CLIENT : University of the Witwatersrand – Historical Papers

SUBJECT : Kevin Fitzgerald

IDENTIFICATION : Tape 012 Continued from Tape 11

CONTACT PERSON : Michele Pickover

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# Please note:

1. When typist is unsure of names, speakers will be identified by title.

- 2. Transcriptions are typed verbatim, and typist, when unsure of jargon, industry terms or individual's names, will type phonetic spelling followed by (unsure)
- 3. Continuation of tape 11.

# **CONTINUATION OF TAPE 11**

**INTERVIEWER**: Absolutely still.

**KEVIN FITZGERALD**: Yes, and Gerry said to me Fitzy you stay absolutely still, so I thought he was joking and I said to him what the f....do you mean....an RPG was in full sight of any blind beggar that walked past because there was absolutely no cover we were sitting under a Baobab tree in the middle of a Casaba field or mielie field whatever you want to call it, with absolutely nowhere to go, the sun was rising and we were sitting ducks, and I said why what's happening. He said there is a massive group coming towards us, well he was right they were coming towards us but they were actually sieving from west to east not from north to south...and what he had seen was the tail end of the extent of line sweeping past the front of the kraal and that was the first time that I honestly thought I could die, because from where we were sitting to the entrance of the kraal was about ten metres and I thought well if I make a spin for it the shit hits the fan, the kraal entrance they know they are not even going to meet the wide of the kraal entrance not even as wide as the door, they are narrow ...they do them in that place specifically so you cant get a mass of people invading your kraal, they have to come in one by one and they make it easier to defend. So its literally the width on ones shoulders...so if you have got a hail of gunfire going down its going to cut you into smithereens and honestly Angela that was the first and only time ...it was the second time sorry...this was really the first time that I saw my life flash between my eyes...and I thought well today I could die, I could die right now and I was just waiting for Gerry to say to me run like f....hell. That's all that I was waiting for him to say, and he says stay still....I said what the

f....happening...don't talk just stay still. So I just laid like that and we were hoping that the guys in the kraal weren't going to make a noise ...we got hold of them and said a large group of SWAPO just passed us and the choppers were luckily on their way to fetch us, and they came with gunships, Puma's used to have gunships and out of that contact we caught the head of SWAPO special forces, the Head of SWAPO Artillery and that is a bit of euphemism because the artillery was 120mm Mortars ...it's the highest calibre that they had but we caught the heads, both very intelligent guys and a couple of other guys and both of them went across to Five Recce and joined Five Recce eventually. They started as operators for Five Recce, both very bright guys, both born in Namibia and the one had forgotten how to speak Afrikaans ...they spoke perfect English, they had been trained in Cuba ...Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia ....I think the guy who was head of special forces had been trained in the Soviet Union as well ...one of their special camps where they had to train these various groups that they were supporting, he went to one of those training camps and they were both bright guys and we were very fortunate to have captured them and Willem of course wanted nothing to do with them, he wouldn't talk to them, wouldn't acknowledge them ...they were the enemy, what the hell were we doing talking to the enemy...so Willem had turned and the reason these guys had to turn is that their lives were in danger...if they were not reported that they had been killed in a contact and they were still missing after 24 hours they were...there was a standing order in SWAPO that any such people were to be shot on sight and not to be trusted. They told us about the SWAPO security forces, and they said the

SWAPO security element was absolutely ruthless...they all lived in fear of them. To see two to, top people just turn like that was absolutely incredible towards us, and these guys had fear of their lives and they lead us to massive ammunition dumps ...we discovered through them huge ammunition dumps, they couldn't tell us where the dumps had been mined by the engineering, the SWAPO engineering core but the South African's were able to get their own engineers and clear the booby traps and mines and whatever out, and clear the dumps up because we used to use the mine, and the RPG ammunition and all that kind of thing we used and they made huge finds through them and later on they joined Five Recce and they were taught how to parachute and I think they both became useful members of Five Recce and under their military career from that day onwards but that was definitely the one time that I honestly felt that I was in the last moment of my life, I wasn't sympathetic or panicky about it, it was just a fact. My question was would I actually make it out alive, if we sprinted to that kraal and would I actually make it, and I quite honestly didn't think so because we had a massive fire coming down and you were in a little space like that, you are going to get wiped out...so that was the one time. Another time I was in a small man operation with a guy called Vicom Swanies [unsure] now Swanies is another guy you can have a talk to, he also had a moment where he said this is not for me any longer and he left the Recce group but he was a brilliant guy within the platoon ...when he came across the Recce group him and I at one stage did an op in western Angola somewhere ...there was massive infiltration into areas west of Inana...and they wanted us to go in and find the enemy base where these

people were coming out of and we were going to set up an airstrike, we were going to call an airstrike in ...myself and Swannie the two viator[unsure], now the viator distinguished themselves for motor vehicles....they distinguished themselves in Recces, they were really bright guys and very good soldiers...myself and Swannie and the two viator twins went in and we got dropped off towards where [inaudible] and usually we were so still, so disciplined, we were incredible, we used to train for everything ... you hear me rattling this piece of paper, we actually trained how to open our ruck sacks silently, how to switch our gas burners off without making a woosh...we trained that shit, and that was the shit that made us as professional as we were, the seemingly mundane stuff, and that stuff was sometimes a matter of life or death and we were so still that a buck came right up to us and we just stood motionless...where a buck just casually went on grazing around us, that's how still we were, that's how little we disturbed them and when it became last light we then got up and began to sweep north through to south to see if we could find any sign of tracks and in the meantime SWAPO heard the choppers come in and they evacuated their camps and we crossed one of these large groups and what had happened was the viators spotted a blue flare and I had a bit of an argument with them, I said that's not a flare that's a star...no they told me that's a muze, that's a light...I said crap that's a star ... because they could speak a bit of English because our Portuguese was certainly not good, Swannies Portuguese was very good but I had been walking and they brought my attention to this, and as we were arguing the flare went out ...a blue flare it was...we realised that they were somewhere south of us, what we didn't realise was they were on the move and several groups were converging on that flare to reset night camp or whatever...and we went into a bit of a huddle to radio back to a guy called Commandant Hill, Hill himself got quite a bit of notoriety within the SADF ...he was also an ex Parrabat guy of Pep van Zyl generation. As I said we went into a shadowed area where we could set up the radio and work in the shadows without being seen and Swannie got on the radio back to Commandant Hill and telling him that we had now spotted this group on the move and to send the Parrabats in the next morning to give chase and you must remember we were at this time about 20-25 kilometres into Angola and what had happened was as Swannie was about to report, the group crossed the Shona...we were on the edge of the Shona...Shona is an open piece of ground...and the groups started crossing the Shona, but they were only very ...15-20 metres from us at the most, and all that was behind was with them...you see this lamp stand here, that's the size of the branch where I was behind the tree ...a little sapling. All I remember was the moonlight falling over my face like this, a think strip of moonlight over my face, and I though for f....sakes nobody look left ...if they looked left they would have seen us ...myself, Swannie and the two viators we were there f....hoping to hell that they f...just carry on walking, and just looking straight ahead of one another, [inaudible] they don't have to be looked, please do not look left, so that possibly was another occasion, but I cant really ...it wasn't that fully developed...if those guys had looked we would have had the element of surprise and we would have wiped out a lot of them before they even realised it...they would probably have

