

**BOTHA THE BUTCHER****BOT**

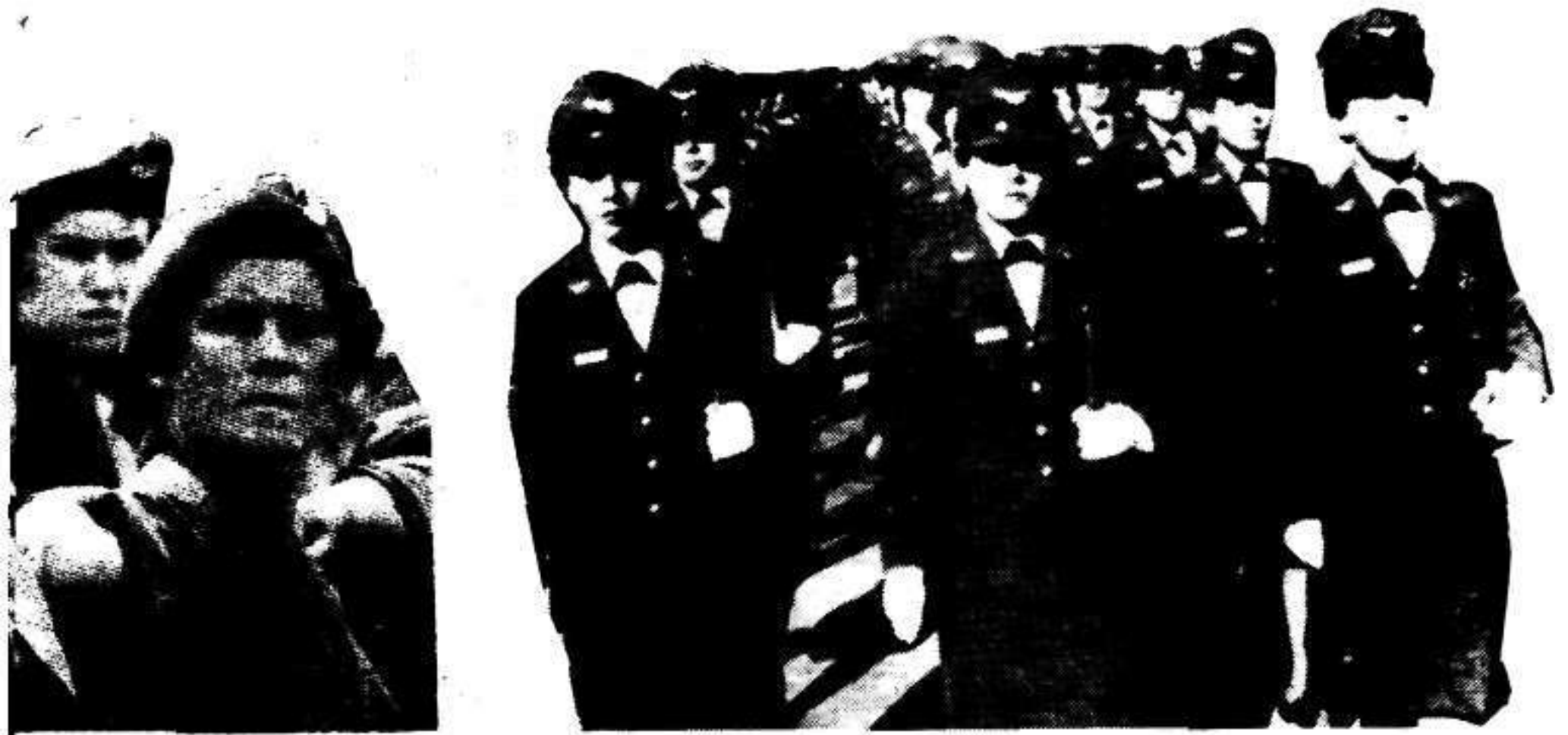
— BORIFI NTATHELA

While women in the ANC and Umkhonto we Sizwe together with millions of freedom-loving women all over the world were celebrating March 8th, the International Women's Day, and pledging to spare no quarter in the fight against oppressive and exploitative social systems, and the threat of war, more than a thousand white women were sweating it out at various bases of the SADF.

