come from South Africa. The process of supply was often slow and tedious.

35. During the first month section commanders came into their own as they were required to complete projects with insufficient materials in remote areas far away from their base. This type of work called for a lot of initiative and induced a strong sense of responsibility, particularly with regard to personal security.

36. Types of Tasks. As mentioned previously the tasks encountered prior to the elections were many and varied. They included the following:

a. Recon and provision of essential services to some 20 separate UN CIVPOL stations: These stations consisted of Bavarian prefabricated buildings with caravan accommodation. All required plumbing, sewerage, water supply, electrical retic, and construction of generator sheds, etc. (see Annex F).

b. Recon and upgrade of access roads to UN CIVPOL stations plus construction of Hardstandings: Initial refurbishment of an airfield at OPUWO was also begun during this period. (see Annex F).

c. Recon and preparation of Polling Station sites: As election time drew near, 17 CONST SQN was solely responsible for the recon of 127 proposed polling station sites throughout Owambo, Kaokoland and the Kavango. Many of these sites required water and power supply plus long drop toilet facilities.



d. Support to other UN Contingents: Normal support to other contingents continued and in fact escalated as construction teams strived to either complete projects, or at least get them to a stage where they could be left during the elections. The type of work included:

- (i) partitioning and upgrading of accommodation blocks; (see Annex F)
- (ii) maintenance and repair of essential services;
- (iii) construction of bunkers and limited advice on field defences. (see Annex F)

37. During the period leading up to the elections 17 CONST SQN was extremely busy meeting the requirements outlined in para 14. All personnel worked a 7 day week during this period and often 11 - 12 hours a day. The long hours were made easier to bear because of the real nature of the task at hand.

Field Engineering Tasks: (21 Sep 89 - 10 Feb 90)

38. During the period leading up to the elections and indeed for the Tour as a whole, the main tasks conducted of a Field Engineering Nature were as follows:

- a. destruction of Mines and Explosive Ordnance (DMEQ);
- b. mine clearance;
- c. construction of Bunker Systems;
- d. instruction on Mine Warfare and awareness to other Contingents; and
- e. construction blasting tasks.

39. Most of the above tasks were in the main carried out by the Field Troop (FD TP) based at Ondangwa, however, there were instances when the FD TP wasn't available. On these occasions the task at hand was completed by personnel from other Troops within 17 CONST SQN.

40. DMEQ Tasks. These tasks provided the bulk of work for the FD TP. Eighty percent of these tasks involved the destruction of SADF ammunition left behind in SADF bases. An example of the DMEQ tasks conducted from Sep 89 - Jan 90 is at Annex H.

41. The destruction of SADF ammunition became somewhat of a monotonous exercise that was relieved by tasks for UN CIVPOL or the South West African Police (SWAPOL), which often involved the destruction of Eastern Block ammunition. This ammunition ranged from recovered mines to anti-tank and Artillery ammunition located in old battle sites. All such ammunition where possible was blown insitu or moved to a safe area and exploded. NZ personnel were involved in several DMEQ tasks, but served mainly on construction related tasks. (see Annex H).

42. Mine Clearance. On 21 Sep 89 the Field Troop reacted to a mine incident on the fringes of an abandoned SADF camp at Mahonene (near Ruacana). All SADF bases had previously had their protective minefields mechanically cleared and were considered to be anything from 75% to 98% cleared. This particular base had had 5259 A/Pers mines laid and 732 were unaccounted for after clearance.

43. On this occasion a local lost his leg and several mines were uncovered around him by the explosion. Australian sappers cleared a path into these mines using hand prodders and exploded them insitu. The mines were R2M2, which closely resemble the American M14 A/Pers mine. (see Annex I).

44. There were several such incidents during the remainder of the tour plus one during the elections where a Soviet TM57 A TK mine was planted on a public road, destroying two civilian vehicles and injuring the occupants (see Annex G). These incidents provided first hand practical experience for the sappers involved and ensured that all personnel remained wary of the mine threat.

45. Only the main roads in Northern Namibia are sealed and approximately 80% of all roads are dirt and lead to remote areas. Although fortunately the mine threat never manifested itself, Australian and NZ troops were continually using the dirt roads, often within several km of the Angolan Border. Consequently mine awareness was paramount especially during the lead up to the elections and immediately afterwards.

46. Construction of Bunker Systems. These systems were constructed mainly by the respective construction troops' and were designed to provide protection against grenades, small arms, fire and mortar attack. They were built above ground level and constructed with filled sandbags usually 3 - 4 layers thick.

47. In Owambo all SADF bases had 10ft high earth bunding around their perimeter. The bunker systems were constructed in these bunds. This was the case at Ondangwa Base. (see Annex D).

48. Mine Warfare Instruction. Immediately after arrival in country the Field troop was actively involved in providing instruction to the Malaysian and Finnish Infantry Battalions on mine warfare skills. Particular emphasis was placed on mine detection and awareness, and the habits used by insurgents to conceal and mark mined areas during the recent bush war. Insurgents often marked a mined area by using a broken branch pushed into a tree's foliage with the broken end protruding. Other methods were using a cairn of stones, etc. Mines (ATK) were commonly stacked in groups of 2 or 3 high and occasionally in groups up to 5 high. SADF mine protected vehicles proved very effective and were responsible for saving many lives. (see Annex E).

49. The types of mines found in Namibia and Angola are generally either South African produced or Eastern Block. A list of commonly found mines is at Annex I.



50. Construction Blasting. Several blasting tasks were conducted during the Tour, the largest being of 3 weeks duration. This particular task involved the deepening and clearance of a 900m channel for a Catholic Mission station on the Kavango river. The channel was used to provide water for a small turbine that supplied power to the mission. (see Annex J)

51. This task involved using rock drills with PE4 explosive plus beehives. This was an excellent task that used a cross-section of trades from Surveyor to Plant Op to Field Engineers.

52. Another type of demolition task carried out was the destruction and dis-assembly of radio towers. These towers were too dangerous to dis-assemble in place and so were blown down using PE4 explosive. (see Annex J). Such tasks were generally conducted by the construction troops' and provided some variation to their construction duties.

#### Namibian Elections

53. General. On 15 Oct 89 the confirmed dates for the elections were announced for the period 7 - 12 Nov 89 inclusive. This was the reason for our being here and all efforts were centred on ensuring that all support systems were in place by election day.

54. Despite the need to complete all election related construction tasks, 17 CONST SQN was also tasked with formulating a plan to support United Nations personnel in the Owambo, Kavango and Hereroland. This task was made more complicated as their would be an additional 2000 UN civilians in the area actually running the elections at individual polling stations (all 127 of them). This plan was to facilitate the following at all polling stations:

- a. adequate food and water re-supply;
- b. construction maintenance to essential services as required;
- c. provide an armed security presence to all polling centres; and
- d. have in place a contingency plan for emergency withdrawal of Australian/New Zealand nationals to Ondangwa Base.

This plan was to be known as Operation PollGallop.

#### Operation PollGallop 2 Nov 89 - 14 Nov 89

55. The 17 CONST SQN was at this time basically divided into four groups as follows:

- a. 17 CONST SQN TAC HQ including rear details;
- b. Roving Maintenance Teams;
- c. Read Reaction Force; and
- d. Election Monitors.

56. 17 CONST SQN TAC HQ. On the 2 Nov 89 the SQN TAC HQ deployed North from Grootfontein to Ondangwa Base, and established the CP from which all the 17 CONST SQN operations in support of the election would be controlled. The HQ contained the OC, 2IC, CONST OFFR and normal OPs Clks etc.

57. A rear detail of approximately 50 personnel remained in Grootfontein under the command of the QM. This group was responsible for base security and forward supply of construction materials, etc.

58. Roving Maintenance Teams. The maintenance teams were the backbone of the effort provided by the Australian Contingent during the elections. These teams were of section strength and commanded by a Corporal. The AO was divided into 13 sections each supported by one of the maintenance teams.

59. Each maintenance team was issued 1 x Unimog truck and 1 x Landrover; plus a quantity of construction stores for minor maintenance tasks. These teams worked very long hours during the elections and each team travelled thousands of kilometers visiting each polling station once every 48 hours.

60. The contribution made by these maintenance teams was invaluable in terms of maintaining a military presence and providing logistical supply to the election monitors. Personnel in these teams were often involved in crowdcontrol incidents, and several tense situations arose where the CPL in charge was required to make sound and practical decisions. It is a tribute to their level of training and maturity that there were no unfortunate incidents as a result of over reaction.

61. Ready Reaction Force. As a further contingency against emergency a Troop (-) size Ready Reaction Force (RRF) was formed and ordered to perform the following tasks:

- a. security of Ondangwa Base;
- b. patrolling of the areas of Owambo in support of the engineer maintenance teams; and
- c. extraction of Australian (AS) and other monitors as ordered.

62. The RRF was divided into two 16 man groups; each under the command of an Officer and mounted in 3 x Buffels. These teams rotated daily between base security and patrolling tasks.

63. Extraction of UN Election Monitors. In the eventuality of open hostility and a threat to UN lives, the RRF was given the responsibility to evacuate UN personnel. The large number of possible scenarios for evacuation meant that several basic drills were devised. Four different drills were devised as follows:

- a. halt and assert presence;
- b. single vehicle pick up;
- c. multiple vehicle pick up; and
- d. rear entry to polling station compound by force.



64. Each drill differed slightly depending on the severity of the situation but the general idea was to regain the initiative from the crowd and using two Buffels to cover the scene, send the third into the front door and recover any UN personnel inside.

65. The RRF was only used for real on one occasion where supporters of the DTA had bailed up a SWAPO supporter inside a UN District Office. The situation had reached the stage where the DTA group (some 200 strong) was on the verge of attacking the office, when the RRF and elements of SWAPOL arrived. The mere presence of the RRF and SWAPOL sent the crowd scattering and difused what had become a very tense situation.

66. Patrolling of the Owambo AO. The RRF patrol programme was instituted to support the Malaysian Battalion (MALBATT) patrol programme in Owambo, and to complete a reconnaissance of polling stations with AS personnel present in case evacuation was necessary. Patrols were carried out while the polling stations were open from 0700 - 1900 hrs daily. If whilst conducting a patrol the atmosphere of a polling station was tense, the RRF had the authority to halt in front of the station and stabilize the situation by asserting a military presence.

