



REGIMENT CHRISTIAAN BEYERS
(Source: Reserve Force Office Polokwane)

Historical Synopsis

Regiment Christiaan Beyers is an extension of 2 Regiment Botha, a unit which was formed as the Second Battalion of the already existing Regiment Botha in 1939. The latter was established on 1 April 1934 when additional Citizen Force Units were formed.

The Regiment formed part of the famous Fifth Brigade at the beginning of World War II, and partook in numerous battles. The Regiment was almost totally decimated during the battle of Sidi Rezeigh. The Second Battalion Regiment Botha did its fair share in the East Africa Campaign, and was one of the first units to cross the Abyssinian border, where they forced the Italian Forces to surrender. The battle was then continued in "The North". As Regiment Botha / Regiment President Steyn, the Unit participated with distinction in numerous Campaigns in Egypt.

Name of Unit

The Regiment came in to being in 1939 as the Second Regiment Botha, generally known at the time as the "Tweede Botha's" (Second Bothas). On 16 September 1942 the Regiment's name was temporarily shortened to Regiment Botha, in short referred to as "The Bothas". With the amalgamation with Regiment President Steyn on 12 August 1943, the name changed once again temporarily to Regiment Botha / Regiment President Steyn. On 1 May 1946 the name of the Regiment changed to 59 Reserve Motor Service Company.

In January 1947 a modification was made with the addition of "2RB" to the end of the name. During the course of November 1957, a further modification was made with the Regiment once again being named 2 Regiment Botha. A complete change of name took place once again on 2 November 1951 where the name 2 Regiment Botha changed to Regiment Christiaan Beyers, retrospective from 1 May 1946.

At the end of World War II, the Regiment changed name once again from Regiment Christiaan Beyers to Regiment Limpopo, back to Regiment Christiaan Beyers.

Operational Tasks of Unit

Since 1965 Regiment Christiaan Beyers has deployed with success on a regular basis at various places within the RSA and SWA. Examples being that the unit was the first to make contact with SWAPO on the Angolan Border in April of 1976, a contact which cost the unit the lives of four members caught in a ambush. The unit has in recent years done service in the Sudan and on the Swaziland border.

Site of Unit Headquarters

Regiment Christiaan Beyers is currently situated at Karee Base, Polokwane.

Unit Colours

The Regiment has three Colours. The first colour was handed to the M.O.T.H.S Pietersburg, where it is being preserved. Cmdt-Genl. SADF, Genl. R.C. Hiemstra SSA SM, handed a replica of the Colour to the Unit on 6 April 1970. The third Colour is the national Colour, manufactured from silk, and presented to the unit on 14 January 1989 at Pietersburg by the Cmdt-Genl. SADF, Genl. "Kat" Liebenberg.

Battle Honours

For its participation in battles, the unit has obtained six Battle Honours namely:

East Africa,
Sidi Rezegh,
Gazala,
Battle of Alamein,
El Alamein Defense
Western Desert.