



# **Battle on the Lomba 1987: The Day a South African Armoured Battalion shattered Angola's Last Mechanized Offensive - A Crew Commander's Account**

*David Mannall*

[Download now](#)

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

# **Battle on the Lomba 1987: The Day a South African Armoured Battalion shattered Angola's Last Mechanized Offensive - A Crew Commander's Account**

*David Mannall*

## **Battle on the Lomba 1987: The Day a South African Armoured Battalion shattered Angola's Last Mechanized Offensive - A Crew Commander's Account** David Mannall

The climactic death-throes of Soviet Communism during the 1980s included a last-gasp attempt at strategic franchise expansion in Southern Africa. Channeled through Castro's Cuba, oil-rich Angolan armed forces (FAPLA) received billions of dollars of advanced weaponry including MiG 23 and Sukhoi fighter jets, SAM 8 missile systems and thousands of armored vehicles. Their intent - to eradicate the US-backed Angolan opposition (UNITA), then push southwards into South Africa's protectorate SWA/Namibia, ostensibly as liberators.

1985 saw the first large-scale mechanized offensive in Southern African history. Russian Generals planned and oversaw the offensive but without properly accounting for the tenacity of UNITA (supported by the South African Defense Forces - SADF) or the treacherous terrain typical in the rainy season. The '85 offensive floundered in the mud and FAPLA returned to their capital Luanda. The South Africans stood down, confident their 'covert' support for UNITA had demonstrated the folly of prosecuting war so far from home against Africa's military Superpower.

The South Africans were mistaken. Fidel and FAPLA immediately redoubled their efforts, strengthening fifteen battalions with even more Soviet hardware while Russian and Cuban specialists oversaw troop training.

As Cuban and Angola fighter pilots honed their skills over the skies of Northern Angola, David Mannall, a normal 17-year old kid completing High School, was preparing for two years of compulsory military service before beginning Tertiary education. Through a series of fateful twists he found himself leading soldiers in a number of full-scale armored clashes including the largest and most decisive battle on African soil since World War II.

This is the David and Goliath story that, due to seismic political changes in the region, has never been truthfully told. The author lifts the hatch on his story of how Charlie Squadron, comprising just twelve 90mm AFVs crewed by 36 national servicemen, as part of the elite 61 Mechanized Battalion, engaged and effectively annihilated the giant FAPLA 47th Armored Brigade in one day - 3 October 1987. Their 90mm cannons were never designed as tank-killers but any assurances that it would never be used against heavy armor were left in the classroom during the three-month operation and never more starkly than the decisive 'Battle on The Lomba River'. The Communist-backed offensive died that day along with hundreds of opposition fighters.

47th Brigade survivors abandoned their remaining equipment, fleeing north across the Lomba, eventually joining the 59th Brigade in what became a full-scale retreat of over ten thousand soldiers to Cuito Cuanevale. ## The myth perpetuated by post-apartheid politicians goes something like this "...the SADF force that destroyed 47th Brigade on 3 October numbered 6,000 men and that all the hard yards were run by the long suffering UNITA!" The inconvenient truth is that there were just 36 South African boys on the frontline that day, but it is also true to say they would never have achieved such a stunning victory without the support of

many more. This is their story.

## REVIEWS

“ ... The book is written in an easily accessible fashion ... will form a valuable contribution to historians of the future ...” Anne Samson – Historian (blog)

a compelling study of how young men trained, lived, and fought together, transforming from teenagers into top-notch soldiers.”

Michigan War Studies Review

 [Download Battle on the Lomba 1987: The Day a South African ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Battle on the Lomba 1987: The Day a South Africa ...pdf](#)

## **Download and Read Free Online Battle on the Lomba 1987: The Day a South African Armoured Battalion shattered Angola's Last Mechanized Offensive - A Crew Commander's Account David Mannall**

---

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Michael Berry:**

Now a day those who Living in the era where everything reachable by interact with the internet and the resources in it can be true or not call for people to be aware of each data they get. How many people to be smart in obtaining any information nowadays? Of course the reply is reading a book. Examining a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information particularly this Battle on the Lomba 1987: The Day a South African Armoured Battalion shattered Angola's Last Mechanized Offensive - A Crew Commander's Account book because this book offers you rich information and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred per cent guarantees there is no doubt in it you may already know.

#### **Tamara Evans:**

As we know that book is essential thing to add our knowledge for everything. By a book we can know everything we really wish for. A book is a range of written, printed, illustrated as well as blank sheet. Every year ended up being exactly added. This reserve Battle on the Lomba 1987: The Day a South African Armoured Battalion shattered Angola's Last Mechanized Offensive - A Crew Commander's Account was filled concerning science. Spend your free time to add your knowledge about your scientific research competence. Some people has diverse feel when they reading a book. If you know how big benefit from a book, you can feel enjoy to read a reserve. In the modern era like right now, many ways to get book that you wanted.

#### **Tanya Caggiano:**

As a scholar exactly feel bored to reading. If their teacher expected them to go to the library in order to make summary for some publication, they are complained. Just tiny students that has reading's heart or real their passion. They just do what the teacher want, like asked to the library. They go to generally there but nothing reading seriously. Any students feel that reading is not important, boring along with can't see colorful photographs on there. Yeah, it is being complicated. Book is very important to suit your needs. As we know that on this period of time, many ways to get whatever we would like. Likewise word says, ways to reach Chinese's country. So , this Battle on the Lomba 1987: The Day a South African Armoured Battalion shattered Angola's Last Mechanized Offensive - A Crew Commander's Account can make you really feel more interested to read.

#### **James Pitts:**

Reading a reserve make you to get more knowledge from the jawhorse. You can take knowledge and information from a book. Book is published or printed or highlighted from each source in which filled update of news. With this modern era like right now, many ways to get information are available for a person. From media social including newspaper, magazines, science e-book, encyclopedia, reference book, book and

comic. You can add your knowledge by that book. Do you want to spend your spare time to open your book?  
Or just seeking the Battle on the Lomba 1987: The Day a South African Armoured Battalion shattered  
Angola's Last Mechanized Offensive - A Crew Commander's Account when you essential it?

**Download and Read Online Battle on the Lomba 1987: The Day a  
South African Armoured Battalion shattered Angola's Last  
Mechanized Offensive - A Crew Commander's Account David  
Mannall #F03YQ91CGAX**

## **Read Battle on the Lomba 1987: The Day a South African Armoured Battalion shattered Angola's Last Mechanized Offensive - A Crew Commander's Account by David Mannall for online ebook**

Battle on the Lomba 1987: The Day a South African Armoured Battalion shattered Angola's Last Mechanized Offensive - A Crew Commander's Account by David Mannall Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Battle on the Lomba 1987: The Day a South African Armoured Battalion shattered Angola's Last Mechanized Offensive - A Crew Commander's Account by David Mannall books to read online.

### **Online Battle on the Lomba 1987: The Day a South African Armoured Battalion shattered Angola's Last Mechanized Offensive - A Crew Commander's Account by David Mannall ebook PDF download**

**Battle on the Lomba 1987: The Day a South African Armoured Battalion shattered Angola's Last Mechanized Offensive - A Crew Commander's Account by David Mannall Doc**

**Battle on the Lomba 1987: The Day a South African Armoured Battalion shattered Angola's Last Mechanized Offensive - A Crew Commander's Account by David Mannall Mobipocket**

**Battle on the Lomba 1987: The Day a South African Armoured Battalion shattered Angola's Last Mechanized Offensive - A Crew Commander's Account by David Mannall EPub**