

THE POSTHORN

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British Army of the Rhine Badge.



The shoulder flash of 1 (BR) Corps

British Army of the Rhine

Unknown too many, the British Army of the Rhine was first established as an occupational force after the Great War of 1914 – 1918. It then went on to be disbanded in 1929. Little did people know that only 15 years later it would be back firmly in position.

The second coming came about with the creation of Twenty-first Army Group, assigned with the invasion of Europe. Formed in September 1943 in England and commanded by General (later Field Marshal) Sir Bernard Montgomery, it initially controlled all ground forces in Operation Overlord. When sufficient American forces had landed, their own 12th Army Group was activated, under General Omar Bradley and 21st Army Group was left with British Second Army and First Canadian Army.

After the successful Normandy landings, the units of 21st Army Group crossed the river Rhine near the Germany city of Wesel on 23 March 1945. After an advance which was thoroughly resisted, the British formations, along with the Canadians and Americans advanced into the German counties of Nordrhein-Westfalen, Niedersachsen and Schleswig-Holstein. This established the British Army occupying the north of the country.

Three months after the war had ended, 21st Army Group was redesignated "British Army of the Rhine". This occupational force, which gained its new title on 25 August 1945 consisted of 80,000 men and consisted of the following:

I Corps District

VIII Corps District

XXX Corps District

British Troops Berlin

British Army of the Rhine with HQ in
Bad Oeynhausen

Guards Division

7th Armoured Division

11th Armoured Division

79th Armoured Division

3rd Infantry Division

5th Infantry Division

15th (Scottish) Infantry Division

49th (West Riding) Infantry Division

51st (Highland) Infantry Division

52nd (Lowland) Infantry Division

53rd (Welsh)

Infantry Division

Also

1st Polish

Armoured

Division

3rd Canadian Infantry Division CAOF with British
Troops under command

In 1947-48 it was reduced to three divisions and
districts

2nd Infantry Division

5th Infantry Division - disbanded late 47

7th Armoured Division - disbanded late 47 early 48

Hamburg District - disbanded early 48

Hannover District

16th Parachute Brigade - to UK late 48

Berlin Brigade

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At the February 1945 Yalta Conference (and confirmed at the July 1945 Potsdam Conference) it was agreed that it should be divided into four with the addition of a small French Zone (adjacent to the Franco-German border). Similar arrangements were agreed for Austria and the City of Berlin which was otherwise deep in East Germany (Russian Zone of Occupation). The earlier arrangement for the transfer of East Prussia and the move of the eastern border to the Oder Neisse Line remained unaltered.

The map above shows the revised Zones, you will see that in addition to the new French Zone, the border of the British/American Zone has been moved north and a small American enclave round the River Weser including the Bremen Docks (which formed the ocean going terminal for military traffic from America).



The formation of NATO in 1949 had the BAOR as the British land force contribution. In September 1950 saw 11th Armoured Division reformed on German soil. 1st (BR) Corps was also reformed a year later, after its disbandment in 1947. 1951 saw the recreation of 6th Armoured Division in Great Britain, with it being moved to Germany in 1952. At this point the BAOR consisted of the following:

1st (BR) Corps

6th Armoured Division
7th Armoured Division
11th Armoured Division
2nd Infantry Division

British Troops Berlin
Rhine Army Troops

Hamburg District
Hannover District
Rhine District

5 Army Group Royal Artillery (Anti-Aircraft)
School of Artillery, BAOR
Engineer Training Establishment, BAOR
RAC Training Establishment, BAOR
Rhine Army All Arms Training Centre
Aquatic Training School, BAOR

On 29 November 1952, the Headquarters of Northern Army Group (NORTHAG) formed. This NATO creation saw the BAOR being placed under its command. The ceased to be an occupation force and became responsible for the northern front from Hamburg to Kassel in the event of a Soviet invasion. During October 1954 HQ BAOR reallocated from Bad Oeynhausen to Rheindalen. Only a month earlier had seen the first large scale NORTHAG exercise, appropriately named, Battle Royal. The BAOR at this point still consisted of 80,000 troops. 1956 Saw more major changes to the BAOR. Brigade groups took over from divisions as the smallest operative units. This was the first major step towards the army of today, with a brigade group comprising of armour, infantry, an engineer squadron and

armoured reconnaissance regiment, opposed to divisions comprising of solely infantry of armour (the first case of mixed brigades being used effectively was near Soltau, April 1945, by 4th Armoured Brigade, led by Brigadier Carver). Also during this year on 1 April, 11th Armoured Division was reorganised into 4th Infantry Division. This consisted of:

10th Infantry Brigade Group
11th Infantry Brigade Group
12th Infantry Brigade Group

It was decided in 1957 that the British Army defending Europe from the Soviet threat should reduce down to 64,000 (still over three times of what remains today). The following year 7th Armoured Division was given the prefix of 5th and 6th Armoured Division amalgamated with 2 Inf Div who moved from Hilden to Lubbecke where the HQ was located in TAX House. Between 1958 and 1960 National Service came to an end and further reductions in manpower took place. With 55,000 men, the restructuring of the BAOR took shape in the form of three divisions of two armoured brigade groups and five infantry brigade groups. In June 1960 came the creation of the 1st Armoured Division, formally 5th Armoured Division. Under its command came 7th and 20th Armoured Brigade Groups. Major reorganisation was not far away, as seven brigade groups were reorganised into three central divisions, during 1963. 5th Brigade group returned to Great Britain as strategic reserve, with 1 (BR) Corps (redesignated to distinguish it from other NATO corps) consisting of:

4th Guards Brigade Group
6th Infantry Brigade Group
11th Infantry Brigade Group
12th Infantry Brigade Group
7th Armoured Brigade Group
20th Armoured Brigade Group

In 1965 the organisation of BAOR went full circle again with brigade groups redesignated to brigades. The following year the organisation was as follows:

HQ BAOR (Rheindalen)
1 (BR) Corps (Bielefeld)
1st Division (Verden)
2nd Division (Lübbecke)
4th Division (Herford)
The subordinate brigades were:

6th Infantry Brigade (Münster)
7th Armoured Brigade (Soltau)
11th Infantry Brigade (Minden)
12th Infantry Brigade (Osnabrück)
20th Armoured Brigade (Detmold)
Berlin Brigade (Berlin)

4th Guards Infantry Brigade (Uelzen)

In 1968 6th Infantry Brigade was relocated back to Great Britain, only to return in the autumn of 1970. Its new location was in the towns of Iserlohn and Soest, as the previous occupants (The Canadian Brigade) had moved to southern Germany

by 1973, 1 (BR) Corps consisted of:

1st Division (Verden)
7th Armoured Brigade (Soltau)
11th Infantry Brigade (Minden)

2nd Division (Lübbecke)
4th Guards Infantry Brigade (Münster)
12th Mechanised Brigade (Osnabrück)

4th Division (Herford)

6th Armoured Brigade (Körbecke)
20th Armoured Brigade (Detmold)
1st Artillery Brigade (Hildesheim)
HQ/Signals Battery (Hildesheim)
2 x Heavy Field Artillery Regiments (Hildesheim)
2 x Missile Artillery Regiments (Hildesheim)
7th Air Defence Brigade (Dortmund)
11th Engineer Brigade (Hameln)

With September in 1976 came the creation of the Artillery Division. Headed from Bielefeld it comprised of;

5th Heavy Regiment RA (Hildesheim)
50th Missile Regiment, RA (Menden)
12 Air Defence Regiment, RA (Dortmund)
22nd Air Defence Regiment, RA (Soest)
94th Locating Regiment, RA (Celle)
1st Battalion, The Royal Scots, Infantry (Münster)
8th Transport Regiment, RCT (Münster)

More reorganisation was implemented in January 1978 with the creation of 3rd and 4th Armoured Brigades. The divisions were created from 6th (Soest) and 20th (Detmold) Armoured Brigades and the divisional troops of 4th Division. A very armour orientated BAOR were as follows:

1 (BR) Corps (Bielefeld)
1st Armoured Division (Verden)
2nd Armoured Division (Lübbecke)
3rd Armoured Division (Körbecke)
4th Armoured Division (Herford)
5th Field Force (Osnabrück)
Artillery Division (Bielefeld)

Each of the above regiments were also bolstered by an Army Air Corps Regiment. Each regiment shared the same prefix as the armoured divisions, with the exception of 9th Regiment, Army Air Corps which served at corps level. Eventually all good things must come to an end and so it did with 1 British Corps being disbanded and replaced by Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), which is part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. This development in 1992 and the "Options for Change" redundancy package were a sign of things to come now that the "Russian hordes" were no longer seen to be the main threat. Now in 2007 further reductions look to be in place with the proposed closure of Münster, Osnabrück, Celle and JHQ. What good has come from it is that this has given longer life to the likes of Fallingbommel/Hohne, Paderborn/Sennelager and Bielefeld/Gütersloh/Herford. Time will tell.

