

KIMBERLEY REGIMENT

(Source: The Kimberley Regiment Association 2010 and Lt Col M. van Schalkwyk,
SO1 PO NC)

Kimberley Regiment, the only Army Reserve unit in the Northern Cape, is the fifth oldest infantry regiment in the country, and was first formed as the Kimberley Light Horse in August 1876.

Authorised mergers between the Light Horse, the Dutoitspan Hussars, Kimberley Scotts, Diamond Field Horse and Diamond Fields Artillery led to the Kimberley Rifles in 1890 and ultimately the Kimberley Regiment of today.

It has, throughout its history, maintained certain traditions of the cavalry, artillery, rifles and especially Scottish, which can still be seen in its uniforms and the regimental culture.

Since its inception, the Regiment has taken part in every action, campaign and war of importance for South Africa.

It has had a battle honour awarded to it that is unique to only two regiments in the old British Empire. This was for defending its own city, Kimberley in the "Defence of Kimberley" where it kept the Boers at bay during the Anglo-boer War of 1899-1902. It has currently twenty authorised battle honours on its Regimental Colour.

The Regiment provided two battalions for the South West African Campaign during World War 1 and provided 'C' Company of the composite 1st Regiment of the 1st SAI Brigade which fought in France during World War 1.

At Delville Wood, Pte Manne Faulds (later Captain) was the only South African to be awarded the Victoria Cross (the highest military award for bravery) during the epic battle. He was also awarded the Military Cross (Military award for bravery).

The Regiment served as a motorised battalion together with the Imperial Light Horse (ILH), in the armoured brigade of the 6th SA Armoured Division throughout the Italian campaign in World War 2. During this campaign it won more battle honours and more awards for bravery in the field, but also suffered more casualties in doing so than any other SA Regiment in the campaign.

The Regiment became the first official bilingual regiment in SA in 1963 and applied to become SA's first multiracial regiment in 1977, but this was not approved at that time.

The Regiment has a proud military history and lives up to the high standards set by the leaders and members from the present and the past. The motto of the Regiment "MUNUS VULT JACTURAM" (duty entails sacrifice) serves as a continuous motivation for its members.

Subsequent to the formation of the new South African National Defence Force, elements of the Regiment have been deployed both internally, on the Lesotho border and Medimbo and externally in the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in peace support operations.