given flight, they wouldn't even have fought and that was possible the second occasion that I thought f...is anybody looked left we were in deep crap, or could be in deep crap and we were then airlifted early the next morning and the Parrabats came in and flew right over the area where these three groups had actually, and they just scattered and ran for their lives, the Parrabats didn't have any worthwhile tracks to follow and it wasn't worth their while...they spent about two hours out there and then came back, in the meantime we were redeployed back to this place...it used to be an old school the military had taken over, and in fact they used to have a leopard or lion in this particular place, a tame leopard of lion if I remember correctly and we used to operate very low key, people didn't know we were around and who we were and what we were doing so we just assimilated ourselves into the general routine of this particular camp, only the top brass knew who we were and what we were doing but the general personnel we were just people that stepped out of the blue...who the hell were you...oh we are just passing through, don't worry about it...we are on our way to Ruacana...we have to overnight here ...our general thing we used to say was we were chefs ...what do you means chefs...we need to deploy to Ruacana to be chefs...oh okay, don't worry about it. I was standing in the shower waiting for my turn to shower and I heard this conversation taking place ... now the guy who was the main instigator we actually knew who he was ...he was an old Afrikaner guy who was a Corporal ...a Corporal of the age of about 55...the storeman and I knew he was a storeman because we had drawn rat packs and things from him...rations and so on...and he was really sounding off...het jy...he was saying

this in Afrikaans...did you hear about these 32 Recce people they are such

cowards, here they saw a group of 80 SWAPO go past them and SWAPO didn't

know they were there and they didn't attack them....we are sitting there guietly

and listening and just raised my eyes and thought ja but....you tune these guys

know f....don't you. I got into the shower and I think I showered right next to

him...just looked at him and though ja...you know everything don't you. So that

was possibly one other occasion that I thought there was a possibility that if they

rumbled us that night that we would have been in deep shit because we were

only four...we weren't dressed, we weren't prepared for a fighting patrol, we were

truly on a reconnaissance mission and we weren't carrying stacks and stacks of

ammo we were just carrying our ... I think we used to carry seven magazines, we

weren't carrying any extra ammo ...no heavy firepower, we didn't have a RPG

machinegun with us or anything like that and we could have been in a bit of shit

that night if shit had hit the fan but these things happen and it was just an

experience and you chalk it off to ...as an experience, good or bad its just an

experience and you move onto the next stop. Okay doll, that's about it...

INTERVIEWER: Shall we carry on next time...before we finish, first I want to

say thank you for a really fantastic interview.

**KEVIN FITZGERALD**: No its only a pleasure.

INTERVIEWER:

But also do you have any questions for me...before we ...

KEVIN FITZGERALD: No I don't even know your beef Angela, I think ...as I

said to you I think that the story needs to be told about individuals that were in

the special forces grouping and some of the things that these people did were

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absolutely spectacular soldiers, people like Diddies, Jack Greef and others that I don't know about. I have read the book on Five Recce ...written by the chap who was by Els...and I think that he missed an opportunity there to tell the story of the people who made Five Recce up... I knew a few people in Five Recce, I didn't know a lot, I met with them later and in fact on the prairie that I am talking about, when we operated north of Ngiva and Villa Rocadas and places like that ... Peu Peu was actually a prison ...this little place here was a prison called in Portuguese a Cadaya....and we had actually found...that's actually a prison town and we had gone up here somewhere and we were doing something up in the north here and we discovered 14-5 ammo...now I was also a 14-5 boff and so I said guess who has just come down the track at the time, a guy with a donkey and trailer I mean can you believe your luck, so we loaded the ammo onto his trailer and we asked him do you mind, he was going south to Peu Peu ...fine and we strolled down the road, this guy and his donkey and donkey cart with all the ammo on it, and we radioed into Willem, we were on the eastern side of the river ...somewhere around here...on the western side of the river, we were based ...out attack HQ was on the western side of the road we were farting around in the north of Villa Rocadas on the eastern side of the river and there were a couple of other units, technical people that were seconded to us and they were monitoring the traffic on the radio that we had found this ammo and that we were bringing it back and these guys were like utterly bewildered, these guys must be supermen...to bring back...you know how heavy ammo is ...what kind of people are they ...they must be supermen carrying this ...in the meantime its on the

donkey cart...this is the wild perception that people used to have. I will tell you about one wild perception...so we now merrily marching down the track and this guy with his donkey cart full of ammo and all of a sudden our troops started getting excited...cadara, cadara.... What do you mean...the prison, the prison....then they told us that time that must be Peu Peu...they knew about the prison from the Portuguese time ...they knew where we were, and then we crossed the river and loaded the ammo into a Buffel that we got to come down to the river, waded across with the ammo. Got back to camp and these guys were like you carried those ammo back, and of course we played around and later told them we had a donkey...at some stage I got a beautiful photograph of this which you might want just because it shows Angela our youth...it's a beautiful photograph...we landed up in a medical course in Angola...where did the air force operate from? The main HQ was just north of that...I cant remember, but who at that base do you ...advanced medics course...myself, Peter Lipman and I cant remember who else...but the day that we flew in, it was a Sunday...and I could fly in choppers...choppers I didn't mind ...but put me in an aeroplane I was gone, I just wanted to puke...when they flew so low and they got all the air turbulence and we arrive in Ondangwa...no Ondangwa is way south...its where the air force was operating and Inana was where the main [inaudible] was...we arrived in Inana and I am green around the gills...and we rock up at the mess and we ask for lunch and the guys have this whole military bureaucracy....have you guys booked lunch and we said f....off man...we just came out of the bush we want to f....eat....no....anyway there is an old school mate of mine called Rob