Current British Forces Germany (BFG)

British Forces Germany (BFG) is the name for British service personnel and civilians based in Germany.^[1] Disbandment of the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) and Royal Air Force Germany (RAFG) following the end of the Cold War reduced the personnel strength of the British Armed Forces in Germany by almost 30,000. The BFG is concentrated in North Rhine-Westphalia and Lower Saxony.

Once consisting of I (BR) Corps and three divisions, the BFG is a considerably reduced entity since the Options for Change defence review in the early 1990s, although it is still the major concentration of UK armed forces permanently stationed outside the UK. Since the 1990s, the British presence has centered around the 1st Armoured Division, its three brigades, and supporting elements. The divisional HQ is located at Herford, near Bielefeld, with garrisons at Gütersloh, Hohne, and Paderborn. A further garrison at Osnabrück was closed in 2009. Additionally, the Rhine Garrison area contains Rheindahlen Military Complex and, until August 2010, HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps. Administrative support for British service personnel in Germany and across Continental Europe is delegated to United Kingdom Support Command. The four Army garrisons in Germany are under the direct administrative control of UKSC. The General Officer Commanding UKSC also functions as head of the British Forces Liaison Organisation (Germany), which is responsible for liaising and maintaining relations with German civil authorities.

Approximately 5,000 people are associated with British Forces Germany, with only about 20,000 in the army, itself, and about 2,200 civilians posted in Germany.

Currently the BFG is split up into four Garrisons.

Curtsey of the BAOR Website



Bergen-Hohne Garrison

Covering Celle, Fallingbommel and Hohne



Gütersloh Garrison

Covering Bielefeld, Bünde, Dulmen, Gütersloh, Herford and Münster



Paderborn Garrison

Covering Detmold, Hamelin, Paderborn and Sennelager



Rhine Garrison

Covering Rheindahlen, Elmpt and Monchengladbach

COMMANDS



Headquarters Allied Rapid Reaction Corps

Prior to building a new NATO command structure, Allies had already established as part of the new force structure a number of High Readiness Forces (Land) Headquarters modelled on the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction

Corps (ARRC) and supplemented by other headquarters at lower readiness. These deployable headquarters can command and control forces from the size of a brigade numbering thousands of troops up to a corps of tens of thousands.

SHAPE has now certified a total of eight High Readiness Forces (Land) Headquarters:

- ARRC Headquarters is based in Gloucester, England, with the United Kingdom as framework nation, providing nearly 60 per cent of the headquarters personnel and assigning its two divisions to the corps, as well as combat service and combat service support units;



Headquarters 1st Signal Brigade

1 (UK) Signal Brigade consists of four major units - 7 Signal Regiment, 16 Signal Regiment, 22 Signal Regiment and Support Battalion HQ ARRC. Additionally, The Brigade commands 12 Signal Group, a TA contingent consisting of 33 Signal Regiment (V), 34 Signal Regiment (V) and 35 Signal Regiment (V). They collectively provide command support allowing COMARRC and his staff to exercise command and control over the Corps, Land Component or Joint Force Land Component.

This role involves supporting the Forward Liaison and Reconnaissance Group (FLRG) and advance parties; the delivery of HQ ARRC's deployable Command Posts (CPs); the establishment of a composite communications network that allows the passage of information between HQ ARRC's CPs down to those subordinate formations; and the provision of life support: deploying, moving, feeding, accommodating, administering and protecting the staff of HQ ARRC. At each of the ARRC's CPs, a close support signal squadron from one of the Brigade's signal regiments works together with a squadron from Support Battalion.



Headquarters 102 Logistic Brigade

The role of HQ 102 Logistic Brigade in war is to receive both troops and equipment into the theatre of operations, organize their forward movement to the battle area along the line of communication of up to 750km, then logistically sustain the fighting formations and finally redeploy the force back to the UK base or on subsequent operations.

The Brigade would also be responsible for the setting up of field hospitals and evacuation of casualties from theatre.

This description understates the role, which involves complex logistic processes and requires a detailed plan for ammunition fuel, transport, prisoners of war, humanitarian assistance, rear area security and medical operations.

BORONA Programme

The move of HQ ARRC, 1 Signal Brigade and 102 Logistic Brigade from Germany to the UK, and future restructuring of support services in Germany to the UK.

Objectives

The Army has been looking at the feasibility of:

- Moving the Headquarters of the NATO Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (HQ ARRC) with its intimate supporting elements, 1 Signal Brigade (1 Sig Bde) and 102 Logistics Brigade (102 Log Bde) from Germany to the UK.
- Moving other units and agencies from Rhine Garrison and Munster Station to other Garrisons in Germany, all these moves will ultimately lead to the closure Rhine Garrison and Munster Station, the latter completing the closure of Osnabruck Garrison.
- Streamlining the infrastructure delivery management in support of UK Defence personnel based in Germany and the European mainland and explores the scope to integrate further overseas delivery.

Projects within the BORONA Programme

There are five projects within the Programme:

- Move of HQ ARRC and intimate supporting elements from Rhine Garrison to the UK.

- Move of 1 Sig Bde from Rhine Garrison to the UK.
- Move of 102 Log Bde from Gutersloh Garrison to the UK.
- Germany basing - scope and implement the closure of Munster Station and Rhine Garrison, this will include determining what elements of Rhine Garrison are required to remain in Germany, relocate to the UK or are to be disbanded.
- Overseas support - scope and implement the level of support required for activities conducted in Germany and the rest of Europe.

Why is this happening?

This work is driven by the need to deliver operational capability in a more effective and efficient way. This will allow for a more coherent basing arrangement for the Army and, at the same time, make better use of the MOD Estate in the UK.

Current status

Provisional approval has been given for these moves in September 2007. In the UK, the site formally occupied by the RAF at Innsworth in Gloucestershire was selected as the most suitable for HQ ARRC, and the Army took over the management and running of the site on 1 April 2008. Final approval has now been given for HQ ARRC and its supporting elements to move to Innsworth in 2010. The site occupied by the Defence College of Aeronautical Engineering (DCAE) at Cosford in Shropshire is the MOD's planned site for 102 Log Bde but selection is still dependent on the timely vacation of the site by Defence Training Review (DTR) units and a final investment decision.

Beacon Barracks in Stafford is the MOD's planned site for 1 Sig Bde subject to a final investment decision.

On 15 March 2010 approval was given for the next phase of the programme which will enable the rebasing of units within Germany. The approval commences the implementation of 26 minor build work projects in Gutersloh Garrison, that will allow those units that remain in Germany primarily in support of 1 (UK) Armoured Division to vacate Rhine Garrison. As a separate but related part of this work the provision of service and infrastructure support currently provided in Germany by HQ United Kingdom Support Command will be developed and rationalised. Taken together these initiatives will allow the Department to close large parts of Rhine Garrison in 2014, with full closure achieved when 1 Signal Brigade move back to UK from its barracks in Elmpt. The final two elements of the programme see 1 Signal Brigade move to Stafford and 102 Logistic Brigade move from Gutersloh to Cosford. Whilst these locations remain the planned sites for these formations it has been necessary to delay their moves by two years beyond previously announced timelines in order to accommodate other defence resource priorities. The revised plan will now see 1 Signal Brigade move in 2015 and 102 Logistic Brigade move in 2018.



Headquarters United Kingdom Support Command

The Mission is to carry out specified tasks to give substance to the Firm Base in BFG and the ESG dependencies, whilst preparing for and conducting the necessary early transformation of the structures as they prepare for Programme BORONA and beyond. Improving the infrastructure and maximise the Capital Works Programme. One way of doing this is through implementation of the Soldier First initiative, by re-empowering commanders and listening to what our soldiers have to say about the estate in BFG. This process includes identifying possible economies of scale or effort so that we can apply scarce resources into areas of high priority, benefit and impact, thereby achieving best value for money. They are particularly keen to see efforts redoubled to seek further efficiencies in the ENCON area as funding for utilities continues to get ever tighter.

Support the Community

Continue to refine plans for improved services, with particular regard to the comparable provision of Education, Healthcare and other community services, to ensure that people feel valued and that serving in Europe remains attractive for single and accompanied personnel alike. Being the conscience for the „quality of life“ of our people in Germany and across Europe must remain at the forefront of what they do and will continue to drive forward the Safeguard and Simplify initiative to reduce the administrative burden on individuals and units whilst safeguarding the rights and obligations set out in the SOFA and SA, whilst developing plans further to support veterans.

Provide Support to Operations

The Support Command continues to assist formations, units and troops in their preparations for operations, facilitate the deployment and recovery of Germany-based force elements and provide training support where necessary in order to support CinC LF's principal purpose; success in Afghanistan and other hybrid operations.

