

OPERATION MODULAR –GAME 2

Report

19 July 2009
Filipe Martins

“Tank battle”

Major David Lotter was incumbered to destroy a large armoured force from FAPLA’s 47th Armoured Brigade heading towards a strategic crossroad.

Lotter’s plan consisted in drawing the enemy closer under constant fire, combining action on the ground with artillery support. The enemy’s advance was calculated so that the shelling would break their columns in two.

As expected, FAPLA’s forces were divided threefolded: two mechanised infantry companies on the left, an armoured force on the centre and an armoured trust on the road.

Action started on the flanks. A Ratel 90 force, sent to guard the left flank, detected the armoured column on the road while at the same time, a reece force stumbled on the Angolan infantry. The Ratels 20 opened fire and destroyed a couple of BMPs but were set

on fire by the surviving enemies. The Ratels 90, on the other hand, decided to wait and made an artillery call. As the enemy kept driving through, the Ratels opened fire, but they all missed their targets.



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
Tanks	3x Olifant
AT support unit	2x Jeep/ENTAC Ratel ZT3
Artillery support	Quebec (155mm G5) Sierra (120mm M5)

Then the artillery came. The 155mm shells damaged one T-55 and broke the column in two. Without rear support, the forward reece elements in the advancing force fell easy prey to an ambushing party of Ratel 90s.

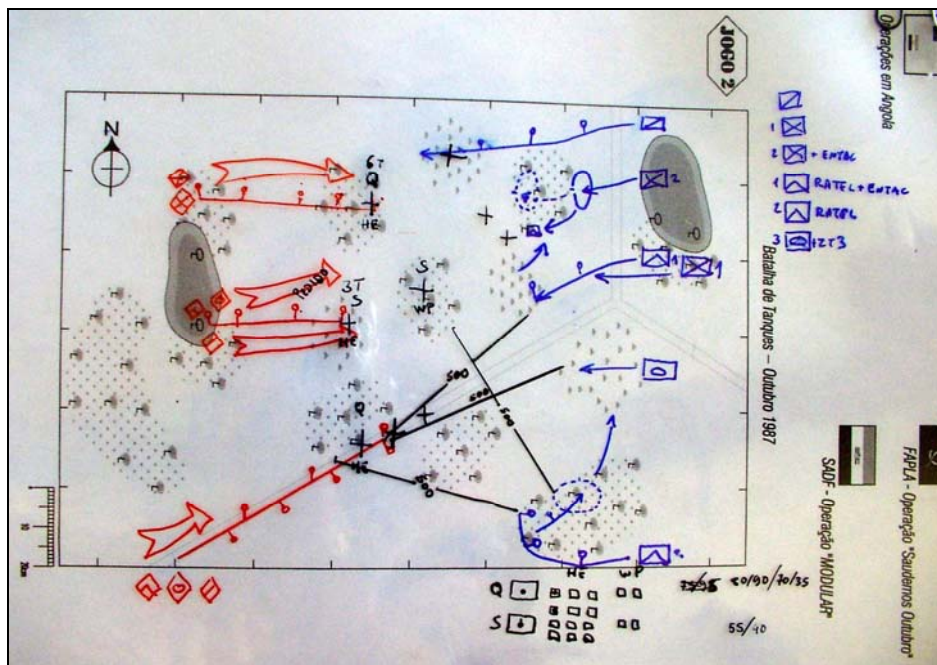
Now things started to happen very quickly. A BRDM2 Sagger near the road destroyed one of the Ratel 90s in the left flank. The remaining Ratels moved to a secondary position.

In the centre, FAPLA’s surviving BMP was put in flames by an ENTAC missile, but the Angolans kept moving on. Now it was time for the Ratel 90s to open fire, but to every enemy target destroyed, a SADF vehicle was put out of action, either by tank or by PT-76’s fire.



Another artillery salvo (105mm M-5) fell on the Angolan infantry, blowing up a BTR and some infantry. Both forces were now near breaking point. On the SA's right two more Ratels had been destroyed along with the Land Rovers, for the loss of two T-55s. In the centre, the Olifants opened fire against the PT-76, who burst in flames. But in response a BRDM2 Sagger put an Olifant out of action. In the end, though SADF had accomplished their objectives, both FAPLA and SADF broke.

All in all, this was an unusual game due to several factors: it was a very mobile game; FAPLA's breaking points were – in my opinion – unrealistically high; things didn't quite follow the plan; and one of the players had an incredible luck! But nevertheless it was a very fun game!



The SA plan and FAPLA's moves.

Casualties		
Infantry & vehicles	FAPLA (OP =98); break at 50%	SADF (OP =90) ; break at 25%
Tanks	4x T55	1xOlifant
APC/IFV	3x BMP-1 + 1x BTR-60	3x Ratel 90
Reece	3x PT-76 + 1x BRDM	2x Ratel 20
Others	1x truck	2x Jeep + ENTAC
Infantry	2x T1	2x T1 + 1xT2
TOTAL O. P.	51	30