

Modern African Wars (2)

Angola and Mozambique 1961–74

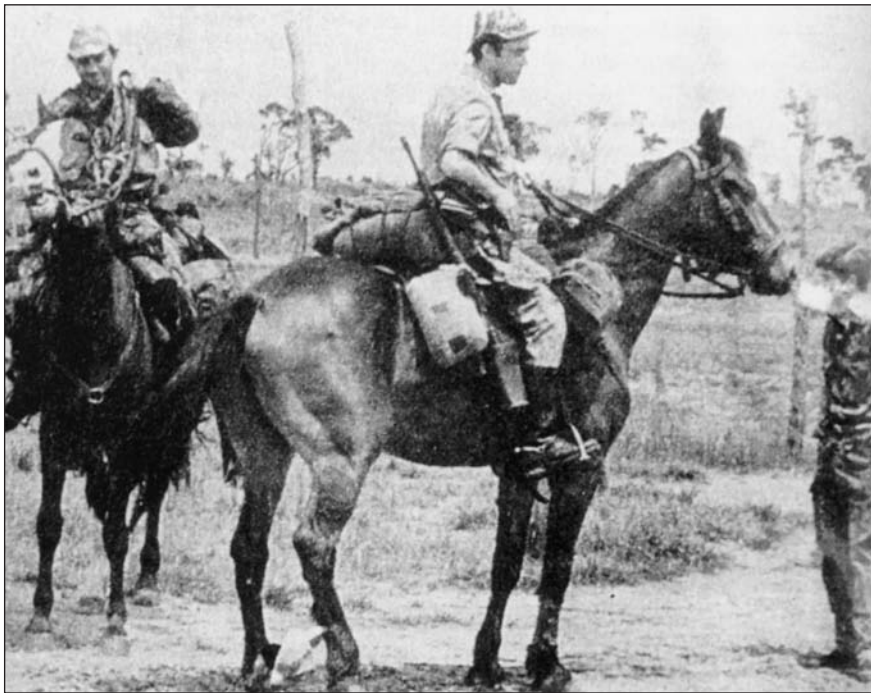


Peter Abbott & Manuel Rodrigues • Illustrated by Ronald Volstad

Men-at-Arms • 202

Modern African Wars (2)

Angolia and Mozambique 1961–74



P Abbott & M Rodrigues • Illustrated by R Volstad

Series editor Martin Windrow

First published in Great Britain in 1988 by Osprey Publishing,
Midland House, West Way, Botley, Oxford OX2 0PH, UK
443 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016, USA
E-mail: info@ospreypublishing.com

© 1988 Osprey Publishing Ltd.

All rights reserved. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, electrical, chemical, mechanical, optical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner. Inquiries should be addressed to the Publishers.

Transferred to digital print on demand 2007

First published 1988
4th impression 2005

Printed and bound by Cpod, Trowbridge

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Print ISBN: 978 0 85045 843 5

PDF e-book ISBN: 978 1 84603 700 9

Editorial by Martin Windrow
Index by Sandra Shotter

FOR A CATALOGUE OF ALL BOOKS PUBLISHED BY OSPREY MILITARY
AND AVIATION PLEASE CONTACT:

NORTH AMERICA

Osprey Direct, c/o Random House Distribution Center, 400 Hahn Road, Westminster, MD 21157
E-mail: info@ospreydirect.com

ALL OTHER REGIONS

Osprey Direct UK, P.O. Box 140 Wellingborough, Northants, NN8 2FA, UK
E-mail: info@ospreydirect.co.uk

www.ospreypublishing.com

© Osprey Publishing. Access to this book is not digitally restricted. In return, we ask you that you use it for personal, non-commercial purposes only. Please don't upload this pdf to a peer-to-peer site, email it to everyone you know, or resell it. Osprey Publishing reserves all rights to its digital content and no part of these products may be copied, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise (except as permitted here), without the written permission of the publisher. Please support our continuing book publishing programme by using this pdf responsibly.

