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WITH COMPLIMENTS
OF THE
FEDERAL INFORMATION CENTRE
SOUTH EASTERN STATE
CALABAR

BADGES

of

BANK

Nigerian Armed

Forces

UNITY AND FAITH

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INTRODUCTION

In the Nigerian context, the term "Armed Forces" is a relatively new nomenclature. Both the structural and social growth of the Nigerian Military Forces present a long and interesting history. Of all the sectors of the Armed Forces perhaps the Army and the Police have the longest recorded history.

Before the establishment in 1901 of a West African Frontier Force, comprising all the native units on the West Coast of Africa by Colonel (later Lord) Lugard, Lagos had been garrisoned by two companies of the West Indian Regiment. This later expanded and became the first "Lagos Constabulary" and "Lagos Militia". In 1906, the West African Frontier Force absorbed the "Lagos Constabulary". At that time, Nigerian Forces were divided into Northern and Southern Regiments and remained separate until 1914 when they were amalgamated; then, too, the Police Force was already 2,000 strong.

In 1925, His Majesty became Colonel-in-Chief of the West African Frontier Force on which, in 1928, he conferred the title of "Royal". As it existed then, the Nigerian Force consisted of the Nigerian Regiment, the European Reserve, the Northern Provinces Police Force and the Southern Provinces Police Force (which were later brought under one umbrella).