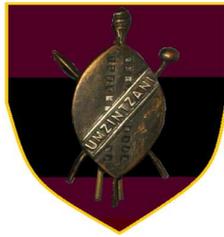


PRINCE ALFRED'S GUARD



(Source: Wikipedia)

Prince Alfred's Guard (PAG) is an infantry regiment of the South African Army. The Regiment is located in the city of Port Elizabeth.

Prince Alfred's Guard was established on 19 September 1856^[1] as the *Port Elizabeth Volunteer Rifle Corps*. In 1860 the title *Prince Alfred's Guard* was assumed unofficially (after Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh) and on 11 July 1874 this name was officially sanctioned as *Prince Alfred's Volunteer Guard*. The name was later changed to *Prince Alfred's Guard*.

The Regiment first saw action on 2 December 1877, against the Gcaleka tribesmen in the Battle of Umzintzani during the Ninth Xhosa War. The next conflict that the PAG participated in was the Basutoland Campaign of 1880 to 1881, during which a 500-metre bayonet charge by the Regiment which led to the capture of the village of Lerotholi, an enemy village. The Regiment also took part in the Bechuanaland Campaign of 1897.

The Regiment also served in the Second Anglo-Boer War of 1899 to 1902 - as mounted infantry - and took part in campaigns in the Orange Free State and the South African Republic.

Members of the PAG volunteered for service in World War I, but there was dissension in the ranks after a long deployment on sentry duty in Cape Town. As a result, the contingent was disbanded and most of its members saw active service during the war in other South African units.

In 1913 the regiment was redesignated the *3rd Infantry Regiment (Prince Alfred's Guard)* of the Active Citizen Force of the Union Defence Force, but regained its former name in 1934.

During World War II, the regiment first served as link battalion for the 2nd Brigade, South African Infantry in North Africa, sending drafts of men to the fighting units, among which many went to the Field Force Battalion. The PAG was subsequently converted to an armoured unit and saw further active service with the 11th South African Armoured Brigade, South African 6th Armoured Division in Italy as a tank unit. On 20 April 1944, equipped with Mark V Shermans and Crusaders, the Regiment landed at Taranto in the heel of Italy. They were to reinforce the Allies still trapped at Anzio, and worn out by bitter fighting at Cassino and along the Gustav line. Re-equipped with Eland-90 armoured cars in the postwar period, the PAG also took part in several skirmishes during subsequent border conflicts in Angola and South-West Africa (Namibia).