They are preparing themselves for a bigger role in defence of the oppression and super-exploitation of their black fellow countrymen, the illegal occupation of Namibia and parts of the People's Republic of Angola, and the continued aggression against independent South African states.

The racist army has recently launched an intensive recruiting campaign among white women. Quite a number of SADF bases, for example, Voortrekkerhoogte,

# BOETHA'S ANGELS



*Racist white women marching forward to their graves.*

Simon's Town, the women's army college at George, Gordon's Bay, etc., offer facilities for their training.

## WOMEN'S COLLEGE

The South African Army Women's College at George was founded in April 1971 for civil defence training. Up to 1976 a total of only 1016 had been through the college. In 1977 it was converted into an army training college, and by 1978 a steady increase of up to 300 was recorded in its annual intake. Today about a thousand women pass through the college annually. They are called "Botha's Babes" or "PW's Angels".

Women are trained in the college under a one year "voluntary national service scheme". They receive six months training and are then given posts for six months to "relieve men for operational duty". The public relations officer of the

SADF put it as follows: "Every woman who serves as a pay clerk or an instructor frees a male colleague for combat". They are then placed on the reserve list of civil defence units until they are 65, adding their figure to the already steadily increasing number of women in the commando (white part-time militia) units.

According to *Resister* (April-May 1983), by 1977 there were 6000 women volunteers in commando units, while the Citizen Force and Permanent Force now stands well over 2,000. Though according to the racist army's public pronouncements its policy is still that of reluctance to commit women to battles, a few have done their stint of border duty. They are known as "Ladies on the border". No doubt their number will grow as the war of liberation inside our country and in Namibia reaches higher summits.

**HEARTS AND MINDS**

Though to date service for white women in the SADF is still voluntary, the possibility of conscription is no longer remote. In speeches at women's passing out parades P.W. Botha consistently emphasises that compulsory national service for white women might be implemented in the near future. To this end a nasty wave of propaganda directed at white women has been unleashed. They are identified as one of the principal targets of the "to win their hearts and minds campaign".

Toddlers, irrespective of sex, are frequently taken from *nursery* schools and creches on visits to military bases. The children, usually aged between 3 and 6, are given rides in military vehicles and 'treated' to weapon demonstrations. At school, added to the classroom indoctrination under the "Youth Preparedness" programme girls are gradually being drawn into the holiday "Veld schools" and "adventure camps" where such subjects as "terrorist hunting" are being taught. At universities women students are encouraged to join the University Military Units (UMU's), while of late, like last December, around 55 women university and college students were taken on a visit to the operational area.

**SUPPORT ROLES**

Apart from direct physical involvement in the SADF, white women play other important support roles to the racist army. Competitions like the *Sarie Magazine Wooden Spoon — Ons Gee Om (We Do Care)* contest have become commonplace. In this particular competition entrants also submit with their cakes (the cakes are later sent to the "boys on the border"), the name of their chosen "boy on the border". Lucrative prizes like 3



*The hearts and minds campaign.*

Renault 5 cars, and 25 Southern Sun holidays are used to lure as many women as possible into entering.



