

# The 12th Armoured Brigade

## History

The 12<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade is one of the three brigades of the 1<sup>st</sup> (UK) Armoured Division (the others being the 7<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>). It was previously known as the 12<sup>th</sup> Mechanised Brigade until June 1994 when it rejoined 1<sup>st</sup> (UK) Armoured Division having briefly been part of 3<sup>rd</sup> (UK) Armoured Division. Despite the name, the brigade is actually infantry heavy although the infantry are what is referred to in British military terms as armoured infantry (i.e. equipped with Warrior MICV).



*Illustration 1: Full colour version of the brigade patch, a tactical version in black on OG was widely issued.*

As the Sino-Soviet war started the brigade quickly deployed from its garrison in Osnabruck, Germany to wartime positions and absorbed the recalled reservist troops it was allocated to bring it up to full strength. Unlike many of the UK brigades in Germany it did not gain an extra infantry battalion leaving it a triangular division with one tank battalion (in British terminology armoured) and two mechanised infantry battalions (in British terminology armoured infantry – although both were equipped only with FV432 armoured personnel carriers instead of the newer FV510 Warrior MICVs<sup>1</sup>). By November the Brigade was gradually stood down from war alert although high intensity training continued (in particular of the newly recalled reservists).



*Illustration 2: CVR(T) Scorpion of 4RTR in training during the build up to the fighting. MoD*

With the outbreak of the Polish-German fighting the brigade was put back on high alert although no move forward into the pre-planned battle positions in eastern Germany occurred for fear of provoking the Soviets. As the German forces pulled back however, the British Government ordered the unit to move up to the fighting positions that had been along the inner-German border until reunification. At this point it was composed of:

- (C)29 Squadron Squadron of 1 Close Support Medical Regiment
- 228 Signal Squadron (Brigade Headquarters)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Royal Tank Regiment (Type 57 Regiment equipped with Chieftain MBTs)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Irish Rangers
- 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Green Jackets

Attached to the brigade were:

- 2 Field Regiment Royal (Self Propelled Artillery with M109)
  - HQ Battery
  - L Battery
  - M Battery
  - N Battery
  - O Battery
- 31 Armoured Squadron, 32 Regiment Royal Engineers based at Hohne
- 4 Logistic Support Regiment, Royal Logistics Corps
- 4 Close Support Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
- 174 Provost Company 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment Royal Military Police based at Hohne – in wartime these were given the role of traffic direction

As the 1<sup>st</sup> (UK) Armoured Division moved into the eastern part of Germany on the 10<sup>th</sup> December it moved in a one up formation with the 22<sup>nd</sup> Armoured Brigade leading and the 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigades in the rear. Halting in the area of Buckwitz the division changed formation to have the 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigades forward. Digging into defensive positions, the division allowed the German 7<sup>th</sup> Panzergrenadier Division to fall back through them. Following quickly on the Germans' heels was the Soviet 5<sup>th</sup> Guards Army.



*Illustration 3: Radio operator with UK/PRC351 from 1RGJ battlegroup occupies a defensive position in a stream as part of a forward observer team. Daily Mail*

Digging in in hasty positions, the 12<sup>th</sup> formed three battle groups, the 4<sup>th</sup> RTR Battlegroup that gained a company from each of the infantry battalions in return for two of its squadrons and the infantry battlegroups (both losing one of their companies in return for the tank squadron). 4RTR BG formed the brigade reserve while the infantry dug in to defend the small hamlets and woodland (supported by three German Landwehr companies).

*"I'll never forget Sgt Kelly coming round all the trenches to tell us that the 9/12<sup>th</sup> Lancers to our right had been in contact and had taken losses. Up until then I think we all couldn't really believe that it was going to happen. I noticed that after he left a position the guys there suddenly started to be a bit keener on digging in..."*

Ranger Tam Ferguson, 1 RIR quoted in "Maelstrom Europa" Sellers Books 2012

At 05:30 on the 13<sup>th</sup>, the first Soviet troops came into sight of the 1 RGJ BG (some veterans of the battle place the time at about 06:15 but the brigade war diary written in the following days gives the time of 05:30). Holding their fire as long as possible, the infantry and Chieftains opened fire at under 1000m using the 120mm rifled guns and Milans to inflict heavy losses on the Soviet reconnaissance troops. The Soviet commander of the 39<sup>th</sup> Guards Motor Rifle Division not realising these were dug in British troops but expecting just another rearguard from the 7<sup>th</sup> Panzergrenadier Division, gambled on a hasty attack straight from the line of march. Using smoke to cover the attack helped but the TOGs equipped Chieftain Mk10s of the attached 4RTR squadrons could see clearly through this and started inflicting casualties. As the BMPs and T72s cleared the smoke at close range they were then hit by the Milans and

