

Zimbabwean and Mozambican troops recapture towns (Text) Combined Zimbabwean and Mozambique defence forces have recaptured the towns of Sena, Mutara, Vila Nova, Bave [phonetic] and Vila Caia, which fell in the hands of the MNR bandits last year. More than 100 bandits have been killed during the combat. A self-styled general for MNR signals, Antonio, has been killed and the battalion commander in charge of the base at Vila Caia has been captured. The Army Commander, Lt-Gen Rex Nhongo, who visited the [word indistinct] in Mozambique this week, said that he was satisfied that the operations are going on well. Vila Caia situated along the Zambezi valley, through which passes the railway line to Beira, was recaptured on Tuesday morning by airborne troops. Some of the equipment recovered during the operations include AD rifles, B-85 radio communication set of South African origin, mortars and several rounds of ammunition. Brig Mutambara of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces has told the [word indistinct] at Vila Nova many bandits fled to Malawi. He said the combined forces could not make follow-up operations because they would have violated Malawi's territory. (Harare home service in English 1745 gmt 14 Feb 87)