We must prepare the Command for change by coordinating and facilitating the planning for Programme BORONA in Germany. This includes undertaking work to establish a Germany Support Group in Germany and a UK-based Overseas Support Group, charged with providing Firm Base to the enduring Garrisons and (isolated) detachments in the post-BORONA era, whilst establishing the necessary mechanisms to manage the drawdown and closure of Rhine Garrison and Münster Station under the HQ LF directive, Op ROMULUS. This will require an agile approach when reacting to change; reassigning savings through early rationalisation of the estate, where possible, to areas of high priority such as Soldier First. In addition, we will continue to support, inform, and when appropriate, implement CRF's structures work to support the Firm Base of BFG and ESG communities.



British Forces Liaison Organisation (Germany)

Engage with the Host Nation

Ensure that they continue to engage effectively with the Host Nations and the „Wider Community“, so that together they remain fully at ease as close neighbours and that no misunderstandings can arise from Programme BORONA or other Defence change programmes. In particular to maintain a comprehensive communications strategy with our German partners, both civilian and military, and our community at large, by seeking a sustainable level of CE, whilst implementing the restructuring of BFLO(G) in order to facilitate better Host Nation (HN) and CE, and to help set the conditions for the BORONA end-state in Germany.



Headquarters 1st (United Kingdom) Armoured Division

1 (UK) Armoured Division has existed in the British Army since 1809 when the Duke of Wellington formed it, in Portugal, from two British brigades and one Hanoverian brigade of the King's German Legion. Therefore, since its inception in the 1800s 1 Div has had strong links with this part of Germany.

The Division has been stationed in Germany since June 1960, as part of NATO, first in Verden an der Aller and since 1993 here in Herford. The 1st (UK) Armoured Division is now the only British division to be stationed in Germany, from a peak of 4 divisions during the height of the Cold War, though it is not the only element of the British Forces in Germany. The Support Command is based in Rheindahlen, (just outside Mönchengladbach), with some 3,600 personnel.

It is important to understand how 1 (UK) Armoured Division fits into Britain's contribution to NATO. In 1990, following the collapse of the former Soviet Union, the British Government conducted a defence review, which reduced the size of the British Army from 155,000 personnel to 116,000. The impact of this restructuring was that the British Army of the Rhine was reduced to a strength of 1 Armoured Division with supporting troops. That division is the 1st (UK) Armoured Division, which is now assigned as part of the UK's contribution to the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps.



Headquarters 7th Armoured Brigade

In the early part of the Second World War the Brigade fought in the North African campaigns against the Germans and Italians (1940 to 1941).

This culminated in 'Operation Crusader' during late 1941, in which the 7th Armoured Brigade was involved in bitter fighting at Sidi Rezegh (November 20 to 27 1941) - an action which the Brigade Headquarters commemorates to this day.

In 1942 7th Armoured Brigade was moved to Burma - it arrived at Rangoon in the February and was involved in the retreat through Burma to India during that year.

It moved back to the Middle East in 1943 and was stationed in Iraq and Egypt before moving to Italy in May 1944. The Brigade fought in Italy as part of the Canadian Corps for the rest of the war.

The end of the Second World War found 7th Armoured Brigade based in northern Italy as part of the occupying forces.

In 1947 the Brigade moved to Germany - it has been based there ever since. Its present location is Hohn Garrison, to the north of Hannover.

Desert Rats

The Brigade still wears the famous 'Desert Rat' flash on its uniform - this originates from the North African campaign when the 7th Armoured Division adopted the insignia and nickname of the 'Desert Rats'.

In 1959 the 7th Armoured Division was disbanded, but the history and name was carried on by the 7th Armoured Brigade.



Headquarters 20th Armoured Brigade

20th Armoured Brigade today is founded on fine and historic regiments, including 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards (QDG), based in Sennelager, who provide the reconnaissance role with their agile Scimitar Armoured Vehicles.

The Queen's Royal Hussars (QRH) is the British Army's senior light cavalry regiment equipped with the Challenger 2 main battle tank, also based in Sennelager.

Meanwhile the Brigade's two armoured infantry battalions are located in barracks within Paderborn - The 1st Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (1PWRR) and The 5th Battalion The Rifles (5 RIFLES) - both equipped with Warrior armoured vehicles.

1st Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) is a Light Role infantry battalion operating almost entirely on foot and recently moved to Münster from the UK in July 2008. As of August this year, a Gurkha company has been added to the regiment.

Headquarters 20th Armoured Brigade is currently located in Sennelager, on the outskirts of the city of Paderborn, north Germany. 20th Armoured Brigade is commanded by Brigadier Patrick Sanders DSO OBE.

Curtsey of the BFG Website

NATO History 1989 - 2011

1989-1992: End of Cold War Transforms the Alliance

SHAPE now entered one of the most remarkable periods in modern European history. During the tenure of the ninth SACEUR, U.S. Army Gen. John R. Galvin, SHAPE helped NATO respond to a series of extremely complex and momentous changes: the end of the Cold War marked by the opening of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the unification of Germany one year later, the collapse of the Warsaw Pact and the break-up of the Soviet Union itself in 1991, rapidly improving East-West relations, the "Springtime of Nations" in Eastern Europe, Military Cooperation with former members of the Warsaw Pact, and calls for a "Peace Dividend" and the transformation of NATO itself. One of the most dramatic signs of the end of the Cold War came in October 1990, when the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union, General M.A. Moiseyev, visited SHAPE. Less than a year later, the Soviet Union itself no longer existed.

During the final stages of the Cold War SHAPE struggled to articulate the need for deterrence and viable defensive plans and forces. In 1990 SHAPE began a radical review of ACE nuclear plans, forces and targeting policy to take into account the end of the Cold War and NATO's new Strategy, which was officially adopted in 1991.

SHAPE also coordinated the safe withdrawal of American chemical and intermediate range nuclear weapons from Europe. From 1990 onward SHAPE played an important role in NATO's efforts to increase contacts with Soviet military leaders in order to convince them of NATO's peaceful intentions. In 1991 SHAPE established a Military Contacts Cell to foster military cooperation with former Warsaw Pact members. SHAPE's "Right Mix" Studies changed ACE training and exercises to reduce their former Cold War focus and make them more relevant to new operational demands. Studies of NATO's future force structure resulted in the decision to establish the ACE Rapid Reaction Corps and ensure more flexible force structures that were appropriate to the post-Cold War environment. SHAPE also provided considerable support to the negotiations that resulted in the Conventional Forces in Europe arms control treaty in 1990 and then worked to bring allied defence planning into line with the developments in arms control. In response to desires for major defence savings in the form of a "Peace Dividend" and also for a greater European role in ACE, SHAPE began a reorganisation of all ACE headquarters in 1990, which resulted in a 25% reduction in staff and Europeans taking over several influential posts previously held by American officers.

Following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, SHAPE implemented precautionary measures to ensure the security of NATO's Mediterranean members and prevent the spread of tension and conflict. Such measures included increased coverage of the area by NATO Airborne Early Warning aircraft, deployment of NATO naval forces to deal

with any threats to shipping in the Mediterranean, provision of significant logistics and air defence support to Turkey, and the deployment of the ACE Mobile Force (Air) to Turkey in January 1991. While not a direct participant in the Gulf War, Allied Command Europe played a major role in supporting those NATO member states threatened by the conflict.

Soon after the end of the Gulf War, a new crisis broke out within Europe itself. The multi-ethnic state of Yugoslavia began falling apart, and fighting broke out in Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia- Herzegovina. The region quickly was caught up in a paroxysm of nationalism, hatred, violence and atrocities unseen in Europe since the Second World War.

1992-1994: Transformation Continues, Involvement in the Balkans Grows

Against the background of the deteriorating situation in Former Yugoslavia, SHAPE continued implementing the major changes underway in ACE during the tenure of the tenth SACEUR, U.S. Army Gen. John M. Shalikashvili. The ACE Rapid Reaction Corps was established in October 1992, and the ACE Reaction Forces Planning Staff became fully operational at SHAPE. The following year a Reaction Forces Air Staff was established in Germany. Initial planning began for a Combined Joint Task Force Concept to ensure NATO could command and control forces deployed outside the NATO area of operations.

The reorganisation of SHAPE and ACE was implemented in 1993. Europe's greater voice within the alliance was symbolised by German Gen. Peter Carstens becoming the first European Chief of Staff at SHAPE. A new regional command called Allied Forces Northwest Europe, which comprised the United Kingdom and Norway, was also established the same year and incorporated the former Allied Command Channel. Henceforth only two "Major NATO Commanders" remained - SACEUR and SACLANC.