LAW80s of the infantry. By 09:00 the attack had been thrown back with heavy losses on both sides. The brigade commander withdrew the badly battered 1RGJ BG and brought forward the 4RTR BG to replace them in the more exposed northern position. The afternoon however saw a break for the brigade as the bulk of the Soviet 8<sup>th</sup> Guards Tank Army shifted the axis of advance to hit the positions held by the 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade. REME craftsmen worked hard to repair damaged Chieftains and medics fought to save the lives of the injured. The following morning the 12<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade received orders to withdraw west as the 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade was being slowly pushed back and its flank was exposed.

Over the next four days the unit gradually fell back inflicting losses on the Soviets with carefully arranged ambushes. On the 19<sup>th</sup> the order was given to the 1<sup>st</sup> (UK) Armoured Division to dig in around Bolzenburg. The 12<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade as the most battered unit of the division moved to the divisional reserve slot with the 7<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Armoured Brigades holding the line. By the afternoon of the 20<sup>th</sup> the Soviets reached the division's positions but the line held and by the morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, the high water mark of the Soviet advance had been reached (during this a reinforced battlegroup formed around 4RTR with a company from each of the infantry battalions made a brief counter-attack that smashed the Soviet 576<sup>th</sup> Independent Armoured Brigade in a thirty minute battle)<sup>ii</sup>.

With the 12<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade badly battered, the 51<sup>st</sup> Highland Volunteers who had formed part of a British I Corps reserve were assigned to the Brigade. These were a Territorial Army (TA) infantry unit who had been assigned Saxon APCs on

mobilisation<sup>iii</sup>. The 1<sup>st</sup> Bn Royal Green Jackets were withdrawn to refit, leaving the brigade still weak and now with a motorised infantry battalion and an armoured infantry battalion to support the armoured battalion.



*Illustration 4: 51st Highland Volunteers conduct a house clearance on the outskirts of Lowerburg. The hole has been blown with a frame charge (the remnants of which are on the ground) and is being followed up by a grenade. This is known officially as FIBUA (Fighting in Built Up Areas) but is often unofficially called by squaddies FISH (Fighting in Some bugger's House). MoD*

As NATO started its counter offensive, the 12<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade was responsible for taking Lowerburg to give the 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade a base to push off from. This was part of the 1<sup>st</sup> (UK) Armoured Division's plan to protect the northern flank of the German IV Corps as it retook Berlin.

In bitter fighting the 12<sup>th</sup> fought a hard pressed battle against elements of the Soviet 25<sup>th</sup> Tank Division. In a vicious hand to hand fighting the 12<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade eventually took the town with the 51<sup>st</sup> Highland Volunteers showing that the TA could fight as well as

*"The command 'fix bayonets' was given – we just looked at each other and Spoon just said simply 'bloody hell, what happened to push button wars!' Nobody else said anything but we all looked a bit pale even under all the cam cream."*

Private Ron Craven, 51<sup>st</sup> Highland Volunteers quoted in "They Don't Like it Up 'Em – A history of bayonet fighting" Osprey 2021

the regulars (including winning 3 Military Medals, the second highest British military decoration<sup>iv</sup>).

At this point the 1<sup>st</sup> (UK) Armoured Division stopped to resupply and to absorb replacements for its numerous casualties. In addition to individual replacements the brigade gained 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Queen's Regiment (in Saxon APCs) forming a fourth fighting unit.

