

THE 2012 EMNAMBITHI / LADYSMITH BATTLEFIELDS FESTIVAL

Reserve Force Regiments participate in the Parade on 12 May 2012

Immediately after the successful parade held in Ladysmith in 2011, when seven Reserve Force Regiments and one Regular Force Regiment were awarded Freedom of Entry into Ladysmith and two others as well as the SA Navy and 5 SA Infantry Bn exercised their Right to Freedom of Entry, a new Task Team was established to commence planning for the 2012 event.

The date for the 2012 Battlefields Festival Parade was brought forward to accommodate the UK's Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, which was awarded Freedom of Entry on Saturday 12th May 2012. Several of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment's antecedent Regiments participated in the Siege and Relief of Ladysmith (2nd November 1899 to 28th February 1900).

The Reserve Force Regiments provided Colour Parties for the parade as well as troops. These included the Natal Field Artillery, the Transvaalse Staats Artillerie, the Vrystaat Artillerie Regiment, the Natal Mounted Rifles, Umvoti Mounted Rifles, Natal Carbineers, Durban Light Infantry, 15 Maintenance Unit and 1 Medical Battalion Group. The Regular Forces involved were the SA Navy, 5 SAI Bn and 121 Bn as well as the SAPS.

The Deputy Mayor of Ladysmith unveiled a granite 'needle' containing the names of all units which have been granted Freedom of Entry. The needle is on display outside the City Hall.

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