

# South African Gunner





## AUTHOR'S NOTE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In his Foreword Maj Gen Andersen has expressed sincere appreciation for the contributions made to this publication by a number of Gunners. However, there are those who have not specifically been mentioned or thanked for their input, which has been made in one form or another. They should know that that their contributions are in turn equally appreciated however small they may have been.

Most of all, Jonathan Fisher, Director Operations, Blackmoon Advertising and Research (Pty) Ltd, deserves the most sincere thanks for his patience and understanding in dealing with last minute alterations in text and layout. He and his team also deserve the accolades due to them for this excellent publication.

The abbreviated histories in this brochure have been written from material gathered over many years and may in some cases cause debate and even controversy. They have, however, been sourced from official documentation and it is believed they will bear scrutiny and argument.

**Col (Ret) Lionel Crook**





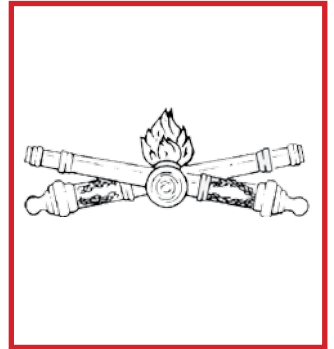
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# Foreword

by Major General Roy Andersen, SD, SM, MMM, JCD



The Gunners of South Africa have a proud history originating both from within the former Statutory Forces and the Non Statutory Forces. This lineage has been extended and enhanced since the creation of the SANDF in 1994. It is fitting therefore to pause to record for posterity this history as well as the rich Gunner traditions that have been built up over the centuries.

This brochure is important not only because it reflects the heritage of the South African Artillery, the Air Defence Artillery and The Gunners' Association, but also because it provides a foundation on which to build for the future. I trust that by reflecting on the achievements of the past, the Gunners of today, be they Regulars or Reserves, will be inspired to not only meet the challenges they will inevitably face, but also to rise to even greater heights!

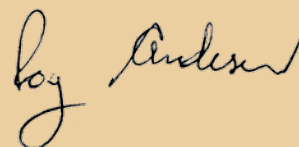
We are deeply indebted to Col (Ret) L Crook who was responsible for preparing large sections of this brochure. His thorough and extensive research has contributed to what I believe is an excellent abbreviated history of the South African Gunners. Col L Crook was ably assisted by Mrs Sharon Moyes who volunteered to do the typing.

Our thanks are also due to other Gunners who contributed material. They include Col Lindsay, Col Oelofse, Lt Col (Ret) Lovell-Greene, Lt Col Steyn, Maj Archer, Maj Grobler, Maj (Ret) Louw, Maj Viljoen, Capt Pestana, Lt Joubert, WO1 Lennie, WO1 Niemand and WO1 Brits.

My sincere thanks also go to Sanlam for generously sponsoring the printing of this brochure.

I have no doubt readers will find this brochure both stimulating and enjoyable and that in many cases it will bring back fond memories of serving the Guns.

Yours Ubique



**(R.C. ANDERSEN)**

**GENERAL OF THE GUNNERS: MAJOR GENERAL**

# General of the Gunners



In the early 1980s it was decided that a very senior officer should be appointed to look after the interests of Gunners and so it was that Maj Gen, later Lt Gen, FEC (Frans) van den Berg was appointed Master Gunner. But it was later realised that all the officers and warrant officers who had attended the two lengthy Long Gunnery Courses in the first years of the 1970s had each been named “Master Gunner”. The title of Master Gunner was therefore altered to that of “General of the Artillery”.

The Field Branch Artillery and the Anti-Aircraft Artillery were formally separated in 1988 and to preserve the Gunner camaraderie between the two Corps, the title of the head Gunner was again changed – to that of “General of the Gunners”.

The next incumbent of the post was a former Director, Artillery, Maj Gen P Lombard, then Lt Gen PO du Preez, Maj Gen CH van Zyl and Maj Gen JA Laubscher. The latter temporarily changed the title to General of the Artillery.

Maj Gen R Andersen, a former commanding officer of Transvaal Horse Artillery, Staff Officer on the strength of 7 S A Division and much later Chief of Defence Reserves, SANDF, is the first Reserve officer to be appointed to the important post of General of the Gunners.





**SOUTH AFRICAN ARTILLERY**  
**Primus Incedere Exire Ultimus – First In Last Out**

**AIR DEFENCE ARTILLERY**  
**Alte Pete – Aim High**



The antecedents of the field and air defence units of today are the numerous volunteer corps that flourished in the Cape Colony from 1855, many of which lasted only a few years and some, less than months. At least two were active in Natal and, after the Anglo/Boer War when the Transvaal became a colony, a volunteer artillery corps was established there. One in each of these three former colonies is still alive today.

Regular units were established in the former republics of the Transvaal and the Free State but they both disappeared during the South African War of 1899-1902. They had fought bravely.

The South African Defence Act of 1912 (Act No. 13 of 1912) gave birth on 1 April 1913 to the five regiments of South African Mounted Rifles (SAMR), all of which were to have included a battery of artillery. Only three batteries were formed due to problems with the supply of guns; World War One had begun

in August 1914 and Britain itself needed all the guns it could produce.

On 1 July 1913, three months after the SAMR was established, three volunteer units, one each from the Cape (Cape Field Artillery), Natal (Natal Field Artillery) and the Transvaal (Transvaal Horse Artillery), were incorporated into the Active Citizen Force (ACF), and one, the Cape Garrison Artillery, into the Coast Garrison Force. A new unit, the Durban Garrison Artillery was established on the same date. These units and the three SAMR batteries, together with two ACF batteries raised specially for the campaign, saw action in German South West Africa during the period 1914/1915.

In 1915, two Imperial Service units; titled South African Field Artillery and the South African: Heavy Artillery, were raised from volunteers to fight in France and East Africa respectively.





Paid by the British Government, they were not part of the Union Defence Forces but nevertheless added lustre to the already growing reputation of South African Gunners.

The South African Permanent Force, created in 1913 as the Permanent Force and re-designated with effect from 23 February 1923, included two units

- The South African Field Artillery (SAFA), and
- The South African Permanent Garrison Artillery (SAPGA)

Both had commenced operations some time before this date; the SAPGA when the coast defences of the Cape Peninsula had been handed over to South Africa in December 1921.

The Governor General by Proclamation No. 246, 1934 changed the style and designation of the SAFA and the SAPGA with effect from 1 September 1934 and created one Corps titled the "South African Artillery".

This is the Corps that provided field, medium, anti-tank and anti-aircraft units that fought in East Africa, the Western Desert of North Africa and Italy in 1940 – 1945, adding to the reputation established by South African field and heavy artillery units in 1915-1918.

The Artillery Corps consisted of the Field Branch and the Anti-Aircraft Branch but in 1988 the two branches were separated to become the South African Artillery Corps and the South African Anti-Aircraft Artillery Corps. In 1998 the latter was re-designated Air Defence Artillery. With the creation of the SANDF in 1994, the gunners of the SADF, the former new statutory forces and the former TBVC forces were integrated.

Both the South African Artillery and the Anti-Aircraft Artillery had Directorates to manage the Permanent Force and Citizen Force personnel and units, to manage projects undertaken for the improvement of resources and to generally oversee the well-being of their corps.

This came to an end in 1994 with the complete re-organisation of the Defence Force during which 'type' formations were created. Thus today, the field and air defence units are under the command of SA Army Artillery Formation and SA Army Defence Artillery Formation respectively. Each Formation is commanded by a Brigadier General.

Both Corps were allied to the Royal Regiment of Artillery on 5 June 1996.

The Official March of the Field branch is: *Vuurmonde* and that of the Air Defence branch : *Alta Pete*

# SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY ARTILLERY FORMATION



The South African Defence Force (SADF), TBVC forces and the non-statutory forces (Umkhonto-we-Sizwe and APLA) ceased to exist on 27 April 1994 when they were integrated into the new South African National Defence Force (SANDF), although the integration process relied on the structures and practices of the former SADF. As a result the South African Army (SAArmy) became the largest ever Regular Army in history of the country and came face to face with the immediate challenges of “reprofessionalism”, representivity, the accommodation of different military cultures, racial differences, and the changing of the language policy from predominantly Afrikaans to entirely English.

The re-organisation of the SA Army was a lengthy process. The SA Army Office was established and 43 and 46 Brigade Headquarters were retained as tactical headquarters, but without permanently assigned units. The Corps were restructured with Regular and Reserve Regiments under command. The so-called “Type Formations” were established which assumed responsibility for the provisioning of combat-ready forces to be employed by the Chief of Joint Operations.

The South African Artillery Corps (SAA Corps) re-organised itself into the SA Army Artillery Formation with the SA Army Artillery Formation headquarters (SAArmy Arty Fmn HQ) as the command and control capability. Project teams were appointed to facilitate the structuring of the Formation. Col CH Roux was appointed as the Project Leader.

The SA Army Arty Fmn HQ was then established in April 1999 with Brig Gen CH Roux appointed as the first General Officer Commanding and WO1 JA Boulter the first Formation Sergeant-Major. The SA Army Arty Fmn was located in the

Bester Building with the SA Army HQ (Dequar Road). The following Units and Regiments came under command of the SA Army Arty Fmn HQ.

- School of Artillery
- 4 Artillery Regiment
- Artillery Mobilization Regiment
- Cape Field Artillery
- Natal Field Artillery
- Transvaal Horse Artillery
- Vrystaat Artillerie Regiment
- Regiment Potschefstroomse Universiteit
- Transvaal Staatsartillerie
- 18 Light Regiment

The SA Army Arty Fmn and all the Units and Regiments under command signed the Code of Conduct on parade on 28 June 2000.

WO1 FAW Botha took over the office from WO1 JA Boulter on 1 March 2001. WO1 JA Boulter retired after 41 years of service.

The SA Army Arty Fmn redesigned its unit flag, insignia and flashes to comply with the changes within the SA Army. The SA Army Arty Fmn received approval for all the new designs on 30 March 2001.

On 7 November 2001 Brig Gen MR Notshweleka took over command from Brig Gen CH Roux. The change of command parade was held at 4 Arty Regiment.

The SA Army Arty Fmn (headquarters) HQ was for the first time tasked to deploy a sub-unit internally. 4 Artillery Regiment



was tasked and a sub-unit was deployed from 29 June until 29 August 2003 in support of the SAPS.

On 28 July 2003 the SA Army Arty Fmn HQ was for the first time tasked to deploy a Light Battery (in the parachute-and helicopter assault mode). 41 Battery from 4 Artillery Regiment deployed externally to Burundi for six months.

The SA Army Arty Fmn HQ was relocated to the newly upgraded and restored facilities at Ad Astra on 5 December 2003. The Army Council and the Military Council approved the name change of Ad Astra to that of Sebokeng. (Sebokeng means "A place where people with different backgrounds and from different places stay and live together and work jointly towards a common good"). The SA Army Arty Fmn HQ was appointed as the chief executor for the opening ceremony of Sebokeng. The Chief of SA Army, Lt Gen GL Ramano formally opened the facilities at Sebokeng on 2 July 2004.

On 14 January 2005, WO1 J Niemand took over the office from WO1 FAW Botha. The Change of Office Parade was held at 4 Arty Regiment in Potchefstroom.

The SA Army Arty Fmn formally bid the General of the Artillery, Maj Gen JA Laubscher farewell in Potchefstroom on 10 June 2005. The General had the opportunity to develop and to fire a fire plan by himself. The newly commissioned Artillery Target Engagement System with all types of launchers participated in the said fire plan. He then went back to the blunt-end to fire for the last time the MRL, GV6, GV5, M5 and GV1.

The night of 20 April 2006 marked the beginning of a new era in the history of the artillery in South Africa. The induction of Maj Gen R Andersen (Chief of Defence Reserves) as the new "General of the Gunners" was a celebration of the recognition of unity despite cultural diversity. The example of "Simunye" demonstrated very clearly that transformation was not only on track, but is actively promoted in the artillery community.

The SA Army Arty Fmn HQ is well established and well positioned to provide strategic guidance to meet the objectives set by the Army Strategy 2020 and the South Africa "Defence Strategy 2025."

# THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY AIR DEFENCE ARTILLERY FORMATION



**A** newly structured South African Army was implemented after the integration of the old South African Defence Force with other South African statutory and non-statutory forces into the South African National Defence Force.

During 1999, the Directorate Anti-Aircraft became the South African Air Defence Artillery Formation, with a colonel as officer commanding. Later a Brigadier General was appointed as the General Officer Commanding of two Regular Force units and four Reserve units.

All the personnel, logistics and training responsibilities previously conducted by the different Regional Commands, became the responsibility of the SA Army ADA Formation and SA Army Support Formation. This led to a rapid expansion in personnel, which in turn led to an urgent requirement for more office space.

The SA Army ADA Fmn HQ was relocated to the newly upgraded and restored facilities at Ad Astra on 5 December

2003. The Army Council and the Military Council approved the name change of Ad Astra to that of Sebokeng. (Sebokeng means “A place where people with different backgrounds and from different places stay and live together and work jointly towards a common good”). The SA Army Arty Fmn HQ was appointed as the chief executor for the opening ceremony of Sebokeng. The Chief of SA Army, Lt Gen GL Ramano formally opened the facilities at Sebokeng on 2 July 2004.

The command structure to date is:

- Officer Commanding: Col P du T Walters  
1999 to 2000
- General Officer Commanding: Brig S Marumo  
2001 to present
- Formation Sergeant Major: WO1 DTW Lennie  
1999 to present





# SCHOOL OF ARTILLERY

Per Scientiam Vires : Strength through Science

**P**rior to the establishment of a South African artillery school in 1934 there were a number of earlier artillery training establishments. The first was formed at the Cape in August 1786 with Lt. Louis-Michel Thibault, later better known as an architect, as head of the 'Militaire School'. It did not operate for long. Almost a hundred years later an artillery school was proposed by Capt W E Giles, RA, in a document submitted to the Cape Colonial Government in March 1880. It was not accepted.

On 14th September 1912 when the five regiments of the S A Mounted Rifles were about to be established a School of Gunnery was opened at Auckland Park, Johannesburg, in the lines of the Transvaal Horse Artillery. Its purpose was to train officers and NCO's for the first three permanent batteries that were to be established. The school closed down when war broke out in 1914 after only two courses had been completed. The next artillery training institution was the Artillery Training Depot, established at Wynberg Camp, Cape Town, in August 1915 to train the artillery batteries that fought in East Africa, and later in Palestine.

With the establishment of the Permanent Force in April 1913 three artillery batteries were formed, each as an integral part of a South African Mounted Rifleman (SAMR) regiment. A Training Depot for all Permanent Force recruits, including Gunners, was established (co-jointly with the South African Police) in Pretoria in 1913. Instruction in police duties was included in the training of SAMR infantry and artillery recruits but from 1922 the Permanent Force was no longer to be involved in any way in 'policing duties'.

The three SAMR batteries fought in GSWA in 1914-1915 and

remained there until 1916 as part of the garrison but moved to Tempe, later to Potchefstroom, and by 1918 they were quartered at Roberts Heights, still loosely brigaded as they had been since 1915. When the corps known as the South African Field Artillery (SAFA) was established in 1923 the SAMR batteries returned their 13-pdrs to Ordnance Stores and were instead issued with 4.5 inch howitzers for the 1st Battery and 18 pounders for the 2nd and 3rd Batteries.