On 19<sup>th</sup> March 1997 the 7<sup>th</sup> moved forward in preparation for Operation Advent Crown. On 2<sup>nd</sup> April the brigade crossed into Poland moving parallel with 22<sup>nd</sup> Armoured Brigade following 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade. During this, the 1<sup>st</sup> (UK) Armoured Division as part of the British I Corps was under the command of the German First Army. Under the code name of Operation Munro, the division was tasked with pushing deep into central Poland. On the 24<sup>th</sup> the breakthrough came as the 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade made an ambitious amphibious crossing of the Oder to the south of Schwedt. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Armoured Brigade briefly then took the lead with the 12<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade being stuck in the logistic log jam. By 26<sup>th</sup> the 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade which was again leading as the 1<sup>st</sup> (UK) Armoured Division reached Chojna which was taken after heavy street fighting against ORMO troops thrown desperately into the fray (the 12<sup>th</sup> having to act as rear area security over the next week as small pockets of ORMO attacked logistic units<sup>v</sup>). Now the 12<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade took the lead again, relieving the battered 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade. On May 4<sup>th</sup> the brigade reached Poznan and the Corps split with the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Divisions continuing east while the remainder headed south east. An attack against the Soviet 25<sup>th</sup> Tank Division broke the last resistance before Warsaw, throwing the remnants back into the city.

Gradually the British tightened the ring around Warsaw. Initially pushing along a broad front, the 12<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade quickly adopted the doctrine of the armoured raid

developed by its sister 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade. One such raid on the headquarters of the city's Communist Party resulted in a surprise capture, Major General Alexander Polikov of the Soviet 25<sup>th</sup> Tank



*Illustration 5: Unknown member of 1RGJ moves through a Warsaw back garden.*  
BBC

*"I have to say that the Polish militia deserve a lot of respect, all ages with just their military service as training, no heavy weapons and small arms often older than they were. Despite this they dug in and fought hard, in many cases we had to dig them out with bayonets and grenades. We respected them."*

Lt Roy Porter, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn Queen's Rgt quoted in "ORMO and Other Polish Militias 1996-2016 Osprey 2017

*"The general had a real shock when he drove round the corner and saw us, he hadn't expected a raid that deep. Before he could react Ian had his rifle against his head through the window (although he hadn't realised it wasn't open – there was glass everywhere, hence all the cuts you see on photos of the general). How the guy understood Ian's broad Scot's accent I'll never know although I guess the rifle did the talking! He didn't resist much as we bundled him into a Saxon. I remember the guys were really excited on the way back, Tosh was asking if she had been a good shag and worth being captured for and Spoon was asking for her address in case she got lonely now! Either he was too upset to answer or he didn't understand the broad accents."*

Corporal Steve Bennet, 51<sup>st</sup> Highland Volunteers quoted in "The Battle for Warsaw" Sellers Books 2015



Division who was returning from visiting his mistress and had driven himself without an escort<sup>vi</sup>.

For the remainder of June and into late July, the 12<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade fought through the city, being responsible for taking the Zoological Gardens on the 15<sup>th</sup> July and the Praski Park three days later. Just after this an ugly incident occurred when four soldiers from C Company 1RGJ were found with their hands bound executed with a bullet to the back of the head. The perpetrators were believed to be from the 39<sup>th</sup> Guards Motor Rifle Division<sup>vii</sup> and it is notable that few prisoners from this unit were taken over the next few weeks of the fighting.

Early August saw a change in the 12<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade's fortunes when the Soviet counter attack from the 7<sup>th</sup> Guards Tank Army pushed towards Warsaw. On 12<sup>th</sup> they pushed the 2<sup>nd</sup> (UK) Armoured Division back into the positions held by the 1<sup>st</sup> (UK) Armoured Division and on 15<sup>th</sup> the 3<sup>rd</sup> Guards Tank Division linked up to the defenders of Warsaw despite a spirited defence by the division. A fierce delaying action as I Corps withdrew resulted in the 12<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade taking heavy losses both in conventional fighting and to chemical and nuclear attacks. The 12<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade made a major contribution to the withdrawal holding the Poniatowskiego and Lazienkowski Bridges (the first of these was successfully blown up by the pioneer platoon of 1RGJ while the second was captured intact by the Soviets when the demolitions charges failed<sup>viii</sup>).



*Illustration 6: 3 Queen's Rgt GPMG team covering the approach to the Lazienkowski Bridge. The use of the bipod on a window ledge is unusual, troops usually used a larger object such as a table or dropped the legs so it did not fall off due to recoil. The Daily Express*



*Illustration 7: Weary members of A Coy 3 Queens after the withdrawal from Warsaw. ITN*

In the aftermath of the campaign, the division was withdrawn from the line to absorb replacements of personnel and equipment for the losses of the last few months. While many units found replacement equipment was downgrades of what they had, the 12<sup>th</sup> Armoured was almost unique when 4RTR with their Chieftain tanks was replaced by 4/7<sup>th</sup> Royal Dragoon Guards with Challenger Is. Even with

these replacements, the brigade was now only at about two thirds strength. Before however these replacements were fully absorbed circumstances changed resulting in the brigade being committed once again to battle.