67. Election Monitors. The actual conduct of the elections was to involve two distinct party's: namely the Administrator General's Representatives (AG Reps) and the UN electoral monitors. The AG Reps were the group who would physically run the elections whilst the UN personnel would monitor and ensure the process was "Free & Fair".

68. The majority of UN electoral personnel were flown in especially for the elections however, the ASC UNTAG was required to provide 30 SNCO's and Officers as election monitors. These personnel were required to attend in civilian attire and be completely unarmed. After spending the previous 6 weeks in uniform and carrying a weapon; the idea of dressing as a civilian and being unarmed and confined to a polling both, was not well received by some monitors.

69. The first 3 days of voting saw crowds of several thousands massed around the majority of polling booths. Voting lasted for a minimum of 12 hours a day and during the first days often lasted for up to 16 hrs in some centres. The voting process was slow and tedious with 90% of voters in Owambo requiring thumb printing, etc. An ultraviolet solution was also applied to the voters fingers and every voter was checked on entry to the polling booth with a black light to ensure that they had not voted at another station. Polling booth venues ranged from permanent schools and offices to tents in the middle of Owamboland.

70. Voting concluded on 11 Nov 89 with 95% of all registered voters having lodged their vote. The final result gave SWAPO 57% and DTA 28% with the remaining parties sharing the remainder of votes. The distribution of votes was to prove a major factor in the peaceful acceptance by all parties that the elections were indeed "Free & Fair". A major consideration was that because SWAPO didn't get a two thirds majority they could not completely dictate the Nations future, therefore opening the door for a coalition and a constitution that reflected a blend of the two major party's policies.

Part 3

POST ELECTIONS (15 NOV 89 - 26 FEB 90)

General

71. The situation immediately after the elections remained tense but stable as the election results were absorbed. 17 CONST SQN remained on the "dry" for two weeks during this period with extra care being taken when moving away from bases and in particular on dirt roads.

72. During this period all construction and Field Engineering tasks resumed and works tasks began to flow in from HQ ASC UNTAG. After refurbishment of stores and vehicles, the maintenance team members returned to their original bases.

Construction Tasks

73. Construction tasks during this period remained very much the same as those prior to the elections. Contrary to predictions the amount of work increased as the emphasis shifted from election support to improvement of UN Contingent accommodation and facilities.

74. During the period over Xmas and New Year Namibia entered the Wet Season which saw daily deluges of rain. The wet season initiated further Plant Support tasks to UN CIVPOL stations, eg; hardstandings, clearance of access roads.

75. In general terms the constructions tasks remained many and varied which kept the Sqn fully employed. The types of construction completed before return to Australia included:

- a. various water supply tasks;
- b. disconnection of services to UN CIVPOL stations;
- c. completion of Opuwo airfield including installation of 140m double barrelled culverts (see Annex F);
- d. refurbishment of Hospital at Oshikati;
- e. interior partitioning and concrete work for various UN Contingents (see Annex F);
- f. installation of 4 x Non-Directional Radar Beacons; and
- g. construction of School building in Tsumeb.

76. During the latter stages of the T.O.D. word was received of our forthcoming withdrawal. A large percentage of the construction effort was then diverted to prepare vehicles and equipment for return to Australia. Support was also required for the disconnection and recovery of various non-essential UN CIVPOL stations.



77. Water Supply. During the period leading up to New Year the country became gripped in what was claimed to be the worst drought for some 20 years. 17 CONST SQN provided several water points in the North on the Kavango River, at Nkurenkuru and Bagani. The main equipment used was the:

- a. Permutit CPC 7.5; and
- b. Permutit CPC 20

78. Both equipments mentioned in para 77 performed well and provided large amounts of potable water for weeks on end.

79. The water supply in northern Namibia is generally very good, especially in Owambo which although dry has reliable artesian fed sources in place. These sources were installed by the SADF which previously maintained a number of bases in Owambo. Potable water supply to UN CIVPOL stations in remote areas was generally by water truck.

80. Field Engineering Tasks. Field Engineering tasks for the duration of the T.O.D. are covered at para's 38 - 52.

#### Political Situation

81. The political situation was to remain stable which was largely due to the acceptance by the individual parties that the election was Free & Fair. A shadow cabinet was elected shortly after the elections that provided a fair distribution of the two major parties (SWAPO and DTA) to key cabinet positions.

82. Independence was set for 21 Mar 90 and the final draft constitution placed before individual parties in early Feb 90. The process towards Independence generally went very smoothly due largely to the co-operation displayed by all sides. The last remaining SADF combat units withdrew from Namibia to Walvis Bay and South Africa on 24 Nov 89.

#### UNTAG Withdrawal Plan

83. The withdrawal plan for the ASC UNTAG underwent many changes but the final plan was as follows:

- a. Flight A ETD Namibia 6 Feb 90 (100 pers);
- b. Flight B ETD Namibia 26 Feb 90 (135 pers);
- c. Ship Party ETD Namibia 22 Feb 90 (6 pers to escort SQN C & B vehicles); and
- d. Flight C ETD Namibia early April (remaining contingent pers)

NZ pers were all included on Flight B.

84. From the 19 Feb 90 all Flight C personnel became a separate organization and began work in preparation for the withdrawal of UN forces from Namibia. This work involved the following:

- a. Recon and mapping of existing minefields;
- b. Disconnection and refurbishment of UN CIVPOL stations; and
- c. Maintenance and handover of UN occupied bases.

85. The main task during February was the sea preparation of the 150 B and C vehicles plus an extra 100 items such as compressors, concrete mixers, etc.. All items were transported by train to Walvis Bay by 15 Feb for shipment to Sydney.



Part 4

TRAINING AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Training

86. There is no doubt that NZ personnel were fortunate to be able to participate in UNTAG Namibia. A wide range of both soldier and trade skills were conducted within a realistic scenario and in a unique environment.

87. JNCO Training. It is believed that JNCO's received some of the best practical experience possible during the UNTAG Mission. The amount of tasks to be completed coupled with the vast distances involved mean't that Sect Comd and Sect 21C's were required to operate independantly for periods of up to a week at a time. This situation was common place in the weeks leading up to, during and immediately prior to the elections. There was a great deal of uncertainty and speculation during this period which provided a realistic and at times tense aspect to individuals' daily activities. This period was often heard to be described as a "corporals' paradise" and provided the JNCO with invaluable experience for the future.

88. Individual Training. Perhaps the best aspect of the mission was that soldiers of private rank were able to participate. The NZ pers excelled in the conditions and there were no disciplinary problems whatsoever.

89. The combination of long hours and varied tasks coupled with the environment produced a great deal of enthusiasm and once again provided a unique opportunity to conduct both soldier and trade skills in a realistic environment.

Administration

90. NZ Support. The support received from NZ was in general terms very good. Once the Tour was underway NZ pers received the following:

- a. various newspapers;
- b. Fixed Bayonet Magazine;
- c. NZ Army Sitrep; and
- d. videos

91. With the exception of videos, all other items were received on a regular basis. It is thought that under the circumstances the level of support in this regard was excellent, and was a definite boost for morale.

92. Mail. The mail system was at first shaky but this was due to the UN mail sorting facilities in Namibia rather than in NZ. Mail delivery to Namibia was through the GPO Auckland via the International Mail Centre in Sydney. The mail delivery was also very good with delivery times in the main being an average 9 - 15 days.

93. Postage back to NZ was directed back through the IMC Sydney. Postage was free from Namibia to Australia with normal postage costs being incurred between Australia and NZ. Again this system proved reliable and reasonably quick. Letters took an average of 12 days to reach NZ.

94. **Communications.** Communications between COMD NZE and LF COMD were effected using the UN and Australian Signal net. This system proved reliable and the passage of Sitreps, etc., were generally effected within 24 hours.

95. **Pay and Allowances.** NZ pers were paid in Namibia in exactly the same way as their Australian Counterparts. This was effected as follows:

- a. NZ DEF OPU advise NZ DEF CANBERRA of fortnightly total including NZFA, UUA e.t.c.;
- b. NZ DEF CANBERRA converted individual totals to Australian dollars and advised HQ ASC UNTAG by signal.
- c. NZ pers paid by 17 CONST SQN pay rep in South African Rand.

96. The pay system proved reliable however despite numerous requests there was only one delivery of "Pink Slips" from NZ. This was only a minor matter and in general terms payment of NZ pers was effected without any major problems. It is believed that this system would be ideal for any future UN deployment as part of an Australian Force.

97. The initial location allowance of US\$14.06 per day granted to NZ pers was interim only and subject to adjustment. Despite a written submission by COMD NZE of 17 Nov 89 which included a cost of living proforma; an approved daily allowance was not received until 26 Feb 90.

98. **Support to Dependents:** Support to dependants at both Unit level and from LF COMD was adequate. It is believed that a monthly newsletter based on Sitreps should be promulgated to dependants. This would provide information of a general nature that would serve to keep dependants up to date with what the contingent as a whole is achieving.

99. **NZ Equipment:** NZ equipment proved to be both reliable and suitable for the conditions encountered in Namibia. The NZ Field Pack in particular as opposed to the Australian version, was capable of carrying all required equipment when operating away from base areas.

100. **Weapons and Tool Kits:** Prior to deployment to Australia it was directed that the NZE take both personal tool kits and M16 A1 weapons for service in Namibia. This proved to be an unnecessary administrative burden. It is believed that it would have been far easier to use Australian weapons which would have negated both the need for separate accounting and storage facilities whilst in transit and arrangements for RTNZ on civil aircraft.

101. It is recommended that for any future deployments involving a small number of NZ pers serving as an integrated component of a larger force overseas, that the weapons of the fostering force be used. Particularly in the case of Australian Forces that use the same weapons as ourselves.



102. **Medical.** NZE ASC UNTAG pers did not suffer any serious illness during the deployment. Minor ailments such as diarrhoea, 24 hour bugs, etc., were however fairly common. SPR Wilson received a gash to the top of his foot which healed badly and required further treatment. A Swiss Medical Unit Orthopaedic Surgeon examined and x-rayed the foot. Because it was by this time only 10 days to departure for NZ the medical authorities recommended that any treatment should be conducted in New Zealand. HQ LF COMD was notified by signal and arrangements made for medical treatment on arrival in New Zealand.

