

REGIMENT ORANJERIVIER



Source: Mrs Regine Lord.

The Regiment was founded at Upington in the Northwest Cape Province on 12 September 1952. Initially known as Regiment Noordwes-Kaap, though its name was changed later that year to Regiment Hertzog. JBM Hertzog was a Boer general during the second Anglo-Boer War who later became the Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa (1924 to 1939). On 1 January 1960, as part of the reorganisation of the Citizen Force, the name of the Regiment was changed to Regiment Oranjerivier. In 1966, the Regiment was awarded the Freedom of Access to Upington, and two years later, to the town of Keimoes. On 15 November 1974, it became the armoured car regiment of 71 Infantry Brigade, which was part of 7 South African Division, and in 1975, the ROR headquarters was re-located to Cape Town. ROR was mobilised, together with other units of the 71 Infantry Brigade, to serve in Southern Angola during Operation Savannah (1975-76).

Around that time, the Marmon-Herrington armoured cars they had used previously were replaced by the highly mobile Eland Mk7 light- armoured car (also fondly referred to as Noddy cars). These were well suited to the terrain at the border between northern Namibia and southern Angola, where the regiment was deployed during the South African Border War and the Angolan Civil War. On 2 November 1990, ROR was honoured with the Rooikat Floating Trophy (the first time this trophy had been awarded) as the best unit in the SA Armoured Corps.