*"In all the films you see them wait until there is an enemy unit on the bridge before they drop it, in real life you don't. Unless the guy is after a posthumous Order of Lenin, he will usually dismount, move forward to observe covertly and look for charges before doing anything else. Then he can go for them when he tries to take the bridge."*

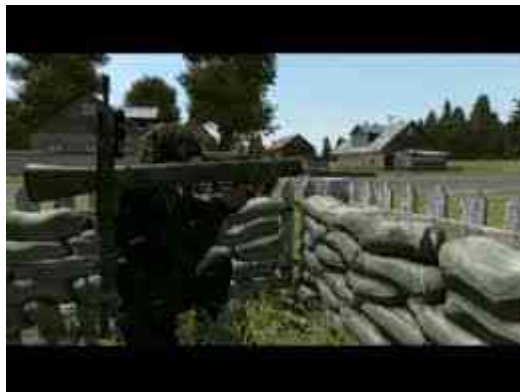
Sapper Kev Davies, 31 Armoured Squadron, 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment in "Maelstrom Europa" Sellers Books 2012

Operation Garibaldi was the Italian and Czechoslovakian push into southern Germany. Seeing the danger of being outflanked, NATO threw all the available units into the battle line in Operation Southern Redoubt and even withdrew the US 43<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division from the line to strengthen the flank (the British aspect of this was known as Op Violinist). As part of this I Corps conducted a road and rail march that saw the 12<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade again become the divisional reserve. As the division came under heavy attack the 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade withdrew through the 12<sup>th</sup> to Herzberg by conducting company sized delaying actions to catch the advancing Italians unaware. Despite heavy losses to Italian air power (in particular helicopter gunships), the division held and by October NATO was ready to conduct a counter offensive. Operation Highwayman saw the 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade retake Finsterwald before the 12<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Armoured Brigades continued pushing the Czechoslovaks back to the border at Ebersbach. With the front stabilized in late November, the division was again withdrawn to refit.



*Illustration 8: Anti-tank team from 51st Highland Volunteers dig in to stop the Italian advance. ITN*

This reorganisation of I Corps was the most drastic reorganisation of the British Army during the war, battalions were moved between divisions and often completely rebuilt although the 12<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade suffered the least reorganisation, retaining all its units (although sub units were amalgamated and reorganised).



*Illustration 9: Although probably a member of 7th Armoured Brigade, this gives a good view of a Carl Gustav ready to fire during Operation Vista. Sunday Times*

In August 1998 the now reconstructed division attacked towards Fulda as part of Operation Vista. Hitting the Soviets head on the 12<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade (along with the supporting 22<sup>nd</sup> Armoured Brigade) was the hammer that smashed the Soviet 51<sup>st</sup> Tank Division against the anvil of the 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade which had moved to block the escape routes. Only a few survivors on foot reached the Soviet lines. Capitalising on this I Corps was ordered to continue to attack to divert the Pact from the battles further south. Operating as part of Army Group Cromwell (which also incorporated elements of US, German and Dutch units), the 12<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade was tasked with acting as right flank guards as the 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade pushed to link up with the airborne troops of the 44<sup>th</sup> Airborne Brigade that was dropped to

seize vital bridges. With this flanking force meeting little opposition from the thinly spread border guard, and the 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade meeting light opposition, the 44<sup>th</sup> were reached ahead of schedule making operation Mornington Crescent the success that had been hoped for (many pessimists had considered that it could easily have been a repeat of Operation Market Garden at Arnhem).

In the aftermath of the 18<sup>th</sup> Motor Rifle Division's heroic defence stopping further progress, the 1<sup>st</sup> Czechoslovakian Army had been given time to dig in and the 1<sup>st</sup> (UK) Armoured Division was unable to make further headway and a period of static warfare ensued on the front lines with both sides undertaking extensive aggressive patrolling operations, with the division rotating the three brigades through the front, two at a time.