During 1924/25 the SAFA were provided with a brigade establishment and a Headquarters staff. But in the next financial year the brigade was disbanded as an economy measure, with the last order issued on 26th July 1926. With the disbandment the batteries changed from horse to field artillery. In the meanwhile training of all artillery recruits as drivers and gunners was conducted from 1920 at the South African Military School.

By 1928 most of 3rd Battery had been transferred to the Free State, one section going to Bloemfontein and one section to Bethlehem, to train two batteries of the OVSVA at those two centres. Artillery training took place at Roberts Heights but each year the batteries trekked down to Potchefstroom with horses, guns and equipment for their annual live shell practices. They were joined there by the Citizen Force batteries.

To encourage esprit de corps a Corps of South African Artillery was established by Proclamation on 1 September 1934 to incorporate all the Permanent and Citizen Force units. And on 7 September the two remaining permanent batteries lost their battery status and were formed into an Artillery Training Depot, armed with 4.5 inch howitzers, 18-pdrs and 3.7 inch howitzers. The Depot staff was responsible for the training of all artillery



recruits and all artillery units, except Cape Field Artillery (CFA), which was the responsibility of the Cape Command Training Depot.

By August 1935 the Artillery Training Depot was organized as a Depot Headquarters with three batteries. And on 24 October 1936 the title was altered to that of 'Artillery School'. Citizen soldiers were enrolled in the batteries, increased to four with the establishment of 1st Light Battery on 1 July 1936.

War was declared on 6 September 1939 and with no suitable area near Pretoria for gunnery practice the School moved to Potchefstroom. During the war years an Artillery Training Wing operated in East Africa and the Western Desert of North Africa and an Artillery School formed part of the Reserve Artillery Regiment with the 6th SA Armoured Division in Italy in 1944/45.

During the time the School was at Potchefstroom it underwent various changes of designation and became a unit of the Citizen Force when its title was altered to Artillery and Armoured Corps Training School (V), South African Artillery from 1 January 1944. When the war was over it was re-established on 14 June 1946

as a Permanent Force unit known as the School of Artillery and Armour. It was housed in the main camp but when 4 Field Training Regiment was formed in 1953 the School moved to the former SA Air Force base below Hospital Hill.

Armour training was moved to Bloemfontein in 1964, and the School became a separate unit known simply as the School of Artillery on 1 February 1964, a name it has since retained. It was responsible for the training of the leader element of National Servicemen, providing qualifying courses for Citizen Force officers and (non-commissioned officers) NCOs and Permanent Force personnel as well as holding specialized courses for locating and observation technology.

The School was to remain at Potchefstroom from 1939 for 55 years, until transferred to the nearby Klipdrift Military Base where it began operating in mid-January 1989. The School is the centre of Gunner expertise and is today responsible for all Gunner training while continuing to provide qualifying courses for both Regular and Reserve personnel.

It was awarded the Freedom of Potchefstroom on 10 March 1978.





# AIR DEFENCE ARTILLERY SCHOOL

**A**ir defence in South Africa, as in Britain in the 1930s, originally formed part of the coast artillery organisation.

Anti-aircraft gunnery involved a certain technical ability, found only among coast gunners where predictions, calibration and other intricate technical calculations were common practice. Field gunners were still learning the trade.

And so it was then that the first air defence instructors in South Africa were in fact coast gunners. The first formal training institution was the Anti-Aircraft Training and Reserve Depot (V) situated on Robben Island and under the command of Director Coast Artillery. It was established with effect from 1 May 1941.

The title changed in April 1942 and for a short while it became the Coast Artillery and the Anti-Aircraft Training Dept (V). The first (and newly appointed) Director, Anti-Aircraft Training (DAAT), Lt Col S Jeffrey had a few days earlier called for the formation of a separate School of Anti-Aircraft Defence. He was successful and although written authority was only given on 28 May 1942, the School of Anti-Aircraft Defence (V) was formally established with effect from 1 May 1942. At the same time an Anti-Aircraft Depot to receive and train recruits was also established.

Training of anti-aircraft gunners had until that time been undertaken by 3<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Regiment at Pollsmoor, the former motor racing track, at Tokai, Cape.

Hurried arrangements were made to establish the School and the Depot at the Forestry Department camp at Ottery, alongside a plantation called "Rifle Range". Over 300 personnel, including

120 students, were due to move in after 15 June. The camp eventually housed 1200, in accommodation designed only for 500.

A Searchlight School had meanwhile been established at Port Elizabeth where accommodation for WAAF personnel was available but this was closed by August 1942 when accommodation for the Womens' Auxiliary Air Force became available at various gun sites. This enabled searchlight training to take place at unit level.

By November 1942 an Anti-Aircraft Training Centre, consisting of an HQ, the AA Dept and the School of AA Defence had been established. The School was responsible for all technical training and was assisted by a team of officers, warrant officers and NCOs sent from Britain. The Depot had a recruits wing and a reservists wing but later functioned as a recruit, reservist, reinforcement and transit base for all AA personnel. And it had a SA Artillery Wing, and SA Air Force Wing and a NEAS Wing.

The SA Air Force had assumed responsibility for air defence and coastal ports in May 1942 and because the Air Force was drawing more recruits than the Army, the Training Centre was transferred to the SAAF on 1 January 1944 and converted into a Depot. With the war over in May 1945 it had by July lapsed into virtual hibernation.

Transfer of the AATC to Land Forces took place in February 1949 and it was at the same time amalgamated with the Coast Artillery Training Centre as the School of Coast and Anti-Aircraft Artillery. The School was transferred to the newly established South African Corps of Marines (they were very concerned that this

correct title be used) in July 1952 and on the demise of the Marines and the disestablishment of the Permanent Force coast regiments, AA Citizen Force units returned to the SA Artillery in October 1955. Citizen Force coast regiments were transferred to the SA Navy and a year later were decommissioned.

The Anti-Aircraft Training Centre was appointed and established as a unit of the Permanent Force on 1 October 1955 with headquarters at Young's Field but in February 1968 it was replaced by the Artillery Air Defence School and 10 Anti-Aircraft Regiment, which one year later combined as one unit.

In 1969 the unit played a big role in helping the town of Tulbagh on the road of recovery after the devastating earthquake of 29 September 1969. For other outstanding service to the local Western Cape community AA School/10 AA Regiment received the Freedom of Entry to no less than 4 towns or cities: Wolesley (1975), Cape Town (1980), Tulbagh (1983) and Touws River (1987).

Just fifteen days after receiving the Freedom of Cape Town the units were again honoured when the State President, Mr M Viljoen, presented Artillery Air Defence School/10 Anti-Aircraft Regiment with a Regimental Colour, in the presence of Gen CL Viljoen Chief of the SADF. Lt Gen JJ Geldenhuys, Chief of the Army and Brig SJ vd Spuy, Officer Commanding Western Province Command. Mrs H Roux designed the colours, valued at R2000.00 in 1981, and made by the nuns of the Dominican School for the Deaf in Witteboom, Cape.

Earlier in the year the unit had provided invaluable help at Laingsburg in the Cape Province, during the floods of 1981.

This occurred as a result of heavy rains, which sent a brown torrent of death down river. The unit assisted by putting up tents, providing drinking water and undertaking many other tasks to assist townsfolk.

The Minister of Defence then referred to ADAS/10 AA Regiment as one of the best training establishments in the SADF, and said that "ALTA PETE" – Aim High – was a striking motto.

Perhaps the most unfortunate news the Anti-Aircraft gunners had ever received was recorded in the Cape Times of Wednesday 1 February 1989. The Defence Correspondent reported that the Artillery Air Defence School/10 Anti-Aircraft Regiment were to move to another base "somewhere up country", possibly "a more central location in the hinterland".

It was decided to move the unit to Kimberley at the end of 1990. The whole unit, with its personnel and equipment, moved to Kimberley under command of Col SK Warren.

From the start they joined in the activities of Kimberley. The unit is situated on the southern side of Kimberley, near the Airport, in an area known as Diskobolos. The unit, with its participation in the 1991 Kimberley Show, received the overall prize for the most outstanding exhibition.

The first black gunners of AAS/10 AA Regiment who reported as volunteers on the 17 June 1992, completed basic training at 102 Battery. Two members were selected for junior leaders' course in Sept 1993. Gnr EV Banga and Gnr NM Ntsieng became the first black anti-aircraft NCOs. The group was then transferred to 101 Battery in 1993. The members were:

- Banga EV - Still serving
- Ntsieng NM - Still serving
- Monnye O - Still serving
- Plaatjies L - Resigned
- Mothelisi - Deceased

In 1977, numerous members of the ANC (MK) and APLA went into exile in Tanzania and Angola where they were trained as Anti-Aircraft gunners.

The main AA weapons used by MK at that stage, were the 14,5mm single barrel gun and the SAM-7 shoulder launched missile. An Anti-Aircraft Regiment was formed with the Regional Commander Comrade Marumo, now serving as Brig Gen Marumo, GOC SA Army ADA Formation. The MK soldiers shared the camps with members of the Cuban Army.

In 1990, some members arrived back to South Africa from exile but some were arrested in Kimberley. Then in 1994, they joined the SANDF and were sent to Wallmansthal and from there they left for bridging training to different units in the country and were sent to ADA School and 10 AA Regiment.

In 1994, after the first democratic election in South Africa, the South Africa National Defence Force was established. The unit participated in the integration training of former non-statutory force members from 1994 until 1999. The training of former non-statutory members took place at 103 Battery, under command of Maj J Keating and the Battery Sgt-Maj was WO2 J Naude. Most of the members, about 600 from various corps of the South Africa Army, who received training were females.

In 1997, the first female anti-aircraft soldiers were trained at the Anti-Aircraft School as junior leaders. This group consisted of four candidate officers and eleven non-commissioned officers. These members were trained as Bosvark 23mm Troop Second in Command/Detachment Commanders and Observation Post Officers/Non-Commissioned Officers. In 1999, the first Voluntary Military Service female Anti-Aircraft troops were trained as gun operators and drivers, at the Anti-Aircraft School.

In 2000, as a part of the transformation process of the South Africa National Defence Force, Anti-Aircraft School/10 Anti-Aircraft Regiment was split into two separated units and renamed Air Defence Artillery School and 10 Anti-Aircraft Regiment, under command of Col C Lindsay and Lt Col J Baird.

At the beginning of 2001, the first black Officer Commanding was appointed, namely Col L Dumakude. What made this appointment so special was the fact that he was the first non-gunner to be appointed in the post of Officer Commanding, coming from the non-statutory force.

Since 2001 the ADA School has continued to produce the quality of formal training that it was known for. In 2006, Col L.G. Kekana was appointed as Officer Commanding, together with WO1 D.A. Olivier who was appointed as the RSM of ADA School after the departure of the previous RSM, WO1 P.A. Kruger.

# 4 ARTILLERY REGIMENT

Semper Adiuuamus – Always in Support



The regiment has a curious and unsubstantiated link to the Frontier Armed and Mounted Police (FAMP), formed in 1855. The link is made more so because of an instruction issued by the Deputy Chief of Staff in 1945.

An FAMP artillery troop was raised at Komgha, Eastern Cape, in 1874, by Capt Robinson, RA, and when the FAMP was replaced by the Cape Mounted Riflemen in 1878 it affected the troop very little. In July 1880 the troop became a battery under the command of Maj Giles, RA, and known as the Cape Field Artillery.

By 1884 the battery had again become part of the CMR and drilled as a troop of Horse Artillery and in 1913 the troop became the 1<sup>st</sup> Battery, South African Mounted Rifles and in 1922 it was used in the Rand Rebellion as mounted riflemen. In the same year it became the 1<sup>st</sup> Battery, South African Field Artillery and in 1934, 1<sup>st</sup> Field Battery, South African Artillery, and in 1940, 10<sup>th</sup> Field Battery, 4<sup>th</sup> Field Brigade, later 4 Field Regiment.



Although pre-war ACF (later CF, now Reserve) artillery units were resuscitated in 1946; 4 Field Regiment was treated differently.

On 28 May 1945 authority was granted for the “construction and formation” of 4 Field Regiment as a full time Permanent Force regiment with effect from 1 April 1945. The instruction stated “... the new regiment was not to be confused with the

original 4 Field Regiment (V), South African Artillery which was amalgamated with 22 Field Regiment on 1 October 1943...” It was indeed a strange move. For more than a year until the “original” 4 Field Regiment (V) was established there was thus two regiments bearing the same title, both with batteries numbered, 10, 11 and 12!

The decision was made stranger still when the Deputy Chief of Staff decided and informed the Adjutant General on 25 June 1945 that: “It has been decided that the 4th. Fd. Regiment. in the Union is the same as the 4 Fd. Regiment. now amalgamated with the 22 Fd. Regiment. in C.M.F. and that it is to be a P.F. unit.”The Adjutant General’s office had earlier pointed out that “The 4 Fd. Bde S.A.A. (had been) brought on to full time service in 1940.”

With this background the seniority of 4 Artillery Regiment could be seen as much earlier than presently thought.



**4<sup>th</sup>** Field Brigade was the first artillery unit to depart for action in East Africa in World War II. At the end of the East African Campaign the brigade moved to Egypt where it was increased to regimental establishment. With only two batteries the regiment took part in the battles of Bardia and Sollum. It moved thereafter to Gazala and later, badly under strength took part in the battle of Alamein in July 1942 and the final twelve day Battle of Alamein.

After returning to South Africa in December 1942, the regiment



returned to North Africa and combined with 22 Field Regiment as the self-propelled 4/22 Field Regiment. As such it fought through the Italian Campaign from April 1944 until the collapse of the German armies on 8 May 1945.

Based at Potchefstroom after the war, it became 4 Field Training Regiment in 1953 with 10, 11 and 12 Field Batteries at Potchefstroom, Bloemfontein and Oudtshoorn respectively. It was disestablished as a Training Institution in November 1967 and became instead, 4 Field Regiment responsible for training all National Servicemen allotted to Field and Medium Artillery units of the Citizen Force.

Seven years later the regiment became a unit of 10 Artillery Brigade but when the need for an artillery brigade was no longer a necessity, 4 Artillery Regiment remained and 14 Artillery Regiment closed down in 1993.

The regiment has taken part in most if not all the cross-border operations since *Operation Savannah* in 1976, in which it was also involved.

It became the first Permanent Force artillery regiment to be presented with a Regimental Colour and claims to be the first Permanent Force unit to have appointed an Honorary Colonel. The regiment was awarded the Freedom of Potchefstroom in 1984.

The regiment is currently organised as a composite unit and has the growth capability for the establishment of additional regular regiments as well as providing personnel for the Reserve regiment.



# ARTILLERY MOBILISATION REGIMENT



In 1999 the focus of the SANDF changed and it was decided that training institutions must concentrate only on training. Maintenance of equipment and provision of transport and guns, etc, for the School of Artillery was to be moved to another unit that would be in support of the School itself.

