

**APPENDIX A TO CHAPTER 4 OF
THE CASSINGA RAID**

PHOTOGRAPHS OF SAAF AIRCRAFT USED DURING THE CASSINGA RAID



(Photo: SAAF Central Photographic Establishment)

English Electric *Canberra* Bomber and Photo-reconnaissance aircraft.

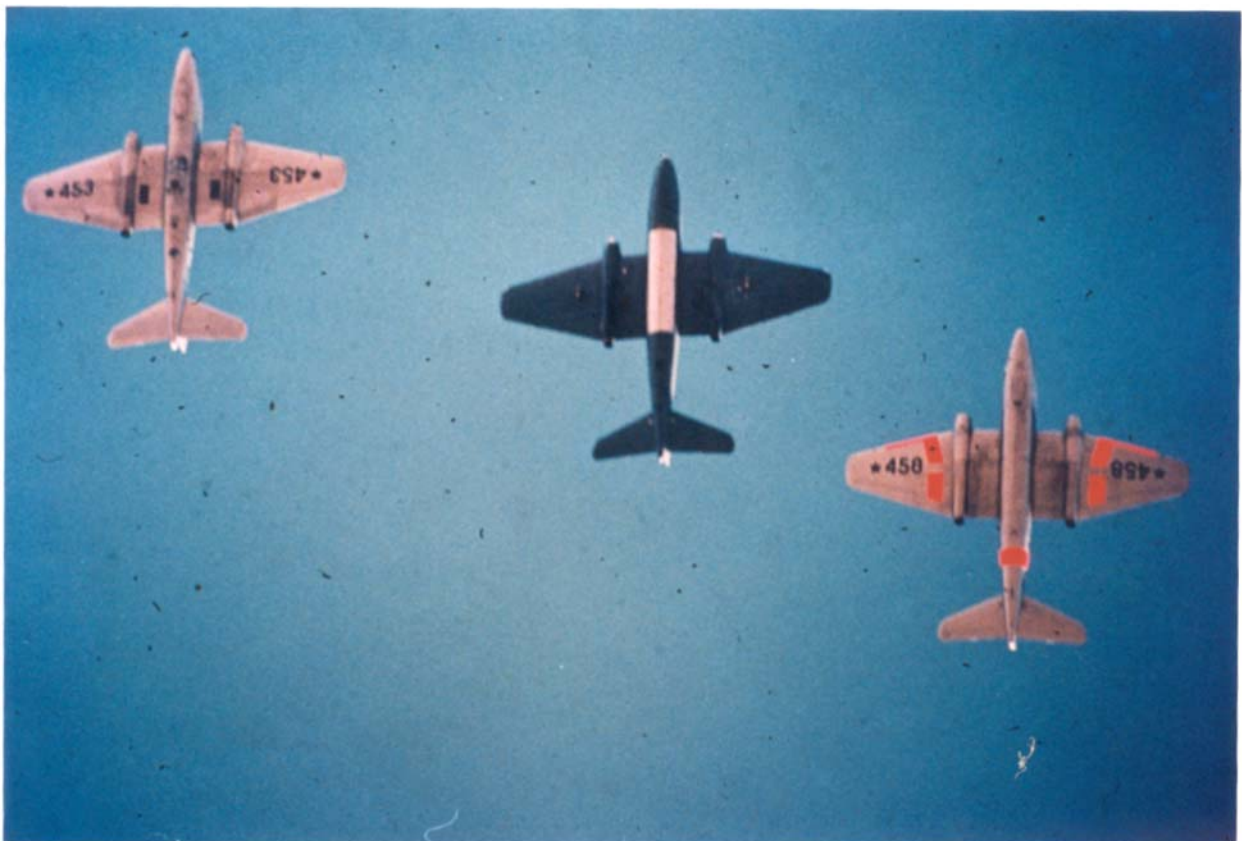


(Photo: SAAF Museum)



(Photo: Dave Becker)

Canberra B(I)12



(Photo: SAAF Museum)

The colour scheme of the middle *Canberra* clearly shows its bomb bays painted white.



(Photo: SAAF Museum)

Hawker Siddeley *Buccaneer* in bombing configuration, with no rocket pods fitted.



