

# Rhodesian Forces Smash 4 Bases in Mozambique

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SALISBURY, Zimbabwe Rhodesia (AP) — Invading Zimbabwe Rhodesian commandos pressing their attacks inside Mozambique for the third day have destroyed four military bases and killed 300 Mozambican and nationalist guerrilla soldiers, state-owned radio said today.

The radio also reported security forces sank a boat carrying at least 18 Zambian-based guerrillas trying to sneak across Lake Kariba into Zimbabwe Rhodesia. Eight bodies were recovered, the broadcast said, while at least 10 guerrilla escaped.

Zimbabwe Rhodesian commandos invaded Mozambique Wednesday. Since then they have destroyed the bases, bridges, a radar station, fuel dumps, while hitting up to 200 miles across the border in the first-ever strike at regular army targets, a military spokesman said.

The spokesman said the raiders were having no difficulty in clashes with Mozambican government forces.

A communique issued late yesterday in Salisbury said the commandos battled Mozambican troops into the night, more than 24 hours after the raid began. The attack, one of the largest in Salisbury's seven-year war against the guerrillas, came only four days before the scheduled start of British-sponsored talks to end the war.

The attackers killed 23 members of a 26-man Mozambican army unit in a fierce gunbattle and destroyed a brigade headquarters used by black nationalist guerrillas and regular army troops, the Salisbury command said.

A statement issued in the Mozambican capital of Maputo said Mozambican forces shot down a helicopter and were inflicting heavy casualties on the raiders. It said a number of civilians had been killed, but gave no account of its own losses.

Zimbabwe Rhodesia said one of its technicians was killed when a helicopter was shot down about 50 miles inside Mozambique. It did not say how many men took part in the helicopter-borne assault or a tandem ground strike against a combined army-guerrilla base at Malvern, on the border in Mozambique.

The Salisbury command claimed it launched the attack after it learned that more than 100 Mozambican regular troops had infiltrated Zimbabwe Rhodesia to take command of black nationalist guerrilla units fighting the Salisbury government.

The raid appeared to have a two-fold purpose of hampering joint operations between Mozambican regulars and guerrilla leader Robert Mugabe's forces based in Mozambique, and reinforcing Zimbabwe Rhodesia's bargaining position in advance of the peace talks that open Monday in London.

"It's a large scale attack (as) never seen (before) in this area," said a witness at the Mozambican agricultural town of Guija, 100 miles north of Maputo. "Rhodesian commandos fired their machine guns against civilians (and) threw grenades inside houses."

Prime Minister Abel Muzorewa told his black-dominated Senate the raid was "one of the most successful operations we have conducted."