

FLASHBACK FRIDAY – THE BLACK MANED LION OF ANGOLA

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August, 1983. It was pitch-black dark as I and a couple dozen heavily-armed UNITA guerrillas were rumbling over the roadless Angolan bush in a huge captured Russian truck. Suddenly there was an entire pride of lions running in front of the truck's headlights. As they scattered, without warning a massive black-maned male jumped in front of us. The driver didn't have time to swerve – we crashed into him full on, killing him instantly.

The UNITA fellows had me pose with him the next morning – obviously with no rifle as I was not hunting. It was to memorialize a tragic ending to a magnificent animal. (*Glimpses of Our Breathtaking World #125* Photo ©Jack Wheeler)

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