

## 84 Signal Unit

(Source: Kwa-Zulu Natal Military Tattoo Programme)



When the South African Permanent Force was reorganized in 1922 no provision was made for an independent Corps of Signals. At that stage signaling had been the responsibility of the SA Engineering Corps, which only operated in the Cape Fortress – the chain of heavy batteries, which guarded the Cape Peninsula.

At about that time, however, emphasis was being placed on the need for a higher and independent signal service. No doubt this was influenced by the creation a year or two earlier of the Royal Corps of Signals in the British Army. Whatever the arguments in favour, they were successful, and the South African Corps of Signals was born on 25 April 1924, as a unit of the Active Citizen Force.

The Corps ended World War II as a mature organisation with a wealth of experience behind it. To meet the requirement of the vastly expanded Permanent Force, various wartime units were maintained with a body of trained personnel which was available to man the units. Following the end of the Second World War in 1945, the South African Government decided to reorganize the Defence Force of the country to meet peacetime needs. In accordance with this decision, the Minister of Defence, Field Marshall Smuts, recommended that there was to be formed an organization which could rapidly mobilise two divisions – the First Division (Motorised) and the Sixth Division (Armoured).

The 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Signal Squadron, S.A.C.S. was established and designated with effect from 1 May 1946, in terms of Government Notice 1540 dated 19 July 1946, and published in Government Gazette No 3681. The new unit was allotted to the Natal Command with its Headquarters at Lords Grounds in Durban. It later became 84 Signal Unit.

Since then the unit has never neglected its duty to provide tactical communications and electricity power to the Formations to which it was attached.