

(12) RESISTANCE: 1966 - 1989 THE BORDER WAR

Armed resistance took two forms : Isolated acts of terrorism in South Africa itself mounted by black liberation movements based in bordering countries. More formidable was a guerrilla movement against South African rule in South West Africa (later independent Namibia). The South African Border War (sometimes denoted as the Angolan Bush War) was a largely asymmetric conflict that occurred in South West Africa and Angola from 26 August 1966. It was fought between the South African Defence Force and the People's Liberation Army of Namibia, an armed wing of the South West African People's Organisation. The S.A. Border War was closely intertwined with the Angolan Civil War and was not a directly existential conflict for South Africa, but the strategic imperatives driving it were existential, due to the potential for threats to the territorial integrity of the country.



Mail from a South African National Serviceman based at Ruacana during the 'Border War'. No postage stamp required (active service). No circular Post Office datestamp cancellation, with Department of Defence (bilingual) cachet No.10 Field Post Office, 9 June 1986 Insert: (reduced copy) of section of obverse of cover backstamped with regimental 51 Battalion Censor (bilingual) cachet with signature and identification numbering system inscription
*Name and part address covered for privacy

(13) RESISTANCE: 1976 SOWETO RIOTS

On 16 June 1976 Soweto students marched peacefully to demonstrate against the introduction of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction in black schools. Close to 1000 students were killed in confrontations with the police. The protests by school children on that day marked the end of submissiveness and the beginning of a new militancy in the struggle against Apartheid. Students would remain in the forefront of resistance alongside an increasingly powerful trade union movement, until the unbanning of political organisations in South Africa in February 1990.

As thousands of students gathered police started shooting.

Among the first killed was 12-year-old Hector Pieterse.

After he was shot, 18-year-old Mbuyisa Makhubo picked him up.