Lt Col H.J. Claase and WO1 M.H. Swanepoel were appointed as the project leaders to plan and implement the new unit. At the end of 2000 the plan was presented to the Chief of the Army and it received approval. The new unit, titled Artillery Mobilisation Regiment was established on 2 February 2001 and it was situated in the lines of School of Artillery. Lt Col H.J. Claase was appointed as the first Officer Commanding, Maj E.C.D Steyn as the second in command and WO1 M.H. Swanepoel as the RSM.

The gun park, transport and other logistic sections of the School were therefore transferred to the newly established unit. It was to focus on the issue of all primary equipment to the School of Artillery for training purposes and also provide support to the Reserve units undergoing continuous training.

The regiment is a composite unit consisting of six of each type of equipment in service i.e. GV5, GV6, MRL and 120mm Mortars. Ratel 12.7 and Ratel 60s are also held for sharp-end training and a minimum number of B-vehicles for support services.

In 2002 the regiment moved to the old lines of 14 Artillery Regiment, then sharing the lines with 4 Artillery Regiment at what is now Sheldon's Rust Military Base. It was tasked to

maintain artillery prime mission equipment at 4 VRP, now known as MOSDW (Main Ordinance Sub Depot Wallmannsthal). The unit began sending a troop each quarter to maintain this equipment and in 2003 established a satellite to ensure sustained maintenance.

By 2004 it became apparent the Transvaal Staatsartillerie could not provide detachments for gun salutes in the Pretoria area and later in the year the Artillery Mobilisation Regiment took over this responsibility. The regiment now executes an average of 21 gun salutes per year. In co-operation with the Transvaal Horse Artillery, it is currently in a process of establishing whether this ceremonial task can be undertaken by the Horse Gunners.

Due to the large amount of GV1 ammunition available in depots and the enormous cost of larger calibre rounds and charges (which was not always readily available) it was in 2004 decided to again use the GV1 (the old Ordinance QF 25 pdr gun/howitzer) as the primary equipment for training and live shell firing. The regiment implemented the use of this famous World War Two gun.

In 2007 the Artillery Mobilisation Regiment moved to the old lines of the School of Artillery below Hospital Hill that had been taken over by SAI in 1993 when the School moved to Klipdrift. It is currently in the planning phase to implement the first Warehouse storage to fit in with the SANDFs Vision 2025 project.



# CAPE FIELD ARTILLERY

When the East Indian crew steamship “Madras” reached Cape Town on 6 August 1857 with news of the Indian Mutiny, Sir George Grey, Governor of the Cape did not hesitate. He sent almost every available man of the Cape garrison to India. It left the Colony’s forces badly depleted.

The volunteers of the Cape Royal Corps (today the Cape Town Rifles (Dukes)) offered their services. Some of the men soon found themselves drilling on the “Great Guns” of the batteries defending Table Bay, under the watchful eye of the Chevalier Alfred Duprat. Duprat was a member of the Anglo-Portuguese Commission dealing with captured slaves. He was second-in-command of the Rifles but more importantly he had been a Gunner in the Portuguese Army.

Soon, as a result of their work on the batteries, a new volunteer unit, was born, the Cape Town Volunteer Artillery being formed on 26 August 1857. The enthusiasm of the new gunners knew no bounds. They paraded several times a week, before and after their days work and were a proud and efficient group of men.

Their first call to arms came in October 1877 and their first action was that at Umzintzani on 2 December 1877, followed by Quintana on 7 February 1878. The volunteers spent four months on the Northern Border in 1879 and within a few months were back in the Transkei for five months in 1880/81. From December 1896 to the end of August 1897 the Langeberg Campaign claimed their attention and just over two years later the Corps, which had in January 1899 become a partially paid

force of only one battery, was mobilised in October for service in the Boer War.

The corps spent much of its service on “Lines of Communication” duties, guarding vulnerable points on the railway line to the North. Two guns were for some months each allotted to the defence of Koffiefontein and Jacobsdal. One section operated for some while in a roving capacity with Scott’s Railway Guards and the Right Section, which saw more action than the others, was seconded to the Colonial Division, which moved from Naauwpoort, through Aliwal North, Wepener, the eastern Free State to Kroonstad and finally Zeerust. The Right Section had been entirely responsible, by its coolness under heavy Boer fire, for saving Sir Edward Brabant’s advance guard which had been advancing to relieve Wepener.

By now known as Prince Alfred’s Own Cape Artillery, (the Prince’s name had been bestowed on the corps in 1867) it was demobilised in January 1902.

Only 12 years of peace followed before it was again mobilised for war, in August 1914. Following some three months with Gen Botha’s forces in suppression of the Rebellion, the battery moved to Upington to act as garrison troops while waiting to move into German South West Africa with Col van Deventer’s Southern Force. Patrols were carried out and the guns fought a small action against the Germans at Schuits Drift. The battery was fortunately in Upington when the republican rebel, Maritz, with a force accompanied by a battery of German guns and two pom-poms, attacked the town.

The guns of Prince Alfred's Own were rapidly brought into action and after a four hour artillery duel the rebels surrendered. A writer to the Sunday Times stated that "The town was saved by the Cape Field Artillery.... The C.F.A. covered themselves with glory and deserve every praise, as they saved Upington and acted as seasoned soldiers."

There appeared to have been attempts in the inter-war years to retain the Cape Field Artillery in the coast artillery organisation. The unit was initially ignored in the mobilisation in September/October 1939 for service in World War II. But the call came on 6 December and the first battery arrived at Potchefstroom before Christmas. It was followed by two more. Two other batteries eventually became anti-aircraft units.

1<sup>st</sup> Field Battery (C.F.A.) served as an independent battery in a divisional artillery role in East Africa but was lost to the unit when it was incorporated into 7 Field Regiment in Egypt.

Cape Field Artillery had in February 1940 become 1<sup>st</sup> Field Brigade and in January 1941, 1 Field Regiment (V), South African Artillery (P.A.O.C.F.A.). As such it fought at Bardia, Sollum, Halfaya Pass and Gazala. 2 Field Battery was lost at Tobruk where it fired the first and last rounds before the Fortress surrendered on 21 June 1942. 1 and 3 Field Batteries, joined by 14 Field Battery, fought at Alamein from the German assaults in July to the final battle that began on 23 October 1942. On one crucial day in July the three batteries fired over 9000 rounds to break up heavy attacks on the Alamein Box.

After returning to South Africa in December 1942, a depleted regiment returned to North Africa in 1943 to "marry" with 6 Field Regiment to become 1/6 Field Regiment (V), South African Artillery (P.A.O.C.F.A.). With 6<sup>th</sup> SA Armoured Division it moved to Italy in April 1944. It fought in the last battle for Monte Cassino and in all the battles and actions in which the "6<sup>th</sup> Div" were involved. The young unit commander, Lt Col L Kay, believed in close support and close support was always given. On one occasion a forward observer found himself just behind the engineers in advance of the Division sweeping the road for mines. On another occasion a battery was actually ahead of the American infantry, who advanced through the gun positions.

On 1 January 1946 the regiment was resuscitated as a Citizen Force unit and in the years since then has been mobilised for the National Emergency in 1960, *Operation Savannah* in January/March 1976 and other terms of service on the SWA/Namibia border, as well as for the periods of unrest in the 1980s.

It provided a 140mm battery for 10 Artillery Brigade in August/September 1988 when the SADF established a force to counter Cuban forces which had given an indication of possibly moving over the SWA/Namibian border.

In remembrance of the 40 years spent as both field and garrison artillery the three batteries of the unit are named after the coast batteries on which personnel of the unit served: P (Amsterdam) Battery, Q (Imhoff) Battery and R (Wynyard) Battery. Cape Field Artillery is affiliated to 29 Commando Regiment, RA. The



antecedent of the latter was 25 Field Regiment, under whose command 2 Field Battery PAOCFA was placed in Tobruk in June 1942.

The regiment, the senior unit of the SA Artillery, celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday in August 2007.

The Headquarters of the unit moved from Wingfield to Fort Ikapa in 2008. The Officers Mess is still maintained in the castle .

The CFA is currently classified as a GV5 155mm Towed/ Howitzer regiment.



# NATAL FIELD ARTILLERY

Armis, Arte, Audacia – With Arms, Skill and Courage



The unit began as the Artillery Company of the Durban Rifle Guard (DRG) in September 1862 and when the DRG was disbanded on 5 November 1869 the Artillery Company refused to be extinguished and applied to the Colonial Government to form an independent corps. It was revived on 3 June 1870 as the Durban Volunteer Artillery and almost their first official duty was to fire a 17-gun salute at the Coronation of King Cetshwayo kaMpande in September 1873. It also fired the Minute Guns when the remains of the Prince Imperial moved slowly through Durban before being placed aboard a ship for transport to England.

In 1891, the battery fired salutes at Charlestown, Pietermaritzburg and Durban when President Kruger visited Natal on an official visit, surprising him by the “number” of batteries Natal possessed. In April 1892 the designation of the unit was changed to Natal Field Artillery (N.F.A). It was mobilised on 29 September 1899 to serve in the Anglo/Boer war with its 2.5 inch mountain guns. They were, however, no match for the longer range guns possessed by the Boer forces. The unit was withdrawn to Ladysmith but sent out of the town just before it was encircled by the Boer forces. It was then split into sections and spent time on Lines of Communication duties, before being demobilised on 1 October 1900.

Two more batteries were raised in March 1903 designated “B” and “C” batteries but an independent battery raised in Pietermaritzburg claimed the designation “C” Battery. The third Durban battery, re-titled “D” Battery was disbanded in 1905. The unit designation was changed to “First Brigade Natal Field

Artillery” from June 1903 with A and B Batteries but it was disestablished on 30 June 1913 and was removed from the War Establishment Table (now Force Structure). Many members joined the newly raised Durban Garrison Artillery which was equipped with four 15-pdr field guns previously used by the disbanded First Brigade Natal Field Artillery.



A separate field battery was raised in Pietermaritzburg in 1902 as part of the Natal Royal Regiment (NRR) but it was found a year later that it would be preferable to administer the battery as a distinctly separate component. The two arms of the NRR thus separated on 11 June 1904 and the battery became “C” Battery, Natal Field Artillery, with HQ remaining in Pietermaritzburg.

It was, despite the name, Natal Field Artillery, a totally separate unit to the two batteries in Durban, with its own badge, uniform and motto and it was from all reports a more efficient unit than either of the Durban batteries. It did, however, have the advantage of the countryside in which to train.

The battery served in the Poll Tax (Bhambatha) Rebellion of 1906/07 as did the Durban batteries. It was notable that it did not form part of the First Brigade Natal Field Artillery. It was the only one of the three batteries to be accepted into the Active Citizen Force on 1 July 1913, from which date its designation became 7<sup>th</sup> Citizen Battery (N.F.A.).

In January 1914 the battery was mobilised to guard portions of the railway, including stations and bridges, as a result of unrest and riots on the Rand which was expected to overflow into Natal. It was again mobilised at the outbreak of World War 1 and left Pietermaritzburg on 6 September 1914. Leaving by steamship from Cape Town, the battery landed at Luderitzbucht on 20 September and was attached to the Central Force until the capture of Aus. Thereafter it moved to Walvis Bay, handed in its 15-pdrs and was issued with 13-pdrs, before joining Gen Botha's Northern Force with which it took part in the forced march of 230 miles in 13 days to Otavifontein. It was awarded the Battle Honour "S.W. Africa, 1914-1915" for its services during the campaign.

The battery was demobilised in August 1915. The unit went into virtual suspended animation before being resuscitated in 1927, by which time the designation had become 2<sup>nd</sup> Citizen Battery (N.F.A.). Many men volunteered for service with Imperial Service units in East Africa and Europe.

Again mobilised for full-time service in October 1939 the unit arrived at Potchefstroom on 30 November to become Natal Field Artillery Brigade. On 1 February 1940 the designations of all the brigades changed and it became 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Brigade (Natal Field Artillery). The title changed once again in January 1947 when the brigades were upgraded to regiments. 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Brigade (N.F.A.) became 2 Field Regiment, South African Artillery (N.F.A.).

The regiment sailed from Durban in July 1941, as a unit of 2<sup>nd</sup> SA Division and in Egypt was issued with 25-pdr guns. Following

training, live shell shoots and practice in desert navigation the Regiment formed the Oasis Group, formed to protect Siwa and Giarabab. "E" Force consisting of 4 Field Battery and 3/2 Punjab Regiment moved off in November to protect Gialo. After the various actions that followed, the battery returned to South African command at Gazala.

While 4 Field Battery was engaged in its peregrinations in the deep desert, the remainder of 2 Field Regiment had been engaged in the battles of Sollum and Bardia. RHQ and the two batteries had thereafter moved to Tobruk where they were joined by 4 Field Battery. From Tobruk columns were sent out and various "boxes" (defended positions) manned, to prevent the enemy from reaching the coast road and Tobruk. Thus in mid-June 6<sup>th</sup> Field Battery found itself at Rigel Ridge where, it was heavily attacked by 21<sup>st</sup> Panzer Division. The battery fought until all of its guns were put out of action in what is described as "*.....the most glorious action fought by the South African Artillery during this period.*"

5<sup>th</sup> Field Battery was similarly destroyed in an action against German Panzers at Kings Cross, Tobruk, on 20 June 1942. The balance of the regiment was captured when the Fortress fell to Rommel's Afrika Korps the next day.

The regiment was resuscitated as a unit of the Active Citizen Force on 1 January 1946 and resumed normal peace time training. In 1959 the NFA became a university unit with the title Natal University Regiment (N.F.A.) and it operated as such until its name was restored in 1966. In the same year the HQ was transferred to Durban.

The regiment provided support for 84 Motorised Brigade and underwent various tours of duty on the SWA/Nambian border, twice in an infantry roll. In its final tour in 1988 the unit supplied a battery during *Operation Prone* and it underwent various tours of duty during the unrest situation prior to 1994.

In honour of its war time activities the three batteries of the regiment are titled: 4 ('E' Force) Battery, 5 (King's Cross) Battery and 6 (Rigel Ridge) Battery. The regiment was awarded the Freedom of Pietermaritzburg and of Durban on 28 and 29 September 1962 respectively.

An alliance was formed with 159 (Colenso) Battery RA on 15 December 1999.

The unit headquarters is currently located at Lords Ground, Durban.

Natal Field Artillery is currently equipped with GV6 155mm self-propelled gun/howitzers.





# TRANSVAAL HORSE ARTILLERY

The long and hard fought war in South Africa, which culminated in the Treaty of Vereeniging, signed on 31 May 1902, and the withdrawal of the bulk of British forces from the country led eventually to the establishment of volunteer corps in the new Crown Colony of the Transvaal. One of these units was the battery of artillery known as the Lys Volunteer Corps, named after its founder, Maj G Lys. Established on 17 March 1904, the first volunteers were enrolled on 30 March. Six months later the title of the battery was changed and became The Transvaal Horse Artillery Volunteers. In January 1907 it was renamed: The Transvaal Horse Artillery (THA).

A second battery was raised in 1905 and a section was later formed in Pretoria but only one battery was accepted into the Active Citizen Force when the latter was established with effect from 1 July 1913.