103. **General:** In general terms administration support to the NZE ASC UNTAG more than met the requirements of the contingent. The NZE ASC UNTAG was fortunate that it was able to tap into the Australian facilities which to a large extent alleviated the need for complete mail, pay and communication systems to be set up. As a result the tour as part of the ASC UNTAG went smoothly with only minor problems that were easily remedied.

#### UN Military Units and Their Functions

104. The UNTAG was made up of many different nationalities, however the main military contingents and their functions were as follows:

- a. **FINNISH (FINBATT):** FINBATT were an Infantry Battalion who's responsibility was to patrol the Kavango and Caprivi Strip to report on insurgency activities and maintain the peace. FINBATT was composed mainly of Army reservists with a cadre of regulars.
- b. **MALAYSIANS (MALBATT):** MALBATT performed the same functions as FINBATT, but in the Owambo and Kaokoland areas.
- c. **KENYANS (KENBATT):** KENBATT operated mainly to the south of Windhoek and provided the same functions as FINBATT and MALBATT.
- d. **BRITISH (BRITCON):** BRITCON was responsible for all communications support to both civilian and military groups in UNTAG. Their task was a difficult one especially during the Elections when there were many different nets operating 24 hrs a day. The strength of BRITCON was approximately 120.
- e. **POLISH (POLLOG):** POLLOG were the main logistic unit for food, vehicle and appliance supply to all points north of Grootfontein. POLLOG were of Bn strength.
- f. **CANADIANS (CANCON):** CANCON operated mainly out of Windhoek and provided the main supply store for POLLOG to draw its' supplies from. CANCON also supplied mechanical repair parts as required. They also provided a road transport service.
- g. **SWISS:** The Swiss provided medical support to all main centres in northern Namibia. They also provided an air passenger and MEDEVAC service.
- h. **DANISH (DANCON):** DANCON co-ordinated all air movement.

- i. ITALIANS & SPANISH (HELITALY): HELITALY provided rotary wing aircraft and pilots. The Spanish provided the majority of the fixed wing pilots.
- j. UN MILITARY MONITORS (UN MILMON): Approximately 1000 military personnel were drawn from 68 countries. UN MILMON's were responsible for monitoring all SADF bases. They were also stationed in caravans along the Angolan border to observe movement of FAPLA, UNITA and especially PLAN fighters.



ANNEX A TO

## 0

	0545 -	0750 -	0835 -	0920 -	1020 -	1105 -	1150 -	1330 -	1415 -	1500 -	1545 -	1630 -	1830 -	Remar
DAY	0615	0830	0915	1000	1100	1145	1230	1410	1455	1540	1625	1710	2030	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)	(k)	(l)	(m)	(n)	(o)
1	COURSE MARCH-IN DAY BEDDING AND EQUIPMENT ISSUES													
2	Free.	0700 Wpn iss,DPU size Passport photo	Opening Address	Intro to UN ops Briefing	Namibia Country Pref	UNTAG Intro Brief	UNTAG Legal Brief	First-Aid Procedures	Pers Wpn TOET Sect NCO	DP1 Prep	NO LOCAL LEAVE			
3	PT	Demolition Intro and Saftey	Non Elec Initiate	Join Det Cord Line Mains Single Ring Main	Elec Initiate	Practical Demolition Training Wpn TOET's for MAG-58 and M-79 Concurrent Medical training						LOCAL LEAVE		
4	PT	Introduction to Minewarfare NAMIBIA War Film	Foreign Mines	ID Mine Presence	Mine Protection	Mine Incident Drills	METEX Mine Detector				METEX Study Sect NCO	LOCAL LEAVE		
5	PT	Mine Clearance and Destruction				Route and Area Clearance Drills					UNTAG Medical brief	LOCAL LEAVE		
6	PT	Aims and Types of Search Techniques 1.Aren, Route, Unocc Facy, VCP,Body 2. Caches and Dumps. 3. Search Teams composition/duties.				IED Booby Traps	Search Equip	COMMS EX	Recon, Apprec. Orders, Int Markings, Rpts.	Section Preparation			LOCAL LEAVE	
7	T	Prepare Orders	Practical Search Exercise ( Area - Route - Occ/Unocc Facy - VCP .									Section Prep		

DAY	0545 - 0615	0750 - 0830	0835 - 0915	0920 - 1000	1020 - 1100	1105 - 1145	1150 - 1230	1330 - 1410	1415 - 1455	1500 - 1540	1545 - 1625	1630 - 1710	1830 - 2030	Remarks
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)	(k)	(l)	(m)	(n) (o)
8	PT	Practical Search Exercise							Demo of EDD Route Search			Debrief Return stores	Prep Equipment for IMT Phase	
9	Range Practices and Infantry Minor Tactics Exercise - Troops to remain in the field overnight ( Zero personal wpn - M-16 and SLR. Demo shoot MAG-58 and M-79 )													
10	IMT Exercise. Veh Ambush Drills, Strong Point Security, Contact and withdrawal from contact drills												Troop Prep for Ex Grootfontein	
11	EXERCISE GROOTFONTEIN (ROUTE & AREA CLEARANCE DRILLS) USING LIVE CHARGES										Occupy and operate VCP 2030 - 0700			
12	EXERCISE GROOTFONTEIN												EX Debrief Local Leave	
13	Free	0700 0750	NBC Agents Symptoms First - Aid	Mask Maint Don/Off	IPE MS Suit	JA Drills	MINE CLEARANCE NBC KIT.			Local Leave				
14	Free	First aid assessment FIRST AID ASSESSMENT		EXAM.		BODY SEARCH TECHNIQUES			Local Leave					
15	Return Bedding. MARCH OUT FROM COURSE.													



CONCENTRATION TRAINING

TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR THE FORCE  
CONCENTRATION 19 AUG - 4 SEP 89

Correct as at: 12 Jul 89

DAY	Sub-Unit	0545 - 0515	0751 - 0830	0815 - 0915	0920 - 1000	1030 - 1100	1105 - 1145	1150 - 1230	1230 - 1410	1415 - 1455	1500 - 1540	1545 - 1525	1630 - 1710	1815 - 2030	Remarks
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)	(k)	(l)	(m)	(n)	(o)	(p)
1	HQ 17														
SAT 19 AUG	8 Tp														Complete Force Pde March In and Roll Call
	9 Tp														Procedure
	Res Tp														Gain Room Alloc
	Plant														COMD's Hour
	14 Tp														OC's Hour
	14 Tp														
	14 Tp														
	HQ CE														
2	HQ 17	Team PT	Issue, Check Assemble & Change OPI Eqpt			Eqpt Marking and Baggage Prep		Squadron Comd's Interviews		Dental Record and Oral Check					Sqn Comd Time
SUN 20 AUG	8 Tp	Team PT	Dental Record and Oral Checks			Medical Record, Injection and Physical Checks		Personal Documentation and Computer Records Checks							
	9 Tp	Team PT	Medical Record, Injection and Physical Checks			Tp Comd's Interviews		Issue, Check Assemble & Change OPI Eqpt		Eqpt Marking and Baggage Prep					
	Res Tp	Team PT	Tp Comd's Interviews			Issue, Check Assemble & Change OPI Eqpt		Eqpt Marking and Baggage Prep		Tp Comd's Interviews					
	Plant														
	14 Tp	Team PT	Tp Comd's Interviews			Personal Documentation and Computer Records Checks		Tp Comd's Interview		Issue, Check Assemble & Change OPI Eqpt					

	Wksp	Team PT	Personal Documentation and Computer Records Check	Dental Records and Oral Checks	Medical Records, Injections and Physical Checks
	HQ CE	Team PT	Administer the DPI Preparation of all Force Members		
3	HQ 17	Free	Squadron Commander's Interviews	Personal Documentation and Computer Checks	Medical Records, Injections and Physical Checks
MON 21 AUG	8 Tp	Free	Issue, Check Assemble & Change DPI Eqpt	Eqpt Marking and Baggage Prep	Troop Commander's Interviews
	9 Tp	Free	Dental Records and Oral Checks	Troop Commander's Interviews	Personal Documentation and Computer Records Check
	Res Tp	Free	Medical Records, Injections and Physical Checks	Dental Records and Oral Checks	Troop and Squadron Administration
	Plant				
	14 Tp	Free	Eqpt Marking and Baggage Prep	Medical Records, Injections and Physical Checks	Dental Records and Oral Checks
	Wksp	Free	Wksp Comd's Interviews	Issue, Check Assemble & Change DPI Eqpt	Eqpt Marking and Baggage Prep
	HQ CE	Free	Personal Documentation and Computer Records Check	Administer the DPI Preparation of all Force Members	DPI Iss etc
4	HQ 17	Free	DPI Eqpt Check Pde	Commander's Hour	20 Km Patrol Order Endurance March
TUE 22 AUG	8 Tp	Free			Squadron Comd's Hour
	9 Tp	Free			Movement Brief
	Res Tp	Free			Deployment Gp A commences Anti-Malaria Drugs
	Plant				
	14 Tp	Free			
	Wksp	Free			



	HQ CE	Free	Pde Gnd	S02 P/L	Eqpt Marking & Baggage Prep		Medical & Dental Documentation and Physical Checks	
5	HQ 17	Free	UNTAG Legal Brief -- To cover SA Law and effect on AS tps, soldiers rights on/off duty, SA driving regs and accident procedures, law of war, ROE, orders for opening fire, DFOA, powers of punishment SUBSA and SUM Auth, Wills and power of attorney.			UNTAG Medical Brief	Inter Troop Touch Football Competition	Local Leave
WED 23 AUG	8 Tp	Free						
	9 Tp	Free						
	Res Tp	Free	Area Theatre	UNTAG Legal Offr	UNTAG Assy Hall	UNTAG RMO		
	Plant	Free	UNTAG Medical Brief -- To cover diseases commonly encountered in Sthn Africa, sources, symptoms first aid and preventative measures. Aids and VD lecture. Cover first aid for shock and reptile bite.			UNTAG Legal Brief		
	14 Tp	Free						
	Wksp	Free						
	HQ CE	Free	UNTAG Assy Hall	UNTAG RMO	Area Theatre	UNTAG Legal Offr		
6	HQ 17	Battle PT	UNTAG Service Conditions Update	Padre's Hour	UNTAG Int Update	Media Brief	Weapons Trg/Revision and TOETs	First Aid Revision
THU 24 AUG	8 Tp	Battle PT			To incl country, social, political, military (SA and UN) future predictions.			
	9 Tp	Battle PT						
	Res Tp	Battle PT	DSC-A Rep					
	Plant	Battle PT	UNTAG Assy Hall	Area Theatre	CHAP			
	14 Tp	Battle PT	Padre's Hour	UNTAG Service Conditions Update				
	Wksp	Battle PT						
	HQ CE	Battle PT		DSC-A Rep		PR Offr		RMO Medics Sect Comd





