

able. No one else can relate so many of the events described with the same degree of authority. He not only lived the history, he made a lot of it himself!

The speech made by Harold Macmillan at a joint sitting of the Union Parliament in 1960 regarding "the winds of change blowing down Africa" is often quoted. Jannie Geldenhuys commanded the guard of honour at the airport on Macmillan's arrival. It is thus perhaps fitting that he should have experienced those winds of change to such a degree himself.

He recounts the operations in South West Africa and Angola as well as certain other cross-border actions clearly - and truthfully. It is trusted that the ghost of Cuito Cuanavale has now been laid to rest. (Chester Crocker calls it a "South African victory" as against a "Cuban legend"!)

The objectives set, the planning and execution of operations, often stories of the participants are told in soldiers' language and make excellent reading. The part played by the "Friction de Guerre" of Von Clausewitz is brought out through the length of Geldenhuys' book.

Napoleon again - once said that the best generals were "the lucky ones". Some have said Jannie Geldenhuys was lucky but one needs to bear in mind what Gary Player once retorted to a similar remark : "Yes the more practise, the luckier I become!" In Jannie's case, the harder he worked, the luckier he became.

He explains the difference between conventional military operations and those against the insurgent and often refers to the lessons detailed by General "Pop" Fraser in his writings on this subject.

His experiences in dealings with representatives of the media are outlined against the propaganda and semantic onslaught which was directed against South Africa at the time. He recognises in these efforts of his opponents the words of Sun Tzu : "Break the will of the enemy to fight and you accomplish the true objective of war. Prevail if possible without armed conflict".

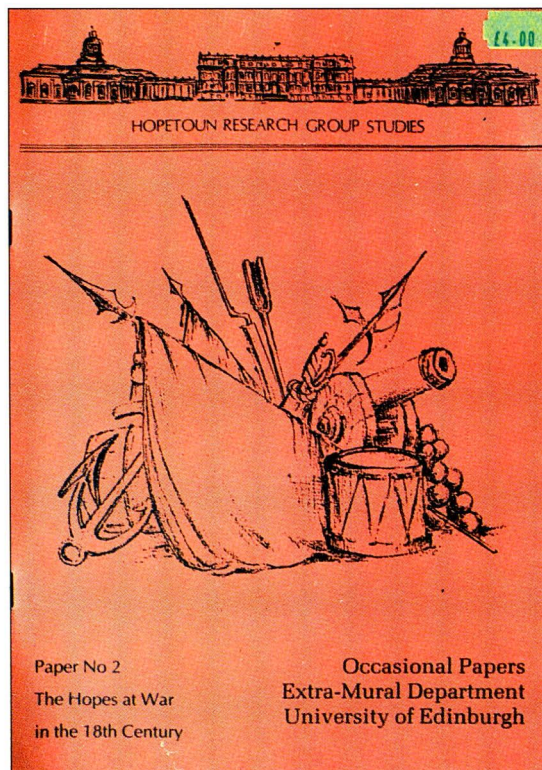
The role played by Geldenhuys in the drawn out diplomatic negotiations which ultimately led to the independence of Namibia was not small. He describes these negotiations in considerable detail though in a somewhat self-effacing manner. The "linkage" of the implementation of United Nations Resolution 435 and a Cuban withdrawal from Angola was undoubtedly the invaluable military input to the talks. He says :

"It is easier to make war than to make peace".

The book is illustrated with some excellent photographs and the maps are most effective - particularly those which so clearly compare distances and areas in the Southern/Central African theatre with those in Europe. Also striking is the map comparing the battlefields of 1987 with a rugby field. This without incorporating any of the current political clichés like "levelling the playing field" or "moving the goal posts"!

This is in all respects a most readable book which tells a story of interest and value to all who seek the truth of South Africa's recent military history. It is written by one who knows this history.

