

Tortured mind of a 'loner'

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dier" ready to do "battle".

As this "soldier" she returned to this country under the name of Mary Woods in September last year.

At the beginning of this year she brought in limpet mines from Lesotho with the help of another member of

the ANC and was ready to take on the police stations — John Vorster Square and Hillbrow, in Johannesburg; and Cambridge, in East London.

She did not care for the loss of life or injury of the policemen and women who manned the stations. She saw them only as combatants defend-

ing a system she equated with Nazism — "an evil, a crime against humanity and a threat to world peace".

In a letter written to her mother, Esther, shortly before her arrest in March this year, she spoke of her desire for a child.

"I've met and loved various men, especially one man whose child I would be so proud to have. I want to be able to be with my child all the time.

"But now there is too much else to do ..."

Sad end for ANC protégé

By ANN PALMER

AFTER the initial "immature" political violence of fire-bombing the Progressive Federal Party offices in Johannesburg, convicted terrorist Marion Sparg sought and found the African National Congress.

She illegally crossed the border on foot into Botswana in June 1981, and hiked into Gaborone where she was officially recruited into the ranks of the banned organisation.

Conspirator

Three months later, Sparg said in a statement before a Johannesburg magistrate, she moved to Lusaka on her own, leaving behind her fellow conspira-

tor in the fire-bombings, Damian de Lange.

She also cut ties with the man who played a Svengali-type role in her life, Arnold Geyer, because he did not agree with her joining the ANC.

She underwent her first military training, which lasted about six months, in 1982 at a camp called Caxite, where at times she was the only woman present.

Sparg told the court this week that she was instructed and commanded by black South Africans of her own age group.

"I was constantly aware from discussions with these

South Africans that my presence proved to them that the ANC was not fighting a racial war — there were whites who were prepared to fight and die alongside them."

After leaving the camp she was informed by fellow ANC member Reg September that she had been assigned to an editorial post on the Voice of Woman — the official journal of the ANC's female section.

training

In March 1984, she was again approached by September, this time to join the military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, and was referred to the commissar of the

wing, Chris Hani.

She underwent another period of training in Angola at the end of 1984 before she was seconded to the special operations section of the military wing.

After she returned to South Africa the next year — with a false passport, in the name of Mary Woods —

she established herself in Johannesburg before going to Lesotho to collect eight limpet mines.

Six of these mines were used when she planted them in the John Vorster Square and Hillbrow police stations in Johannesburg, and the Cambridge police station in East London.