

OPERATION MODULAR –GAME 1

Report

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Filipe Martins

“Muscled Reece”

Major David Lotter was incumbend to destroy a large reconaissance force from FAPLA's 47th Armoured Brigade. As he already was on location, he planned to set an ambushing party near a river ford. His artillery support consisted in two different batteries, Quebec (155mm G5) and Sierra (120mm M5) .

However, Lotter was suprised to see that the action started with half the Angolan forces already across the brigde! One can only wonder what sort of debriefing the HQ had given and what the his reconaissance were doing! Needless to say, all the planning went in shaters and a new plan was imposed. Likewise, the carefully planned artillery barrages became almost useless, as it barelly hit their targets. Things would have gone different had the debriefing prior to the battle mentioned these late-hour changes in the battlefield conditions...

Lotter's forces were the following:	
Units	
Reece Unit	3x Ratel 20
1 st Mech Infantry Coy	4x Casspir
2 nd Mech Infantry Coy	4x Casspir
1 st AT Group	3x Ratel 90
2 nd AT Group	3x Ratel 90
AT support unit	2x Jeep/ENTAC

The FAPLA moved on with a Mech Infantry Coy, a couple of PT-76 and a BRDM-Sagger. Lotter assigned his AT and 20mm Ratels to that flank, in order to counter eventual enemy movements.



At the same time, ignoring a brief but brutal firefight (a BMP destroyed), a large FAPLA force consisting in several recon vehicles, AA trucks, a couple of T-55 and a single BMP-1 entered a wooded area in order to reconoitre the southern hill. This movement, however, was seen by SA Land Rovers and Ratels so attentions were drawn to this position. A short apearance by a nosy BRDM confirmed the suspicion that the enemy was in the woods. Another artillery call was made and one BMP blew up, occupants included.

Up north the Angolans aproached their objective almost unseen. Almost... The Ratels sent to that position made their apearance noted. A PT-76 was hit right on his flank and went to flames. The Angolan infantry reacted and started firing at the Ratels 90. Ratels 20 joined the fight only to be knocked out by RPGs and a Sagger missile.

But the mauled FAPLA forces were now about to retreat and the Ratel 90s moved to another position were they could hit anything that passed



in the exit corridor.

Near the southern hill things were getting hot. In order to close the trapp (the original plan, by the way), an infantry Coy left the woods in the centre of the battlefield and closed in the woods where the enemy had been just a little time ago.



It was a timely move! A violent BM-21 rocket barrage hit the woods where they had been. A less fortunate Land Rover was hit, though, and a couple more units just escaped by a narrow margin.



The SA infantry was on the move, in plain sight, when it was confronted by a PT-76, a BRDM and a quadruple AA HMG. The men on the ground managed to force two of the enemy vehicles to flee but the 76mm gun of the PT-76 managed to destroy a Casspir.

This sort of fight went on for a while, the Angolans being joined by the T-55. Two more Casspirs were turned into Swiss cheese, but the SA got some help from their Ratel 90 and, together, the PT-76 and the tanks were put out of action. One Angolan crew abandoned one of the tanks, the remaining crews did not...

Things were just about decided right now. The FAPLA force was in tatters, but the SA, having too many casualties to their taste, were not intended to proceed any further. A severe blow had been delivered to their enemies and they now could leave the job to Dr. Savimbi's UNITA.

Casualties		
Infantry & vehicles	FAPLA (OP =64)	SADF (OP = 66)
Tanks	2x T55	---
APC/IFV	3x BMP-1 + 2x BTR-60	3x Casspir
Reece	2x PT-76 + 1x BRDM	2x Ratel 20
Others	1x truck	1x Jeep
Infantry	5x T1+ 4xT2	2x T1 + 1xT2
TOTAL O. P.	47	15