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## THE HOPES AT WAR IN THE 18TH CENTURY

Marie Melvin, Charles P. Rawcliffe  
and Flora C. Welch

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The publication under review is a prosopographical study of those members of a Scottish family - the Hopes of Craighall and the cadet branches of Hopetoun and Craigiehall - who served in the British armed forces during the



eighteenth century. According to Lawrence Stone, collective biography or prosopography "is the investigation of the common background characteristics of a group of actors in history by means of a collective study of their lives".<sup>1</sup> Although only professionalised after the First World War, prosopography has been employed by historians since ancient times but first rose to prominence during the middle of the eighteenth century. Prosopography, according to Stone (page 47), is constructed, by and large, from the following raw materials:

- a. bare lists of names of holders of certain offices or titles, or professional or educational qualifications;
- b. family genealogies; and
- c. full biographical dictionaries.

*The Hopes at War* incorporates elements of all three of these categories. The writers have identified and compiled short biographies on all the members of this family who had served in the British armed forces during the 18th century, and placed each individual in relation to the group on a family tree.

The writers found that very few Hopes were employed in the British forces during the early part of the eighteenth century, and none were engaged in the Rebellion of 1745. The Union of 1707, however, opened new doors to young Scots and many, during the latter half of the century, found opportunities in careers such as the military and navy, which were previously not open to them. Consequently, as the century progressed an increasing number of Hopes are found in military service. By 1830, no less than six generals and a further six admirals are found among the descendants of the 1st Earl of Hopetoun.

The Honourable James Hope, later 3rd Earl of Hopetoun and his cousin, William Hope-Vere were both present at the battle of Minden (1759) during the Seven Years' War (1756-63). Two brothers, nephews of the 2nd Earl of Hopetoun, were engaged in the American War of Independence (1775-83) - one of them, Brigadier-General Henry Hope saw much fighting around New York and Philadelphia. As a lieutenant governor of Lower Canada (British since only 1763) he had achieved some success after identifying himself with the "French" as opposed to the "English" party (pages 19-20). His Scottish background may have played a role in this regard.

During the Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars, two Hopes served as Lords of the Admiralty

and other Hopes served in practically every theatre of operations during these wars. The three younger sons of the 2nd Earl fought in Flanders in the 1790s, and two were wounded. Sir John (later the 4th Earl), his namesake cousin and his distant kinsman James Archibald served in the Peninsular War, while Alexander Hope was a noted army reformer and administrator. For the writers, the eighteenth century ended in 1830 with the death of George IV, and so they were able to include the exploits of Hopes at Trafalgar and the Peninsula.

It would appear as if all of these Hopes influenced one another's careers in the military. David Hope, for example, may have owed his posting to the HMS KENT to his kinsman, Captain William Johnstone-Hope RN (page 79); and Henry Hope (1787-1863), later a rear admiral, who joined the navy at the age of eleven, may have owed his posting to the royal yacht PRINCESS AUGUSTA to the influence of his father, Captain Charles Hope, then a Deputy Controller of the Navy. This Henry also served on the HMS KENT under the command of his cousin, the aforementioned William Johnstone-Hope, who had in turn first gone to sea with Henry's father, Charles Hope (page 84).

Henry Hope's younger brother, George (1801-1893) joined the Navy in 1813. His first posting was to the HMS LATONA, flagship of his cousin, Sir William Johnstone-Hope, who was by then an admiral.

However, nepotism also went only so far. Both Henry and George Hope bore grudges against Sir William for not "getting ships" for them after 1815 and 1828, respectively (pages 90-91, 99).

The writers used various archival sources such as the Craighall muniments, Luffness Papers, Hopetoun Papers and other Hope documents held in, *inter alia*, Edinburgh (Public Record Office) and Greenwich (National Maritime Museum), and at Hopetoun House, the seat of the Marquis of Linlithgow. The study is presented as a typed manuscript between card covers, and was published as the second paper of the Hopetoun Research Group Studies - a series of manuscripts on the history of the Hope family and their estate of Hopetoun. *The Hopes at War* was produced as an "Occasional Paper" of the Extra-Mural Department of the University of Edinburgh.

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<sup>1</sup> L. Stone: *The past and the present revisited* (London and New York 1987), p.45.