Holten...Rob Holten used to be a real comic...today as an adult he is far removed from that ...he cant make a joke if I am laughing today...the school kid he was the joke master, him and a guy called Mike[inaudible] who was a day boy today he is a multi-multi millionaire, Michael de Cayne [?] or else he blue on most of our imaginations...they were the real cowboys in our matric year, real jokers...and there Rob Holten was. Fritzy I haven't seen you, how is it going...he was an airforce photographic intelligence...and he used to do a lot of photographic intelligence for us and at the time we were also doing a lot of vehicle ambush and shit...he said I do all the photographic intelligence for you, oh Rob you are here, [inaudible] and he said you have to meet somebody...there was a guy in Inana who did stats for the military, that was his job, and of course when he heard I was from 32, begged Rob, especially when Rob told him we came out of the Recce group, begged Rob to...so I met this guy and it was like all of a sudden a pop star, he was like a fan, it was the most amazing thing to see, he couldn't believe he was actually meeting someone ...and then [inaudible] because stats went [inaudible] Column A kills four, Column B our troops killed...A, B ...campers...column went 10 of our troops killed, Column A was their troops killed....Column A was one...campers killed, 10...but more of our campers would be killed in the ratio between SWAPO you understand...what was the next one...there was campers, then possibly National Service Unit...the ratio was something like SWAPO killed four, National Service killed our troop 3, it was slightly in our favour...SWAPO was slightly bigger ...mechanised units the odds went up a bit more, Koevoet the odds went up a

....32...want to guess what 32 was...what's your guess?

**INTERVIEWER**: Tell me.

**KEVIN FITZGERALD**: 900 to 1...Angela these were stats, they exist. You can go and check on them... I am talking about 1980 now ...or 1981...900 to 1...the Recce group would [inaudible] 32 as a unit was running at 900 to 1... I think the Recce group was 1000 to nothing...in all my time in 32 I think we lost two guys for Recce...in the very first contact **Trusando** [?] we got shot at point blank range in the church with RPG...he was leading us out...he came across as a class guy...him and the guy who was with Oppies were buddies...and the mulato with Oppies and later became a shit hot soldier at Four Recce...they were Costa....Dacosta was his name ...Dacosta who got an prescription with me he wasn't Dacosta...they youngster was Costa the mulato...him and the mulato were big mates. They were the very first [inaudible] and dealing with our modus operandi was to go north rather than south, because it will confuse them, if they start looking for us south, and as we were withdrawing a SWAPO guy stepped out from a bush and plugged him at point blank range in the chest. We actually had to blow his body up and leave it behind, that's how...when I read the contact report that I told you about...that contact for me went in a flash...we hit it very early in the morning, we went into an ambush position around a water hole early that morning and on our infiltration route in we bumped into a small group of SWAPO, that small group of SWAPO are known to us and had gone back to their main base, and alerted their main base and they put out a search party at first light ... a whole detachment to search and we caught the tail end of the search

party, and what happened was they swung around in a V...they trapped us around the water hole and they were shooting us in both directions...you can go and check the stats on this as well Angela, and that's why I believe David Ledley ...something obviously happened with David and I don't know what it is, some sort of break down whatever it was, but David never came back to the unit, but I believe David should have got a Honoris Crux...David ran a 60mm mortar and in that intense fire ...60 mm mortar he fired from a kneeling position, that intense fire David nearly hit that that 60 mm mortar going on the top...his back was peppered with shell...that's why he got casuvacted out...he wasn't seriously wounded his back was just pin pricked with shrapnel...it wasn't serious but it was shrapnel and it had to be taken out, and he was casuvacted and he never ever came back. I always said David should have got a Honoris Crux .. Costa the guy with the machine got a Honoris Crux which he deserved, he saved the Wogs [unsure] quite a few times and when I read the report that I had written years later, through [inaudible] that contact lasted almost a day, almost the entire day...what happened was that Blue Three [unsure] eventually managed to convince General Meiring in Windhoek that they needed to do something drastic to get us out, and they actually sent Impala's in and they bombed it and we were able to get an extraction zone ... Puma's picked us up and they took us to Inana...sorry the camp that I was talking about just now was not Ilana...Ilana was right up on the border...they extracted us to Ilana ... I cant remember the names of the main SADF bases ....they were 30-40 kilometres south of the border where the main HQ regimental set ups were ... South West Africa Command was stationed, and all these places, so we were airlifted to Ilana and what they did in Ilana they put the entire Ilana camp confined them to their tents because you get enemy weapon and clothing and all that kind of thing...they didn't want to see them ...and they came out, the guys from the canteen came out...and they didn't have any cold colddrinks, only hot colddrinks and I tell you Angela the first time in my life I drank a hot coke...and I loved it...we were f....and we just didn't realise it. We just downed these hot coldrinks one after the other and the first Honoris Crux awarded to somebody in the regiment was Costa from that contact.

**INTERVIEWER**: I was just showing you the maps so that you could...

KEVIN FITZGERALD: Here we go...Oshakati...Oshakati is where the main SADF set up went, command centre for operations in western South West Africa...we know Oshakati like I think they were about 10 kilometres down the road, or the base where the airforce operated out of...Oshakati didn't have an airstrip, the airstrip was in the town...Morendongu...yes it was Ondangwa...the one I am thinking of is Grootfontein...Grootfontein was the main ...way down south near Trumed was Grootfontein...Ondangwa was where the Airforce was ...Oshakati was where the main South West Africa command was...for that area and the rural place that I was talking about where we operated from I think was Umbulantu it was actually a school where Swannies and I went back into and heard the conversation in the shower in Umbulantu. We did a very successful vehicle ambush on the Cahama road out of Ruacana...Ferreira was going bananas, when we called the strike planes in the next day they used to just watch the smoke from the ambush and apparently Ferreira went bananas. He