(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)	(k)	(l)	(m)	(n)	(o)	(p)
9 SUN 27 4103	HQ 17	Free	Planning and Conduct of VAP Ops				Works Planning, Scheduling, Contract Admin				NBCD Revision and Practice				
	8 Tp	Free	Water Supply and Eqpt Revision				NBCD Revision and Practice				Planning and Conduct of VAP Ops				
	9 Tp	Free	Fd Power Gen & Camp Layout Revision				Planning and Conduct of VAP Ops				Water Supply and Eqpt Revision				
	Res 1p	Free													
	Plant	Free	Plant Safety, Ops in hot/dry Environment Revision				NBCD Revision and Practice				Planning and Conduct of VAP Ops				
	14 Tp	Free	Conduct of VAP Training for all Force Elements												
	Wksp	Free	NBCD Revision and Practice				Wksp and Recov Ops in Dispersed AO				Planning and Conduct of VAP Ops				
	HQ CE	Free	Works Scheduling, Planning, Contract Admin				Padre's Hour		Reserved						
10 MON 28 4103	HQ 17	Team Games	Padre's Hour		VCP Planning and Ops Revision				HF Comms Trg		Sqn Comd's Hour				
	8 Tp	Team Games	Fd Power Gen and Camp Layout Revision				Padre's Hour				VCP Planning and Ops Revision				
	9 Tp	Team Games	Works Scheduling, Planning, Contract Admin				NBCD Revision and Practice				HF Comms Trg		Padre's Hour	VCP Plan.	Ops Rev
	Res 1p	Team Games	NBCD Revision and Practical				HF Comms Trg		Padre's Hour		VCP Planning and Ops Revision				
	Plant	Team Games	Works Scheduling, Planning, Contract Admin												
	14 Tp	Team Games	Conduct of VAP Training for all Force Elements								NBCD Revision and Practical		HF Comms Trg		
	Wksp	Team Games	HF Comms Trg		Padre's Hour		Wksp Ops in Hot, Dry, Fd Environment				VCP Planning and Ops Revision				
	HQ CE	Team Games	NBCD Revision and Practical				Planning and Conduct of VAP Ops				HF Comms Trg		Spare	Padre's Hour	

{a} {h} {c} {d} {e} {f} {g} {h} {i} {j} {k} {l} {m} {n} {o} {p}

11 HQ 17

Field Training Exercise (Seperate Programme to be Issued)

29 AUG - 2 SEP 89

THU 29

AUG

8 Tp

9 Tp

Res Tp

Plant

14 Tp

Wkep

HQ CE

programme to incl

- Int minor tactics / vital area protection
- Live fire WDR from contact drills
- Navigation
- Live mine route clearance
- Vehicle check point drills
- Vehicle mine incident drills
- First Aid.

8 - 7

12 HQ 17

Field Training Exercise (Seperate Programme to be Issued)