At the outbreak of war in August 1914, the THA volunteered to serve as the THA Battery (S.A.M.R.) and it was in this guise that one section of the battery fought its first war-time action at Sandfontein, in German South West Africa (GSWA), in September 1914. Unfortunately the small force which included the two guns had been led into a trap and was forced to surrender.

Reformed as a four-gun battery, the THA returned to GSWA by way of Walvis Bay in late February 1915 and joined Col Coen Brits' mobile column. The Gunners distinguished themselves at Riet, completely outshooting the six German guns in the foothills of the Langer Heinrich. With 1<sup>st</sup> Mounted Brigade THA

took part in the remarkable desert march of 376 miles in 21 days from Usakos to Namutoni which outflanked the German defences. The last 200 miles had been covered in ten days and from Lemputz the battery had moved 52 miles in 52 hours, without water.

There was little training in the years after the war due to the economic situation but the battery was mobilised when martial law was declared in March 1922 as a result of an armed strike by miners. The 1930s saw an increase in the establishment of THA to a brigade of three batteries. Mobilised for war in 1939 the THA Brigade moved to Potchefstroom at the end of October where, on 1 February 1940, it became 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Brigade (T.H.A.).

The brigade left Potchefstroom for East Africa in September 1940 with 18-pdr MK II and MK IV guns but in January 1941 9<sup>th</sup> Field battery were ordered to exchange their guns for the 4.5 inch howitzers of 11<sup>th</sup> Field Battery. The brigade fought through the rigours of the campaign in support with other South African artillery units, of the 1<sup>st</sup> SA Division and 12<sup>th</sup> African Division together with 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Field Brigades and 1<sup>st</sup> Field Battery (CFA).

Once the campaign was nearing its end, the South African artillery units moved to Egypt in August 1941. THA handed in its old guns and was issued with 25-pdrs, at the same time undergoing conversion, to become 3 Field Regiment (V) South African Artillery (T.H.A.).



The regiment moved to Mersa Matruh and with the commencement of the Crusader offensive it went forward with 1<sup>st</sup> SA Division to become involved in what a brigadier later described as “.... the bloodiest and most heroic encounter of the war”, - the Battle of Sidi Rezegh. It took place on 23 November, Tottensondag to the Germans; the Sunday of the Dead was to live up to its name.

Attacked by the Afrika Korps, the gunners fought over open sights in rising smoke and dust. Casualties were heavy on both sides. The war diary of 22<sup>nd</sup> Armoured Brigade recorded that the South African gunners “had been magnificent”, and a simple soldier said “..... they gave it stick, they never faltered.”

Remnants escaped the irresistible tide of German armour but by 1 December 375 officers and men answered roll call at

Mersa Matruh. A few more trickled in over the coming days. The regiment had managed to extract five of its 24 guns from the scene of battle and later recovered ten guns from the battlefield, seven of which were those of THA.

Reinforced and re-equipped but lacking adequate transport, 8<sup>th</sup> Field Battery moved to Gazala at the end of January 1942, followed by 7<sup>th</sup> Field Battery a month later. RHQ and 9<sup>th</sup> Field Battery remained at Matruh to calibrate guns and provide live shell shoots for courses, before moving to Tobruk at the end of April. They were joined by 8<sup>th</sup> Field Battery and most personnel were taken prisoner when Tobruk fell to the Afrika Korps on 21 June 1942. A party of 8<sup>th</sup> Field Battery managed to escape with the Reserve Company of the Coldstream Guards.

7<sup>th</sup> Field Battery attached to the 7<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, was badly hurt in the withdrawal from Gazala, the entire regiment reaching



Alamein in a parlous state. Reinforced by officers and men from 5 Field Regiment, 7<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment (with the THA battery) fought at Alamein from July to the final battle in October.

The Transvaal Horse Artillery (V) was depleted at Tobruk, and was removed from the Order of Battle, together with 2 Field Regiment (NFA).

Transvaal Horse Artillery was represented during the Italian Campaign of 1944/45 by 7/64 Field Artillery (V), South African Artillery (T.H.A.) one of three batteries combined with those of 22 Field Regiment to form 4/22 Field Regiment, equipped first with 105mm Priests and later 25-pdr Sextons.

The pre-war brigade was resuscitated on 1 January 1946 as 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Regiment (T.H.A.) and commenced annual peace-time training camps. Its next call to action was in January 1976 in support of 72 Motorised Brigade in *Operation Budgie*, following *Operation Savannah*. Recalling its war-time activities the batteries of the regiment were, as in 1946, numbered 7, 8 and 9 and 8<sup>th</sup> Battery was the first, during the Operation to be equipped with the 140mm gun (GV2) whilst the other three batteries were equipped with 25pdrs (GV1s). The fourth battery was (incorrectly) numbered 10<sup>th</sup> Battery.

Several tours of duty on the SWA/Namibian border were subsequently undertaken including *Operation Protea* where the THA was equipped with the GV4 155mm gun. On two occasions the THA was employed as infantrymen in Northern South West Africa and Angola. The regiment also served in

COIN roles during the periods of unrest which preceded the change of government in 1994.

The Freedom of Johannesburg was awarded to the regiment in 1964 and in 1986 THA took part in a mechanised parade to celebrate the Centenary of the City of Johannesburg. Four years later Johannesburg Artillery Regiment (previously 2 Locating Regiment) and 7 Medium Regiment were amalgamated with THA, the latter retaining its traditional name.

The regiment celebrated its centenary in March 2004 with a well attended dinner at the Rand Club and by exercising its freedom of entry into the City of Johannesburg with both a mechanised and a marching column. In 2006 the THA was tasked with providing ceremonial gun salutes within the Gauteng province.

The regiment was affiliated with the Honourable Artillery Company on 13 August 1937 and on 11 June 2007 was given the privilege of sharing with the HAC an official 62-gun salute at the traditional saluting base, Tower of London, in honour of the official Birthday of the Duke of Edinburgh, husband of Queen Elizabeth II. It was the first time that any foreign country had participated in such an event.

The regiment is currently located at Mount Collins, Kelvin, Sandton.

The THA is currently equipped with GV6 155mm Self-Propelled Gun/Howitzers.

# VRYSTAAT ARTILLERIE REGIMENT

Aequo Animo et Virtute – With Equal Heart and Courage



When the Active Citizen Force (ACF) was established from 1 July 1913, three former volunteer batteries were incorporated into the ACF and numbered 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Citizen Batteries. They were allowed to retain their former titles in brackets behind their new names. At the same time 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Citizen Batteries were also established, to be headquartered at Pretoria, Bloemfontein and Kimberley respectively.

Due to the problem of supply of guns during the Great War of 1914-1918 and the subsequent economic problems that beset the Union Government, the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Batteries were not formed. They were eventually disestablished from 30 June 1926.

The original 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Citizen Batteries had been renumbered 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1 July 1926 and three new citizen batteries were established from the same date. They were the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Citizen Batteries Oranje Vrystaatse Veldartillerie (OVSVVA) and the 6<sup>th</sup> Citizen Battery (Transvaalse Veldartillerie). They were to be headquartered at Bloemfontein, Bethlehem and Pretoria, respectively.

The two Free State batteries were only formed in 1928 and were “diluted” units under the new policy of one third Permanent Force and two thirds ACF personnel. All the key posts were retained by the permanent soldiers. Due to a shortage of permanent staff the three older Citizen batteries escaped “dilution”.

1ste OVSVVA fired a 64 gun salute in 1932 at the funeral of the

Chief Justice of South Africa, the Hon. J de Villiers, and had many months before officiated at the funeral of Maj Albrecht, the former commander of *Het Artillerie Corps van den Oranje-Vrystaat*.

The titles of the Free State batteries changed in 1934 when they became 1ste and 2de Oranje Vrystaatse Veldartillerie, but at this stage they were moribund. All the permanent personnel were deployed on the Bechuanaland (now Botswana) border because of an alarming outbreak of foot and mouth disease. Despite this, the 1ste OVSVVA was able to form a Guard of Honour for HRH Prince George when he visited Bloemfontein in 1934. This battery had an unofficial band from December 1931 but six months after it was recognised officially it was transferred to Regiment President Steyn.

Both units were “mechanised” in July 1934 and Leyland lorries and motor cars were used at the 1935 training camp at Potchefstroom. Porte vehicles (with the gun and limber carried on the vehicle) were issued in 1939.

When war was declared in September 1939 not enough personnel volunteered to enable either battery to be called up for full-time service and those men who did volunteer were transferred to 4<sup>th</sup> Field Brigade.

The war ended in May 1945 and the five pre-war ACF batteries were all resuscitated as regiments with effect 1<sup>st</sup> January 1946. The 1ste and 2de Oranje Vrystaatse Veldartillerie were, however, combined under the title: 6<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, South

African Artillery (O.V.S.V.A.). It was based in Bloemfontein. "Peace Training" as it was called, begun in 1947 with annual continuous training camps at Potchefstroom.

Another artillery unit, the Regiment Universiteit Oranje-Vrystaat was established in January 1960 but on 1 February 1974 the two units amalgamated under the title: 6 Veldregiment (V.S.A.). The unit suffered another change of title in January 1960 when it became Vrystaatse Staatsartillerie. The officers were not happy with the title and on 1 September 1966, it became instead Oranje-Vrystaatse Veldartillerie. The hyphen was removed from the title in March 1968.

6 Veldregiment received the Freedom of Bloemfontein in March 1982.

The unit underwent tours of service on the SWA/Namibian border and was also mobilised during the unfortunate unrest situation in the mid-1980s. After 1994 in common with other

units, personnel strength dropped with the introduction of voluntary service. But new life was injected by the transfer from Sandrivier Commando of a commanding officer and a large number of personnel who are undergoing conversion to become Gunners. After more than 80 years in Bloemfontein, the headquarters moved to Kroonstad in January 2007.

The regiment has an affiliation with Q (Sanna's Post battery, RA), effective from 19 August 2000.

A paper published in the late 1970s describes the unit as 'one with the most name changes'! It was however, not the last that writer was to see. Effective from 1<sup>st</sup> February 1988 the title became: Vrystaatse Artillerie Regiment.

The VAR is currently equipped with GV5 155mm Towed Gun/Howitzers.



# REGIMENT POTCHEFSTROOMSE UNIVERSITEIT



The regiment was “established and designated” as a unit of the Citizen Force with effect from 1 January 1960.

This is recorded as such in a Defence Force Order which gave the impression that it was an entirely new unit. But the origins of the regiment go back to 1 Observation Battery, South African Artillery (A.C.F.), established in the Witwatersrand Command, with Headquarters at Krugersdorp from 1 August 1946. The letters (A.C.F.) were removed from the title in 1949.

The battery struggled to attract recruits but the situation improved dramatically when the Headquarters moved to Potchefstroom and it was coupled to the university. Two years later it was expanded into a regiment with:

RHQ and Radar Battery at University of Potchefstroom, Survey Battery at the University of the Orange Free State and an Observation and Sound Ranging Battery at the University of Pretoria.

By 1953 the locating functions of the regiment had been abandoned and normal field artillery training was being undertaken. In January 1960 RHQ and the original Radar Battery, by then known as “P” Battery, became Regiment Potchefstroom Universiteit.

With its own cap badge from 1962 the regiment’s designation was altered on 1 October 1963 to read: Regiment Potchefstroomse Universiteit (RPU).

The regiment was converted to a Medium Artillery establishment in 1969 and in 1974 was placed under command of 82 Mechanised Brigade. It was mobilised with the brigade in 1988 for *Operations Packer* and *Displace*, the final operation in which the SADF was involved.

RPU crossed the border with only two batteries, one with GV5 gun-howitzers and the other with GV-2 140mm guns. The regiment was among the first in action, the GV5 battery firing harassing fire and engaging opportunity targets on 11 March, while it was still undergoing conversion training to the GV5. It took part in the attack on Jumbo which commenced on 22 March with a bombardment of the main objective, later coming under fairly accurate enemy artillery fire. The regiment was in action several times before finally moving back across the Kavango River on 8 May, the first element of 82 Brigade to enter Angola for *Operation Packer* and the last to leave.

In the re-organisation of 1991, RPU and 25 Field Regiment amalgamated on 23 September with the name of Regiment Potchefstroomse Universiteit being retained. The end of National Service and the literal disappearances of most of those on strength left the regimental with nothing more than a few volunteers.





# TRANSVAAL STAATSARTILLERIE

Although attempts were made in 1913 and again in 1926 to form an artillery battery in Pretoria, neither were successful. But, the Minister of Defence in the 1950s was obsessed with ridding the Defence Force of any link whatsoever, with British connotations. The opportunity arose in 1953 with the reorganisation of the Citizen Force, to establish an artillery unit that would bear a title to connect it to the Zuid-Afrikaansche Staatsartillerie (the Z.A.R.), the Republican Artillery of 1874-1901.

And so, on 1 January 1954, 9 Veldregiment (Staatsartillerie), S.A.A., as one of the twelve units designed to cope with the increased number of ballotees being called up for military service, was established. Within a few weeks the title was altered to read: 9 Veldregiment (STAATSARTILLERIE), S.A.A. The badge of the new unit was based on the sabretache badge of the Z.A.R. On 1 January 1960 the regiment's title changed and it became the Transvaal Staatsartillerie.

The regiment became a four-battery unit and was allocated to 8 SA Armoured Division as the divisional medium regiment. It had undergone conversion to the GV-2 (140mm) gun in May 1974 and it was as a medium regiment of two batteries and a troop that it took part in *Operation Savannah* in February/April 1976 under the command of Cape Field Artillery and, in the last weeks of Transvaal Horse Artillery (TSA). The regiment undertook subsequent tours of duty on the SWA/Namibian border. From the abbreviation of its title came the humorous appellation: "Tour and See Angola".

17 Field Regiment (P.A.) was amalgamated with TSA with effect from 1 October 1991, the combined regiment retaining the title Transvaal Staatsartillerie. The unit was until recently responsible for all gun salutes in Pretoria.

The regiment undertook subsequent tours of duty on the SWA/Angolan borders during 1980 and 1982. During 1984, the Unit formed part of the Joint Monitoring Commission (GMC) initiative and in 1986 they helped with the protection of the strategic Ruacana water supply project, and was amongst the units to withdraw from Angola in 1988.

On 19 August 2000 TSA affiliated with 101 (Northumbrian) Regiment (v), RA and the ceremony took place at the Green Magazine (Groen Magazyn) the headquarters of TSA, which is situated close to both Army Headquarters and SA Air Force Headquarters in Pretoria. The function was attended by Maj Gen Chris van Zyl, General of the Gunners and Brig Mike Raworth, British Military attaché as well as Maj Gen (Ret) Phil Pretorius, President of the Gunners' Association.

TSA is currently a rocket regiment scheduled to be equipped with the 127mm multiple rocket launcher (Bateleur).





# 18 LIGHT REGIMENT

Primus Inte pares – First Among Equals

**M**any South African Artillery units are “old” units whose proud history can be traced to days before the Anglo Boer War. 18 Light Regiment is one of the more “modern” artillery regiments that was created to cope with new warfare requirements.

The need for a light artillery regiment that could support paratroopers during air assault operations was identified in the early 1970's. The Soltham M5 120mm mortar was chosen and several purchased in 1974. Staff tables were set up in June 1975, but the Regiment's official birth date can be pinned down to January 1977. The Regiment was when formed as part of 1 SA Corps, with its Headquarters in the old OK Bazaars building, Randburg. The unit's name, 18 Light Regiment, was allocated by the then Master Gunner, Lt Gen FEC van den Berg.

