



Picture of Andrew in Court

## **Angolan Mercenary**

Reported in several Newspapers around the world. July 6<sup>th</sup>, 1976.

One of four foreign national mercenaries, Andrew Gordon McKenzie, 23, is a former paratrooper who comes from Stratton St Margaret.

The trial at the Luanda Palace lasted from June 11 to June 16. There were five judges. The presiding judge was Ernesto Teixeira da Silva, the Attorney General of Angola. The other judges were the Director of Angolan Television, two military officers and a member of the National Council of Women in Angola. Guilty verdicts were a foregone conclusion; before the trial had even begun, Luis de Almeida, the Director of Information and Security, stated that the defendants were guilty and that the only thing that needed to be determined was how much punishment to mete out. The sentences were passed on June 28, 1976

McKenzie was convicted of having taken part in the February massacre at Maquela.

Although there were calls for mercy, including letter from Queen to President Agostinho Neto refused to commute their sentences and they were executed by MPLA military police on July 10, 1976

The Civil war had broken out after Angola gained independence from Portugal in 1975, in April 2002 the Angolan army and Unita signed a formal ceasefire in Luanda to end the 27-year conflict.