WED 30

AUG

8 Tp

9 Tp

Res Tp

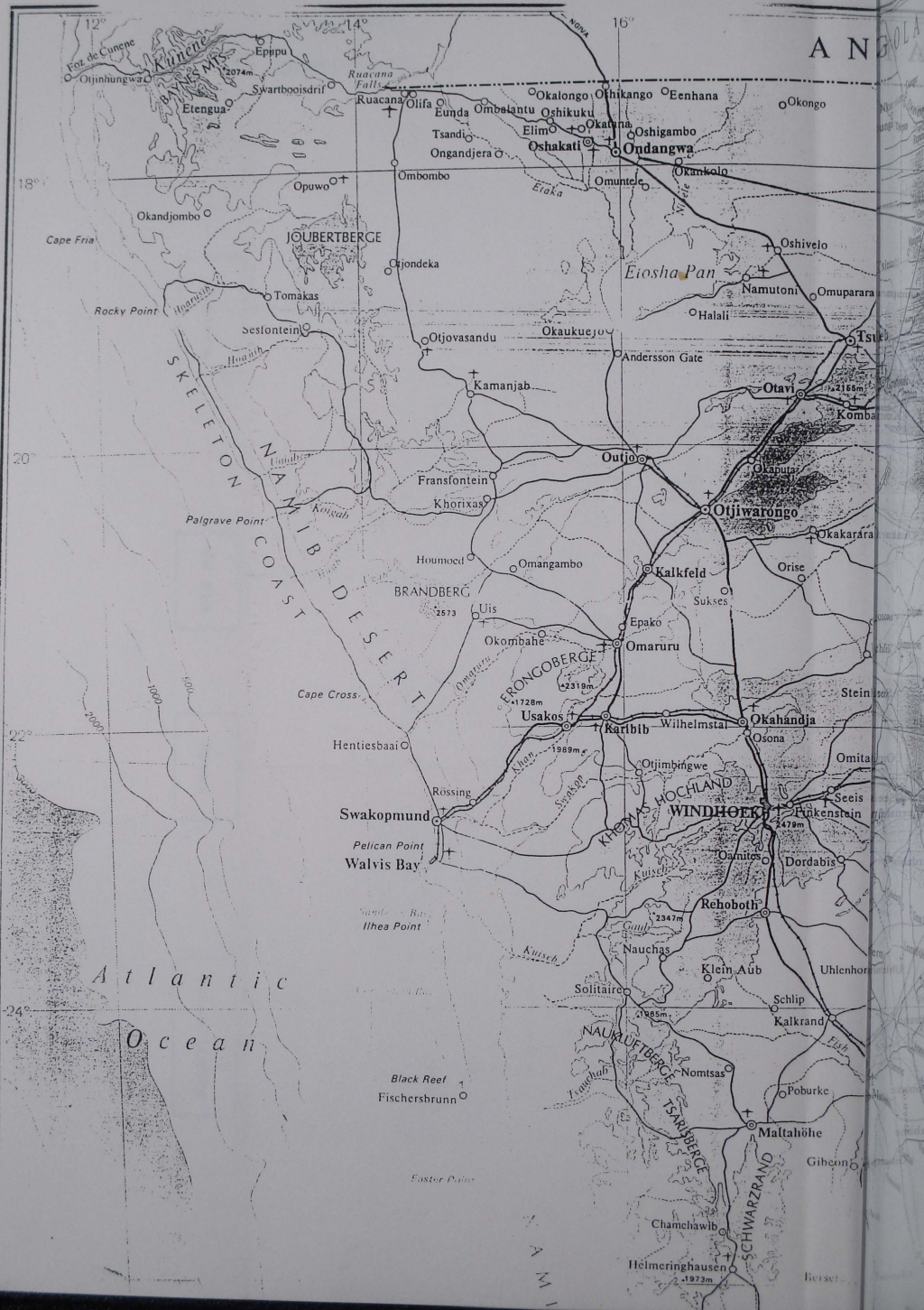
Plant

14 Tp

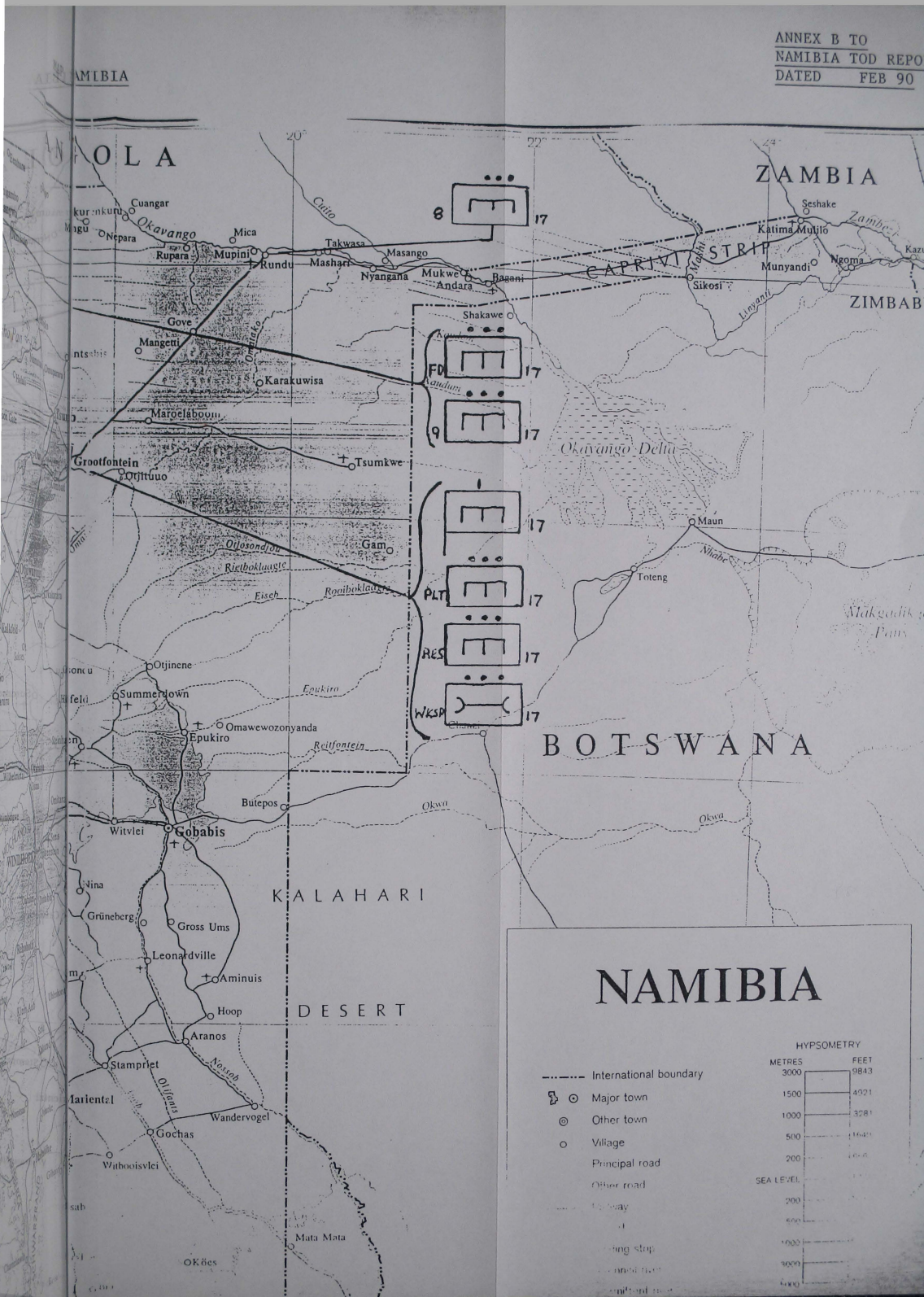
Wkep

HQ CE





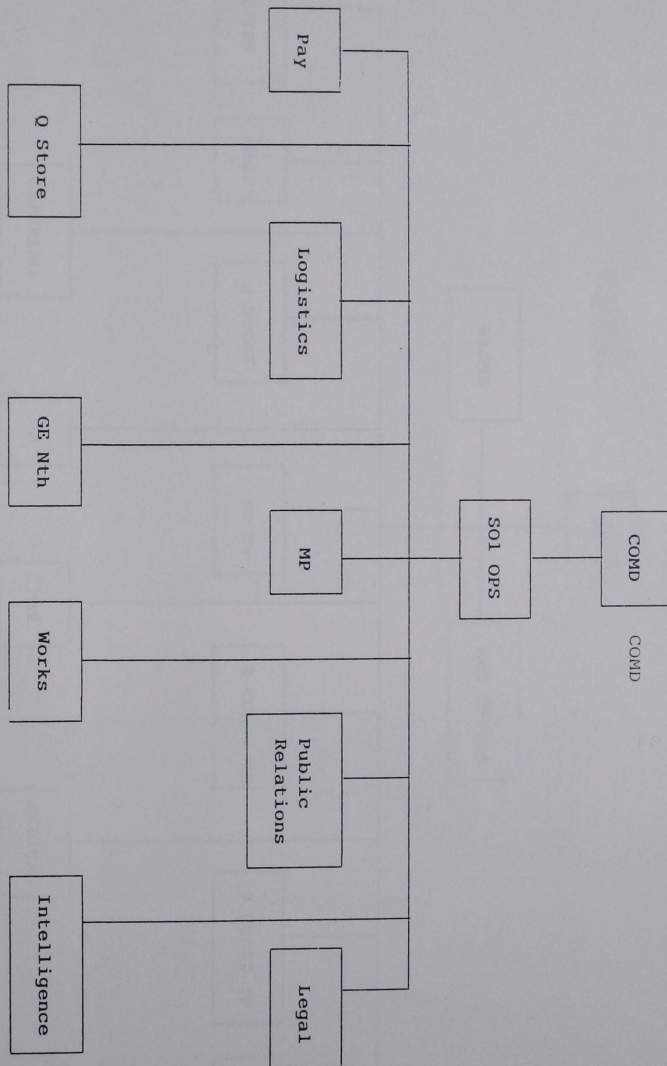






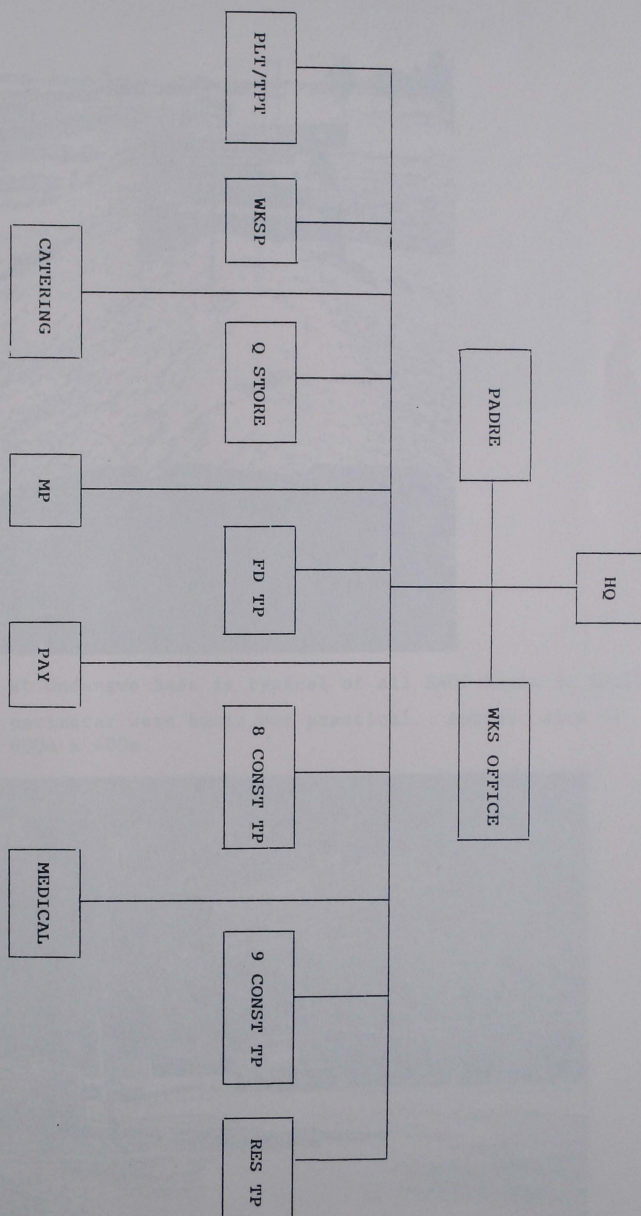
HQ ASC UNTAG

STRENGTH 9:21



17 CONSTRUCTION SQUADRON

STRENGTH 14:256





AUSTRALIAN FORWARD BASES

ONDANGWA (OWAMBOLAND)

ANNEX D TO  
NAMIBIA TOD REPORT  
DATED 28 FEB 90

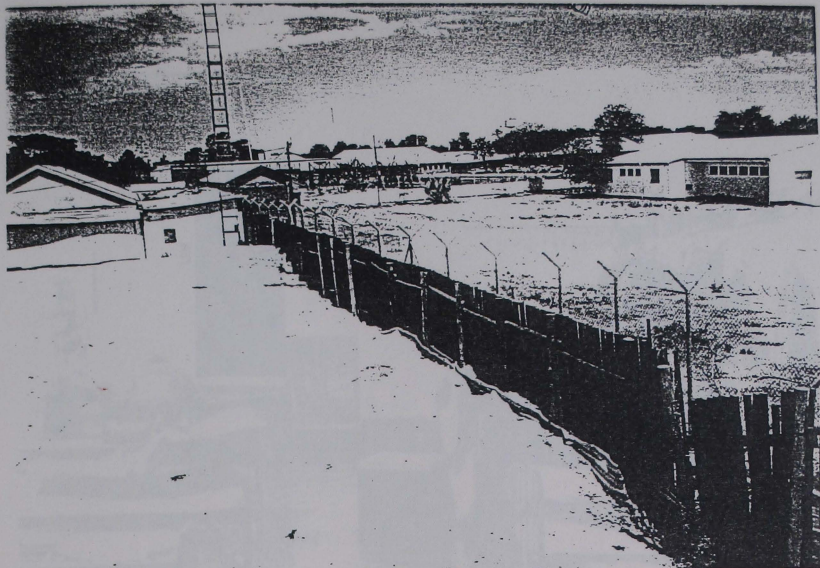


above: Bunded perimeter at Ondangwa Base is typical of all SADF Bases in Namibia  
below: Buildings inside perimeter were basic but practical. Approx. size of  
Ondangwa Base is 600m x 400m.





RUNDU BASE (KAVANGOLAND)



above: Part of the perimeter of Rundu Airforce Base.

below: SPRs August and Sumption strengthen defences around their perimeter.



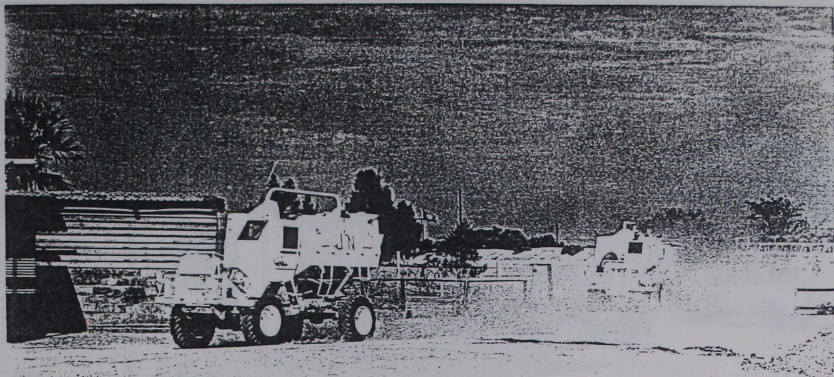


GROOTFONTEIN



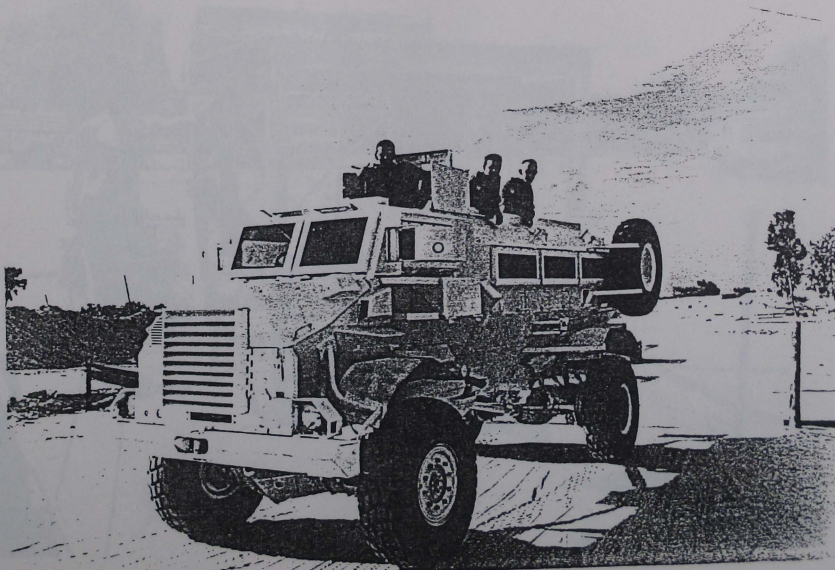
15700 Above: OR's accommodation at Logistics Base Grootfontein.