The Regiment's initial intake consisted of the Ops Savannah veterans of 141 Battery of 14 Field Regiment and 41 Battery of 4 Field Regiment. None of the troops allocated to the unit was parachute trained. Cmdt G. C. Olivier from 7 Medium Regiment was appointed as the first OC on 15 November 1977.

1 SA Corps was disbanded in 1978 and the Regiment was transferred to 8 Armoured Division. The first call up of the Regiment took place from 13 November to 8 December 1978 at the then Army Battle School at Lohathla.

During 1979 WO2 Tinus Delpont was transferred from 8 Armoured Division to the Regiment as the first RSM.

On 25 May 1981 Col Jan Breytenbach, the OC of 44 Parachute Brigade, visited the unit. The future airborne strategy and role that the Regiment had to play was spelled out by him. The main objective of the Regiment was to support the newly formed 44 Parachute Brigade with artillery firepower during airborne operations.

In June 1982, the Regiment was incorporated into the newly formed 44 Parachute Brigade and was based at Murray Hill north of Pretoria. Attempts were made by the Brigade to change the Regiment's name to 44 Light Regiment, but this idea did not meet with the approval of the then Chief of the Army.

As a Light Regiment, the unit was structured slightly differently from the other conventional medium artillery regiments. The Regiment consisted of a small RHQ element and 3 Batteries, namely 181, 182 and 183 Battery. Each battery consisted of two troops, each with four 120 mm mortars. Each detachment consisted of five Gunners.

To meet its airborne objective, the Regiment would only consist of Gunners that qualified as paratroopers. The existing officers and men took the new airborne roll of the Regiment as a challenge and in March 1982 the leader element was sent to 1 Parachute Regiment in Bloemfontein for parachute training. The Regiment's traditional blue artillery berets were exchanged for the maroon paratroopers' berets. New terminology and orders such as “Port and Starboard, Fit Chutes, Action Stations, Stand Up – Hook Up, Stand in the Door and DZ “, soon became part of the Gunners' new language.

History was made at the General Piet Joubert Training Area in November 1982, when 181 Battery, as the first Airborne Battery, was deployed by parachute. The Battery jumped with its mortars, ammunition and equipment.

This jump was followed up by *Exercise Ubique*. On 11 December 1984, the Regiment was able to deploy all 3 batteries in a single airborne drop. The Regiment was now moulded into a true airborne unit. The gunners with their mortars, equipment and first line ammunition were airdropped. Three C130's carried the mortars, equipment and ammunition. The gunners followed in three C160 troop carriers. A total of 200 men, NCO's and Officers took part in this drop.

The jump was attended by various high ranking officers including Lt Gen F.E.C. van den Berg, the Master Gunner, Col A. Moore, the new OC of 44 Parachute Brigade and Col P.C. De Beer Venter, Director Artillery. During the same exercise the three batteries were also airlifted and deployed by helicopter.

The vision of the 1970's to have a Airborne Artillery Regiment was now a reality. 18 Light Regiment could now truly claim the title: **"The only Airborne Artillery Regiment in Africa."**

The Regiment's light capability was further demonstrated when it participated in an amphibian exercise in July 1988. 181 Battery was landed by landing craft from SAS Tafelberg in *Exercise Strandloper*.

The Regiment was one of the first Citizen Force units to be deployed for internal unrest operations. During 1985, 181

Battery was deployed at Kirkwood in the Eastern Cape. The Battery did a lot of work to improve the conditions of the local Community and was awarded with the Chief of Army merit certificate for exceptional duty.

Border patrol duties at Madimbo in the Soutpansberg Military Area followed for 181 Battery in September 1985. During 1987 the whole Regiment was called up for the purpose of maintenance of law and order.

During *Operation Hooper/Packer* in March 1988, 182 Battery participated in the third attack on Quito Cuanavale in Southern Angola. As part of 82 Brigade, the battery was in direct support of 32 Battalion.

During 1989, the Regiment assumed a completely new role. 183 Battery exchanged their maroon paratroopers' berets for the light blue berets of the UN peace keeping force. The battery formed part of the Joint Military Monitoring Group (J.M.M.C.) which had to oversee the withdrawal of the SADF from Namibia and the Cubans from Angola.

The last citizen force camp of 2 months duration was experienced by 182 Battery in 1989. The Battery was tasked with monitoring the border of South Africa with Botswana and Zimbabwe. The Battery was based at Almond base in the Weipe District.

A very popular event on the Brigade calendar was the annual water jump. All paratroopers of the various units of 44 Parachute Brigade, could participate in this jump. It was usually held at



Roodeplaat or Hartebeespoort dam. The jump was followed by a family fun day.

1991 was a year that saw many changes to the Regiment. 44 Parachute Brigade HQ moved to Bloemfontein. The Regiment moved from Murray-Hill to the Paulshof Building in Pretoria.

With the creation of the SANDF in 1994, it was decided to downscale 44 Parachute Brigade to 44 Parachute Regiment. 18 Light Regiment was transferred to the SA Army Artillery Formation in Pretoria. The Regiment is now located at Magazine Hill, with TSA as its neighbour.

A unit flag was approved in July 1986 and a National Colour was presented to the unit in March 1993.



The Regimental shoulder badge was designed by Lt G Gravette (Jnr). It consists of the 44 Parachute Brigade Griffon on a maroon background, with the Artillery flash above. This symbolises both the unique airborne and artillery characteristics of the regiment.

18 Light Regiment is currently equipped with the M5 120mm Light Mortar.



# 10 ANTI-AIRCRAFT REGIMENT

Alte Pete – Aim High



The regiment was established as 10 Anti-Aircraft Battery S.A.A. (AA) with effect 1 January 1962 as a unit of the Permanent Force. Headquarters was at Young's Field and it was under the command of Maj DDG Steenkamp.

Because the value of carrying on traditions, and seniority of units was not understood or often not considered at Defence Headquarters, 10 Anti-Aircraft Regiment was formally established and designated from 1 February 1968 as though it was a new unit of the Permanent Force – without any mention of the fact that it was obviously a reconstruction of 10 Anti-Aircraft Battery.

Headquarters remained at Young's Field where the Artillery Air Defence School had been established from the same date.

From the beginning it was not possible, owing to the acute shortage of personnel, to run the two units separately. Consequently, 10 Anti-Aircraft Regiment was tasked with the administration of the School. The first two months were marked by a series of crises, with the result that the unit could scarcely cope with the National Service intake.

A partial solution to the problem was the formal amalgamation of the two units under the title: Artillery Air Defence School/10 Anti-Aircraft Regiment. The regiment which consisted of Regimental Headquarters, Support Battery and 101, 102 and 103 Batteries transferred to Kimberley at the end of 1990.

After the first democratic elections and the formation of the SANDF in 1994 the bridging training of former members of the non-statutory forces took place at 103 Battery. The "marriage" with AADS came to an end on 31 March 1999 when the two units again became independent entities.

The regiment is currently responsible for the force training of combat-ready forces including Reserve units and the operational deployment in support of the SA Army.

10 AA Regiment was involved in several deployments and exercises from January 1999 until December 2005; different batteries within the unit were internally deployed at Mpumalanga in Macadamia, Lesotho border, Kwa-Zulu Natal, and support of the GSB (Kimberley) in Ceremonial parades. At the beginning of 2006 the Regiment sent two batteries to Pont Drift on the Zimbabwe border on border patrol duty.

10 AA Regiment also provided three batteries for external deployment (in its secondary role) in Burundi. The first battery was 102 Battery under Command of Maj L Puckree. After 6 months 101 Battery relieved them in Burundi under command of Maj SG Hlongwa. 103 Battery prepared for the deployment to relieve 101 Battery in Burundi. After 18 months of external deployment the regiment returned to normal activities. The regiment lost five of its gunners during these deployments.

From 40mm Bofors, 3,7 inch heavy AA guns to the GA1-CO1 20mm light gun and the GDF-002 twin 35mm automatic gun with its Super Fledermaus fire control system, and captured ZU-23-2 twin 23mm and 20/3 M55 A2 anti-aircraft guns, the regiment has now entered the missile age with training being undertaken on the Starstreak ground-to-air missile.

In November 2007, members from 10 AA Regiment participated in the first live firing of Starstreak missiles on African soil. This firing took place at the Overberg Test Range at Bredasdorp and this was seen as the start of a dynamic period for the Air Defence gunners! The exercise was conducted jointly by the project team (Lt Col H.J. Baird) and the members of 10 AA Regiment, under command of Lt Col S.G. Hlongwa.

On 12 October 2007, 10 AA Regiment was also involved in a tragic training accident at the SA Army Combat Training Centre, whilst participating in the annual SA Army Exercise SEBOKA. Nine (9) soldiers were killed and eleven (11) others were wounded when a critical mechanical failure occurred on a 35mm Mk V Gun, when the interface between the "hand/motor" actuator selector lever and the traverse gearbox broke during ground target engagement.



# CAPE GARRISON ARTILLERY

Previously known as the University of Cape Town Regiment, the title Cape Garrison Artillery became effective from 1 February 1974.

The regiment has its origins in 54 Composite Anti-Aircraft Troop, SAAF, established with effect from 1 August 1946. The troop became a battery from 1 July 1947 and was transferred to Land Forces as a unit of the SA Artillery in February 1949 as 54<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Battery, South African Artillery (to give the full official title).

In July of 1951, together with all the other anti-aircraft and coastal artillery units, it was transferred to the South African Corps of Marines, but four years later reverted to under command of the SA Artillery when the SACM was disbanded. All Citizen Force coast regiments, including those that bore the appellation C.G.A., were transferred to the SA Navy to become "stone frigates". They were disestablished almost exactly one year later.

On 1 November 1956, 54<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Battery was placed under the operational control of Headquarters, 4 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, together with other independent batteries, i.e. 52 Radar Battery and 53 and 54 Anti-Aircraft Batteries.

The sub-units never trained together and stagnation resulted. With the re-organisation of the Citizen Force in 1959/60 the headquarters and the four sub-units were chosen to become the local university regiment with the designation University of Cape Town Regiment from 1 January 1960. The latter was a

heavy anti-aircraft regiment with three batteries of two troops each and one radar troop. It trained on the 3.7 inch heavy AA guns. The regiment was re-designated Cape Garrison Artillery at its own request with effect from 1 February 1974.

Headquarters were at Young's Field but transferred to Wingfield in 1969. Through the efforts of the commanding officer at the time the headquarters transferred in 1992 to Fort Wynyard, near the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront. The old fort at which the original CGA underwent training is today in a unique position to become a showcase artillery museum.

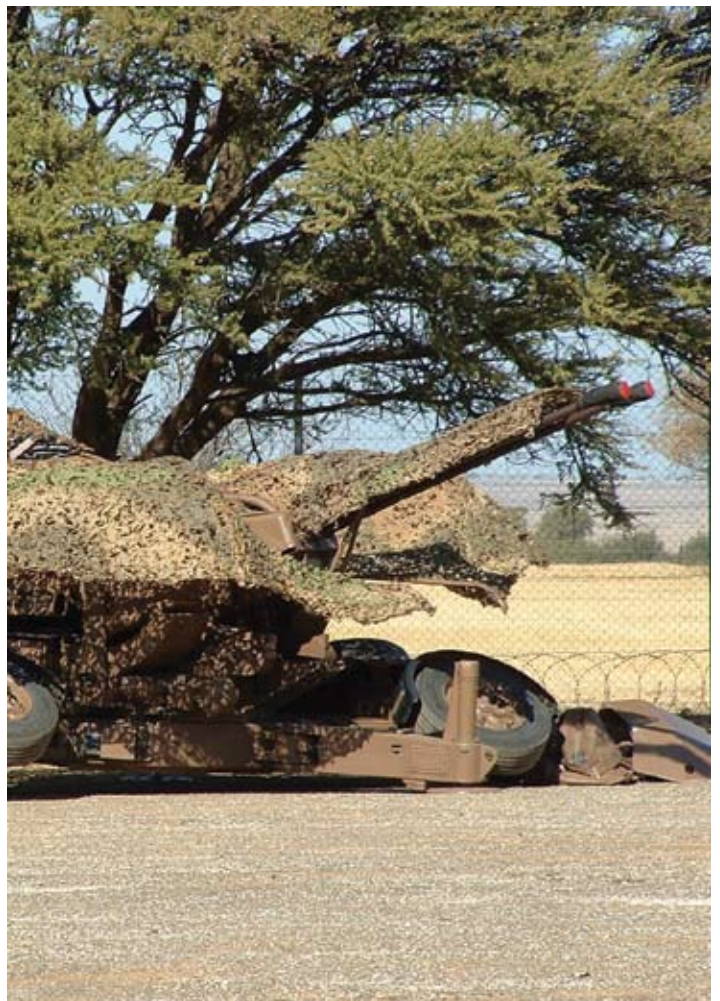
The regiment has undertaken tours on the SWA/Namibian border and in 1982 operated as an infantry battalion in the Northern Province and on the Border. It was one of many units that participated in *Operation Jumbo* to ensure that the first democratic elections in 1994, were peaceful.

The unit absorbed the volunteer personnel of 7 Light Aircraft Regiment when the latter was closed down in April 1997. Originally struggling to exist, as many other units were, Cape Garrison Artillery has under its current commanding officer become a vibrant, energetic entity, operating as a training base for Air Defence Reserve personnel. It has recruited and taken on strength a large number of members of the former Blaauwberg and Two Oceans Commandos.

An aggressive training policy was adopted in 2005 and since May of that year numerous training camps have to date been held. Its organisation is based on that of a three-battery 35mm regiment.

The Right of Civic Entry into the City of Cape Town was awarded to the regiment in November 1980 and it received the Freedom of Bellville in September 1989. A National Colour was presented to the regiment at the Army Battle School on 30 September 1990 during *Exercise Genesis* and was laid up in 1994.

The present honorary colonel is Sir David Graaff, Bart, son of the late Sir de Villiers Graaff who was the previous honorary colonel.







# REGIMENT VAALRIVIER

Ad Infinitum - Forever

The regiment was established on 1 January 1960 as one of the Afrikaans-medium anti-aircraft units. Headquarters of the unit was at Vereeniging. It replaced 1 Anti-Aircraft Regiment which was shortly afterwards disestablished but most of the personnel of the new unit were transferred from the latter. Regrettably the seniority of 1 AA Regiment did not devolve upon RVR.

In March of 1960 the regiment was undergoing continuous training at Young's Field when a State of Emergency was declared. Personnel found themselves manning cordons at Langa and Nyanga until the regiment was relieved by Cape Field Artillery.

From the outset the regiment was a combined 35mm Oerlikon and 40mm Bofors unit but by the beginning of 1975 it had become a three battery 35mm unit of 12 guns per battery.

The unit provided air defence on the SWA/Namibian border in 1976, with batteries at Grootfontein, Rundu, Ondwanga

and Ruacana and at Oshakati and once again Ruacana in 1980. Again called up in 1983 and 1984 it served at Oshakati, Ondangwa and Ruacana and was involved in a later cross-border operation.