loved it, that's my men, my men, and apparently he was going bananas...we shot the ammo truck up unfortunately...the whole lot of ammo was going off, we shot the ration truck up, the ration truck was smoking....in that particular ambush we shot about six or seven of their vehicles up, and we laid mines in the road...we just put the mines on top...these vehicles travelled so fast they thought their speed would be the thing to get them out of the ambushes...when they hit those mines the impact of those mines broke the speed of the vehicles going and used to fling these vehicles 30 - 40 metres, they could be thrown in your direction...but they didn't have time. By the time that they saw the mines in their headlights it was too late they were going too fast and we used to just put ordinary cheese lines...a couple on the whole width of the road...and the vehicle was about 5 metres way, cabang, thanks...boom...we used to have fun. We probably sound like a terrible side...and this bloody ammo truck kept on going off the whole night on the Cahama road, I will never forget it...another night we blew a water flow...water drainage pipe ...we blew that between Xangonga and Ngiva... **Xangonga** was Villa Rocadas. Four to Five [inaudible] that was Angola, a huge camp...big thing there, we tried to blow their bit several times but they ..it was never feasible. No attempts were made but a lot of planning was done, but it was never feasible...the river that ran there ...what's this rivers name....Cunene...it went past the **Ngonga**...they had a massive bridge entry, about two kilometres spanned bridge...that's how wide the waterfalls were below but sometime the water was just that deep, about two inches so it was never feasible, you could never mount a feasible waterborne operation ...we even tried

to blow the thing by bombing it...and it just never, the bridge stood and when we took Xangonga over after Protea, the Ngongo became the operational centre of the Protea...thank God we never blew that bridge because we used the bridge ...and the main Cuban, Soviet set up at Cahama ... I mean this road used to be a junction...the Impala's and planes used to shoot convoys there like it as just [inaudible] they were shooting the convoys, because these nitwits never used to apply any sort anti-techniques, or space their vehicles out moer of a far, they used to drive in compact little convoys so one straight you go and shoot twenty vehicles...boom bang thank you very much twenty vehicles done, thanks. They allowed you to be [inaudible] I promise you when we get to there and move in proper [inaudible] the road between Savambe and Ngiva I could not believe the amount of burnt out vehicles...I couldn't believe it, is was one [inaudible] to think that it was carried on and repeating the same mistake all the time....its senseless, when we laid an ambush here Gerry and myself one night right next to Anjiba here...I will never forget the chicken, we had chickens in the back of the truck, we set this ambush up and blew the vehicles to smithereens...the vehicle with the chickens lands right in front of us...Gerry and myself...go on boys waiting for these guys shouting in Portuguese....matarra [inaudible] f....chickens keep them quiet...we were giggling and the last thing I wanted to worry about was chickens...and the vehicles burning all over the place...they are worried about their chickens...Gerry and I just smiled. Then Willem ordered us to withdraw so we never got a chance to shoot the chickens anyway...but the guys were going on about their chickens and we still ...the point of...done a lot of work, and only Gerry and I know what we are talking about...and we say to each other Matarra Galineas ...we know exactly what we are talking about, a stupid situation...can you imagine you have got dying comrades all over the place ...smouldering bodies and they are worrying about their chickens...Gerry and I were just winding up to give that truck a good revving when Willem ordered us to withdraw...we withdrew about 10 metres and we just sat about 20 metres away killing ourselves laughing with these guys worrying about their chickens. It was mind boggling.

**INTERVIEWER**: It gives new meaning to the expression a turkey shoot.

KEVIN FITZGERALD: There was no question about that, and the airforce definitely had a turkey shoot every night of their lives, these guys used to drive with their lights on ...they used to come through at regular times, it was a turkey shoot, I mean when we used to go and lay physically by the road and ambush them ...we were sortee and four trucks were tailing us, these guys could drive at maniac speeds and if you detonate a mine at that speed, that vehicle just launches, and if it launches in your direction you shit, and it happened a couple of times. The Recce guys, one of the vehicles landed on top of their packs, Recce guys we had a different scenario, but Diddies and Oppies taught us this when they first taught us...you put all your ruck sacks in a bunch...behind you and of course we never ever did it that way, we had to just worry about the heavy concentration on firing and just coincidentally coming down in the area where your ruck sacks were....how are you even going to get to them to extract them...you cant leave them behind they have got the radio and everything, so

each guy used to put his ruck sack just behind him...use it as cover...and its never far from you and the Recce guys used this method obviously for f....years and Frank Fourie who was part of this particular ambush, what they actually did was split up into two groups, now that's quite a good technique and we used it sometimes as well. The front group would actually step into the road with the RPG and as the RPG got into the killing zone of the group ahead they would launch the RPG and the vehicle would get stopped in that good clean zone and then the rest of the vehicles would try and come around and run into the second zone...but it was actually quite a good strategy used, but fortunately for them on this particular night that exact same thing happened. One of these vehicles just launched and guess where it landed, right on top of their ruck sacks...and their asses were saved because they were as disciplined as we were, if not more, because they stuck to the emergency RV instruction, and the choppers picked them up one of the emergency RV's ...they had no radio or nothing, everything went up in smoke as a collective communal pack of ruck sacks....that was on the Cahama road funny enough as well, but Frank actually came to visit us ...ourselves and One Recce just coincidentally happened to be operating in the same area...and he actually popped into Ondangwa ...the airforce use to operate out of Ondangwa and we used to take over the car park in Ondangwa because the car park was fenced and we used to set up a tent in the car park and sleep and operate out of a tent and we would leave the storeman behind and we used to insist that they look after the stuff and the normal troops couldn't get in there in the fenced off area...so it used to be a pretty handy arrangement for us, and Frank popped around to visit us and he actually told us at **Stalkridge**, what happened to them two or three nights before, they almost saw their asses. I think they stopped....we used to have our ambush down to pat Angela, we used to...as I said to you earlier on, the amount of preparation and drills that we used to go through, we used to pack everything....there was never an idle moment, when we were in base we were practising, landmine laying, ambush drills, keeping quiet with kit, navigation exercises, it didn't matter what it was, everything was geared for us to improve and keeping on top of the skills set that we needed to operate as soldiers and I tell you that paid us dividends, you know the fact that I think we lost two guys in my time, the amount of contacts, Angela I have got over 300 contacts...no question about that. I was in that unit for three years, and we had more than 100 contacts a year...no question about that, so I am way over 300....I am alive today because we were so drilled, confident in the people around us, because they were confident in me...we were confident in one another and we never had a doubt about what the next guy was going to do...no question on my mind that this guy was going to get up and run away, whether that guy was black or white it didn't matter, guys that were with us, the behaviours[unsure], the Costas...I think many more, Mike will remember many of their names and the Beals [unsure] these guys didn't get up and run. Nkiki and Amandla...Nkiki was with us at Savati and those guys stood firm, the bravery in the platoons ... Charl, I cant remember his surname off hand...he was the C2 Adjutant at the time, hell of a nice guy...he married his wife while he was staying down...Charl Muller...Charl Muller these guys when they were killed, the guy in