*Cakes for the racist soldiers.*

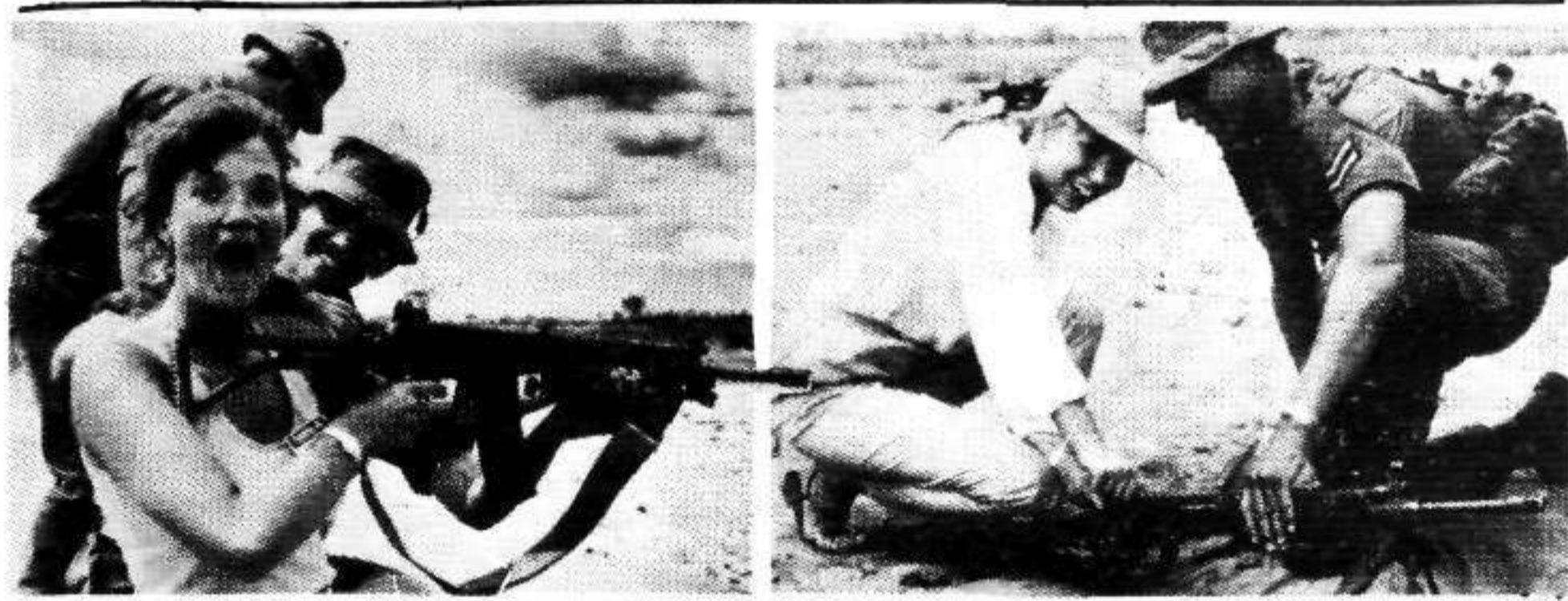
Wives of officers and non-commissioned officers (NCO's) of the SADF are organised into the Defence Ladies Association, which is further sub-divided into Ladies Societies. Each base has a Ladies Society, composed of wives of its officers and NCO clubs, christmas presents for national sevice-men, etc. Funds are raised by holding morning markets, knitting competitions and other similar methods. Other racist women organisations like the Free State National Party Women's Action frequently raise funds in similar ways and make large donations to the SADF. They

also pay visits to the operational area.

Why all the moves towards the conscription of women, particularly at this pointing time? The reason is not too deep to fathom. The growing war of liberator inside our country, and the intensifying armed struggle in Namibia impose enormous strains on the SADF's personnel. Add to this the war of aggression against the People's Republic of Angola and other independent states of Southern Africa.

"independence" process and the creation of puppet armies are futile attempts to replenish and at the same time enlarge the fascist army's manpower pool.

To dissuade the white women in the SADF and the thousands who are about to find themselves in its ranks we must intensify our political work and propaganda in the fascist army and the white community in general. White democrats,



The butcher's babes with R4 rifle

The fascist army now finds the white male population inadequate as its sole manpower resource. All these schemes:

- the apparent gradual drawing of white women into SADF;
- the increase of national service to 24 months;
- the rise of service from 19 days per year for five years to 240 days served over eight years in the Citizen Force;
- the new constitutions's extension of call-up to so-called coloureds and Indians;
- the proposed amendment to the Citizenship Act aiming at conscripting immigrants;
- the speeding up of the bantustans

groups and organisations have an enormous role to play towards the accomplishment of this task. More and more white women need to be mobilised in the struggle for national liberation and add their weight to that of the Helen Josephs, Ruth Firsts, Barbara Hogans, and Jansie Lourens.

Above all, we must channel maximum energies into raising the level of armed struggle and display it uninterruptedly in battle that to fight for apartheid is to defend a cause long lost. Only then shall the white women realise that their proper place is beside Thandi Modise, in the ranks of the people's army, Umkhonto weSizwe.