*Illustration 10: Recce patrol from D Coy 51st Highland Volunteers taken late 1998. MoD*



*Illustration 11: 2011 BBC reconstruction of Operation Jericho against the Forest Wolves marauder group.*

In mid February 1999 the 12<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade was relieved by elements of the German Army and withdrew to the German city of Gifhorn (where the historical wind and water mill collection has given the templates needed to make more of these natural resources). Here it spent the remainder of the year conducting anti-marauder operations and civil engineering tasks. At this point the brigade undertook a major operation to clear the area of the WaldWulfen (Forest Wolves)

marauder band lead by the charismatic Otto Wulf (although he escaped into to forest).<sup>ix</sup>

In October the division recieved an allocation of further replacements and equipment from the UK. While still a shadow of its former self, this enhanced the capabilities of the brigade. I Corps remained in location while II Corps prepared to move to the jump off point for Operation Atlantis as part of Operation Ancient Mariner. This resulted in the 12<sup>th</sup> being given a larger area to operate over and civil aid tasks become secondary to dealing with the marauders plaguing the area (including fragments of the loose alliance known to the British as the Devil's Children which had been badly hammered by the 4<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade. With the return of II Corps in late August, the 12<sup>th</sup> returned to work on civil aid tasks around Gifhorn with the anti-marauder operations being lower level as few marauder groups were of the same size as previously (although there had been some amalgamations as local militias became better trained with British help). At this time due to logistic difficulties within the 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade, the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn Staffordshire Regiment was transferred to the 12<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade rather than move the battalion. 1 Squadron RAF Regiment also became attached to the brigade at this point to act as a brigade recce element in its Land Rovers.



During Operation Omega, the 12<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade turned over many supplies to formed American units that were passing through their area as per British Government policy (although less help was given to small bands of soldiers – mainly as it was felt that these could easily be marauders – admittedly a very fine distinction). The winter and spring were spent rebuilding these stocks prior to a move back to the UK planned for late 2001 or early 2002.

Despite the planned date for withdrawal to UK being late 2001 or early 2002, the 1<sup>st</sup> (UK) Armoured Division did not actually return until late 2003, moving from the containment areas to the northern German ports in an orderly withdrawal in September 2003. Some troops took the option of discharge in Germany and there remains a strong sense of British identity in the area even today.

## Current Organisation

As of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2001 the 12<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade consists of the following:

### 12<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade

1 Squadron, RAF Regiment – acting as recce in Landrovers (one flight is now horsed cavalry as parts run scarce)

31 Armoured Squadron, 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers – bridging rolled initially but now general purpose

228 Signal Squadron

4 (Close Support) Battalion, REME

4<sup>th</sup> /7<sup>th</sup> Royal Dragoon Guards (A) –

Challenger I – C Squadron destroyed and not rebuilt

HQ Squadron

A/B Squadron – amalgamated with 3 Challenger Is of assorted marks

3<sup>rd</sup> Bn The Queen's Regiment

HQ Company

A Company

B Company

C Company

D Company

1<sup>st</sup> Bn The Staffordshire Regiment

HQ Company

A Company

B Company

C Company

1<sup>st</sup> Bn 51<sup>st</sup> Highland Volunteers

HQ Company (Black Watch)



*Illustration 12: Members of 12th Armoured Brigade at the homecoming service in Portsmouth Cathedral November 2003*



*Illustration 13: Defence minister Walter Peckham inspects members of 7th Armoured Brigade on their return to the UK. MoD*



A/K Company (Black Watch) - amalgamated  
 G Company (London Scottish)  
 V Company (Liverpool Scottish)  
 2 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery - M109  
 HQ Battery  
 L "Heavy Mortar" Battery – rerolled to 81mm mortars in softskin vehicles  
 N/O Battery – amalgamated with 2 M109s

## Equipment

The brigade still has a number of operating Challenger Is, although many are very battered. 3<sup>rd</sup> Queens are in FV432s and AT105 Saxons, 1<sup>st</sup> 51<sup>st</sup> Highland Volunteers are in softskin vehicles and 1<sup>st</sup> Staffords are in a mix of Warriors and FV432s.

## Personalities

The author Robert Parker served with 31 Armoured Sqn, 32 Rgt Royal Engineers from March 1999 to March 2006. Best known for his series of books following the parallel lives of Napoleon and Wellington, he also published a darkly humorous but unfortunately brief slightly fictionalised account of his war service in "Digging Deep" and the sequel about UK reconstruction "Is It Deep Enough Yet?"