(Photo: SAAF Museum)

Mirage and *Buccaneer* pass each other in flight.



(Dave Becker)

Buccaneer with underwing rocket pods fitted.



(Dave Becker)



(Photo: 1 Military Printing Unit)

Mirage III CZ fitted with long-range fuel tanks. Four of these aircraft flew from Waterkloof to Ondangwa to take part in Operation REINDEER.



(Photo: 1 Military Printing Regiment)



(Photo: SAAF Museum)

Cessna 185 "Spotter" aircraft. The aircraft used at Cassinga was unable to complete its task in assisting the paratroopers with navigation because of the anti-aircraft fire which compelled it to withdraw and return to Namibia.



(Photo: Dave Becker)

Four-engined Lockheed C-130B *Hercules*.



(Photo: Dave Becker)

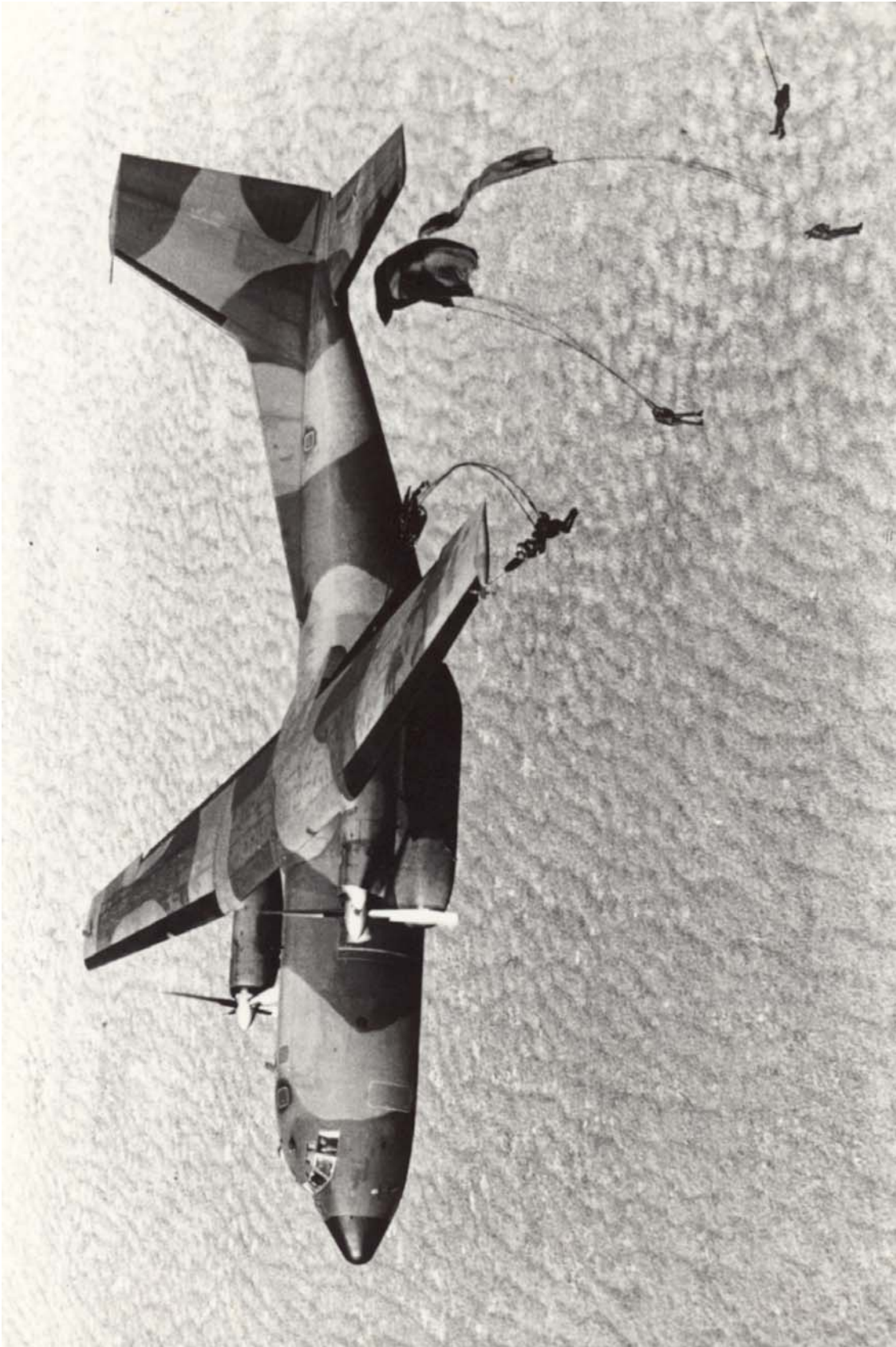
Twin-engined C-160Z *Transall*.



