SA SPOORWEGPOLISIE
SA RAILWAYS POLICE

GRENSDIENS AAN DIE GEVEGSFRONT
BORDER SERVICE AT THE COMBAT FRONT

Min mense besef dat lede van die SA Spoorwegpolisie vanaf 1980 tot onafhanklikwording noodsaaklike grensdiens in die voormalige Suidwes-Afrika verrig het. Gedurende hierdie tydperk was die SA Vervoerdienste verantwoordelik vir die logistieke ondersteuning binne die operasionele gebied, insluitend die vervoer van personeel en goedere, asook die voorsiening van brandstof, voedsel en ander noodsaaklikhede.

Die verantwoordelikheid om beskerming aan hierdie konvooie te bied het op die SA Spoorwegpolisie gerus. Twee groepe is in die operasionele gebied ontplooi: een by Oshivello, wat die roete tot by Ruacana beveilig het, en die ander by Kamanjab, wat verantwoordelik was vir die roete tot by Verdahek. Hierdie groepe het gelyktydig diens verrig vir 'n tydperk van drie (3) maande, waarna hulle afgelos is.

Voor ontplooiing het die kontingent SA Spoorwegpolisielede intensiewe opleiding ontvang by Slagboom, naby Addo. Die opleiding het verskeie taktiese en operasionele dissiplines ingesluit, onder andere: konvooibegeleiding, onmiddellike handelingsdril tydens kontakte, vuur en beweging, hantering van peletonwapens, basiese mediese opleiding, helikopteraanwending en afvoer van verliese, asook radiokommunikasie.

Ongelukkig het 'n paar lede hul lewens aan die grens verloor terwyl hulle hul plig met toewyding en eer verrig het. Hulle name is by die Muur van Herinneringe, by die Voortrekker Monument, in Pretoria aangebring.

Few people realise that members of the South African Railways Police rendered essential border service in the former South -West Africa from 1980 until independence. During this period, the South African Transport Services were responsible for providing logistical support within the operational area, including the transportation of personnel and goods, as well as the supply of fuel, food, and other necessities.

The responsibility for protecting these convoys rested with the South African Railways Police. Two (2) groups were deployed in the operational area: one (1) stationed at Oshivello, securing the route up to Ruacana, and the other at Kamanjab, responsible for the route up to Verdahek. These groups served simultaneously for a period of three (3) months before being relieved.

Prior to deployment, the contingent of SA Railways Police members underwent intensive training at Slagboom, near Addo. The training covered a range of tactical and operational disciplines, including convoy escort procedures, immediate action drills during contact, fire and movement tactics, platoon weapons handling, basic medical training, helicopter utilisation and casualty evacuation, as well as radio communication.

Tragically, a few members lost their lives at the border while performing their duties with dedication and honour. Their names have been inscribed on the Wall of Remembrance at the Voortrekker Monument, in Pretoria.