A National Colour was presented to the regiment on 31 October 1992 and a regimental Colour was presented by the State President, Mr FW de Klerk on 24 July 1993. It had earlier received the Freedom of Vereeniging on 27 April 1963 and the Freedom of Vanderbijlpark on 31 October 1970.

Personnel of Regiment Overvaal were absorbed when the latter was disbanded in 1997.

In 2008 the HQ was moved to Apex Military Base, Brakpan.

RVR is currently equipped with the OQF 35mm MKV gun.



# REGIMENT OOS-TRANSVAAL



Later known as “die Rotte” from ROT, the official abbreviation of the regiment’s name, it was “appointed and established” with effect from 1 October 1964. The first commanding officer was obliged to make his home available as headquarters until suitable office space became available in the Magistrates Court complex in Brakpan in 1968.

It was originally determined that the unit be equipped with 35mm Oerlikon but by December 1964 it had been decided that ROT and RVR would become Bofors/Oerlikon regiments, comprising an RHQ for a Bofors regiment, two 40mm Bofors batteries and a 35mm Oerlikon battery.

By the beginning of 1975 the Headquarters had moved to Benoni, also on the East Rand, where a disused mine compound was made available and converted into a well-built ten-roomed regimental headquarters. Much hard work by members of the regiment, with financial assistance of the local City Council,

had made it so. Renamed Apex Military Base, it was opened officially by Lt Gen Geldenhuys in 1976.

The regiment supplied “R” Battery for service in *Operation Savannah* in January/March 1976 while P Battery served in the same border area from March to May. It formed part of a reaction force in 1980 and in 1983 members of the unit were involved in a number of operations. By 1977 it had been organised as a 20mm regiment, with six batteries each of 18 guns.

The Freedom of Brakpan was granted to the regiment on 14 April 1984.

ROT is currently equipped with the OQF 35mm MKV gun.







# 6 LIGHT ANTI-AIRCRAFT REGIMENT

The regiment was officially established with effect 1 April 1965 but remained a “paper” unit until activated in May 1966 with its headquarters in Brakpan at the headquarters of Regiment Oos-Transvaal when excess personnel from the latter were transferred into the new unit.

With minimal facilities available, the regimental commander’s home was used as a headquarters until 1968. Four years later the Chief of the SA Army authorised the transfer of the headquarters to Springs. It moved to Johannesburg in 1979.

The regiment had a normal three-battery organisation and was equipped with the 35mm Oerlikon AA gun, including the Fledermaus Radar system.

During 1976 two batteries were mobilised for duty on the SWA/Namibian border with 61 Battery deployed to protect Grootfontein Military Base and 62 Battery at Rundu. After six weeks their locations were switched but 62 Battery was later moved to Ondangwa where its task was to protect the airfield.

Originally under the administrative command of Witwatersrand Command, it was transferred to 1 SA Corps but in February 1979 placed under command of Northern Transvaal Command

and later, under Eastern Transvaal Command. During the intervening years it had operated on a couple of border tours as an infantry unit.

In 1986, 6 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment was transferred to under command 8 Armoured Division and five years later to 7 SA Division. From the latter formation it was placed under command of 73 Brigade.

It was awarded the Freedom of the City of Johannesburg on 9 November 2002, presented with a National Colour in August 1992 and on 12 January 2000 was affiliated with 14 (Coles Kop) Battery, RA.

In 2008 the HQ was moved to Apex Military Base, Brakpan.

6 LAA is currently equipped with the OQF 35mm MKV gun.



# 44 ANTI-AIRCRAFT REGIMENT



**44** Anti-Aircraft Regiment was appointed and designated as a unit of the Citizen Force w.e.f. January 1985 with headquarters at Murrayhill (Hammanskraal).

The unit struggled to obtain any National Service intake as Gunners posted to the Parachute Brigade were being passed to the battalions and were not being released for the AA unit.

When the first exercise was held, only 18 parachute trained gunners were available. They were dropped over the exercise area from C130s by what the commanding officer at the time, Maj "Paddy" Case, referred to as "the nerve wracking tailgating method". Their armament and equipment, dropped before them, consisted of SAM 7 missiles and Russian 14.5mm AA guns and they also had .50 Brownings mounted on Jakkals airborne "mini-jeeps". The men felt they were the finest AA Gunners in the world.

In 1988 a huge airborne operation was planned. The Gunners were to be dropped with the pathfinders on Mocamedes. They were to receive and undergo training from Unita on Stinger missiles before the main force dropped. The operation never took place.

It was not until *Exercise Vlakwater* in September 1989 that a full troop with two gun sections of 14.5mm AA guns and one Jakkals vehicle with a Mamba double barrelled 12.7mm AA gun, was deployed in an air drop.

On 14 July 1992 at approximately 23h30 during *Exercise Pegasus* at the then Army Battle School parachute-qualified air defence Gunners were dropped over the General De Wet Training Area. Two 24ft pallets were dropped from a C-130 transport aircraft. At 07h00 on 16 July the ground forces were attacked by air (in the form of Skylift radio-controlled aircraft) which were repelled by eight 14.5mm double-barrelled AA guns and two shoulder-launched missiles.

The regiment, a Reserve unit of 44 Parachute Brigade, has taken part in brigade "water jumps" over the Roodepoort Dam each year since 1990 with the last recorded jump by volunteers in 1997.

A unit flag was approved by Chief of the then SADF on 15 July 1986.





# THE PROPERTIES, OFFICE AND DUTIES OF A GUNNER

As written in old english

Symbolising many Gunner traditions are these words written by Cyprian Lucar who was born in 1544:

“A Gunner ought to be sober, wakeful, lustie, hardie, patient, prudent and a quick spirited man, he also to have a good eyesight, a good judgement and perfect knowledge to select a convenient place in the day of service, to plant his Ordinance where it may do most hurte unto the enemies, and be least annoyed by them, and where his Ordinance may not be surprised by the enemye.

A Gunner ought to be skilful in Arithmeticke, and Geometrie, to the end he may be able by his knowledge in those artes, to measure heights, depthes, breadthes, and lengthes, and to drawe the plat of any peece of ground, and to make mines and countermines, artificial fireworkes, rampiars, gabbions or baskets of earth, and such like things which are used in times of warre to be made for offensive and defensive service.

A Gunner ought also to procure with all his power the friendship and love of every person, and to be careful for his own safetie, and for the preservation of all those that shall be about him.

Also he ought to be NO surfeter, not a great or sluggish sleeper, but he must governe him selfe in all times as a wise, modest, sober, honest, and skilful man ought to doe, that through want of understanding he may never loose his credit, not an universal victorie which oftentimes by means of good Gunners well managing their peeces is gotten.

Also a Gunner ought at the receipt of his charge to make an Invitorie of all such things as shall be committed to his charge

as well as to render an account, as to consider the want of such necessaries as to the Artillerie apperteineth.

Also when a Gunner shall be appointed to an exployte, he must lay his powder twenty paces from his peeces in such a place where no fire, water or hurt may come unto it through any person, or by reason of any winde, weather or otherwise, and keeping his powder always covered, he must not be unmindful of this, that it is a very dangerous thing for a Gunner to trust many, because a general hurt and death may thereupon followe.

Also a Gunner ought not to sleepe much at time of the day, or night when he is appoynted to serve in the fielde, or in any other place, nor to eate or drinke in any other roome than where his Peeces of Artillierie are planted, because in his absence the same Peeces may be choked, poysoned, and harmed by divers wayes that he may many times upon a sudden have good occasion to discharge all his Peeces.

And it is requisite for a Gunner to fixe upon the tayle of the carriage of his Peece a cheft to holde his necessary things, and to defende him from small shot when he shall serve in a place where no baskets of earth are set to defend him.

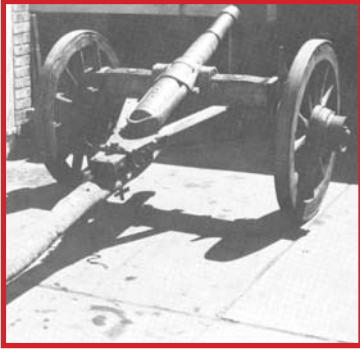
Also a Gunner in time of service ought to forbyd with meake and courteous speeches all manner of persons other than his appoynted assistants, to come neere his Peeces, to the end that none of his Peeces may be choked, poysoned or hurt and he ought not for any prayers or regards to lende any peece of

his gunmatch to another person, because it may be very hurtful to him in time of service to lacke the same.

Also a Gunner which shall serve upon the sea in any Galleon or other ship, or in any great or small Galley, ought before he is going to sea to consider well the number of trunkes, pykes,

dartes, earthen pottes halfe baked, copper cauldrons, mortars, pestels, and scarces that will be needeful for him in his sea service, and also of the measure of severall oyles, and quantity of gummes, camphire, and all other materials and needeful things for firewoorkes, of these things shall he consider is much needeful”.





# ARTILLERY TRADITIONS

**T**radition cannot be created. It is born of many things and is generally a tale, belief or practice, more often the latter in the military context, which has been handed down and kept alive in a regiment through many years as a symbol of individuality as a unit, or as a reminder of valour, endeavour or of some other incident which set that unit apart from all others.

Such traditions might appear to be almost meaningless to others, but will be guarded jealously and can hold a unit together and bond into it a fierce pride and *esprit de corps* that no other could have.

Gunners are particularly fortunate in enjoying an almost world-wide tradition of service to the Gun that welds them into a unique body of men and women –proud to be GUNNERS, and part of the Gunner Fraternity. In the accepted sense, the forerunners of the gunners today were not soldiers at all. For well over a century, by reason of origin and characteristics, the artillery developed as something of a distinct entity, almost a separate force, and hence Gunners have been regarded, even in this day and age, as somewhat different from the ordinary soldier. Rightly so, for they serve the GUN, an equipment that provides firepower above and beyond the capacity of all other weapons, in all weathers, twenty four hours per day if necessary, to dominate a battlefield such as no other weapon can do.

The gunners who fought at Crecy on 26 August 1346 (the first fully recorded use of guns – then called Bombards) are the

same stamp of men as those South African gunners who fought and died in Flanders in 1916-18, in East Africa and Palestine in 1915-18, in East Africa, North Africa and Italy during 1940-45 and in Angola in the late 1970s and 1980s.

As a result of their traditions gunners have over the ages developed a feeling of superiority, and correctly so, for they serve the Gun to which Louis XV gave the proud title of “*Ultima Ratio Regis*” (the Last Argument of a King), an inscription borne on his orders on all French guns. And Joseph Stalin of the USSR referred to his guns as *The Gods of War*.

## **The first permanent force of artillery**

The first permanent force of gunners, a master gunner and 12 paid gunners was appointed at the Tower of London in the 1400s. It was their duty to look after the equipment and to train certain partly paid civilians in the art of gunnery.

The traditions that Gunners hold dear began to form from this early date and have spread to many countries throughout the world.

## **Right of the line**

The excellent work achieved by the gunner in the war between the French and the English in 1742 – 1748 led to his acceptance as part of the large brotherhood of the army; a more material gesture being the granting of the privilege in 1756 of taking that ancient post of honour – the right of the line on all parades. This tradition has survived to the present day in most armies of the British Commonwealth.



## The South African Artillery

While many artillery traditions are followed world-wide, South Africa has developed its own unique traditions. Only individual batteries existed prior to 1913 and from the time that artillery was first placed on an organized footing in South Africa.

In 1934 the two original corps, the SA Field Artillery and SA Permanent Garrison Artillery, created in February 1923, were re-designated to form the South African Artillery Corps. It was “to consist of all units whether they be SAPF or ACF” and it signalled the beginning of the unique family spirit that South African Gunners have always enjoyed. It is the regiments of the SA Artillery that to-day hold the traditions of the Corps and *its esprit de corps* and the regiments that carry their own traditions that inspire pride, courage, discipline, comradeship and loyalty to the regiment.

## Artillery motto

By 1882, and in spite of occasional periods of unpopularity, the artillery could claim a glorious and long record of battle honours. Each unit wore its own individual battle honours, but these had become so numerous that in 1883 the word “UBIQUE” (Everywhere) was granted to replace them. At the same time the privilege of bearing the motto “QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT” (Whither Right and Glory lead) was granted. The gun, probably a 9-pdr, was a design of one used at Waterloo and has remained the gunner symbol and cap badge all over the world in countries of many different nationalities.

The motto of the South African Artillery is PRIMUS INCEDERE EXIRE ULTIMUS, meaning ‘First In and Last Out’, an inspired motto produced in 1976, but the cap badge (approved but

never manufactured) also bears the battle honour, UBIQUE. Resulting from the unique South African regimental tradition, a number of artillery units have their own cap badges and mottos,

## Gunpowder

Gunpowder or Black Powder, as it was also known altered forever the centuries old art and warfare. Claims for its invention have come from all over the world and although a Franciscan monk, Michael Schwartz of Goslar, Brunswick, is generally credited with the discovery, the honour seems to go to the English friar and philosopher, Roger Bacon (1214 – 1294) whose recipe is the earliest known to us.

The date is somewhat obscure, since Bacon did not make his discovery public, instead concealing it in cryptic writings was only solved many years later. One work, however, suggests that an explosive powder was used in the war between the Chinese and the Tartars in 1232. Bacon apparently used his gunpowder to make crackers for children and though he may have envisaged its use in guns, did not live to see it put into practice.

## Birth of the gun

Within 20 years, Roger Bacon’s secret was out, but it was not until 1313 that a German monk, Berthold Schwartz, who lived in Flanders, made the first gun with gunpowder as a propellant. They were called Vasi or Pot de Fer, a vase-shaped receptacle into which powder was placed. An arrow was shot out of the Pot de Fer and it was fired by means of a hot iron applied to a

touch-hole, a method to be used with minor improvements for the next 500 years or more.

### Early guns

The new weapon could not throw the same weight of projectile as a catapult, trebuchet or other similar machines and the gun did not replace these for 100 years or more.

A report of the battle of Crecy in 1346 speaks of the English using bombardars “which with fire throw little balls to frighten and destroy horses”.

### The barrel of a gun

Desire for bigger guns eventually lead to cannon being made of wrought iron. Typical of the method of manufacture was that used for a gun made for Henry VI in 1440: 14 long bars in a circle like staves in a barrel (hence the word “Barrel” applied to the piece) imperfectly welded together and strengthened by hoops of iron shrunk onto the staves.

### The bore

In 1739 an invention made it possible to cast a gun in one solid mass and then to bore the chamber afterwards (hence the word “bore”).

### The piece

Guns were collectively known as Ordnance, and cannon individually were thus called “Pieces of Ordnance” – hence the word “piece” as applied to the gun today.

### Spiking the guns

This is a Gunner term for rendering guns useless to an enemy when it has proved utterly impossible to save them. It refers to the old method of driving a spike or wedge into the touch-hole or vent so that the gun could not be fired and was thus completely neutralised. Today it implies destroying a gun by other means.

### Naming of guns

Guns were originally named individually and according to size after all kinds of monsters. Mortars, first recorded in 1495, were used extensively by the artillery; the word “mortar” being derived from the German “meerthier”, meaning seabeast.