The early 1990s witnessed increased efforts to provide the recently formed European Union with a military component, which resulted in the establishment of the multi-national Eurocorps. In 1993 Gen. Shalikashvili negotiated with the French and German Chiefs of Defence an agreement about the conditions and missions for which the Eurocorps could be employed with NATO.

SHAPE continued to try to improve relations with the Russian military. In addition, many high-level military cooperation trips to and from Central and East European states were conducted. SHAPE also made a major contribution to the development of what eventually became the Partnership for Peace Programme.

SHAPE, AFSOUTH and ACE Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) became increasingly involved in work associated with the on-going tragedy in Bosnia-Herzegovina and NATO's growing involvement in the Balkans. In June 1992 SHAPE established a Crisis Response Cell, and elements of NATO's Northern Army Group Headquarters were used to form the headquarters for United Nations peacekeeping forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

SHAPE and AFSOUTH planned NATO's first operation in support of the UN in the Balkans, a naval operation to monitor the UN maritime embargo against weapons coming into Former Yugoslavia. In July 1992 NATO ships took up their stations in the Adriatic, and Operation Maritime Monitor began.

Four months later the operation changed to one of enforcement and was called Operation Maritime Guard. Then in June 1993 NATO and the Western European Union combined their ships operating in the Adriatic into a single operation under NATO command, Operation Sharp Guard.

After the United Nations declared a no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina to prevent air attacks from being carried out by the warring factions, NATO began Operation Sky Monitor in October 1992 to monitor the no-fly zone. Then in April 1993 NATO agreed to conduct air operations to enforce the no-fly zone, and Operation Deny Flight began.

SHAPE and AFSOUTH also conducted detailed contingency planning in support of the UN, including plans to establish and protect humanitarian convoys, monitor heavy weapons and conduct various humanitarian airdrop options. In 1993 AFSOUTH and SHAPE completed CINCSOUTH Operation Plan Disciplined Guard which was NATO's military plan to support implementation of a UN Peace Plan for Bosnia Herzegovina, but the efforts of international mediators to achieve peace remained fruitless.

Shortly before General Shalikashvili relinquished command to become chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, SHAPE and AFSOUTH completed a plan for NATO Close Air Support to UN forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina. NATO was thus prepared to take military action if UN peacekeepers were threatened or to conduct a major peacekeeping operation itself if an agreement could be reached to end the fighting.

1994-1998: One Team, One Mission! NATO Begins Peacekeeping in Bosnia

During the early to mid-1990s SHAPE became more operationally oriented and busier than at any other time in its history. Soon after U.S. Army Gen. George A. Joulwan became SACEUR in 1993, the situation in Bosnia Herzegovina worsened and NATO became increasingly involved in supporting international efforts to stop the fighting.

NATO warships continued operations in the Adriatic Ocean to stop the flow of arms into the crisis area, NATO aircraft patrolled the skies over Bosnia-Herzegovina to enforce the UN no-fly zone and prevent air strikes from taking place, and the SHAPE and AFSOUTH staffs continued to work on contingency plans for possible intervention to assist the withdrawal of UN peacekeeping forces in Former Yugoslavia, should this prove necessary, and on plans for possible NATO participation to help implement the various peace plans being proposed by the international community. Preparations were also underway for NATO aircraft to provide close air support to UN peacekeepers threatened by warring parties.

These commitments in support of the UN led to NATO's first combat actions since its founding in 1949. On February 28, 1994 NATO aircraft shot down four Bosnian Serb fighter-bombers carrying out a bombing mission in clear violation of the UN no-fly zone. NATO aircraft also conducted several limited air strikes at the request of United Nations peacekeepers.

After the Bosnian Serbs overran the Srebrenica safe area, murdered many of its inhabitants and then began to threaten two additional UN-declared safe areas, NATO carried out Operation Deliberate Force. From late August until mid September 1995, NATO aircraft attacked Bosnian Serb military targets to force them to withdraw heavy weapons from the Sarajevo area. NATO's forceful action contributed to the Bosnian Serbs' decision to enter into peace negotiations, and in November 1995 the warring factions signed the Dayton Peace Accords. At the same time NATO agreed to assume responsibility for leading an international peacekeeping force to implement the peace accords in Bosnia Herzegovina.

SHAPE and its subordinate headquarters quickly produced NATO's military plan to implement the Dayton Accords, and on December 20, 1995 responsibility for peacekeeping in Bosnia-Herzegovina transferred from the UN to the NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR). The IFOR mission was the largest and most complex military operation in Europe since the Second World War. Nearly 50,000 troops from NATO and 17 Non-NATO countries, including Russia, deployed to the region, and Gen. Joulwan's unifying slogan for the force was "One Team, One Mission".

The participation of so many non-NATO nations required the development of new co-ordination and command and control arrangements, and one of the most difficult ones to negotiate was with Russia, NATO's historic Cold War opponent. After high level diplomacy failed, Gen. Joulwan's personal negotiations with senior Russian officers proved more successful, and in another historic first for NATO, a Russian general became SACEUR's deputy for Russian Forces in IFOR, and a Russian delegation joined the IFOR Co-ordination Centre established at SHAPE.

IFOR quickly separated the opposing factions' armies, secured areas to be transferred from one community to another, and supervised the withdrawal of all forces to zones of separation. It then arranged the movement of large numbers of troops, weapons and equipment to cantonment and storage sites.

In December 1996 IFOR was renamed Stabilisation Force (SFOR) and charged with responsibility for the continued stabilisation of Bosnia Herzegovina. The day before SACEUR Joulwan relinquished command, NATO troops seized their first suspected war criminal and handed him over to the UN for trial. In the new and smaller SFOR there was less emphasis on heavy weapons such as tanks and artillery than in IFOR, because the need for such weapons was now assessed to be much less.

The SHAPE staff also continued work on less visible but very important tasks. The Partnership for Peace programme was launched in 1994 to improve NATO military co-operation with many neutral countries and former Warsaw Pact members, and a Partnership Co-ordination Centre was established at SHAPE.

SHAPE also continued to work on improving NATO-Russian relations. A long term study began in 1994 to look at ways to reorganise ACE for the second time in the 1990s and to better reflect the evolving European security and defence identity. In 1994 the new Combined Joint Task Force Headquarters Concept required such headquarters to be able to conduct operations for NATO or the Western European Union/European Union.

SHAPE and the ACE Reaction Forces Staff (which became the Combined Joint Planning Staff in April 1997) worked on this politically sensitive task. SHAPE also worked on ways to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to implement a Theatre Missile Defence.

As indications increased that NATO would take on new members in the near future, SHAPE also began preparations and planning for the possible addition of new members to Allied Command Europe.

1998-1999: NATO Enlarges and Faces Another Balkans Crisis

U.S. Army General Wesley K. Clark became SACEUR in July 1997, and almost immediately afterward the NATO Summit at Madrid invited three nations - the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland - to begin accession talks for membership in the Alliance. Representatives of the three invited countries then came to SHAPE for initial planning and preparation, and in March 1999 the three nations joined Allied Command Europe with an impressive ceremony held at SHAPE.

Soon afterward NATO found itself involved in its first actual conflict in support of the international community's efforts to stop the harsh oppression of ethnic Albanians in the Serbian province of Kosovo. NATO's attention had already turned to Kosovo in 1998, after fighting broke out there and a humanitarian crisis began. To support the diplomatic efforts of the international community to end the violence, the Alliance developed a number of possible military options involving various types of air operations.

NATO's threat to carry out such operations, coupled with the personal diplomacy of Gen. Clark and other senior alliance officials, succeeded in forcing Yugoslav President Milosevic to back down in October 1998 and withdraw large numbers of Serbian security forces from Kosovo. Afterward NATO reconnaissance aircraft monitored the situation while a NATO ground force stood ready to assist an international verification mission of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) inside Kosovo.

But this respite proved short-lived; fighting again flared up in January 1999 and the Serbs responded with harsh measures and began bringing reinforcements into Kosovo in violation of the October agreements. A renewed threat of NATO air strikes succeeded in bringing the conflict parties to the negotiating table at Rambouillet, France, in February and March 1999, but only the Kosovar Albanians were willing to sign the proposed peace agreement.

Once the talks collapsed, Serb security forces stepped up the intensity of their operations against ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, forcing tens of thousands to flee their homes. The OSCE observers withdrew from Kosovo, and President Milosevic rejected final attempts at mediation, so on 23 March 1999 NATO began limited air strikes to force him to accept the international community's demands. Milosevic responded by greatly expanding his on-going programme of ethnic expulsions in Kosovo, and by the end of May 1999 more than 800,000 Kosovar Albanians had been forced flee into neighbouring states and another 580,000 were estimated to be homeless inside Kosovo.

To deal with this immense humanitarian crisis, NATO acted quickly to build refugee camps and emergency feeding stations while moving large amounts of humanitarian aid to those in need.

