

Irish Selous Scout who became saboteur for SA

WHEN Mozambique reported last year that unidentified "Boer soldiers" had been involved in a sabotage attempt on a railway line leading to Zimbabwe, Pretoria protested that this was only "lying propaganda".

Shortly after the fatal explosion on the line, Pretoria issued a communiqué about the death of one Alan Gingles, 27 — "killed in action against terrorists in the operational area". A Namibian newspaper, *The Windhoek Advertiser*, among its death notices, reported the death of the man.

This was meant to confuse people into thinking that Gingles had died fighting on the Angolan frontier. Pretoria did not dare let the world know the embarrassing truth that Gingles died on the other side of the continent — 300 miles inside Mozambique, trying to attack a civilian target in a sovereign state.

The bodies of Gingles and his three black colleagues could not be identified because they had been blown to pieces.

But the photographer of Beira's *Diário de Mocambique*, Carlos Rodrigues, took pictures at the scene of the sabotage bid at Doeroi, roughly half-way between Mutare and Beira. The pictures show the saboteurs' equipment, which included basic mapping equipment, a Portuguese language primer and a neatly inscribed word-list in Shona, the local language.

The crucial evidence of Gingles' identity and his mission in Mozambique lay in a photographed fragment of a hand-written novel found at the scene.

The fictional hero in the novel was a student named Willie, portrayed as deeply involved in Northern Ireland politics. He had been recruited into a right-wing terrorist cell and was instructed to infiltrate the Ulster Defence Regiment while still in the sixth form at a school, called Larne Grammar School. Also mentioned in the novel is a girl called "Antrim".

Using these clues, *The Observer* of Lon-

A remarkable piece of journalistic investigation by *The Observer* in London has directly linked an act of sabotage on Zimbabwe's life-line through Mozambique to an Irish mercenary in the South Africa Army who, at one time, served with the Rhodesian armed forces.

Border death

PRETORIA: The South African Defence Force has announced the death in action in the Operational Area of Lieutenant Alan Gingles, 27.

A spokesman for SADF Headquarters in Pretoria said Lieutenant Gingles had died "in action against terrorists on October 15."

Lieutenant Gingles is survived by his wife, Mrs Pauline Gingles, of the military base at Phalaborwa.

Windhoek Advertiser, October 1982

don traced Gingles to Ireland. "Larne" is a town in the Irish County of "Antrim". And it was also discovered that after the news of Gingles' death, there was a memorial service in Larne Presbyterian Church. The editor of a local newspaper disclosed that Gingles was a well-known personality in the town.

Gingles' father, living on a farm-house only two miles from the town of Larne, produced letters sent by his son from Africa.



Lt Alan Gingles

The hand-writing in them was identical to that of the photographed manuscript found five thousand miles away beside the railway line in Mozambique.

Gingles, as was known to those who knew him, was keen on military life. Trained at Sandhurst, the British military academy, he resigned from the British Army and came to Zimbabwe in the closing stages of the war and fought in a commando unit of the Selous Scouts.

In one of his letters to his father, written from Cranborne Barracks, he mentioned that when the blacks took over, all whites would leave the country.

His other letters also show strong anti-Marxist views and the bitterness shared by many regular soldiers who fought in the then Rhodesia — that victory finally went to their black opponents.

When Zimbabwe became independent, Gingles moved to South Africa, where he immediately became a lieutenant in the South African Defence Force (SADF).

In South Africa, he was based at Phalaborwa, a military camp in the Eastern Transvaal — where Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) bandits are reportedly trained. This weighs against Pretoria's denial of collaboration with the rebel bandit



Frelimo troops at the site of the sabotage attempt

The condition when he was arrested into the organisation was "once in, never out" but he had been young and impressionable with visions of martyrdom for the cause and eternal glory. Deaf as he now knew, was nothing but pleasure or glorious. Perhaps he was using automatic defence as his excuse, but he was still grateful that he had raised the standard and not been the last and respect for his devotion further.

Wille was finally recruited into Henry's team soon after the beginning of his third year at university. The colonial commander of the terrorist cells, personally briefed him to emphasize that the task would take 5 years to complete.

Finally he was recruited to drop out of the political activities within the Students' Union and concentrate on his studies and gain prominence within the inter-Deaf community.

The tell-tale manuscript found in Mozambique

movement, which is responsible for most of the sabotage on installations in Mozambique, particularly those affecting Zimbabwe's oil and transport life-lines.

Allegations that white men are operating side-by-side with MNR bandits are further substantiated by the recent arrest of a Mr Finlay Dion Hamilton — a leading figure of the small expatriate community in Beira.

Hamilton, from Manchester, was jailed for 20 years for allegedly running an MNR cell, and for complicity in the sabotage last December of Beira's fuel depot — leading to weeks of damaging petrol shortages in Zimbabwe.

At the time of his arrest, he was the managing director of Manica Freight Services owned by the Anglo-American Corporation. He had lived in Mozambique for 20 years, acting as unofficial British Consul in Beira. When he was arrested, his plane was said to have a full tank, ready for take-off. □