

Forces

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Lead

recapture

five towns

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Reporter

COMBINED Zimbabwean and Mozambican defence forces have recaptured five Mozambican towns from Mozambique National Resistance bandits, killed a self-styled bandit signals general identified as Antonio, and cap-

tured a battalion commander, the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation reported last night.

The captured towns are Sena, Mutara, Vilanova, Baue and Vilacaia which fell to the MNR bandits last year. The captured battalion commander was in charge of the base at Vilacaia.

More than 100 bandits were also killed during the contact.

The Army Commander, Lt-General Solomon Mujuru, who visited the troops in Mozambique, told the ZBC that he was satisfied that the opera-

tion was going on well.

Vilacaia, which is situated along the Zambezi Valley and passes the railway line to Beira, was captured on Tuesday morning by airborne troops.

Some of the equipment discovered during the operation included B 85 radio communication sets of South African origin, mortars and several rounds of ammunition.

Brigadier Mutambara of the Zimbabwean defence forces said that many bandits at Vilanova had fled to Malawi.

The combined force could not make follow-up operations because Zimbabwe could have violated Malawian territory.