The air campaign began with attacks on Yugoslavia's air defences and then gradually escalated to other military-related targets to increase the pressure on President Milosevic. Precision-guided munitions were used extensively, and all possible efforts were made to avoid civilian casualties. Nevertheless some unfortunate incidents did occur, costing a number of civilian lives.

Gen. Clark's highest priority was to strike the Serb forces carrying out ethnic expulsions in Kosovo, but this was not easy because these forces quickly ceased exposing themselves to NATO air power.

Despite some differences in outlook among the member nations, NATO maintained a high degree of solidarity throughout the conflict, and it was this solidarity, along with the continuing pressure of the air campaign, that finally convinced President Milosevic to give in to the demands of the international community. On June 9, 1999 Serb and NATO officers signed an agreement for the withdrawal of Serb forces from Kosovo and the entry of an international NATO-led peacekeeping force (KFOR) into the province.

The following day NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana announced the suspension of NATO's air campaign. In 78 days of operations, NATO aircraft flew more than 38,000 sorties, of which more than 10,000 were strike sorties, with the remarkable record of no combat fatalities and only two aircraft lost to hostile fire.

KFOR entered Kosovo on June 12, 1999 and immediately set about restoring law and order in the province while large numbers of refugees began returning home. Violence has declined substantially since KFOR's arrival, but unfortunately ethnic tensions still remain high and KFOR has had to devote considerable effort to protecting the remaining Serbs in the province. Another continuing problem is unrest on Kosovo's borders. Much remains to be done in Kosovo, but KFOR is providing the necessary stability that enables the international community to assist in rebuilding the province.

2000-2003: More Balkans Peacekeeping & NATO declares Article 5

The Balkans remained an important area of interest under the next SACEUR, General Joseph W. Ralston, who took up his duties in May 2000 as only the second Air Force Officer to serve as SACEUR. In Kosovo the size of NATO's Kosovo Force (KFOR) gradually declined as stability was restored, but in the neighbouring former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) ethnic unrest followed by an internationally-brokered cease-fire led to a new NATO Balkans mission in the summer of 2001 as NATO troops arrived to receive the weapons being turned in by the National Liberation Front. A small NATO force then remained to provide support to international monitors and subsequently to provide advice and assistance to the government in restoring stability. The NATO mission in FYROM successfully concluded in April 2003, when the European Union took over this responsibility.

The pace and breadth of NATO operations increased sharply in the aftermath of the terrorist attack on the United States on 11 September 2001. The following day NATO invoked Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, which states that an armed attack against one or more of the Allies in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all. A concrete example of NATO assistance came with Operation EAGLE ASSIST in October 2001, when NATO Airborne Early Warning aircraft began assisting in monitoring the skies over North America. Between October 2001 and May 2002, 830 NATO NAEWF crew members flew more than 4,300 hours and over 360 operational sorties over the United States. An additional NATO response to the threat of terrorism began in late October, when a NATO

naval operation - Operation ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR - began in the Eastern Mediterranean and subsequently expanded to provide safe passage for Allied shipping in the Straits of Gibraltar and operations throughout the Mediterranean. During this period the United States along with local Afghan forces succeeded in toppling the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, which had previously provided a safe haven for the Al Qaeda terrorist organisation. Afterward an International Security and Assistance Force (ISAF) was established in December 2001 to provide assistance in restoring stability and self-governance in the country, but initially this force was not under NATO command. In November 2002, shortly before General Ralston stepped down as SACEUR, the leaders of the NATO member nations met at the Prague Summit and decided upon a wide-ranging and ambitious transformation of the Alliance. In terms of structures, there would in the future be only one command with responsibility for all NATO operations - Allied Command Operations with its headquarters at SHAPE - while the new Allied Command Transformation headquartered at Norfolk, Virginia, in the United States, would be responsible for developing the doctrines and tools that NATO would need in the 21st Century. The Prague Summit also decided to give the Alliance new capabilities, the most important of which was new NATO Response Force (NRF) capable of providing a rapid response to a looming or actual crisis. The process of manning and training this new force occurred under the next SACEUR, General James L. Jones, who took up his post in January 2003 as the first Marine Corps officer to serve as SACEUR. During the next 3¾ years General Jones oversaw the development of the NRF through force generation by the nations and increasingly complex training exercises. In one of his final acts as SACEUR, General Jones declared in November 2006 that the NRF had attained Full Operational Capability.

2003-2010: NATO's area of operations continues to expand

During General Jones's tenure as SACEUR Allied Command Operations became increasingly busy as the number and size of NATO operations increased steadily. As tensions in the Middle East once again increased prior to the invasion of Iraq by a US-led coalition, NATO conducted Operation Display Deterrence from 20 February to 16 April 2003 to strengthen Turkish defences against a possible threat from Iraq. In the Balkans KFOR continued its vital peacekeeping mission in Kosovo and successfully withstood a major challenge to stability in March 2004, when widespread ethnic violence was accompanied by attacks on international organisations. NATO responded quickly to this challenge, bringing in reinforcements to stabilise the situation, and there has been no repeat of such dangerous unrest since then. Elsewhere in the Balkans NATO turned over another mission to the European Union in December 2004, when the NATO Stabilization Force (SFOR) ceased operations and was replaced by a European Union Force (EUFOR), although NATO did retain a small presence in Bosnia at the NATO Headquarters (Sarajevo).

But NATO operations were gradually becoming more focused outside the Balkans and Europe. In Afghanistan it was becoming increasingly difficult to organise and sustain the UN-authorised peacekeeping force (ISAF), so NATO agreed to take over responsibility for this force on 11 August 2003. Initially the scope of this operation was limited to the area around the capital Kabul, but during General Jones' tenure as SACEUR NATO gradually expanded its area of responsibility in response to requests from the UN and Afghan authorities, beginning with the northern part of the country in July 2004, then the west in June 2005. The greatest threats to Afghanistan's stability, however, lay in the south and east, where Taliban insurgents and drug producers/traffickers were concentrated. On 31 July 2006 the NATO-led ISAF expanded into southern Afghanistan, resulting in the heaviest ground fighting NATO troops had ever experienced, as the Taliban attempted to resist ISAF's presence and efforts to reconstruct the area. Then in October 2006 ISAF took over responsibility for operations in eastern Afghanistan, thus bringing the whole of the country into ISAF's Area of Operations.

In addition to commanding ISAF in Afghanistan, NATO has accepted responsibility for a training mission in Iraq, which was authorised in 2004 and continues to assist in the development of the Iraqi security forces with training courses both inside and outside Iraq. 2004 also saw NATO provide considerable assistance to the security of the Olympic Games and Paralympics in Athens, Greece, support that included NATO Airborne Early Warning (NAEW) aircraft. NAEW aircraft also supported security for the World Cup soccer competition held in Germany in 2006. NATO has also provided support to an African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur, Sudan, from June 2005 until December 2007, primarily by organising and coordinating airlifts.

Humanitarian assistance was yet another important focus of NATO's operations during General Jones's tenure. After Hurricane Katrina caused widespread devastation in the southern United States at the end of August 2005, NATO responded positively to a US request for food, medical and logistics supplies. A second and much larger humanitarian assistance mission began in October, after Pakistan requested assistance to help it cope with the effects of a powerful earthquake that killed more than 73,000 people and left at least 4,000,000 people homeless, many of them in very remote areas. NATO quickly provided an air bridge for the concentration of relief supplies and then a highly effective airlift to bring them to Pakistan. These operations involved a total of 168 aircraft transporting 3,435 tons of assistance. NATO helicopters transported more than 1,750 tons of relief inside Pakistan and more than 7,650 sick, injured and displaced people. The NATO Field Hospital treated 4,890 patients, while mobile medical teams treated a further 3,424 patients. NATO engineers built 110 shelters and 9 schools while also

clearing and repairing nearly 60 kilometres of road and removing large amounts of debris. NATO engineers also provided fresh water and repaired a permanent spring water distribution and storage system. This humanitarian assistance mission, which was greatly appreciated in Pakistan, ended in late January 2006.

During General Jones' tenure as SACEUR, the Alliance added seven new members - Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia - bringing the total number of countries in the Alliance to 26. As an interim measure to assist some of these new members in securing their airspace, NATO nations have provided air policing.

On 7 December 2006 General Jones turned over command of Allied Command Operations to General John Craddock, United States Army. Afghanistan was naturally a key area of interest during General Craddock's tenure, because ISAF had taken over responsibility for the whole of the country just a few months earlier. He therefore oversaw the tremendous expansion of ISAF, both in terms of numbers and nations involved. Despite these increases, the situation in Afghanistan remained a serious challenge for the international community, as attacks by the Taliban and other militants continued to escalate, leading many observers to describe the overall situation as a stalemate. One important initiative of General Craddock was the decision to attack a major source of insurgent funding by having ISAF interdict drug trafficking and drug laboratories in Afghanistan, a policy that quickly began to show results.

