



The Cape Town Rifles (Dukes) *(Source: Cape Town Rifles)*

Cape Town Rifles (Dukes) is the oldest Cape infantry regiment and the second-oldest in the South African Army. It was established in 1855 and has been fighting South Africa's wars ever since. It served in local campaigns, then both on foot and on horseback throughout the Second Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902, and sent many men to France and East Africa during World War I. When World War II broke out it was one of the first infantry battalions to depart for the crucial Abyssinian Campaign, after which it went on to the Western Desert.

The traditional nickname for members of the regiment is "Dukes", because up to 1961 it was officially called the Duke of Edinburgh's Own Rifles. When it reverted to its original name on the advent of the Republic, it requested, and received, permission to retain "Dukes" in brackets in perpetual remembrance of the name under which it had campaigned in so many of our wars.

The Dukes band has been part of the Cape Town Rifles (Dukes) for 155 years. They were formed a few months after the Regiment itself was established and their first performance was in 1856. This took place on the Grand Parade in Cape Town, at which the Governor of the Cape, Sir George Grey, inspected them.

The Dukes band is the oldest surviving military band not only in South Africa, but also in the whole of Africa.

CTR is based at Fort iKapa, the Reserve base outside Cape Town proper, where it has its own state-of-the-art training hangar, stores and HQ.