Angola and Moçambique 1961-74

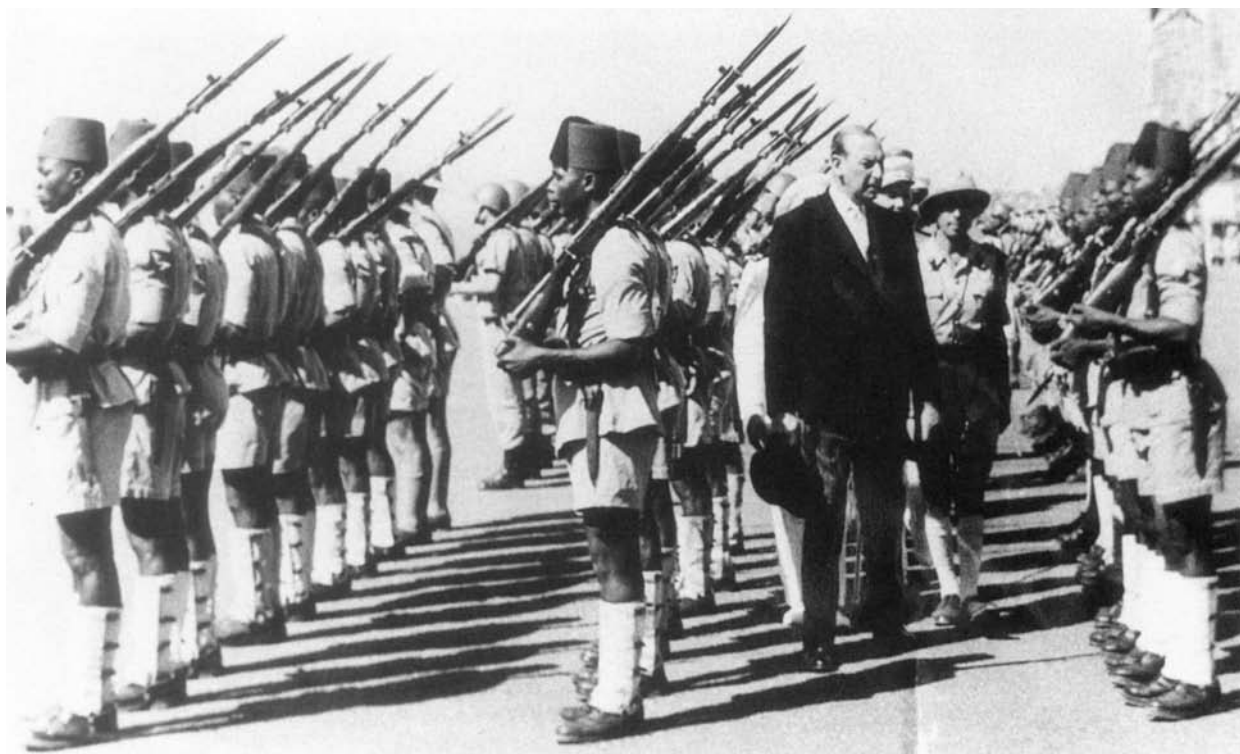
Preface

Portugal is a small country, but for many years it possessed the world's third largest empire; and its armed forces deserve to be better known than they are in the English-speaking world. The problem is that although the Portuguese sources are extensive, they are (quite naturally) housed in Portugal itself and written in Portuguese, which makes them relatively inaccessible to outsiders. Fortunately, the British co-author was able to meet a Portuguese colleague who was not only an authority on Portuguese military history and uniforms, but who had also served in Moçambique himself. A collaborative venture seemed the best way of providing the kind of 'hard' information about Portuguese weapons, organisation, uniforms and

insignia that has been lacking until now. Even more fortunately, the Portuguese authorities raised no objection, and we are happy to acknowledge the generous assistance provided in particular by the Portuguese Army and Air Force.

It might be argued that the use of Portuguese sources carries with it some risk of prejudice against the African Liberation Movements. In fact, the generation which welcomed the Portuguese coup of April 1974 had already concluded that the Africans deserved their independence, and the hand-over in Angola, Guiné and Moçambique was generally concluded in a friendly and co-operative spirit. The Africans themselves always maintained that their struggle was against the Portuguese system rather

African troops on parade shortly before the outbreak of the war. They carry Mauser rifles, and wear leather equipment. In parade dress, whites wore either a slouch hat or steel helmet.



than the Portuguese people, and subsequent relations between Portugal and her one-time overseas provinces have remained good. We would not want to disparage either the aims or the achievements of the Liberation Movements in any way, and wish to pay tribute to the heroism and sacrifice shown by combatants of both sides.

Portugal's African Empire

Portugal was both the first and the last of the great European colonial powers. The discoveries inspired by Henry the Navigator in the 15th and early 16th centuries gave her an immense empire stretching from Brazil in the West to Macau in the Far East. Inevitably, many of these possessions were lost in the centuries which followed, but in 1960 the Portuguese flag still flew over vast expanses of territory in East, West and Southern Africa. It continued to fly there while the other European imperial powers were busy granting independence to their African colonies; and it was not until

1974–75 that it finally came down, ending some five centuries of involvement with Africa.

This is not the place to discuss Portuguese colonial policy in detail, but some of its salient features need to be noted in order to understand the background to the African Liberation Wars. Firstly, from 1951 onwards, official Portuguese doctrine was that the overseas territories were not 'colonies' at all, but integral parts of Portugal. These 'overseas provinces' had special laws suited to their particular level of development, but they were ruled from Lisbon and formed part of a Portuguese-speaking and strongly Christian 'political and spiritual community'. This was the 'New State' created by Dr Salazar, the effective ruler of Portugal from 1928 until 1968. Dr Salazar always denied that this was totalitarian, but it was unquestionably right wing and authoritarian. There was a National Assembly, but it had little power; and any organised opposition was suppressed by the regime's secret police, the *Policia Internacional de Defesa do Estado*, known as 'PIDE'.

Among the most important of the special laws for the overseas provinces were those dealing with the

An African unit, late 1950s: note the officers' closed collared tunics and combat boots, and the leather belts and pouches for the FPB sub-machine gun.