The Balkans also continued to be an important area of interest for General Craddock, as Kosovo and NATO's Kosovo Force (KFOR) both underwent significant changes. In Kosovo NATO had to deal with the challenges posed by that country's unilateral declaration of independence and the resulting stand-down of the Kosovo Protection Corps and the stand-up of the Kosovo Security Force. Another challenge for NATO in Kosovo came with the transfer of administrative responsibilities within the international community from the United Nations to the European Union. And for KFOR itself, General Craddock advocated and finally achieved political consent for the gradual transformation of the force to a much smaller Deterrent Presence.

In addition to providing the overall strategic direction for NATO's two major land-based operations in Kosovo and Afghanistan, General Craddock successfully deployed naval forces for operations against piracy in the sea lanes off the Horn of Africa, a continuing area of interest for NATO. And NATO's other maritime focus, Operation ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR in the Mediterranean, continued throughout his tenure as SACEUR.

Another key issue faced by General Craddock was the redesign of the NATO Response Force to reflect the actual operational tempo and the difficulty in generating sufficient forces, thus attempting to ensure the long-term viability of the NRF. Transformation was also a continuing subject during recent years, as NATO established two new transformational institutions under Allied Command Operations, the Intelligence Fusion Centre and the NATO Special Operations Coordination Centre. And on the international stage, General Craddock had to deal with tremendous fluctuations in the nature of NATO-Russia relations in the wake of the Georgia-Russia conflict of August 2008, a situation which began to return to normalcy just before General Craddock's departure with the decision to resume NATO-Russia Council meetings.

During General Craddock's tenure as SACEUR two more nations - Albania and Croatia - joined the Alliance in April 2009, bringing the total number of NATO members to 28. Once again, air policing is being provided by other NATO members until the new members develop their own capabilities.

On 2 July 2009 General Craddock was succeeded as SACEUR by Admiral James G. Stavridis, US Navy, in a ceremony marking a historic first in NATO's history - the first admiral to serve as SACEUR. In his first six months as SACEUR Admiral Stavridis has placed great emphasis on getting Allied Command Operations' message out to a wide public using the new possibilities provided by social networking sites on the internet. He has identified new areas of concern for the Alliance such as cyber defence, the High North, and energy security, while continuing to carry out the existing NATO operations in Afghanistan, Kosovo and off the Horn of Africa.

Curtsey of the NATO Website

Postal Notes

"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds"

Is an inscription on the James Farley Post Office in New York City, derived from a quote from Herodotus' *Histories* referring to the courier service of the ancient Persian Empire:

What is a „Postie“ or „Postman/Woman“?

Are they the mythical persons who go through rain, sleet and snow to deliver the mail or are they those who try to do there best, when they can with limited resources. I know that I have been on exercise and delivered a letter in rain that was more like a fireman's hose being turned on you, only to receive the blunt reply "Cheers buddy that's all I wanted, another bill!"

However I can recall, once in Norway, (during a snow storm in fact), being welcomed into a Royal Canadian Rifles tent, with a full „English type Breakfast“, along with Moose Milk (Hot milk and Rum). The thing that amazed me was that the Bacon came from a tin. Cooked and curled around and around. They obtained their eggs & fresh milk by swapping tins of „Campbell’s meatballs“ with the locals. Campbell’s supply the Canadian Forces with their rations packs. The results are their ration packs have condiments packs, with nearly every sauce known to man in sachets, butter in toothpaste style tubes, I could go on and on. But at least the Canadians appreciated me and the mail I brought them.

The only other time I have been treated like Royalty was when I was a POW. That’s right a Prisoner of War along with some German Signaller Paratroopers, American MP’s, British RMPs, Danish Reservist and a confused Exercise Umpire driver. We were being held by some very scary Danish Rangers (reservist) from the isle of Bornholm just off the then Communist East German coast. They played war games for real, as they thought the treat from Russia was valid. They did not like their fellow Danes from Zealand and Jutland as they were too soft and easy going. To show that they played rough they refused to feed us while we were in their care and threw my poor Danish local support driver (a reservist himself) in a deep dark hole in the ground. It was only by threatening a diplomatic incident; they did not open all the mail I was carrying. We had all been caught behind enemy lines at the start of the Exercise. The Germans signallers were removing all the signal cables from the Exercise start HQ area. The military police removing tact signs and myself I had been sent to deliver the mail to the troops before the exercise started properly. After being captured we were all held in a barn (accept my Danish driver) whilst they decided what to do with us. Lucky for us the Germans had rations and cooking facilities, The German rations weren’t too bad (They did have beer). Fast forward 24 hours and a Group of Umpires turned up, demanding their driver back. He had been parked in the wrong place at the wrong time and had been snatch up by these unfriendly Danes. After a heated argument he was released. I thought I’d chance my arm and plead sanctuary. After asking who I was, the British Umpire saved me. Unfortunately I also had to plead for my Danish Driver, who was still stuck in a Dark hole. Very begrudgingly he was brought up from his hole, given back his kit and vehicle. We then fled the scene with the Umpires. I’ve never seen anyone so grateful for being saved from his own Danish troops. Apparently Danish Forces from Bornholm are not to keen on soft Zealanders who live in Copenhagen.

I later found out that the Americans escaped by driving off at traffic lights when everyone was moved two days later. The RMPs lasted another day and were claimed back by their boss, but the poor Germans for them the war was over for them. They were released on the last day of the Exercise.

I met up with the German Paratroopers again on the next Allied Central Europe Mobile Land Force (AMF(L)) exercise In Norway to the amazement of the other Germans Forces in the vicinity. “Hey! Tommy! Can you remember when we were prisoners of war together in Denmark? Those Bastards never let us go until the last day”.

Ah memories.

Larry Peacock

IRA Kills 22 years on.

An ex-soldier traumatised by the IRA bomb killed herself because of the horrors she saw, an inquest heard. Private Anne Appleby then just 20, was on sentry duty when the device hit Mill Hill Barracks London, in 1988. Husband David said reports of the 7/7 inquest revived awful memories. Anne, 42 of Stevenage, Herts took an overdose last September, the inquest heard. Verdict Suicide.

Curtsey of the Sun Newspaper

Which British Army regiment likes to boast it is “the first in the field and the last to leave?”

Further to earlier answers, I am sure that a number of regiments might feel they have just cause in claiming the No. 1 spot, but the Corps of Royal Engineers probably come closest to achieving it. The following lines were penned a long time ago and make a good case for the Sappers:

*Now it’s all very fair to fly through the air,
or honour a gun, or to ride in tanks
Through the ranks of the crushed and battered Hun,
And it’s nice to think, when the U-Boat sink,
Of the glory that outlines the years:
But whoever heard one vaunting word for the Royal Engineers?
Now you mustn’t feel, when you read this spiel,
That the engineer is a jealous knave.
That he joined the ranks for a vote of thanks,
In search of a hero’s grave.
No, your mechanised cavalry’s quite all right.*

*And your Tommy has few peers,
 But where the hell would the lot of them be, if it weren't for the Engineers?
 Some look like tramps but they build your camps,
 And they sweat red blood to bridge the flood.
 To give you a fighting chance Who stays behind , when it gets to hot
 To blow up the roads in the rear?
 You can tell your wife that you owe your life. To some muddy old engineer.
 'Honi soit qui mal y pense' to a gruesome sort of phrase,
 But their modest claim to immortal fame
 Has probably reached your ears.
 The first to arrive and the last to leave are the Royal Engineers
 'UBIQUE'*

Sent by Pete Holman written by a Ken Harrison Ex Sergeant Royal Engineers, South East Asia Command 1944-1947

The Corps Badge (The Royal Arms)

On 10 July 1832 King William IV granted the Royal Regiment of Artillery and the Corps of Royal Engineers permission to wear on their appointments the Royal Arms and Supporters, together with a cannon and the mottoes „Ubique“ above the cannon and „Quo Fas et Gloria Ducunt“ below it. In 1868 the cannon was omitted from the Corps Badge. Since then the actual design of the Royal Arms has changed slightly with each reigning monarch.



The Corps badge for the reign of our present Queen Elizabeth II is shown right: The Corps Badge used to be worn on an Officer's sabretache and cartouche, and on parts of his charger's saddlery. It was worn by all ranks of the Corps of the Regular Army on their full-dress blue spiked helmet up until 1914. The RE Militia, Volunteers and Territorial's, however, had a slightly different Badge in that the motto Ubique was omitted from the scroll under the Royal Arms and its place taken by a laurel branch.