the platoon, I cant remember who it was, but he had a medic who was a legend in the unit, a black medic, he was a legend in the unit...and this guy actually jumped on top of this white guy and was shot...NPLA then walked up pulled the guy off and shot the white guy underneath the [inaudible] coming toward him murdered, but that's the calibre of person that I have a tremendous affection in general to the people who were there in my time, and I am talking about FNLA, the guys that were in Angola and still if I see Amandla today I see Techie [unsure] today they both went on and became Captains ... became officers in the SADF...Sergeant Major Cancenjou [?] was a linguistics expert and he was busy teaching himself Afrikaans when I left and that's the high calibre of people that were in that unit. They had a lot of riff raff too, no question about that, I was making a joke about the Sergeant Major at HQ he used to be a heavy smoker, and he died sometime in the mid 80's but he was responsible for recruiting, he didn't even know one word of Portuguese...he knew a few..the guide and the [inaudible] used to test the so called Angolan recruits, in the meantime they were f...Owambos...who picked up these were the questions that they were going to be asked, and these are the answers that they had to give. I found in the 32 ranks one day a SWAPO infiltrator...on the parade ground...I am not bullshitting you, I wasn't in the platoon but this happened in my time, on the f....parade ground at Buffalo. They said this f...guy is a SWAPO man....true as God he was...he came through Sergeant Major Rosa...he used to sit at Rundu and smoke himself to death and he used to read f....about anything else. He used to think we were playing games, really I often used to sit and think if people actually

know what is required to be in conflict....the way you guys are going it looks like we are playing a game, but people were actually dying there. They just didn't get it, they were so wrapped up in their own little world...they just couldn't see beyond it, and thank God guys I picked and so on they knew what was going on and looked after these guys...when Ferreira came on board he also ...Nel just had no capacity...if I meet Nel today I am very civil to him, in my eyes he is totally [inaudible] in his position. He did not know what went on in war, he cannot task people ahead and say this is what you will do on day one, on day two you will patrol to that port, day three there, day four there...in the platoons the average patrolling for platoons is six weeks...and they had their entire patrol mapped out for six weeks...and of course guys like Jim Ross and Tony you could bullshit the guys and get onto the truck, and do what they had to do and then send through bullshit RV and this and that, only when the choppers were in the air did they contact the choppers and say ...actually not at that RV okay, you have to come and look for us over here. Because Nel just was totally, didn't know what the f...was involved in war, he thought it was a little game where you shuffled little pieces around the board and said one day you move this red pin, which represents Platoon 1 from Alpha Company 10 kilometres and that's where they are going to be...they shift that platoon...they are so...they were micro managing the war...if you know what, that's why the Americans are losing ...they are not giving their ground commanders the faith to run the war on the ground ...I am reading a book now called Generation Killer...I don't know if you have come across it. But it explains the experiences of Marine Recon Unit in ...where did

the French Sudheim[unsure] come from...lraqi....and you can just see the

Americans just don't get it...even after Somalia they didn't realise that you cant

micro manage a war...your ground commanders have to manage your war for

you, you have to have faith in them...when they ask you to do xyz then don't

f...question them. Get on and do it...why did the guys belly up in

Somalia...because the ground commanders were powerless, they couldn't make

decisions, they had to wait for some prick sitting at the Pentagon to tell them

what was happening 15000 kilometres away what to do...

**INTERVIEWER**: But don't you think that part of this has to do with the fact that

the media is so present...all the time, I mean they are ...there is much more

presence of media, there is much more of a public eye on war on the ground

these days.

**KEVIN FITZGERALD**: It doesn't matter; you still have to follow the principles of

war.

**INTERVIEWER**: But what I am saying is that maybe the changes [inaudible]

have actually [interjected]

**KEVIN FITZGERALD**: George Mazarakis asked me this question...Nikki and I

out of the blue decided one night to go and have supper at the butcher shop and

I am quite a regular client at the Butcher Shop, [inaudible] and George asked me

this question...they had just got footage of an incident that I think happened in

Iraqi ...you might have seen it I haven't seen it ...whereby they shot two guys

who were apparently wounded and George said this a case for the Geneva

Convention to watch. I said the Geneva Convention is good and well, it keeps us

Historical Events – Wits University Kevin Fitzgerald A30791B12 all in check but I tell you what, what do you do where you are fighting an enemy that doesn't give a shit about the Geneva Convention, doesn't care. When you are in a war zone, the only good thing is when that person is dead...do you know how many special force guys have been killed by wounded soldiers, you wont believe it. When I met Shawn for the first time at Swartwater, a month before we arrived at **Swartwater**, an English guy was in One Recce a Sergeant...I have forgotten his name, it might have been Ross...but they were doing a tracking operation going with some ANC infiltrators...and they had already had a couple of skirmishes with them and they were tracking the last of them down and they ran into skirmish with the last group, and one of the guys were wounded...as they swept past him, this guy rolled over and this Ross guy was indicating for his guys to come forward and he shot him here...he was lying there wounded, he was dying...he just took a shot with his AK and got Ross here, he died. Don't you see, watch any of the series on the BBC palm, SAS always used

**INTERVIEWER**: Yes I have.

Kafima....have you watched it?

**KEVIN FITZGERALD**: Now what do you learn out of that, it gives you an insight into the mind set of the SAS...now Eddie Stone I know had a good reputation and Barry Davies was one of the guys who was involved with I think in the Queensgate Iraqi Hostage situation where the SAS first burst into the **Ilana**...now you have to make a decision Angela and the Americans cater to the American public at home, you cant do that, you are fighting a war, they have to understand that their sons are going to die...their daughters are going to die, but

they are dying for a good cause...now forget the fact that Bush probably motivated Iraqi for economic oil related reasons...the good cause being, currently now in our war the fight against terrorism, not the fight against communism or the fight against imperialism, or the fight against capitalism...the war today is a war against terrorism, global terrorism. Now you have to make your public understand that this is not pretty...this is not glorified, this is hard f....slog...its not going to be over in a day and not going to be over in 10 years...a time frame for this particularly war is undetermined and many people are going to come home dead that were your family, your friends, your school mates, your university mates, the mates that you were with at Annapolis west point, wherever. The are going to come home dead and you have to come to terms with that, you cannot say you want to defeat terrorism but we don't want to have the walking wounded, the dead, the tragedy that goes with it...but unfortunately the price of obtaining a freedom from terrorism ... I am not talking about freedom... freedom from terrorism from the grip of terrorism is going to be the cost of life, and some of it is going to f....hard. A lot of it is going to be because of ineptitude ...but it doesn't matter how it came about death is not nice, its not nice to receive the body of your son...the body of your husband, go to the funeral of people you knew and grew up with, and that is the price that we are going to pay to free our world from the grip of terrorism. I want to make a point about Iragi...Iragi...liberty is nothing that you can give anybody...liberty has got to be fought by the people who win it...they must want liberty ...and the Iraqi's never wanted it, that's why they have tolerated Hussein for as long as they did. That's why they tolerated Sadam