*Illustration 15: Jason Cole from a photo taken in early 1997 when he was at Sandhurst. Voices Are Us Agency*

The radio and later children's TV presenter Jason Cole was a platoon commander in 3 Queen's Rgt from 1997-1998 before being injured in an artillery strike and transferred to the Intelligence Corps where he served as a translator in I Corps headquarters, ending the war as a Captain.

Professor James Wilson who went on to become the Astronomer Royal served as a REME officer in 4<sup>th</sup> Bn REME throughout the war and on into the Saudi War. During this time he developed his interest in astronomy and also his less well known skill as a guitarist (he was well known for entertaining his unit with renditions of popular rock songs winning the 2002 Squaddies Have Talent competition run by the brigade as a morale boost while waiting to return home).

## Commanders

June 1995 – February 1997: Brigadier Jerome Fox-Carter (late Irish Guards) – wounded in action and replaced



*Illustration 14: Captain Parker from the cover of "Is It Deep Enough Yet" Penguin Books*



*Illustration 16: Major Wilson pictured in 2012 during the Saudi War. Sandy Time - The (unofficial) magazine of the war*

February 1997 – March 1997: Brigadier Henry Wall (late Royal Engineers) – transferred to 12<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade from 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade – killed in action

March 1997 – April 1997: Colonel Paul Peek (late Black Watch) – assumed command when Brigadier Wall was injured – wounded in action

April 1997 – June 1997: Colonel Saul Inverson (late Army Air Corps) – killed in action

June 1997 - July 1997: Brigadier Walter Olivera MC (late Parachute Regiment) – killed in action in the fighting for Warsaw leading an assault

July 1997 – August 1997: Colonel Alan Evans-Pritchard (late Welsh Guards) – missing in action

August 1997 – February 2000: Brigadier Robert James (late Royal Tank Regiment) – moved to 1<sup>st</sup> (UK) Armoured Division

February 2000 – October 2003 Brigadier Paul Peek (late Black Watch) – retired

October 2003 – Brigadier Walter McAlan (late Royal Logistic Corps)

### See also

- ⤴ 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade for details of the sister brigade
- ⤴ 22<sup>nd</sup> Armoured Brigade for details of the sister brigade
- ⤴ RAF Regiment for details of 1 Squadron RAF Rgt



*Illustration 17: Colonel Peek on his return to the UK with his two sons – September 2003*

- i It had been planned to convert these the MICV-80 Warriors but slow production (mainly as a cost cutting measure) had resulted in a number of units being still mechanised in FV432s.
- ii The story of this battle can be found in “Steel and Speed” by Lt Col (Rtd) Oscar Morrison who was in command of C Squadron 4RTR during the battle. Initially privately published it was later published by RLY Press in 2023 after it was added to the reading list at the Armoured Corps Training School in 2020. As a result of the battle Bolzenburg was added to 4RTR's battle honours and members of B Company 1RGJ and A Company 1RIR who fought in the battle often unofficially wore a black or white stylised World War One era tank on the right sleeve of the combat jacket (these were presented by the OC of 4RTR and were the same as worn by members of the Royal Tank Regiment).
- iii The AT105 Saxon was a real battlefield taxi, being basically an armoured truck with little cross country mobility. It was intended to move troops forward on a European battlefield while not costing the same amount as an APC.
- iv One winner Lance Corporal Harry “Winter” Snow would later go on to win a bar to his MM in the fighting for Al Faw in the Saudi War in 2011.
- v The first female non-posthumous recipient of a Military Medal occurred at this point when Sara Jenkins a medic from the Queen Alexandra's Royal Nursing Corps was awarded it for three times crossing a road under heavy fire to treat members of 3 Queens when they were ambushed by an ORMO unit. Sara was a regular guest at reunions until her death from lung cancer in 2039.
- vi General Polikov was later shipped to Canada along with large numbers of Pact prisoners. He was released in 2005 and went on to settle in Canada where he became a farm manager until his death in 2022 after a stroke.
- vii Despite extensive research I have been unable to discover why this unit has been identified with the murders of the soldiers. No documentary evidence appears to exist and interviews with veterans merely shows that someone (usually in the chain of command) told them without giving any evidence.
- viii It was destroyed a few days later in the nuclear strikes on the city.
- ix In 2043 a retired factory worker Hans Kroll was accused of being Otto Wulf by three women who had been raped by his men. Before the matter could be fully investigated by the Hannoverian authorities, Kroll died of a heart attack leaving his identity undetermined.