The meaning of UBIQUE

As explained to me in my youth, as a member of 35 Combat Engineer Regiment's Ski team, during an award ceremony, before I joined Postal. The General who was also giving out Ski awards to 94 Location Regiment RA mentioned that "Ubique" is a shared honour but has two meanings. For the Royal Engineers it means „**Everywhere**“ and for the Royal Artillery „**All over the place**“. Needless to say the General concerned was a „Sapper“.

Larry Peacock

Reflection.

I must be one of the last National Service men to have the pleasure of being called up in 1960; 3 months at No 3 training regiment and then posted to Gunsite!!

I have many memories of Gunsite and Gorse road depot and then up to Brittany Hill (what a difference). The nutty Regimental Police Corporal on gate duty beside the Scrubs wall was a pain in the arse. I remember the oldest Sapper in the Army, Tom Bibby; he must have been well over 60. Also the Frenchman never could remember his name. Tony Ross was another Sapper in our Spider; he lost a relative at the Earls Court Christmas Circus, when he fell off the high wire. The MT Drivers used to borrow my car and it was always had plenty of petrol in it when I used it!! However that's another story. I will have to put down all my recollections and put them in the Posthorn. How Jessie James used to pick me up from the depot in his car and we would then go off to the Wasps Ground and play Rugby for the London District. Happy days and best wishes to all you Posties. I was called „Jim“ in those days for the obvious reasons.

John Hawkins (Corporal 23772756).

Notes

Any more memories or recollection of „Postie“ life, please forward for the next Posthorn.

Postal & Courier Service Branch Royal Engineers Association

Minutes of Annual General Meeting on the 1st April 2011

Action

1. The president brought the meeting to order and welcomed all those present at 1005hrs at the "The Village Hotel" Newcastle. 58 Members attended including committee.

2. Minutes from previous meeting read out and confirmed as true.

Proposed By: Nick Clifton.

Seconded By: Dick Legg.

3. Apologies.

Pete Braithwaite (Overseas), Reg Foulks (illness), Jim Steer, Dave Milstead, Pete Holman, Rod Norman, Ted Wolton, Dave Tedder, Ken Smith and Andy Ingram.

4. Financial summary.

Thanks were given to the ladies on the raffle committee for the efforts in increasing the branches funds from the Raffle held on Saturday night. Treasurers report given and financial statement for the year subject to audit.

Proposed by Lou Lister

Seconded by Pete Cussons

5. The president read out the Old Comrades lost to the branch since the last meeting.

Billy Appleyard, William Bennett, Legs Diamond, Arthur Grundy, Barbra Marshall, John Nichols and Bill Twigg.

A minutes silence was held in memory of members who had passed away in the last year.

6. Chairman spoke on the following

a. Website:

The site had now been taken over completely by Sue Harman and thanks were offered to Simon Fenwick along with Life Membership for setting up the site for the branch.

b. Remembrance Sunday November 2012.

It was suggested that members who wished to participate in the Remembrance Sunday service at the Cenotaph London in November 2012 were to give their names to the Secretary and along with Lou Lister arrangements would be made for members to attend.

**Larry Peacock
& Lou Lister**

7. Proposal for the location of the next year's Event.

After a discussion and vote the location was decided to be The Village Hotel Leeds on the weekend 30th March – 1st April 2012. The treasurer to find out details and book the hotel.

**Chris
Connuaghton**

8. Any other business.

a. Thanks were given for the support given at Billy Appleyards funeral.

b. Mick Atkinson offered thanks for the flowers received for his Mothers 100th Birthday and the support he received for his sponsored bike ride.

c. Dave Muckle thanked those who supported his sponsored motorcycle ride "The Great Escape" going from London to the prison camp that the film is based on.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 1035hrs

Chairman's Report

This year's get together took place at the Village Hotel, Newcastle over 1st - 3rd April.

There are lots to see and do in Newcastle and the surrounding areas. Dick McKenzie, Ronny Jessiman and Jim Bradshaw took the opportunity to watch Newcastle United beat Wolves 4 - 1 and were greatly impressed by the atmosphere at St James Park. Others, including Jack Griffiths took the opportunity to catch the bus outside the hotel and visit Whitley Bay whilst Peter and Margaret Wescott took a few hours to visit their old stamping grounds from the 1950's.

There were 110 members seated for dinner and one member travelled from Scotland to attend for a few hours on Saturday afternoon. It was especially good to see Mick Ives and Linda who were visiting from Australia.

The President spoke briefly after dinner and introduced the Guest Speaker Lou Lister. Lou talked of days gone by and of various characters from our past for a good 15 minutes.

The bar was kept open well into the night and I am sure the management was delighted with their takings.

The AGM was well attended on Sunday morning and those attending voted to stay with the Village hotel chain but at Leeds for the 2012 reunion. There are two village hotels at Leeds with whom we have already made contact and Chris Connaughton and I will carry out a recce in the near future to see which the best location is and to negotiate the best deal possible.

Brian Felks
Chairman

NB. Sadly, Dennis Bertie and Vanessa Bellamy both passed away shortly after the reunion. They were both staunch supporters of the Association and will be greatly missed by their comrades. Our deepest sympathies go to Gina. Colin and Susan, Mel and Laura, and the families and friends of Dennis and Vanessa.

Committee Members

President:

Col. (Retired) Peter Wescott RE

Chairman:

Maj. (Retired) Brian Felks RE

Treasurer:

Maj. (Retired) Chris Connaughton RE

Secretary:

Larry Peacock

Committee Members

Mr Ray Fenn

Mr Mick Atkinson

Secretary details

Larry Peacock

31 Pennine Crescent

REDCAR

TS10 4 AE

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01642-476380

E mail

larrypeacock60@hotmail.co.uk

Membership Eligibility

If you have served in the RE (PS) or (PCCU) or (PCS) you are eligible to join the PCS Branch of the REA. (Any other

H.M. Armed Forces (Royal Navy and Royal Air Forces) member who has served with or associated with Postal & Courier Units then you can join as an Associate Member).

If you served in the ATS or WRAC and were trained as a Postal & Courier Operator you are entitled to join the PCS Branch as an Associate member. Subscriptions £5 per year. Please make cheques payable to:

The Treasurer PCS Branch REA

Lost & Found

Members, who have lost contact (LC) with the branch, wish to leave (WL) and those that are over three years behind in their subscriptions (BS):

Pete Askew (LC) Peter & Lesley Billington (BS), David & Elizabeth Brown (BS), Andrew Burnett (BS), Andrew Cruickshank (BS), Ronald Davies (BS), John & Helen Deasy (BS), Peter Dickson (BS), Harry Hackett (BS), Dick McKenzie (BS) George Nicholson (BS), Edward Smith (BS), Michael Walker (BS) and Fred Wright (WL).

Welcome to new branch members:

Mary Hogg, Terry Hughes, Arthur Kerr, Billy & Anne McLeod, Ella Reast and Elizabeth Sampson.

Last Post



Over the year the following members are no longer with us and have moved to a higher association.

Anne APPLEBY - Denis BERTIE
Vanessa BELLAMY - Donald CALDER

Brenda DALEY - Legs DIAMOND
Arthur GRUNDY- John PICKFORD
Bill MOONIE - Rod TIPTON (TA)

Membership Subscription List

Listed below are the current details of all members subscriptions, paid up to the date shown.

Any concerns about the dates then please contact me Larry Peacock and I will make the correction or confirm the details are correct.

No	First Name	SURNAME	Paid up to
1	Brian	ANDERSON	2013
2	James	ANDREWS	2007
3	Michael	ATKINSON	2013
4	Mark	ATWELL	2011
5	John	BAILEY	2010
6	Ralph	BAKER	2009
7	Terence	BAKEWELL	2009
8	Alan	BARKER	2010
9	Martyn	BARRETT	2013
10	Douglas	BAXTER	2015
11	Joseph	BEEDELS	2009
12	Melvyn	BELLAMY	2013
13	Christopher	BENNETT	2012
14	David	BINNINGTON	2011
15	Reg	BLACK	2010
16	David	BLANE	2010
17	John	BLEASDALE	2008
18	Gary	BOSHER	2008
19	John	BOWMAN	2009
20	James	BRADSHAW	2014
21	Peter	BRAITHWAITE	2011
22	George	BRETT	2016
23	Eric	BRICE	2012

No	First Name	SURNAME	Paid up to
24	Anthony	BRYAN	2013
25	Richard	BULLOCK	2011
26	Robert	BURNETT	2008
27	Christine	BURTON	2008
28	Mark	BURTON	2010
29	William	BUTT	2011
30	Karen	CALDWELL	2011
31	Stuart	CAMBRIDGE	2012
32	Donald	CAMPBELL	2009
33	Alexander	CARSON	2010
34	Terence	CHADWICK	2010
35	George	CHANDLER	2009
36	Douglas	CLARK	2011
37	George	CLEASBY	2011
38	Nicholas	CLIFTON	2013
39	Tilly	CLIFTON	PNSR
40	Peter	CLIFTON	2010
41	Leslie	CLYDESDALE	2015
42	Gilbert	COLE	2009
43	Adrian	COLLINS	2013
44	Thomas	COMPSON	2013
45	Christopher	CONNAUGHTON	2013
46	Donald	COOPER	2011

