

TRANSVAAL STAATSARTILLERIE



(Source: The SA Gunner)

Although attempts were made in 1913 and again in 1926 to form an artillery battery in Pretoria, neither was successful. But, the Minister of Defence in the 1950s was obsessed with ridding the Defence Force of any link whatsoever, with British connotations. The opportunity arose in 1953 with the reorganisation of the Citizen Force, to establish an artillery unit that would bear a title to connect it to the Zuid-

Afrikaansche Staatsartillerie (the Z.A.R.), the Republican Artillery of 1874-1901. And so, on 1 January 1954, 9 Veldregiment (Staatsartillerie), S.A.A., as one of the twelve units designed to cope with the increased number of ballotees being called up for military service, was established. Within a few weeks the title was altered to read: 9 Veldregiment (STAATSARTILLERIE), S.A.A. The badge of the new unit was based on the sabretache badge of the Z.A.R. On 1 January 1960 the regiment's title changed and it became the Transvaal Staatsartillerie. The regiment became a four-battery unit and was allocated to 8 SA Armoured Division as the divisional medium regiment. It had undergone conversion to the GV-2 (140mm) gun in May 1974 and it was as a medium regiment of two batteries and a troop that it took part in Operation Savannah in February/April 1976 under the command of Cape Field Artillery and, in the last weeks of Transvaal Horse Artillery (THA). The regiment undertook subsequent tours of duty on the SWA/Namibian border. From the abbreviation of its title came the humorous appellation: "Tour and See Angola". 17 Field Regiment (P.A.) was amalgamated with TSA with effect from 1 October 1991, the combined regiment retaining the title Transvaal Staatsartillerie. The unit was until recently responsible for all gun salutes in Pretoria. The regiment undertook subsequent tours of duty on the SWA/ Angolan borders during 1980 and 1982. During 1984, the Unit formed part of the Joint Monitoring Commission (GMC) initiative and in 1986 they helped with the protection of the strategic Ruacana water supply project, and was amongst the units to withdraw from Angola in 1988.

On 19 August 2000 TSA affiliated with 101 (Northumbrian) Regiment (v), RA and the ceremony took place at the Green Magazine (Groen Magazyn) the headquarters of TSA, which is situated close to both Army Headquarters and SA Air Force Headquarters in Pretoria. The function was

attended by Maj Gen Chris van Zyl, General of the Gunners and Brig Mike Raworth, British Military attaché as well as Maj Gen (Ret) Phil Pretorius, President of the Gunners' Association. TSA is currently a rocket regiment scheduled to be equipped with the 127mm multiple rocket launcher (Bateleur).