Hussein as long as they did...the ANC in this country wanted that, they wanted their freedom and they fought for it...they might have fought for it in a terrorist way, but I am trying to show you the difference here...at least they fought for it. The Iraqi's stood back and got massacred, got oppressed, the Americans want to give them freedom ...you can't give anybody freedom Angela, you actually have to want it, crave it...and then you will be motivated to obtain it. If that motivation is not there nobody can hand it to you and say as from tomorrow according to the constitution that is going to be dated on that day, you are going to be considered free, because they don't even know what it means. That is the mistake that the Americans are making in that context...the context of going into Iragi which was a base for terrorism, yes maybe not, but we all know that **Sudham** was a force to them in [inaudible] and that the price that they are paying now is one step along the road to making sure that the world gets further and further away from terrorism and the process is going to last for a long, long time. America has taken the lead in this and the American public must understand that if they are going to be driving this process, they are going to be the forefront of this process, they have to live with the consequences, and the consequences are ugly...you cant sugar coat it...and what the American military is now trying to do, is to try and sugar coat it by managing the media, controlling the media, you are not allowed to take photographs of dead bodies coming home any longer...you are not allowed to do this, or that, that is deception that is going to backfire on them. They are trying to do this the wrong way, God is saying we are at war and you the public better get used to it because it might cost them [inaudible] they must take decisions instead to media manage it and that is the wrong decision. You have to take a war [inaudible] and Bush was pretty strong initially in saying to the American public we are in this for the long duration, past my Presidency, past the Presidency of the next person to come, we don't know a time span for this, and its definitely going to be two years, not going to be five years, its going to be longer, prepare the soldiers...what do they do on the other hand, they try and manage or PR or soft soap this...you cant soft soap reality Angela, if its harsh within...there is no way that you can soft soap that, because it is a painful reality. People feel the death of loved people, they see the burial, they see the work in the trenches....i was speaking to Gerry the other day and we were having a good giggle about something. Gerry now lives in the States, myself and Gerry were the first two people that [inaudible] approached when the initial contract came up.

#### SIDE B

**KEVIN FITZGERALD**: So Gerry and Green were in fact the very first people that had been approached to go initially go with our company...and Gerry couldn't go, he couldn't ...he was a managing director of a company here called **Plastic Bits**...and they were a world wide company who specialised in industrial suction hosing for the Diamond Mine Industry for Creepy Crawlies ...all hosing industries and creepy crawlies are made by Plastic [inaudible] Barracuda, everything in the back of your washing machine ...whether it's a Mièle washing machine, LG washing machine, plastic bits...and Worldwide they are quite a big concern in this industry...they do all the heavy duty stuff for the diamond

dredging industry, they dredge diamonds off the sea bed and so on...and Gerry got transferred to the States to actually rescue the operation, so he has now become a US Citizen and they live in North Carolina...and we chat to one another occasionally and Gerry gave me this, he used the box where he even put his company name on it...this was a present from, he also only gave it to [inaudible] but Gerry and I used to play a lot of squash and when I went up in 1993 I was very fit for playing squash, and I was one of the older guys, I was 32 or 34 then, or going onto 34...I used to outrun a lot of these youngsters, when I was a squash player, but we were having a conversation last week sometime, and I said to Gerry this whole thing puzzles me, in fact I recommended a book to him this guy Clive Holten wrote about his National Service experiences in 61 and he suffered from post traumatic stress syndrome and we were poopood at ... every second little guy would come down and [inaudible] if he has got post traumatic syndrome ... I was in the Parrabats and nobody pushed you into the Parrabats, you volunteered for that, now you have got post traumatic stress syndrome ... you poor little angel. I get very disparaging about it, but the reality Angela is that it is a harsh reality for people and the thing that never sat well with me is that the SADF and society and Government at the time very much had a use and abuse kind of policy. Once we had our do with you, we don't want to know about you. Once we had our year out of you, our use out of you whatever it was we don't want to know about you, so a lot of people left the military who should have received counselling from the military, either for that kind of stress, didn't have a name at that time, it wasn't called post traumatic syndrome...they used to call it the shell shock in those days.

**INTERVIEWER**: Bos befok.

KEVIN FITZGERALD: That was the common term, but we didn't ...we used bos befok in the sense that guys were acting irrationally, not seriously psychologically disturbed. Seriously psychologically disturbed we wouldn't sort of fob off as bos befok, when guys were being a bit stupid sometimes ...ag man jy is bos befok. They hadn't been on leave for a long time ...you were getting f....highly stressed...and you are starting to be a bit bos befok....the guys [inaudible] but we saw it manifest itself in various ways, unfortunately I don't think the Afrikaans society actually knew how to ...what the burden was going to be on them eventually...because you looked at most transgressions ...were done Afrikaans guys...awol...the highest percentage Afrikaans. bν were Proportionately ...breach of serious military conduct, rapes, deaths, Afrikaans. They took a heavy burden in society...in the 1980's Afrikaners were committing suicide ten to one, wiping out entire families ...this terrible low that they bore Angelica...and still today as I said, it never sat well with me that the SADF never took care all the time, every provided these guys with psychological counselling. Never provided them with integration counselling, how to integrate back into society...and especially in the special forces in Angola your experiences were so intense, over such a short period of time that you had to come out there with some sort of imbalance...and I have met people many years afterwards, a partner in the Chiropractor practice that I go to, Willem Boshoff....used to sit on the South African Referee Rugby Council...his son was in One Recce ..he said