Heavy guns (bombards) in Germany gave way as early as 1385 to lighter ones mounted on wood and supported on a fork or hood, hence the word Hakenbüsche (corrupted by the English to Hackbutt, Hagbush and finally to Harquebus). A later improvement was the fitting of a stock to the piece, the whole small enough to be carried by hand. Thus the rifle was a development of the gun and not *vice versa*, as might be supposed.

Another example is the word “Howitzer” from the German Haubitze, which came into use about 1750.

### Pride in the gun

Gunners take great pride in themselves, their drill and their guns and this was so even in the 1500's when the popularity of the artilleryman with members of the other arms was small

indeed. The infantrymen was of the opinion that the gunner was conceited and gave himself airs, those of a superior person moving in higher spheres. At the time gunners had an evil reputation all over Europe for profane swearing, a failing attributed to his commerce with “infernal substances”, but the real reason was probably due to the fact that being less perfectly organised he was less amenable to discipline. Nevertheless, gunners took great pride in themselves and their guns. There was, for instance (as there is today) a definite drill laid down for working the guns in action, with thirteen words of command for the wielding of ladle and sponge. A gun detachment consisted of three men – the gunner, his mate (mattross) and an odd-job man who gave general assistance; and the number of little refinements in their drill showed that artillerymen took great pride in themselves. Thus withdrawal of the least quantity of powder with the ladle after loading was esteemed a “foul fault for a gunner to commit” while the spilling of even a few grains on the ground was severely reprobated “it being a thing uncomely for a gunnery to trample powder under his feet”. Lastly, every gunner was exhorted to “set forth himself with as comely a posture and grace as he can; for agility and comely carriage in handling the ladle and sponge doth give great content to standers by”.

The last and greatest honour that could be accorded an artilleryman was to be buried ‘over the metal’, on a gun carriage.

### **The Gun Park**

Ownership of such a powerful weapon as a Gun was the

prerogative of the King and from the late 1300s the practice grew of storing the Royal guns in some secure and guarded park when they were not in use. Hence the term *Gun Park*. Because of the veneration with which the guns are treated, the gun park is always regarded by gunners as the “holy of holies”, to be kept as clean and tidy as the guns themselves, as befitting the resting place of the Colours.

It is much the same as a parade ground, which is considered to be a sacred place. In days of old when a unit re-assembled after a battle to call the roll and count the dead a hollow square was formed. The dead were placed within the square and it was therefore not used as a thoroughfare. Today the parade ground represents the square and is treated as Hallowed Ground.

In one South African Unit (CFA), the Gun Park is used for the unit’s annual Birthday Church Service.

### **The Colours**

Traditionally the Colours of the artillery have been its guns. This is now interpreted as including any piece of artillery or guided weapon launcher. When on ceremonial parades, the guns or launchers are accorded the same compliments as the Standards, Guidons or Colours of the cavalry and infantry.

It is impractical to accord the guns as Colours on non-ceremonial occasions but they are nevertheless treated with reverence, dignity and respect. Sitting or standing on the trail, decorating them for social occasions or leaving them unguarded in public are practices not tolerated by Gunners.

When Gunners had ordnance such as 13-pdrs, 18-pdrs, and the ubiquitous 25-pdr, or more fully “Ordnance QF 88-mm gun/howitzer”, it was a simple matter to dress it for ceremonial occasions, with snow-white drag ropes, picks and shovels scraped and varnished, aiming posts painted and brass work gleaming.

Its replacement, the old 5.5-inch medium gun or 140-mm as it later became known, did not lend itself to these refinements. So when they received the Freedom of Benoni in August, 1981, 7 Medium Regiment (since disestablished) draped an artillery flag over the breech of each gun. This was immediately acceptable and became standard practice when their guns were on a ceremonial parade.

## **Trooping the Colour**

Trooping the Colour, in this case a beautifully restored 13-pdr and limber, was actually performed with full Ceremonial on the Grand Parade, Cape Town, by the Cape Field Artillery, the infantry drill having been amended to allow for a larger Colour party and for the fact that the gun could not be trooped “through” the ranks. This received full approval of Army Headquarters and was accepted as standard drill.

## **Corps Colours**

The traditional colours of the artillery are red and blue. The significance of this choice is not known but the earliest record of their use in gunner dress is in the inventory for the clothing of a “trayne” dated 1662. In Flanders in 1699 gunners were dressed in crimson coats faced with blue, wearing (in reverse order of prominence) the colours that have been retained until today.

## **Regimental Colours**

At some time before the 1930s provincial helmet flashes in distinctive colours were allocated to Active Citizen Force units. Cape Field Artillery’s colours were gold and orange and Natal Field Artillery colours were green and blue while those of Transvaal Horse Artillery were silver and red. To-day CFA wear a lanyard of scarlet and blue, the traditional colour of their mess kit, whilst NFA wear a red and blue lanyard and THA wear a white plaited lanyard. One or two other units wore blue and yellow, colours that were introduced into the Corps in the 1960’s and have since, generally, disappeared. The Corps lanyard of today is red and blue with a much smaller yellow stripe between the two major colours.

## **Detachment**

The men who man a gun are often called a ‘gun crew’ or even ‘team’. A crew is a ship’s company and a team is a set of animals harnessed together. The original company of artillery was not a company at all but a pool of trained ‘gunners’. When required for any service be it in a fortress, field army or fixed coast battery NCOs and men were detached from the company, hence the correct artillery term ‘detachment’.

## **Bombardier**

The rank bombardier is purely a gunner rank and was created in 1686. Holders of this rank worked directly under the fire-workers (firemasters assistants) in specialised duty with mortars. The word corporal was an artillery rank until 1920, coming below sergeant and above bombardier (the rank of mattrass was abolished in 1783). The rank of Lance Bombardier

came into use with the disappearance of the Corporal as an artillery rank.

### **Limber Gunners**

The Limber Gunner was a member of a gun detachment whose special duty was the care and cleanliness of the gun. Such men took an almost holy pride in their work and the competition in a battery for the cleanest gun was intense. They were almost specialists at cleaning guns. The limber gunner disappeared from the SA Artillery in 1939.

### **The Number One and his rammer**

Warrant officers of Cape Field Artillery each carry a ceremonial 25-pdr (88 mm) rammer as instead of the usual pace stick as a reminder of this practice of chiding a member of a gun detachment who failed to perform a duty satisfactorily. It stems from the days when the unit operated with smooth bore field and coast guns. They were swabbed out with a wet sponge after each round fired in order to extinguish any smouldering powder remaining in the bore. As an additional precaution one man placed his thumb over the vent when the gun was rammed to prevent the rush of air causing any remaining small spark to flare up and ignite the new powder charge. This action was known as "serving the vent". If the gunner failed to perform this duty he received the attention of the rammer. The practice of carrying a rammer has been adopted by appointed Regular Force warrant officers. THA Warrant Officers carry a riding crop.

### **Pace Stick**

Much as the rifle evolved from early guns so did the pace stick

(so loved by the infantry) evolve from an instrument used by the artillery to measure the correct spacing between guns in the strict line of deployment of guns for battle. It was possibly in use up the days of the Boer War.

### **The Gunner Officer**

From the start it was the practice to promote artillery officers from the ranks because of the specialised knowledge required of them. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century gunnery was considered a science and gunner officers had to be prepared for really hard study to acquire a grounding in many subjects: mathematics, ballistics, chemistry as well as man-management and horse-management. As a result the artillery tended to attract men of a different stamp from the dashing and socially conscious regiments of cavalry and infantry.

In the social climate of those days artillery officers and gunners in general were cold-shouldered and for very many years, even into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, there existed a rather broad prejudice or distrust against the artillery as a body of pampered specialists, perhaps one of the reasons for the gunner's feelings of himself as a superior.

### **Lanyards on the right shoulder**

"Why do Gunners wear lanyards on the right shoulder and not on the left?"

The Gunners and the cavalry were the first to wear lanyards on the left shoulder, with jack-knife on the end and housed in the top shoulder pocket. The blade was used to cut horses loose and a spike on the knife was for removing stones from horses



hooves. Recruits unskilled in rifle drill were apt, when ordering arms from slope, to disarrange the lanyard as the rifle passed down the left shoulder. It also shifted the bandolier.

In 1924 the lanyard and bandolier were transferred to the right shoulder, and on the right it has since remained; but bandoliers had to be altered by the saddler if so to be worn. This change was not adopted.

## **Swords**

Swords appear to have been developed from the knife between 1500 and 1100 BC. It was originally regarded as a sacred object hence the drill of bringing the hilt to the face, to symbolically kiss it, after drawing or before sheathing it. The sword has always been carried by officers but in 1974 in South Africa both the Sam Browne belt and sword disappeared when the new loosely cut uniform jacket was introduced into the SADF. Some Reserve regiments have retained the belt and the sword as part of their dress code.

## **Black Badges**

All over the world it will generally be found that gunner officers and warrant-officers wear black cap and collar badges. This is a symbol of the days when gunners were allowed to wear wooden or leather buttons because the gun powder continually blackened their brass buttons and badges. The grenade collar badge is also international and is worn by most artillery forces throughout the world. The detail varies from country to country but the basic design is still the grenade.

South African gunners wear silver in common with the rest of the SANDF but some units, CFA and CGA as example continue to wear brass buttons while Regiment Vaalrivier wear black grenades.

In the volunteer units that existed prior to Union in 1910, it was a general principle that officers wore gilt badges and accoutrements and other ranks wore silver. This arrangement is retained to a degree in THA where officers wear a black badge, NCOs wear silver and gunners wear a bronze beret badge. All ranks of CFA wear bronze beret badges. This caused much annoyance in the 1960s to a former Commandant General who insisted that it should be brass, but who admitted defeat after two almost disastrous confrontations with the regimental commander.

The cap badges had erroneously been issued by QMG in bronze and the unit decided they should remain.

## **Battery Honour Titles**

Until February, 1940 batteries were lettered A, B and C and thereafter 1, 2, 3, etc. in accordance with the numerical designation of the regiment. For instance, batteries of 1 Field Regiment (PAOCFA) were 1, 2 and 3 whilst the batteries of 4 Field Regiment were numbered 10, 11 and 12, and in 23 Field Regiment they were 67, 68 and 69.

In 1959 Cape Field Artillery gave their batteries honour titles in remembrance of the days when the unit was engaged in coast defence as well as acting as horse and field artillery, ie P

(Amsterdam) Battery, Q (Imhoff) Battery, R (Wynyard) Battery and, for a short time before the establishment again changed, S (Craig's) Battery. All the names are those of actual batteries, part of the Table Bay defences on which the unit manned the old coastal guns, until the newly formed Cape Garrison Artillery took over in 1897.

Transvaal Horse Artillery have retained the titles of 7, 8 and 9 Batteries of Second World War vintage.

Natal Field Artillery have awarded honour titles to their batteries based on notable engagements in North Africa during the Second World War and have retained their numerical designations as well, ie.

4 ("E" Force) Battery

5 (King's Cross) Battery

6 (Rigel Ridge) Battery

In line with the practice that follows the unit number, the batteries of 4 Artillery Regiment are numbered 41, 42, 43, 44 and 45.

## The Gunner and the Horse

Since the early days of artillery, gunners relied on horses and the units of the SA Artillery were mounted until 1936. Because the artillery stayed a mounted corps almost to the last, many South African traditions are attributed to this fact, such as use of the phrase "Wagon Lines" instead of a more modern term. In addition undress blues are worn by some units where the jacket is cut in cavalry style while the dress regulations of one unit includes wearing overalls instead of trousers (overalls are

narrow trousers, not quite skin tight, such as horsemen used to wear). They and the THA also order "mount" and "dismount" instead of "embus and debus" for the same reason. Similarly the Transvaal Horse Artillery and the NFA continue even today to wear Box spurs with their undress blues and mess kit, a tradition that seems to have been dropped by CFA (apart from being Coast and Field gunners, they were also for a number of years trained as horse artillery).

## Social

South African gunner officers began the practice in 1972 of gathering socially once a month and this soon became referred to as a *Tiddler*, the code name for a Quick Fire Plan.

This is now accepted as part of South African Gunner tradition.

## Honorary Appointments

From about the same date members of the SADF, Armscor and other companies that rendered significant service to the South African Artillery were at various times honoured by their appointment as Limber Gunners, entitled as all Gunners do, to wear an Artillery tie on Fridays.

## Mess Traditions

It is in Gunner Messes (some regiments use the American term 'Club') that a number of traditions and quiffs are to be seen, such as that of 4 Artillery Regiment who display their Regimental Colour during formal dinners. On these occasions they also place on the table before the most senior and junior Regular Force Officer respectively, a model 13-pdr and a model

18-pdr gun, (presented by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Long Gunnery Course and Brig H (Paul) Roos, respectively).

THA hammer the table by hand instead of indicating applause by clapping. Jugs of beer are also passed around the table after dinner and they also serve beer at breakfast the morning after a Mess evening.

In both CFA and THA, newly joined or commissioned officers must purchase a beer mug on which is inscribed their name and date of commission or joining. These always remain in the Mess. In THA, however, the mug must be pewter and must have a glass bottom. On the decease of an officer the bottom is broken with a special boot.

THA light an “eternal flame” before diners at formal Mess dinners may sit. CFA always toast the unit by name, a practice they started in 1960, a few days after the unit was renamed ‘Regiment Tygerberg’, in order that their true name should not be forgotten. Four years later they were re-named Cape Field Artillery but the toast continues to this day. In 4 Artillery Regiment a practice, which has spread to other units, was commenced some few years ago of toasting “THE GUNS”.

On their formal Mess nights Regular Force warrant officers and NCOs provide a detachment to bring a gun into action before the dinner. The gun remains at the entrance to the Mess until the end of the evening.

## ARTILLERY FLASH

The well known zig-zag of the gunner symbolises thunder and lightning, perhaps emanating as a result of the noise and flash of a gun, but also having a bearing on the story of St Barbara, the patron saint of all artillerymen.

Although apparently removed from the Church Calendar in 1969 for lack of proper evidence of sainthood, she nevertheless remains the patron Saint of artillerymen and feast day occurs annually on 4 December.

Her saint day is celebrated with much ceremony in Germany, France and Switzerland, in the Ukraine and Palestine and possibly many other countries. The French set aside a whole week for festivities and at Basel in Switzerland after a day of celebration and gun drill by the National Artillery Association of Basel City, founded in 1834, members fire 23 rounds from a 75 mm field gun of 1905 vintage at 18h15, where-after they drink to the health of Saint Barbara. In the Ukraine potato dumplings are boiled in oil on her feast day and the Palestinian Christians go further and prepare a sticky pudding called Burbara.

South African Gunners have no tradition of celebrating Saint Barbara’s feast day but about 1982 Col Lionel Crook, then chairman of the Gunners’ Association, Western Province Branch, felt that the Saint Day was rather a good reason to have a party. And so the Branch has held a function on the Friday nearest to 4 December every year since then. It is now held in alternative years in the NCOs Mess of CFA and CGA.

Air Defence Artillery hold rather a curious parade each year on the first Monday after 4 December to commemorate Saint Barbara and, it is suspected, to pay homage to Skinny 'Liz, a 15-pdr field gun that was converted and saw action in German South West Africa as the South Africa's first anti-aircraft gun.