(Photos: 1 Military Printing Regiment)

C130B Hercules (above) and C-160Z Transall (below)





(Photo: Herman Potgieter)

Paratroopers exit from a C-160Z Transall.



(Photo: 1 Military Printing Regiment)

A Puma helicopter lifts off from Air Force Base Ondangwa.



(Photo: Herman Potgieter)

A Puma helicopter disembarks a stick of paratroopers during a Fire Force operation in Ovamboland.



(Photo: 1 Military Printing Regiment)

Super Frelon helicopter. Bottom photograph shows rear ramp.



(Photo: M. Alexander)

**APPENDIX B TO CHAPTER 4 OF
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PHOTOGRAPHS OF SA ARMY PARATROOPERS AND THEIR WEAPONS



(Photo: Mike McWilliams)

Above: The paratroopers of the Composite Parachute Battalion in the hangar at Grootfontein, prior to fitting parachutes in the early hours of 4 May 1978.



Right: Paratroopers apply camouflage cream known as "Black is Beautiful" prior to emplaning.

(Photographer unknown)



The Belgian Fabrique Nationale (FN) folding butt paratrooper assault rifle used by the South African paratroopers at Cassinga. Known in the SADF as the R1 Para rifle, it is of 7.62mm NATO calibre and uses a 20-round magazine.

(Photo: M. Alexander)

The Soviet RPG-7 rocket launcher used by the paratrooper anti-tank platoon in their ambush of the Cuban armoured column. "RPG" is an abbreviation of Rocket Propelled Grenade. It fires a fin-stabilised rocket capable of penetrating 320mm of armour and can be fired accurately at a moving target over a distance of 300m. The South Africans used both weapons captured from insurgents and weapons acquired on the black market.

(Photo: M. Alexander)





(Photographer unknown)

Camouflaged paratroopers doze in the cramped conditions inside a C-160 aircraft while it holds prior to them receiving the command "Prepare for Action".



(Photo: Morné Coetzer)

After receiving the command "Action Stations!", paratroopers shuffle to the door of the aircraft.



(Photo: Morné Coetzer)

"Stand in the door! ... Go!" A paratrooper heavily-laden with his Personal Weapons Container (PWC) follows his comrades out the door of a C-160 aircraft.

(Photo: Gerrie Leibbrandt)

Paratroopers spill out of both side-doors of a C-130 aircraft over terrain similar to that around Cassinga.



(Photo: The Friend)

Paradrop from a formation of three C-160Z Transalls.



(Photo: Willie Jooste)

Paratroopers being picked up by Puma helicopters.

APPENDIX C TO CHAPTER 4 OF THE CASSINGA RAID

SA ARMY PARACHUTE FORCES IN APRIL 1978

[Sources: "Opleidingsverslag 5 Januarie 1977 Inname" dd 2 May 1979, and "Opleidingsverslag Jan 78 Inname", dd 31 December 1979, 1 VALSK/308/3/1, File 1 PARA BN/308/3 (Confidential), Archive Group 1 Para Bn, Group 3, Box No 54; Annual Historical Report for 1 Parachute Battalion, dd 31 December 1978; "Colours Parade, 2 an 3 Para Bns", commemorative brochure, 28 November 1980].

1. **1 Parachute Battalion.** (Regular officers and senior non-commissioned officers, with all the soldiers being conscripts who were undergoing their two years of "national service" military training, and who had volunteered for parachute training).

