

## The Okapi

The preservation arena in South Africa is relatively small compared with other countries of the world but this has not put limits on to what has been achieved here. One of the key components for success has been cooperation where Sandstone Heritage Trust has been at the forefront. Although we are well known in railway and agricultural circles we have been growing our reputation in the preservation of military vehicles.

OTT Technologies designs, develops and manufactures Armoured and Mine Protected Vehicles and also refurbish Military Vehicles. Having been introduced to them by the South African Army Armour Formation with whom we have an ongoing working agreement, Sandstone has developed an excellent relationship with this company.

Some years back we acquired a fully refurbished Ratel MK2 from OTT which is one of the jewels in our military collection. Striving for excellence at OTT is fully in line with Sandstone's own standards and over the years the relationship has grown and we are seen as a centre of excellence in military vehicle preservation in South Africa. Since the acquisition of the Ratel we have also acquired a Samil 100 Gun Tractor from OTT and a Duiker military water tanker and a most interesting South African military vehicle, an Okapi.



*The Okapi*

The sale of such vehicles is strictly controlled by the National Conventional Armaments Control Council, the NCACC. OTT and Sandstone both hold NCACC certificates for the ownership of such vehicles and OTT, in recognising Sandstone's achievements in military preservation are now very proactive in informing us of interesting vehicles that may be available and drew our attention to the availability of the Okapi.

The Okapi is a 6 wheel drive command and fire-control vehicle developed by Truckmakers and Reumech in the 1980's to support the SA Artillery G6 self-propelled gun. With only 9 examples built it is a rare unit. The Okapis were fitted with an Electronic Warfare System (EWS) developed by Grintek System Technologies but for obvious reasons this has been removed.

The vehicle has a monocoque all welded armour plated steel hull which can provide protection from 5.56 x 46mm NATO ball ammunition at a range of 30 metres and 7.62 x 51mm NATO ball from 30 metres. The armour also provides protection against air burst splinters. As with most South African wheeled armoured vehicles a very high protection is provided against anti-tank land mines. Two mines can be placed under the hull or three mines under any wheel without injury to the occupants.

The engine is mounted in the front of the vehicle with the driver and commander being seated above and to the rear. In front of them is a large bullet proof windscreen. Both the driver and commander have a front opening door with a bullet proof window and a hatch above each position. On the commander's side a 7,62mm machine gun can be mounted.

The right side of the hull contains the auxiliary power unit (APU) which is separated from the crew position by a bulkhead. The sides of the hull have bullet proof windows as does the single rear door.

Air conditioning is standard as is power steering on the front two axles. A 200 litre drinking water tank is also a standard fitment.

The Okapi has a crew of four plus the driver and commander.



*The Okapi arrives at Sandstone.*

## **Technical Specifications.**

The Okapi is a huge vehicle being just over 8 metres long, nearly 2, 5 metres wide and 3 metres high. Drive to each wheel is by hub reduction gearing with differential locks. Ground clearance is 480mm.

The weight of the Okapi is 22 tons and it is powered by a 294kw engine which gives it a maximum road speed of 100kmh and a range of 900 kms.

## **The Duiker**

Another new arrival at Sandstone for the Military Collection is a Duiker Water tanker. This vehicle is derived from the Casspir Personnel Carrier and uses the same powertrain. The Casspir is recognised the grandfather of all mine protected vehicles built in South Africa.

There were two variants of the Duiker one being a Diesel tanker with a V shaped tank behind the cab and a Water tanker with a cylindrical tank of 5000 litres capacity. This is the version Sandstone has acquired.

Both types have an armoured and mine protected cab with provision for a single light machine gun.



*The Duiker*