No	First Name	SURNAME	Paid up to
47	John	CORRIGAN	2011
48	Alasdair	COWAN	2013
49	Carl	COX	2009
50	Stuart	CRAIG	2013
51	Neil	CRAWFORD	2011
52	Audrey	CROOK	2010
53	Jean	CROOK	NEW
54	Humphry	CRYER	2013
55	Michael	CUMMINS	2010
56	Anthony	CURTIS	2013
57	Peter	CUSSONS	2014
58	Stephen	DARRAGH	2009
59	Gerald	DAVEY	2009
60	Alan	DAVIES	2010
61	Joan	DAVIES	PNSR
62	Anthony	DOHERTY	2012
63	John	DOHERTY	2011
64	John	DOUGLAS	2010
65	Henry	EAGLE	2014
66	Dennis	EASON	2012
67	Patrick	ELLIOTT	2010
68	Derek	EWAN	2013
69	Brian	FELKS	2015

No	First Name	SURNAME	Paid up to
70	Raymond	FENN	2012
71	Simon	FENWICK	LIFE
72	Frederick	FERGUSON	2009
73	Jeremy	FIELD	2016
74	Andrew	FLOOD	2010
75	Don	FOWLER	2009
76	David	FOULKS	2012
77	Christine	FRETWELL	2010
78	Ronald	FULTON	2010
79	John	GADSBY	2011
80	Paul	GAFFNEY	2011
81	John	GALLAND	2012
82	Albert	GARRIOCK	2010
83	Alistair	GEE	2010
84	Ernest	GENT	2011
85	Michael	GIBERTSON	2013
86	Christopher	GOODWIN	2008
87	Margaret	GRANT	2011
88	Robert	GRAY	2017
89	Patricia	GRAY	2013
90	Jack	GRIFFITHS	2013
91	Peter	GRIFFITHS	2012
92	Norman	HARMAN	2011
93	Brian	HARRIS	2013
94	John	HARVEY	2009
95	Andrew	HAWKESWORTH	2014
96	William	HAWKINS	2009
97	William	HEATH	2012
98	Dwight	HEDDLE	2012
99	Gerald	HERNANDEZ	2013
100	Simon	HEYS	2013
101	Stephen	HOGG	2009
102	Mary	HOGG	NEW

No	First Name	SURNAME	Paid up to
103	Eric	HOLMAN	2013
104	Alexander	HORSBRUGH	2008
105	Clifford	HOWES	2008
106	John	HUDSON	2008
107	Rita	HUDSON	PNSR
108	Howard	HUGHES	2019
109	Jacqueline	HUGHES	2010
110	Roger	HUGHES	2010
111	Terry	HUGHES	2014
112	Yvonne	HUGHES	2011
113	Colon	HUNTER	2013
114	Pat	HYNES	2013
115	Andrew	INGRAM	2012
116	Peter	IVE	2011
117	Adam	JACK	2009
118	John	JACKETT	2017
119	John	JACKSON	2018
120	Edward	JENKINSON	2011
121	Raymond	JENNINGS	2009
122	Ronald	JESSIMAN	2011
123	David	JOHNSON	2014
124	Michael	JONES	NEW
125	Samuel	JONES	2014
126	James	JOWETT	2014
127	Joseph	KELLY	2010
128	Neil	KELLY	2011
129	William	KENEFEC	2011
130	Colin	KENNEDY	2014
131	Donald	KENT	2011
132	Arthur	KERR	2013
133	Mavis	KIRK	2012
134	Julian	KOSTYSZYN	2010
135	Cyril	LACEY	2013

No	First Name	SURNAME	Paid up to
136	Frederick	LATHAM	2013
137	Gerald	LAUDER	2012
138	William	LAWRENSON	2011
139	Frank	LEA	2012
140	Harry	LEES	2011
141	Jean	LEGG	2011
142	Richard	LEGG	2011
143	Herbert	LEIGHTON	2016
144	Kathleen	LEIGHTON	PNSR
145	Kevin	LIVESEY	2009
146	Alistair	LENNIE	2011
147	Brian	LEVEY	2009
148	Barry	LINDEN	2012
149	Ian	LISTER	2012
150	Kevin	LIVESEY	2009
151	Darrell	LLOYD	2008
152	Herbert	LOCKWOOD	2010
153	Norman	LOCKWOOD	2012
154	Marian	LOVERIDGE	2012
155	June	LOWE	2012
156	Raymond	LYALL	2012
157	Edward	LYONS	2011
158	Stephen	LYTHGOE	2008
159	George	MADGIN	2010
160	Gerald	MAGUIRE	2014
161	Geoffrey	MANNING	2009
162	Patrick	MARSHALL	2011
163	Peter	MASLIN	2010
164	Victor	MATTHEWS	2009
165	Mary	MCCABE	2013
166	James	MCEWAN	2008
167	John	MCGOVERN	2013
168	Robert	MCKEEVER	2008

No	First Name	SURNAME	Paid up to
169	Billy	MCLEOD	2010
170	Ann	MCLEOD	2010
171	Adam	MCQUILLAN	2012
172	Charles	MEACHER	2011
173	Lara	MEACHER	2011
174	Graham	MEACHER	2017
175	Raymond	MILFORD	2009
176	David	MILSTEAD	2010
177	Raymond	MITCHELL	2011
178	Marie	MONAGHAN	2010
179	Paul	MORRIS	2010
180	David	MUCKLE	2010
181	Ronald	MURREY	2013
182	Christopher	NEILL	2009
183	Christopher	NELSON	2011
184	Rodney	NORMAN	2013
185	Tom	O GRADY	AS
186	Neville	ORTON	2010
187	Keith	OXER	2014
188	John	PALMER	2007
189	Stephen	PALMER	2007
190	Steve	PATCH	2009
191	Lawrence	PEACOCK	2011
192	Gillian	PEACOCK	PNSR
193	Lennox	PERKINS	2013
194	Adrian	PROSSER	2011
195	Ronald	PYNE	2012
196	Eddie	REA	AW
197	Edward	REARDON	2010
198	Ella	REAST	2011
199	Peter	REDFERN	2015
200	Gary	REES	2009
201	Robert	ROBINSON	2011

No	First Name	SURNAME	Paid up to
202	Joan	ROUND	2010
203	Jack	ROUS	2010
204	Bryan	ROWNEY	2009
205	Carmino	RUGGIERO	2009
206	Geoffrey	SALMON	2013
207	John	SAMUEL	2012
208	Elizabeth	SAMPSON	2011
209	Valerie	SANDERS	2012
210	Howard	SCOTT	2013
211	James	SEAR	2010
212	Mark	SEARLE	2009
213	Aidan	SHOEBRIDGE	2019
214	John	SHOULDER	2012
215	Ian	SILK	2009
216	Richard	SILSBY	2012
217	Neil	SIMS	2013
218	Sam	SINGLETON	AWRUK
219	William	SKEEL	2013
220	David	SMITH	2009
221	Gordon	SMITH	2013
222	Ian	SMITH	2010
223	Kenneth	SMITH	2012
224	Alan	STANDING	2010
225	James	STEER	2012
226	Paul	STODDART	2011
227	Ronald	STRATTEN	2013
228	Edward	STUART	2012
229	Norman	SUSSEX	2014
230	Pamela	SUSSEX	2012
231	Douglas	SWANSON	2012
232	Gordon	TAIT	2011
233	David	TEDDER	2013
234	Ivor	THOMAS	2011

No	First Name	SURNAME	Paid up to
235	Frederick	THOMPSON	2011
236	David	THORNTON	2008
237	Charles	TIMOTHY	2011
238	Ken	TREVOR	2012
239	George	URBAN	2011
240	David	VAUTIER	2013
241	Maurice	VESSEY	2010
242	Roy	WALKER	2013
243	Albert	WALL	2011
244	Douglas	WALTER	2012
245	Gordon	WARDELL	2012
246	Frances	WARDELL	PNSR
247	Derek	WATT	2011
248	Margret	WATT	2011
249	Richard	WEBB	2009
250	Peter	WESCOTT	2015
251	Stephen	WHITE	2018
252	Michael	WHITEHEAD	2011
253	John	WHITTAKER	2011
256	Dennis	WHITTALL	2014
255	Barry	WILDING	2011
256	Darren	WILKIE	2008
257	Robert	WILLIAMS	2011
258	William	WINFIELD	2011
259	Edward	WOLTON	2011
260	Edward	WOOFITT	2010
261	Jed	WRIGHT	2008
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