- a. **Headquarters.**
- b. **A-Company:** (January 1977 intake) Had completed 16 months of military service, including four months of operational duty.
- c. **B-Company:** (July 1977 intake) Had completed 10 months of military service, including one month of operational duty.
- d. **C-Company:** Deactivated, due to failed attempt at establishing a regular (Permanent Force) company.
- e. **D-Company:** (January 1978 intake) Had completed just over three months of military training and were busy undergoing parachute training.
- f. **Parachute Training Wing, Parachute Packers' Section and Headquarters Company:** These sub-units, together with the battalion headquarters, provided most of the despatchers for the Cassinga raid.

2. **2 Parachute Battalion.** (A reserve unit of the Citizen Force, with all the officers, non-commissioned officers and men having completed either nine months, 12 months or 15 months of full-time military training, during which time they served with 1 Parachute Battalion).

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Headquarters. b. A-Company. c. B-Company. d. C-Company. e. D-Company. f. Support Company. | } | <p>These companies were not necessarily at full strength, and many of those individuals who had been called up during recent months would not have been available for call-up again for about a year.</p> |
|---|---|---|

3. **3 Parachute Battalion.** (Identical to 2 Parachute Battalion).

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Headquarters. b. A-Company. c. B-Company. d. C-Company. e. D-Company. f. Support Company. | } | <p>These companies were not necessarily at full strength, and many of those individuals who had been called up during recent months would not have been available for call-up again for about a year.</p> |
|---|---|---|

4. **Individuals**. Dispersed throughout the regular army (Permanent Force) were individuals who had undergone parachute training and who had, in some cases, served for a period of time in 1 Parachute Battalion. One of these was Brigadier M.J. du Plessis, the man appointed to command the parachute brigade, and another was Colonel Jan Breytenbach, who was selected to command the composite parachute battalion at Cassinga. They also included persons from corps other than the infantry; for example, the artillery, the engineers, the signals and the Military Intelligence. There were also specialists such as Forward Air Controllers. Representatives from all of these except the artillery were assembled to form part of the force that jumped at Cassinga.

Note. It must be remembered that although the formation of a parachute brigade had been announced in April 1978, there was not yet a brigade in existence at the time of the Cassinga raid.

**APPENDIX D TO CHAPTER 4 OF
THE CASSINGA RAID****SAAF ASSETS FOR AIRBORNE OPERATIONS IN APRIL 1978**

(Sources: William Green and Gordon Swanborough, *Military Aircraft Directory*; C.J. Nöthling and Dave Becker, *The Pride of the Nation*; Dave Becker, *75 Years on Wings of Eagles*; *Balance Militar 1983-84*.)

1. **Transport Aircraft**
 - a. 7x C-130B Lockheed *Hercules*.
 - b. 9x C-160Z *Transall*.
 - c. 25x C-47/DC-3 Douglas *Dakota*.
2. **Helicopters**
 - a. 12x Aérospatiale SA 321 *Super Frelon*.
 - b. 30x Aérospatiale SA 330 *Puma*.
 - c. 50x Aérospatiale *Alouette III*.
3. **Bombers**
 - a. 7x English Electric *Canberra*.
 - b. 8x Hawker Siddeley *Buccaneer*.
4. **Fighters/Ground Attack**
 - a. 20x Dassault-Breguet *Mirage III*.
 - b. 8x Dassault-Breguet *Mirage F1*.
 - c. 20x Aermacchi MB-326 KC *Impala Mk II*.
5. **Light Reconnaissance/Liaison/Communication**
 - a. 40x *Cessna 185*.
 - b. 30x Aeritalia-Aermacchi AM-3CM *Bosbok*.
 - c. 10x Aeritalia-Aermacchi AL-60C-4M *Kudu* (C4M).
6. **Electronic Warfare**
 - a. 1x Douglas DC-4 *Skymaster*.
 - b. 1x Douglas DC-3 *Dakota*.

Note. Figures are difficult to establish with certainty, as some aircraft types were only beginning to enter service and individual aircraft of other types were being retired. Not all aircraft were always serviceable and often there were insufficient crews available for all the aircraft. Some aircraft had been modified for specialist roles (eg. maritime) which meant they could not be considered for airborne operations, while many of those employed for training purposes were not configured for operations. The total SAAF complement of these aircraft types could therefore have been considerably higher than the figures above reflect. However, there were also aircraft losses through accidents which would not be reflected by the sources used. Nevertheless, this gives an approximate idea what the SAAF had available at the time of the Cassinga raid.