MINE PROTECTED VEHICLES



43v02 Above: The Buffel was used extensively off road and seats 10 personnel. The 'V' shaped base is filled with water for protection against mine blast.

43v02 Below: The Casspir is a fast mobile MPV (Mine Protected Vehicle) which seats 10 personnel. It is also currently used extensively by the SADF, who mount twin 50 cal machine guns above the cab.





CONSTRUCTION TASKS



Above: A typical UN CIVPOL Station. In the foreground is the 'Bavarian' designed prefab structure assembled by ASC UNTAG pers. These Bavarian shelters are used extensively throughout Namibia and can be built in different sizes and shapes as desired.

Below: A typical Generator shelter. A vast amount of these were installed by ASC UNTAG throughout Northern Namibia.



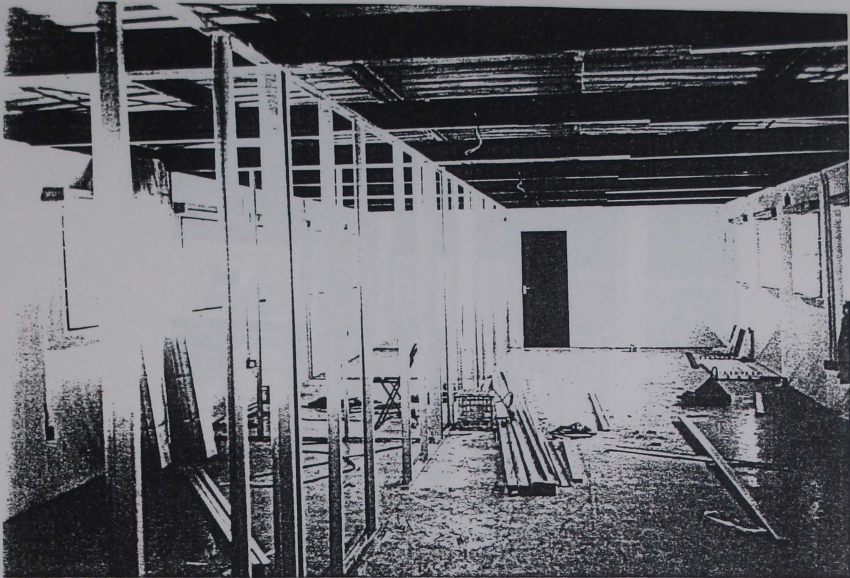


OPUWO AIRFIELD (KAOKOLAND)

Plant tasks were many and varied. This task was in a very remote location in the heart of Kaokoland. Seen here elements of Plant Troop improve the shoulders to Opuwo Airstrip.







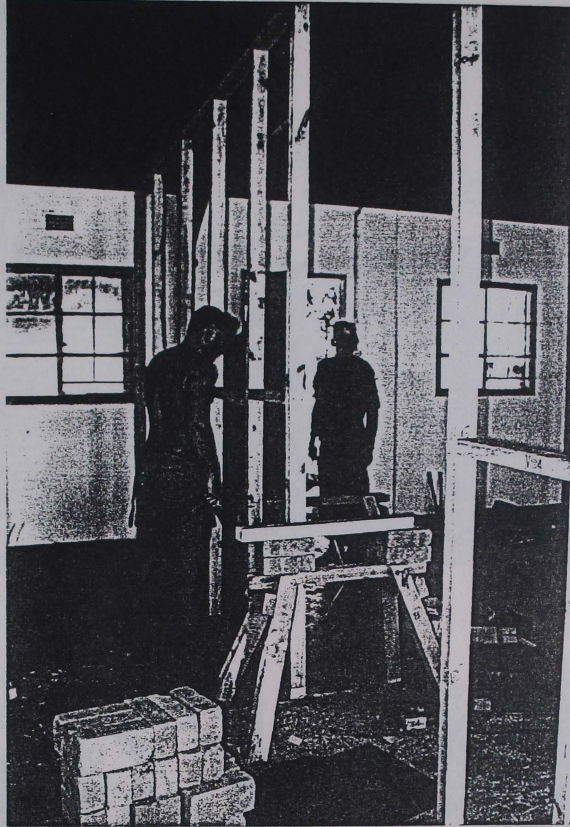
Above: Steel framing is used to partition the interior of the Italian living accommodation at Rundu. The building is a Bavarian Kitset as shown at F-1.

Below: Sappers constructing and hardening the guard post at the entrance to Ondangwa Base.

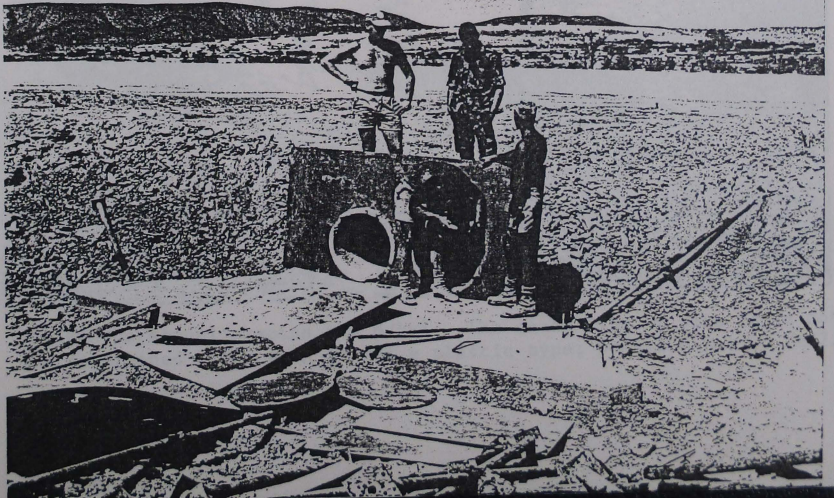




Below: SPR Hay working on Interior partitioning for Malaysian Hospital in Oshakati.



Above: Construction of 140m of Double Barrelled Culverts at Opuwo Airfield.





MINE INCIDENT AT OKATOPE

- \* This incident was one of several that occurred during the elections. These incident occurred on roads used often by ASC UNTAG personnel.



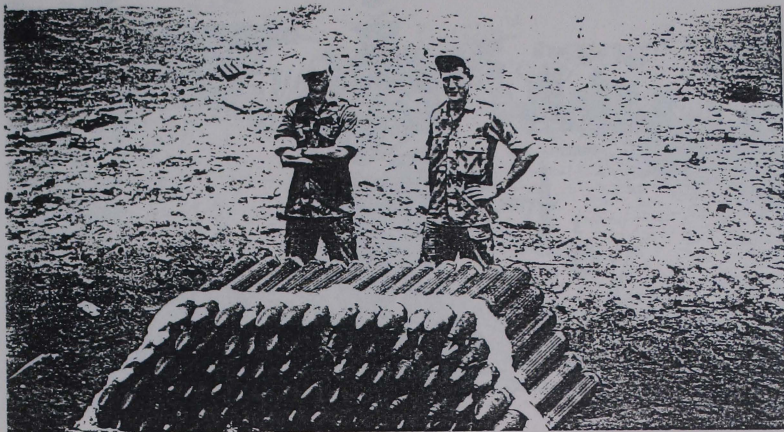
Above: Civilian vehicle immediately after the blast. The two occupants survived but required Intensive Care treatment.



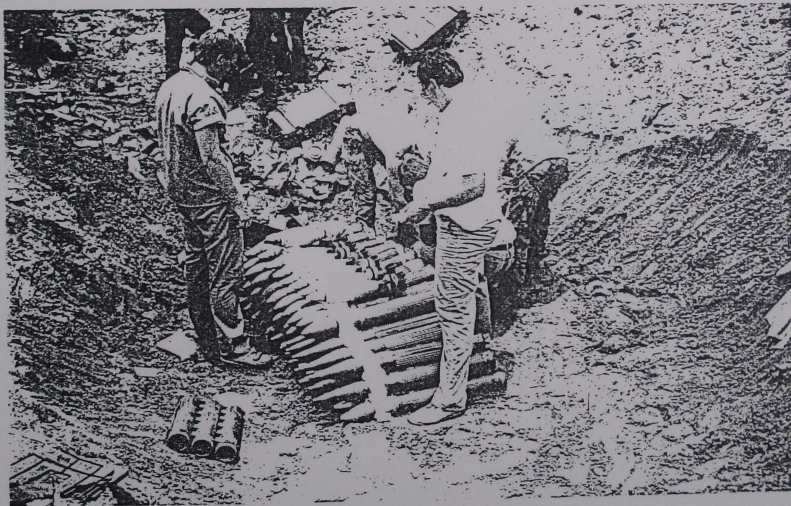
Below: SWAPOL personnel examine the debri. The exact type of mine could not be determined other than it was a plastic type; possibly Soviet TM57.



DMEO TASKS



Above: SFR Wilson with stock of 106mm Recoilless Rifle rounds prepared for disposal.



Above: Besides 106mm rounds a number of 120mm Mortar rounds were also disposed off.





Above: SSGT Cook holds one of several Soviet RPG-7 rounds prior to disposal at Buffalo Camp, Kavangoland.

## PMN Anti-personnel Mine

### DESCRIPTION

The PMN anti-personnel mine was developed after the end of the Second World War and has been deployed along the East German border, as well as in Vietnam. It has also been encountered in southern Africa. Another version of this mine is the PMN-6. Its case is made of duraplasic and has a side hole for the firing mechanism and primer charge, opposite which is the initiator adaptor plug. The top half of the mine has a rubber cover which covers the pressure plate, which is secured to the case by a thin metal band.

After the mine has been laid and the safety pin removed, there is a 15- to 20-minute delay in arming. This is because the firing pin moves forward under pressure of the firing pin spring until a wire in the after end of the firing pin spring contacts a lead strip in the arming device wire body. After the 15- to 20-minute period the wire cuts through the lead strip and releases the pin, which moves forward into a cavity of the pressure cylinder. This is held in place by a stop in the cylinder and remains in this position until the mine is set off. When pressure is applied to the top of the case, the spring-loaded striker is released which in turn hits a percussion cap capsule, which sets off the main charge.