It is a ceremony attended by warrant officers. Seven are seated in front of Skinny 'Liz in order of seniority of those having attended previous ceremonies from the right, with eight 'jugs' made from Bofors cartridge cases in a semi-circle immediately in front of the gun. At 18h30 with everyone in position the senior RSM fills the 'jugs' with a 'Harry', a mixture of Red Hart rum and Sparberry. The eighth jug is poured down the barrel of Skinny 'Liz, members seated pick up their jugs (again in seniority) and down the contents. They then return to their Mess.



## SAINT BARBARA

**B**arbara was the daughter of Dioscuros, a very wealthy heathen of Nicomedia. He built a tower in which he kept the young and beautiful Barbara jealously secluded so that no man should behold her beauty. In her enforced solitude she gave herself to prayer and study. Many princes asked for her hand in marriage but she refused them all. After refusing her father's choice he went down into the town to see the work on which his men were busy, and he thereafter left for a lengthy visit to another country.

Barbara descended from the tower to see the bath-house he was constructing. She noted that it had only two windows. So she commanded the workmen to make a third window and she defaced the idols her father worshipped, placing the sign of the cross on them.

When her father at last returned he was enraged to find the three windows, which Barbara informed him represented the Holy Trinity. He dragged her before the Prefect of the Province and denounced her. She was beaten until her body was all bloody and was then thrown into prison. Led later through the streets she was again beaten and brought before a judge who ordered her to be beheaded. Her enraged father, merciless to the last, took her up a mountain and slew with his sword.

As Dioscuros descended a fearful tempest arose with thunder and lightning, and fire fell upon the cruel man and consumed him utterly ...so that nothing of his body but only ashes remained.



**S**aint Barbara is invoked against fire, thunder and lightning, accidents arising from explosion by gunpowder and against death by artillery. Whatever you do, avoid expressing any opinion of Saint Barbara during a thunderstorm!





# CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ARTILLERY SOLDIERS

**“The status now conferred on me, as an Artillery Soldier, carries a special responsibility and demands of me a special sense of duty. I will, therefore, also be held accountable by law and code, for the manner in which I carry out my duty.**

**I, as an Artillery Soldier, solemnly take the following pledge:**

a. I will, at all times:

i. apply the three golden rules of the Artillery:

- (1) Do an independent check on all technical work.
- (2) Think and plan in advance.
- (3) Ensure that simultaneous actions take place.

ii. have a sense for urgency.

iii. protect my launcher at the risk of my own life.

iv. ensure that all Artillery equipment remains serviceable and maintained according to doctrine.

v. ensure that Artillery teamwork is done professionally to enhance comradeship and the sharing of Artillery common goals and values.

vi. ensure that my physical fitness is up to standard as required for an Artillery Soldier.

vii. Obey and apply the SANDF Code of Conduct”

**“THIS IS MY SOLEMN  
PLEDGE, SO BE IT”**



# CODE OF CONDUCT FOR AIR DEFENCE ARTILLERY SOLDIERS



**I, as an air defence artillery gunner, take the following pledge to apply the rules associated to our motto “alta pete”....**

ALWAYS NEAT

LOYAL AND NEVER COMPLAIN

TAKE SECURITY AND LOOSE TALK SERIOUSLY

AN ASSET TO THE CORPS

PROUD OF MY EQUIPMENT

ENERGETIC

TOUGH AND FIT

ENTHUSIASTIC IN EXECUTING COMMANDS

**... And to obey and apply the south african national defence force code of conduct and to uphold the customs and traditions of the air defence gunner.**

# THE GUNNERS' NATIONAL MEMORIAL



The Gunners National Memorial is situated in Potchefstroom on a site originally owned by the government but transferred to the Town Council of Potchefstroom in 1972. The location of the Memorial was selected adjacent to the now closed No:3 Gate of the Military Base through which, over a period of time, all gunners passed on entering or leaving the camp.

The design of the memorial was conceived by the eminent architect, Dr Gordon Leith, himself a gunner, who had served overseas with the SA Artillery during World War I.

The Memorial was unveiled on 10 May 1952 by the Chief of Staff, SA Army, Lt Gen "Matie" CL De Wet du Toit and entrusted for safekeeping by the Gunners' Association to the then Officer Commanding Western Transvaal Command. It was consecrated by Chaplain Tom Harvey, war time chaplain of the Transvaal Horse Artillery.

The original plaque on the Memorial reads *"To the glory of God and the memory of all Gunners who lost their lives in two World Wars, 1914-1918; 1939-1945."*

At the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Gunners' Memorial Service held on 19 April 1998 the Memorial was rededicated with the unveiling of an additional plaque reading *"To the glory of God and the memory*

*of all Gunners who laid down their lives for South Africa."*

Refurbishing of the Memorial took place in the year 2000 which included the construction of two dwarf brick memorial walls to accommodate extra plaques. Further refurbishment occurred in 2007/8 following two acts of vandalism. This included the building of a podium and a wall on which to hold wreaths before being layed.

Three quick firing guns, which were deployed by the SA field gunners in German East Africa during World War I, flank and embellish the Memorial. The fourth gun is a World War II 3.7 inch Anti-Aircraft gun.

A focal scenic panorama is formed by the mature poplar trees growing in a semi-circle on the periphery of the site. The ashes of deceased Gunners are from time to time scattered in the gardens. The garden surrounds are maintained by the Town Council of Potchefstroom and the ancillary equipment by 4 Artillery Regiment and the Artillery Mobilisation Regiment.

The Memorial is administered by the "Gunners Memorial Trust" in collaboration with the Gunners' Association in terms of a National Deed of Trust dated 25 July 1955.

# THE GUNNERS' ASSOCIATION



When the Great War of 1914/18 (now known as World War I) ended, men who had served in the two Imperial Service Gunner units – the SA Field Artillery and the SA Heavy Artillery, formed Associations to retain the camaraderie of the war years. Both had branches throughout the country.

The SAFA Association appears to have lasted until 1939 but the SAHA gunners soldiered on until 1970.

The 1920s and early 1930s were the early days of broadcasting and of crystal radio sets and Gunner Kahn always sent messages to branches of the SAHA by “..... air from the Wireless Station....” Johannesburg. He warned branches in advance and asked them to report if reception was good. There was always a good response to dinners, smoking concerts and the like. The Service of Remembrance in Johannesburg in 1929 for instance, drew 3000 people.

They were an active group of men and two of these, heavy gunners, Basil Scholefield (a musician, company secretary and member of the SA Rugby Board) and JC Kemsley, were the prime movers in forming the SA Referees Society.

By 1969 the Cape Town Branch was the only one still active and the last three or four members voted to hand their memorial, a 6 inch howitzer known as THE GUN, to the Gunners' Association. A suitable plaque was affixed to the plinth and unveiled by the National President, Colonel Ian Whyte, on Sunday, 26 April 1970. The last two surviving members of the SAHA, Mr Harry Clain and Mr Guy Tarleton, laid their last wreaths at THE GUN in April 1971.



Improbable as it may seem, The Gunners' Association of today does not owe its origins to either of these organisations, but rather to the Gunners and Signal Corps personnel in Camp at Potchefstroom in 1940/41.

There were no sports facilities or entertainment and men in camp were initially left to their own devices. In November, 1939, the Transvaal Horse Artillery, one of the first units to report for full-time war service, started a series of open-air concerts on Saturday evenings and when the YMCA opened a branch in the camp in December, open-air cinema shows were organised. Two concerts were given in early 1940 by visiting artistes, also in the open.

The YMCA began construction of a permanent hall in February 1940 and a camp concert party was formed in September 1940. A group of men drawn mostly from 5<sup>th</sup> Field Brigade, the Port Elizabeth Gunners, and the SA Corps of Signals, staged a variety show called “Finding our Feet”. It was a huge success. A revue was next with Bdr. Frank Rogaly as producer. “Full Speed Ahead” although scheduled for two nights, ran for five. Due to demand it was staged at the Town Hall, Potchefstroom before an enthusiastic audience. Again the run had to be extended.

“Full Speed Ahead” was followed by the hugely successful “Springbok Frolics”. The versatile soldiers excelled themselves and by arrangement with African Consolidated Theatres Ltd, it was staged before crowded houses at the Standard Theatre, Johannesburg during the Christmas and New Year holidays, 1940.

A follow-up of the first Springbok Frolics was approved on 7 January 1941 and a second series of the show, composed entirely of SA Artillery personnel gave performances at the larger Empire Theatre during January and February. Audiences were wildly enthusiastic. Major contributors to the success of the shows was the producer Bdr. Frank Rogaly of 5<sup>th</sup> Field Brigade and his Stage Manager, Sgt. Lionel Roche. It was a major effort from everyone. The “Corps de Ballet”, for instance, included a Lieutenant, a bombardier, two lance bombardiers and four gunners. Music was provided by the “Potchefstroom Military Concert Party Theatre Band”.

The authorities were obviously concerned at the training time that was being lost by the Gunners’ “Frolics” and no more shows were produced. The Gunners went back to the more serious business of preparing for war.

The funds they had generated were distributed, £1000 going to the SA Troops Gifts and Comforts Fund, and £250 to the National War Fund. £100 was given to the regimental fund for 5<sup>th</sup> Field Brigade and the balance was given in trust to Col F.B. Adler, then Director, Field Army Artillery Training.

In an article written by the then Lt-Col Fritz Adler in April 1937 he had called for a South African Artillery “regimental esprit de corps”. Now was the time to weld Gunners into one family and the first step was to form a Trust Fund.

With the balance of £458,63 handed to him after distribution of the Springbok Frolics revenue, Colonel Senator the Hon FB Adler, MC, VD, established the South African Artillery Trust Fund by Notarial Deed of Trust. This document was signed on 9 October 1941.

Most units had left for East Africa and others were preparing to leave for North Africa and this is possibly why the Trust Deed was only, much later, followed by a Constitution giving life to the Gunners’ Association. It was signed on 2 July 1943.

Signatories were Col Adler, the SSO Artillery, Capt ESK Ostler, Maj Guy Featherstone of the Artillery Depot and Maj G.P. Jacobs who commanded the Artillery School.

The Gunners’ Association grew, once the war was over in 1945, into an organisation of 14 or more branches. The raising of funds to operate the Association took months of efforts and organisation but by October 1947 the Association’s financial position was reasonably healthy.

One of the earliest projects was the erection of a memorial to those Gunners who gave their lives for the country. First discussed on 3 October 1947, the memorial at Potchefstroom was opened by Gen “Matie” C.L. de Wet du Toit, himself a Gunner, on 10 May 1952. It was consecrated by Canon Tom Harvey, war-time Chaplain to Transvaal Horse Artillery.

To ensure the maintenance of the memorial, which became the rallying point for the annual national memorial service, a Notarial Deed of Trust dated 25 July 1955 established “The Gunners Memorial Trust”.

The memorial was fully refurbished in 2007/8, following two acts of vandalism. Similarly the Gunners’ Memorials in Durban and Cape Town were refurbished in 2007 and 2008 respectively.

In September 1964 a film premiere on the same day on no fewer than eight major centres, accompanied by pomp and ceremony netted a considerable sum which was wisely invested to provide today's financial base.

The Gunners' Association was the prime mover in establishing a complex for senior citizens in Johannesburg. GEM Homes, Roosevelt Park, a venture with the Sappers Association and the MOTH organisation, was completed in 1973. A second such project, GEM Village, first discussed in 1977 was later completed in the 1980s, at Irene.

Messing facilities for National Service Gunners at Potchefstroom had been vastly improved with funds supplied by the Association, in co-operation with the Commanding officer of 4 Field Regiment. A recreation hall was built in 10 Battery lines. And, from an idea first discussed in 1979 by Cmdt Feliz Hurter with the commanding officer of Cape Field Artillery, a committee of serving Gunners and members and lead by OC Transvaal Horse Artillery (Cmdt Roy Andersen) with the support of the chairman of the Gunners' Association (Col Butch Mathias) was established, resulting in the construction of an "Artillery Club House" at the Army Battle School (now Combat Training Centre). The architect was Sgt MacPhearson of the Transvaal Horse Artillery and the construction was executed mainly by members of Transvaal Horse Artillery and 7 Medium Regiment under the supervision of Lt Rodney Ward. It was opened by a former Chief of the SADF, Gen Constand Viljoen (himself a gunner), on 11 September 1984.

In June 2008 the Johannesburg Branch completed the full restoration of the "Zoo Gun", a memorial to the members of the SA Heavy Artillery who died in World War I.

The Gunners' Association has made a significant contribution to The Council of Military Veterans' Organisations with Neil Webster, Roy Andersen, Ivor Rimmer, Lawrie Poorter and Colin Doyle filling the role of chairman of the CMVO.

A turning point in the history of the Association occurred at the 20<sup>th</sup> Triennial Congress held at the SA National Museum of Military History in May 1985. The objectives of the Association were reformed to then prevalent standards.

The mission statement of the Association is:

*It is the mission of the Gunners' Association to promote fellowship and camaraderie amongst Gunners (field or anti-aircraft, serving or retired), to promote Gunner traditions and heritage and to provide welfare and educational support to Gunners and their families.*





# THE GUNNERS' ASSOCIATION OFFICE BEARERS

## NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

1943-1945	-	No appointment
1945-1964	-	FB Adler
1964-1975	-	IB Whyte
1975-1976	-	AA Lloyd
1976-1988	-	LH Walton
1988-	-	P Pretorius

## NATIONAL CHAIRMEN

1943-1945	-	FB Adler
1945-1947	-	IB Whyte
1947-1950	-	LWK Stephens
1950-1952	-	HK Hull
1952-1958	-	CG Kerr
1958-1962	-	NN Webster
1962-1970	-	LH Walton
1970-1974	-	JR Addison
1974-1982	-	AWW Prevost
1982-1985	-	PWS Mathias
1985-1988	-	RC Andersen
1988-1993	-	IW Rimmer
1993-1998	-	FJR Louw
1998-2005	-	PC de B Venter
2005-2007	-	C Doyle
2007-	-	R Ludeman

## HONORARY LIFE PRESIDENT

1982-2007	-	L Roche
2008	-	W Prevost

## HONORARY LIFE VICE PRESIDENTS

1976	-	JN Biermann
1976	-	HH Greenwood
1976	-	GM Harrison
1976	-	CG Kerr
1976	-	AA Lloyd
1976	-	RK MacWilliam
1976	-	L Roche
1976	-	NN Webster
1982	-	AWW Prevost
1982	-	E Papert
1982	-	RTC Taylor
1982	-	FEC van den Berg
1985	-	PWS Mathias
1985	-	Mac C Pott
1985	-	L Alexander
1988	-	FHG Cochran
1988	-	JAS Heron
1988	-	LA Crook
1988	-	PH Adler
1988	-	RW Anderson
1989	-	RC Andersen
1991	-	DD Hall
1991	-	HL Shein
1993	-	LGF Wolf
1993	-	AF Brown
1993	-	IW Rimmer
1996	-	DG Hoepfl
1996	-	K Gillings
1997	-	R Ludeman
1998	-	FJR Louw
2006	-	PC de B Venter
2007	-	C Doyle
2007	-	L Human
2007	-	R Lovell-Green

# THE GUNNERS









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