

UMVOTI MOUNTED RIFLES

(Source: KwaZulu Natal Military Tattoo Programme)



On 16 May 1864, a band of settlers, some short, some tall, galloped their horses into Greytown at the behest of the Lieutenant Governor of Natal, Sir John Scott.

There were some 45 men who formed a unit known as Greytown Mounted Rifles which later became the Umvoti Mounted Rifles. In 1893 the Zululand Mounted Rifles based in Eshowe amalgamated with the Umvoti Mounted Rifles.

This unit has served in the following campaigns: The Zulu War of 1879, Anglo Boer War 1899 to 1902, Natal Zulu Rebellion in 1906, South West African Campaign 1914 to 1915, Western Desert 1941 to 1943 and the unrest in Natal in 1960. More recently the Umvoti Mounted Rifles (UMR), when required did duty on the South West African Border during the period 1973 to 1988. In addition to the border duties, the Regiment was called upon to do service in the “townships” during periods of unrest.

The unit began as a cavalry regiment and in 1935 was changed to a motorized infantry Unit but converted to a tank regiment in 1954 and in 1962 became an Armoured Car Regiment.

The Regiment is under the command of the S.A. Armour Formation and is a Rooikat ID Regiment.

The UMR's performance and ability remains as effective and efficient as its past history testifies. The Regiment now faces the years that lie ahead with loyalty in peace and war endorsed by the traditions of the past. In all these commitments the regiment has lived up to its motto of “Toujours Pret” – Always Ready.