### SPECIFICATIONS

Weight: 600 g  
Diameter: 112 mm  
Height: 56 mm  
Main charge: TNT  
Main charge weight: 240 g  
Booster charge: Teteryl  
Booster charge weight: 9 g  
Operating force: 0.23 kg

### STATUS

In service with members of the Warsaw Pact including East Germany. The mine has also been encountered in the Far East and Africa. In service with Afghanistan (est 25 000 to 30 000), China, and Vietnam.

### MANUFACTURER

Soviet state arsenals



PMN nonmetallic anti-personnel mine with safety pin in position but with safety cap removed to show lead bar and steel cutting wire that provide a 20-minute arming delay once the safety pin has been removed

## PPM-2 Anti-personnel Mine

### DESCRIPTION

The PPM-2 anti-personnel mine has a circular plastic body and uses a piezo-electric fuzing system. The mine can be carried slung from a belt by an integral clip. The safety is a steel pin inserted through the sealing ring that separates the upper and lower halves of the mine body and the pin also holds out a spring-loaded plate while at the same time mechanically holding a connector strip from a connector block. Only when the spring is withdrawn can an electrical path be formed from a piezo-electric plunger to the igniter.

Normally pressure on the top of the mine will shear a thin plastic collar and depress a plunger, creating a piezo-electric voltage to ignite the mine via a nitroperoxide and trinitroethyl igniter chain. If the safety pin is still inserted and the connector strip continues to make contact with the connector block and a voltage is produced, that voltage will pass harmlessly through the low resistance steel pin rather than through the connector strip which is

made of metal-impregnated plastic with a relatively high resistance. Only when the pin is withdrawn and pressure on the mine plate creates the piezo-electric effect will the resultant voltage pass through the metal-impregnated strip as there is no other path for it to follow.

### SPECIFICATIONS

Weight: 371 g  
Body diameter: 124.5 mm  
Max width: 140.8 mm  
Height: 62 mm  
Type of main charge: TNT  
Weight of main charge: 110 g  
Weight of primer and secondary charge: 0.65 g  
Main charge diameter: 76.5 mm  
Main charge height: 20.5 mm

### STATUS

In service with East German Army and some other nations. Has been encountered in South Africa.

### MANUFACTURER

East German state factories



PPM-2 anti-personnel mine with safety pin in place



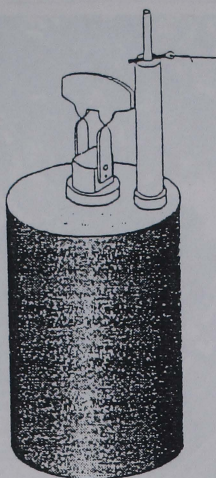
### SO 886 C-ZNOZM-3 and OZM-4 Bounding and Inert Personnel Mines

## ESOTIC

The OZM-4 is a further development of the OZM-3. It is a portable device that is fired electrically. The mine body is a simple cylindrical cast iron without pre-fragmentation. Deliberate fragmentation height is controlled by a tethering wire and is set at 20 cm approximately. 0.6 metre. Height without a fuse is 1.5 m (5 feet) 20 cm and diameter 91 mm. The OZM-4 is intended for use with the MUV, MUV-2 or similar pull fuzes. It has been encountered fitted with a Ro-R pressure

## REFERENCES

Weight: 3 kg  
Inner diameter: 75 mm  
Outer diameter: 120 mm  
Initiator: Lead azide type: TNT  
Weight of main charge: 75 g



OZM-3 bounding anti-personnel mine

**STATUS**  
The OZM-3 is in service with members of the Warsaw Pact and has been used in Afghanistan. The OZM-4 is in service with Warsaw Pact nations and has been encountered in southern Africa.

## MANUFACTURER

Soviet state arsenals (also field assembly for OZM mines)



Q7M-4 bounding mine lifted with B-8 pressure luge

POMZ-2 and POMZ-2M Anti-

### YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

PMQZ-2 anti-personnel stake mine was developed during the Second World War and consists of a wooden stake with a cast-iron fragmentation disk with six rows of fragmentation, rather like that of a hand grenade, and a cylinder of cast TNT. The mine is set off by a tripwire, which is 100 m long and is equipped with tripwires. When touched, the MUV fuse, a pull on the tripwire removes the striker-retaining pin, which releases the spring-driven striker against the percussion cap and detonates the mine if it is pulled. If the mine is not pulled, the spring-driven striker is pulled back and the wire is pulled it removes the pulling from around the striker bolt, releasing the spring-driven striker against the percussion cap and detonates the mine. Late war models are designated the PMQZ-2 and have a shaped charge fuze. The PMQZ-2 has six rows of fragmentation whereas the PMQZ-2 has six.

## REFERENCES AND SPECIFICATIONS

	POMZ-2	POMZ-2M
Weight	2 kg	1.7 kg
Dimensions	64 mm	64 mm
Light (with fuse but not with stake)	135 mm	111 mm
Light (without stake)	TNT	TNT
Charge type	75 g	75 g
Main charge	1 kg	1 kg
Pressure	MUV or VPF	MUV or VPF

## 26TUS

Service with members of the Warsaw Pact. A similar mine is made in China, which is lighter and requires a greater operating force (9 to 18 kg). The Koreans also make a mine similar to the M-42. Also in service with Afghanistan (est 15 000), Angola, Yugoslavia and Vietnam.



POMZ-2 anti-personnel stake mine

TM-57 Anti-tank Mine

## DESCRIPTION

The TM-57 can be fired with the MVZ-57 fuze. This has a clockwork delay mechanism that is prepared by removing a spring clip as the mine is emplaced by hand. A button on the fuze is then pressed and 45 seconds later the detonator tilts upright into the operating position. The MVSh-57 tilt-rod fuze may be used with the TM-57.

## SPECIFICATIONS

Weight: 9.5 kg  
Diameter: 315 mm  
Height:  
(overall, with MVZ-S7 fuze) 115 mm  
(without fuze) 95 mm



TM-57 anti-tank mine fitted with MVZ-57 fuze

Main charge type: cast TNT  
Main charge weight: 7 kg  
Operating force: 200–300 kg  
Fuze model: MVZ-57p or MVSh-5

## TM-46 Anti-tank Mine

## DESCRIPTION

The Israeli No 6 anti-tank mine is an exact copy of the TM-46. A version produced in China is known as the Type 72 and one produced in Egypt is known as the M71. The TM-46 is also produced in Bulgaria.

### SPECIFICATIONS

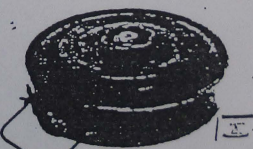
Weight: 8.4 kg  
 Diameter: 304 mm  
 Height: 91 mm  
 Main charge type: TNT  
 Main charge weight: 5.3 kg  
 Booster charge: TNT  
 Booster charge weight: 198.45 g  
 Operating force: approx 210 kg  
 Fuse model: MV-5 or MVM (angled tilt-rod) MVSh-46

## STATUS

In service with members of the Warsaw Pact and has been exported to the Middle and Far East and Africa.

## MANUFACTURER

### Soviet state arsenals

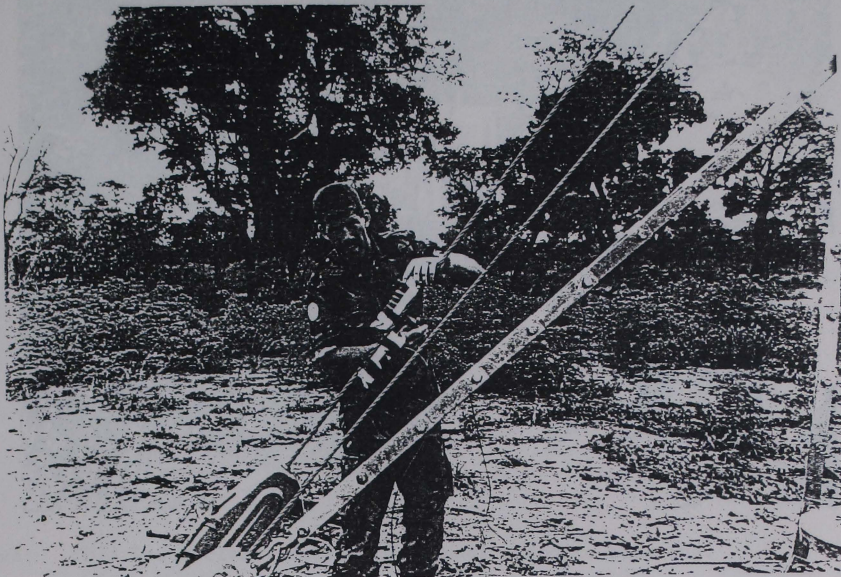


TM-46 metallic anti-tank mine

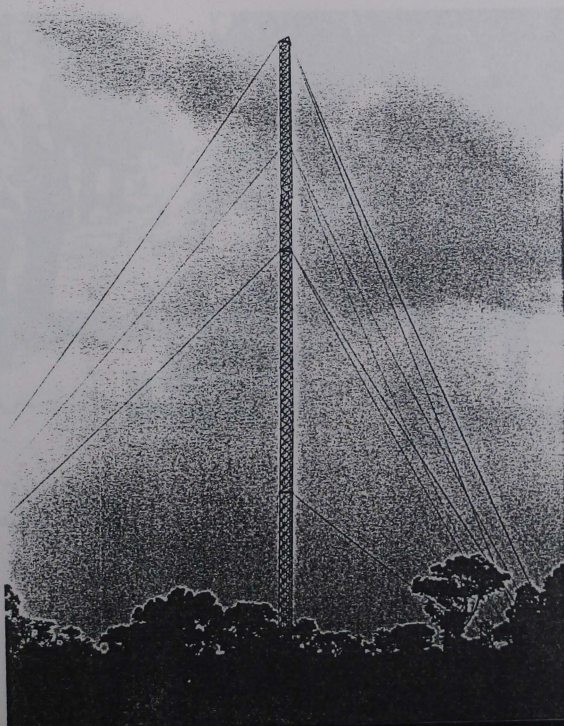


DEMOLITION TASKS

Demolition of Radio Beacon near Rundu

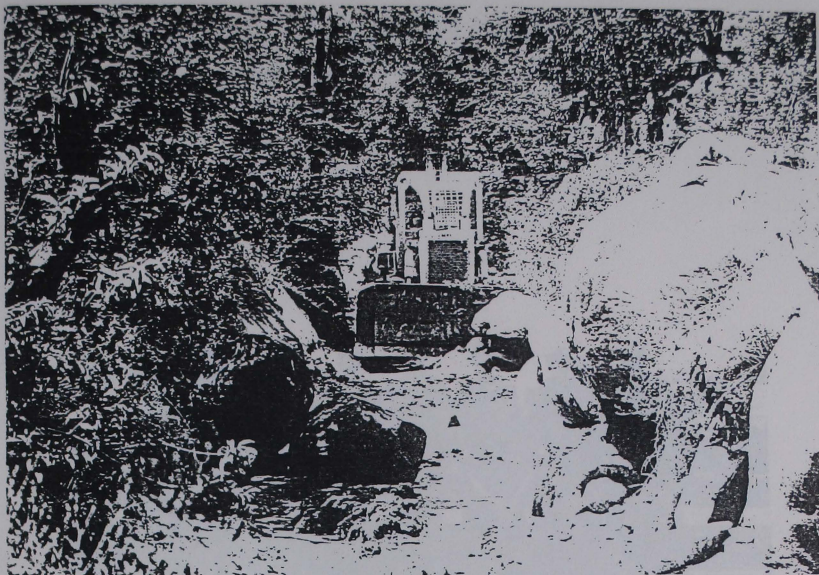


Above: CPL Leach prepares supports for demolition using PE4.