Kevin you know it took us two years to get my son right, I said Willem I am not surprised to hear that...they guy went totally mashugena...totally off the top...this guy used to party and caused all kinds of shit and you know how many times I had to beg the police and reason with the police not to arrest my son and report him driving like a maniac, shooting red robots, whatever it was then....I showed you Duppie just now, I mean here you have and you were talking about the dream culture, it still happens today ...that all had its origin there, none of these guys have seen any counselling and as for me and Gerry we need to be in the location mentioned to you, and so the guy managed to get himself back into a routine and normalise his life, but that particular individual ...we used to play a lot of cards at Buffalo, poker, and the guys used to drink it up, these guys knew how You hear about people that know how to drink, let me tell you something, the guys that came out of special forces knew how to drink, no bullshit, and in the Recce group we just never fell into that trap, we always said to ourselves listen if we are going to piss it up tonight what state are we going to be to react to some encounter....we used to piss it up no question about it, but it wasn't a culture in the group but in the platoons it was an inbred culture and these guys used to play cards and when you go to Buffalo the soccer field is still there, you find the old soccer field ...the road goes along the soccer field, curves down that and then runs along the river and all the guys had their reed huts. The guys used to take a short cut through the bush ...come out at the top of the road here, and then onto the dining room mess....and this particular chap had accused one guy of cheating while they were playing cards...they used to

gamble quite heavy on it, put down heavy bets...and the other one said f....off I don't know what you are talking about and this and that....fok julle almal....and packed up and f...off. What he did was he actually went and laid and they found him the next morning, sleeping on his AK...the AK was fully loaded with I think I said three magazines...he was going to shoot the shit out of these guys, but he fell asleep, he was so drunk he passed out. They found him the next morning six o'clock on their way to breakfast...hey wake up...how....this kind of shit used to happen and the SADF was quite happy to use you and then say cheers...we have had our use out of you, we are not interested...the guys used to come into society ...we had one guy and I can mention the name, also an elderly guy who came out of Rhodesia...South African who went across to Rhodesia, fought int he RSI and came back to join 32...his name was ....he reported to Mike Rogers eventually and DHQ where Mike Rogers finished off his military career...I stagger to see the guy, he had a very pock marked face ... I don't think from bad skin but it was just ...and he lived as a hobo for f....years, because he couldn't integrate back into society...he used to be Tony Nienaber's corporal in fact and he couldn't integrate back into society...we had many cases of that. Common Nikki Major just now...I suppose he...certain things that we did, Nikki is just about normal ..Michael for instance ...Michael told me for years that he couldn't let anybody touch him, and his girlfriend used to lie with him in the bed and she wanted to cuddle up and Michael wouldn't want it, and she couldn't understand why...she just...I am just going right now, I am in a different place, leave me alone...and Gary Swart...when Gary Swart finished, down in Cape Town a while ago and

invited Gary around to have supper or something, and Garry said to me Kevin I just cannot have as good a time ...lets call it a normal civilian, as I had with my military mates. I just cannot meet my mind with theirs, with their life experiences so different....and it is. I had other friends outside of that, but as I said to you my main bond of friendship is still with us because from a character point of view know how solid those guys are, I know who they are, I have seen them under the most extreme stress when their lives were on the line and they survived, they came through, they didn't chicken out and run and crack and go bos befok and whatever. The next day they went out into the bush again and carried on with the mission, ran into another contact, whatever it was. Some of the contacts were good and some of them were bad and they absorbed it, dealt with it and moved on, they didn't come back into society and be totally non functional. Gerry for instance suffered from bad dreams for years afterward, years and years afterwards, and that was about the worst of them, I kept having a recurring dream, I could never get this dream out of my system...somehow or other I dreamt that we were in an op in Zambia and we did operations in Zambia but when I mean in Zambia I mean in f....Kitwe the North of Zambia, round the Copperfield, quite ridiculous...what we were doing there don't ask me, my dream has got no explanation. I just know we were crawling through the bush coming up to the edge of a Shona to put up observation posts because we believe there was an enemy camp in the vicinity and there were guys on a cricket field playing cricket...and I remember saying to myself but f...we are at war, how can you guys be playing cricket...that's about the worst dream that I had...I just

remember thinking to myself we are at war, and you are playing cricket, what the hell is going on with you, but life carried on normally. While we were fighting one of the most intense wars ever seen, life carried on normally. People went about and laughed, life went on, and it was very difficult to perhaps integrate back into life...I didn't really think I had a problem ...maybe other people think differently...I remember I was asked to get up and talk in the economics class, study group that we had and I got up and said...people were killing themselves laughing...I thought what the f...is going on now...they said God you always talk so loud...sorry I am just used to lecturing in military style....in military style you talk loud, of course I was 30% deaf in both ears at that stage too, so that didn't help the cause of talking softly and people often used to say to me your loudness...I said I am sorry boet I am deaf and that pitch that I think that I can hear...I might be loud to you, but it sounds normal to me. So I used to have little things like that...I want to get back to the story about Rob Holten...so I met Rob Holten at ...what ever place it was, I mentioned it before and so Rob introduced me to this guy with all the stats and that, and this guy looked after us...got us into the main briefing boardroom...they used to sent up tapes ...they used to see the entire SABC production one week late...so you would watch whatever programme showed on a Monday it would be a week late...and he took us and showed us all the soccer games, because Phil Smith who later died at Soyuc and they never brought his body back ... Phil Smith and I used to put our feet up on the boardroom and watch on the big screen this guy...the stats guy used to show soccer matches ...we used to love it, the English Premier...or first division at that time...and a few months later we were on our way to do another vehicle ambush and we stopped over in Ondangwa and we were sleeping under the vehicles and Rob came to me, he knew Rob he had done a fight with Reconnaissance analysis for us...Fritz don't you want to sleep with me...my roommate has gone back on two weeks leave...hey....bed, hot shower, I think I will take that offer up, thank you. Hey Rob grab, so I said to Willem I am going to sleep in room number so and so...no go and enjoy it, we will sleep on the ground, don't worry about us we are tough enough to sleep on the ground...you go and be a pufter and enjoy the showers and I said, I think I will go and do that, and I went and slept in Rob's room. A few months later Rob finished in National Service and come to Johannesburg to study drafting...he is a draughtsman and Nikki and I went out to a restaurant in Hillbrow and in those days ...they don't exist anymore...it was like a cheap version of Mike's Kitchen...and we are having a meal and all of a sudden I see Rob Holten and a very good friend of him, a guy called Chris Wedgewood [?] Christ was studying to be a teacher, in fact he is still teaching today...and they came over and I said do you want to join us, and they said no we have got girlfriends joining us...so they go off and a little while later Nikki goes to the toilet...I see Rob Holten is still looking at our table from time to time...Nikki got up and Rob is here in confession...he says can I tell you something really confidential. I don't know the guy that well, used to be the class clown as I said, heck of a nice guy ...and I said yes sure....he said to me do you remember when you slept with me at Ondangwa ...yes...it was hell of a nice I slept there for two nights...I didn't have to sleep under the vehicle...you