ANDARA MISSION BLASTING TASK



Above: TD15 Dozer clears rubble in channel prior to blasting.

Below: Sappers prepare PE-4 charges for blasting to improve depth and gradient of channel to improve water flow.



THE NEW ZEALAND ELEMENT  
AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENT UNTAG



Back Row: L-R      SPR Tourima, SPR Sumption, LCPL Sturzaker,  
CPL Leach, SPR Hughes, SPR Hay, SPR August

Front Row: L-R    SPR Purvis, SPR Fleming, SSGT Cook,  
CAPT Shirley, SPR Tucker, SPR Whitworth,  
SPR Wilson



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Sound budget advice is something that many soldiers could benefit from. The yellow pages in the phone book will yield several budget advice services, some of which are free. The local Citizens Advice Bureau will likely advise of further services and the costs associated with each.

#### CONCLUSION

The buying power of our soldiers take home pay is decreasing at the rate of inflation. Most of them have not had extra money in their pay packet, as a result of a general wage rise, since 1987. The lack of satisfaction with the pay is a contributing factor to the low morale of the Army. Commanders have the responsibility of raising that level of morale. By the astute spending of their pay, soldiers will, in many cases, increase the efficiency of that pay. This increased efficiency in turn can increase the satisfaction gained from the pay and thereby help raise morale. Commanders should therefore take every opportunity to help soldiers get the most out of their pay. Also, soldiers should seek the help of their commanders to get the most from their pay. If our soldiers continue to see the positive factors they hear about in action, then the satisfaction gained from the life style offered by the Army will also be increased.

### SERVICE WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

#### TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE GROUP

##### IN

##### NAMIBIA

##### by

##### Captain G.P. Shirley, RNZE

Captain Ged Shirley enlisted into the NZ Army as a Cadet in January 1979. After completion of a Carpentry Apprenticeship he attended OCS (NZ) and spent two years as a Troop Commander with 25 ESS. Prior to his "UNTAG" Tour, Capt Shirley was employed at SME as an Instructor.

#### INTRODUCTION

Over the past 25 years Southern Africa has been plunged into various guerrilla wars as a result of colonization and subsequent bids for independence. Namibia (or South West Africa as it was previously known) has suffered similarly and has been gripped in a 20 year guerrilla war as South West African Peoples Organisation (SWAPO) has struggled to gain independence from South Africa.

During the period 1987 - 1989 the war had reached the stage where SWAPO bases deep in Angola were being attacked and destroyed by South African Defence Force (SADF) units in an attempt to prevent guerrilla attacks into Namibia itself. This potentially volatile situation was exacerbated by the presence of some 50,000 Cuban troops in Angola whose advisors were increasingly becoming involved in the South African/SWAPO conflict.

In February 1989 after some ten years of negotiations the UN was finally able to effect South African agreement for a cease-fire. This would include a UN peacekeeping operation to oversee the withdrawal of the SADF from Namibia and the Cubans from Angola; plus a 'free and fair' election that would hopefully pave the way for Namibia's Independence.

#### PRE-DEPLOYMENT TRAINING

The UN Force in Namibia was to be known as the United Nations Transitional Assistance Group (UNTAG) and involved many different nationalities, including a 300 strong Australian Army Engineer Contingent. After much negotiation it was finally agreed that a force of 14 RNZE soldiers would participate as an element of the Australian contingent. This was naturally met with great excitement, as few, if any of us had ever



expected to be given the opportunity to serve in Africa. The New Zealand element consisted of one officer; one senior NCO; two junior NCOs; and ten sappers. Four weeks of earnest pre-deployment training began in Sydney on 7 August 1989. This training period proved invaluable during the TOD and covered such subjects as:

- \* demolitions,
- \* NBCD,
- \* mine warfare including vehicle mine incident drills,
- \* route and area clearance,
- \* vehicle check point drills, and
- \* first aid and infantry minor tactics.

#### SERVICE IN NAMIBIA

We landed in Windhoek (Namibia's capital) on 26 September 1989 and were immediately dispatched north to Grootfontein which was to be the location of our Squadron Headquarters. Thereafter we spent 90% of our time based at either Ondangwa in Ovamboland or Rundu in Kavangoland. Our duties included both construction and field engineering support to the UNTAG, with the majority of our tasks being within a 200 km strip running parallel to the Angolan Border. All contingent members were required to be armed, with weapons in a loaded state when travelling and working out of the base perimeter.

From the moment we arrived in Namibia we were kept busy providing construction assistance not only to other UN military units, but to UN Civil Police (UNCIVPOL) who occupied makeshift Police Stations throughout North Namibia.

The type of tasks included:

- \* Reconnaissance and provision of essential services (ie. power, water, sewage) to UNCIVPOL stations.
- \* Construction of makeshift refugee camps for returnees from Angola, Zambia and Botswana, wishing to vote in the November elections.
- \* Reconnaissance and upgrade of access roads, plus construction of hardstandings and an airfield.
- \* Reconnaissance and preparation of polling station sites. As election time drew near we were responsible for the reconnaissance of 127 proposed polling station sites throughout the whole

Northern region of Namibia between the Skeleton Coast in the West through the Caprivi Strip in the East.

Quite apart from the construction related tasks, (which on their own kept us fully employed) we spent much of our time completing Field Engineer tasks. These tasks were varied and provided a welcome change to construction whilst provided an excellent opportunity to employ skills learnt on courses and practised during exercises. Field engineering tasks included the following:

- \* Recovery and destruction of battlefield ordnance.
- \* Destruction of arms caches located by the South West African Police (SWAPOL) and CIVPOL.
- \* Various demolition tasks were undertaken; one in particular lasted 3 weeks and involved clearing a 900m channel on the Kavango River to provide water to operate a small electricity scheme for a mission station. This mission station provided the only medical care for an area the size of Taranaki.
- \* Field water supply tasks were conducted mainly in support of the Malaysian and Finnish infantry battalions who also operated in North Namibia.
- \* Route clearance in response to several mine incidents on local roads. This usually required the clearance of the vehicle track for up to 500m either side of the area to confirm the absence of further mines.

In addition to the engineering tasks, we were also heavily involved during the election period (1 - 14 November 1989). This after all was the reason for our presence in Namibia and the outcome would determine whether Namibia embarked on a peaceful transition to independence, or resumed its guerrilla war. The period leading up to, during and immediately after the election was tense with much inter-party intimidation. Despite several riots and mine incidents, the elections were successfully completed on time and declared free and fair by all political parties. SWAPO won 58% of the vote.

Various incidents continued to occur for the remainder of the TOD including killings of white farmers. However these incidents, although serious, were isolated and did not affect the general move towards independence. A new constitution was eventually drafted and agreed upon, and independence declared on 21 March 1990.

The Tour to Namibia provided us with a unique experience to not only employ soldier and engineering skills, but to operate alongside different nationalities. Perhaps the most interesting of these were the South Africans, with whom we developed quite a close association, before their departure in late November. The SADF equipment is well adapted for fast moving operations and its vehicles are well designed to counter the mine threat.

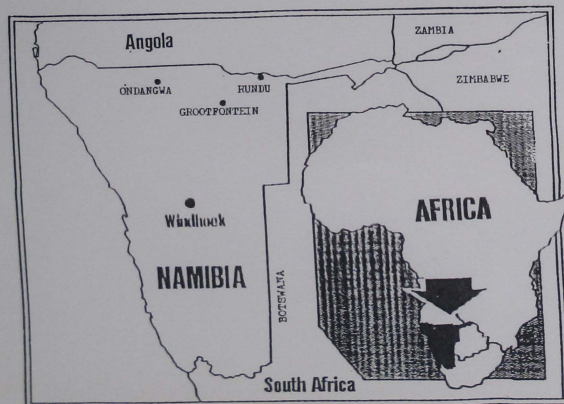


Because our tasks were spread throughout the country we were able to see almost all of the Northern half of Namibia during the course of our duties. Namibia is bordered in the East by the Namib Desert and in the West by the Kalahari Desert. The conditions were harsh and the living areas spartan but adequate. There is very little external entertainment so it was fortunate that we had an extensive works programme. Leave over the first 4 months was limited to two Sundays per month and later became every Sunday as the tour drew to an end. We had a leave period of seven days during which most of us visited South Africa and Zimbabwe.

In closing, this proved to be an excellent TOD which provided us with some invaluable experiences. It also tested our ability to work in an isolated environment where personal discipline is of utmost importance.

It gave me great satisfaction to observe the Kiwi soldiers, who as expected performed extremely well. Although our training system has its problems, it is comforting to know that when put in a given situation the Kiwi soldier will invariably perform as well as, if not better, than his foreign peers.

We were indeed fortunate to participate in this mission. Perhaps one of the best reasons was that (as with the Sinai) soldiers of private rank could participate. This can only be beneficial to the Army in the future. These opportunities are rare and extremely useful to all concerned. One can only hope that the Army can participate in similar future missions and hopefully on a scale involving a larger Kiwi component.



Kiwi and Australian personnel returning from patrol to Ondangwa Base. The vehicles are Buffel MPUs used by the SADF.



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NZE ASC UNTAG
NAMIBIA 1989-90

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