know I didn't sleep a wink during those two days...I said why...he said Fritzy I was so shit scared of you...that I never slept. I said you are joking...he said you wont believe me, I thought if I made the slightest noise you would f....get up and cut my throat. I said you are joking Rob...he said Kevin I am telling you the truth...honestly that's the kind of minds that people used to have, they thought we were absolute murderers. Michael still gets that today...as I said he goes to a lot of broker conferences because he is one of the top brokers in Old Mutual so he gets to go to a lot of Old Mutual do's and if people meet him from 32 they say f....aren't you f...half mad....l mean Michael tries his best not to let people know where his military was...because of the bloody crap that they are going to talk to him...really you can phone Rob Holten now, you can ask him ...did you ever say this to Kevin and he will say yes, I was shit scared if I made a sudden noise or disturbance Kevin would be up and I would be dead. I said Rob I think you don't understand what its all about ... I think I am disciplined enough not to have done that, and you could see a little light went on in his head...he is talking to a professional soldier here, the guy is not a blood thirsty maniac who jitters at every sound and jumps up and murders half his family before he .... am in Johannesburg, not in Angola.

**INTERVIEWER**: There are some strange perceptions, we are trying to change that ...that's what we are trying to do here.

**KEVIN FITZGERALD**: You get that from time to time, and you give me a great smile but I think one of the big sadness's for me is that the military never ever took care of the people...they should have taken care of them in terms of

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counselling and reintegration and all this kind of thing....and these guys were literally left to fend for themselves and many of them didn't make it...just deteriorated further and further and as I said to you, we make very light of it amongst ourselves and we hear all these sop stories on TV, particularly this American Koevoet, and you can ask the guy from Koevoet...who is it....you will find out if you ask questions...guys will know who the American is, he appeared in the TRC...I was listening to the guys in the TRC and I thought what planet do you come from...nobody forced you to go to Koevoet...you volunteered to go there...now all of a sudden all this trauma and drama about what you saw and you got shot and goodness gracious me...we make light of it but the fact of the reality is that it is a heavy burden with some people, it did have an effect on some people and the military never took care of it, so that is one of the main sticky point with me and of course the memorial service that I was at the other day ...when I heard how the guys were just dumped ...three bodies in two graves, it was tragic to think those guys were incredible soldiers ...everybody in 32 knew about them and these guys had showed incredible bravery ....One Recce and them were the first ones to give a foreigner born a Honoris Crux...these guys were not people who you simply discard and forget about ...that's exactly what One Recce did with them. One Recce was their home unit, imagine he was the father of six children, Rosher...he children never had the opportunity to come and mourn at his graveside. Most probably don't even know where he is...and if the guys in the special force brigade had not made a concerted effort to make sure that every person that had been listed as killed actually had a gravestone,

but that would never be discovered, and that to me is a tragedy. In every book

that you have here, there are three books here....there are photographs of all

three of those....

INTERVIEWER:

They are, you are right.

All three of those books...they were just tossed three KEVIN FITZGERALD:

bodies into two graves, just tossed away as if they were totally insignificant...and

I must tell you that is the one major bone of contention that always came with

me, that the hierarchy in the SADF never ever took care of the guys. When you

get a bigger group together to chat about Savate, I tell you, you will see more

things about Savate...from a Recce group perspective I cant talk in terms of what

the platoons did, that's why if you talk to guys like Billy Ford ...they were there...I

walked in with Billy ....Oppies, myself, Mike were all at Savate...Piet Lipmann

was at Savate.

**INTERVIEWER**: I will get you all together.

**KEVIN FITZGERALD**: So Piet is a bit of a scatter brain...to try and force him to

remember to come because generally what happens when we have breakfast

you phone Piet and say Piet you are supposed to be at breakfast....Oh

f.....hell....see you next time okay.

**INTERVIEWER**: We will go and fetch him.

KEVIN FITZGERALD: Tony Nienaber I think will be the great and accurate,

more particularly accurate about early beginnings of 32...his involvement in

it...because he left 32...he finished his National and went to Israel to a Kibbutz

for a long time, in fact he had a very passionate romance with a Israeli woman,

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they wrote to one another for years afterwards...as well as he has tried to tell the

story about his Israeli girlfriends, they all speak English and he used to say,

where did you learn English, ah in bed....those were the things that I remember

about Tony...he had a great outlook on life and a great sense of humour and I

would really have loved with Tony to stay in contact but he lives in the ...where

they grow the flowers and things...Oranges and ....Blyde River Canyon...he

lives out that way. I think he works for one of the forestry companies, his mother

was a child psychologist actually. Very wealthy family from Pretoria....and the

guys the names that I gave to you, if you cant get time, and obviously this project

is also, bet you are expecting a delivery date I suppose, you have some sort of

time in mind that you have to present to them at some stage your research. If

you have enough time to track some of these people down, the one name that

you pointed out to me in the book, I explained to you Diddies kicked him off one

of the courses, that guy actually proved his worth and one of the places he

proved his worth was a botched up operation where Wynand du Toit was actually

captured. Who is in captivity....

INTERVIEWER:

That's Nick du Toit.

**KEVIN FITZGERALD**: Now Nick I met as a Sergeant...and Nick himself had

some pretty heavy experiences in One Recce. A group, it was a small group and

in fact I thing he was the only survivor out of that group, they got hammered by

SWAPO one day and when they went to recover the bodies SWAPO had actually

gone up to the bodies, they were dead already...Nick had been left behind...I

think he got himself out and the guy who was wounded, the other two guys they

Historical Events – Wits University Kevin Fitzgerald A30791B12 tried to get out as far as they could and they eventually passed away from their

wounds...they had to leave them behind, and Nick managed to keep the guy

alive and they got extracted and got out eventually, but when they went back to

recover the bodies SWAPO had actually mowed those bodies...shot them so that

you couldn't recognise them...they just picked up remnants. Francois Fourie will

also give you a very good reference...people like Oppies, myself, Michael we can

fill you in about our time there quite comprehensively...because we were actively

involved...we were involved and Oppies did a lot of operations...he was a very

solid guy Oppies.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay, to be continued next time.

**END OR RECORDING** 

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