

## The 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment “Brave Rifles”

A prewar regular army regiment formed in 1846 and stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, under command of III U.S. Corps. Prior to the Twilight War, the Regiment had last deployed to the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Storm. The regiment was placed on alert in early October of 1996, and in early November began to deploy by air to Europe<sup>1</sup>. The regiment left its heavy equipment at Fort Bliss and took over equipment stored at POMCUS Site 4 at Monchengladbach in



*Illustration 1: POMCUS Site 4 pictured in September 1996 (US Army)*

western Germany<sup>2</sup>. “For those used to the REFORGER (Return of Forces to Germany) exercises the issue of war only stores and live ammunition on arrival made for a chilling realisation that this was not an exercise although for newer members of the regiment often deploying abroad for the first time in their lives it still had the feel of an adventure.”<sup>3</sup>

Upon arrival in Germany, the regiment initially came under command of the reinforced V U.S. Corps, but on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1996 reverted to command of III U.S. Corps when this became active<sup>4</sup> and began moving north

by road to its new positions at Luneburg.

The regiment moved forward on a war footing on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1996 and was engaged in combat against Soviet forces on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1996, engaging reconnaissance elements of the 21<sup>st</sup> Guards Motor Rifle Division. The AH1s and OH58s of the Aviation Squadron used TOW2 missiles to destroy 6 BMP2s of the 21<sup>st</sup> before withdrawing after losing an OH58 to a man pack missile<sup>5</sup>.

By Christmas the tide had started to turn advance stopped and III Corps launched Operation Winter Warmth, a counter attack aimed at pushing the Pact forces back to the Elbe. Meeting with initial success the 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR acted as the eyes and ears of the Corps. On 3<sup>rd</sup> January they encountered heavy opposition at Finsterwalde when a counter attack from the 39<sup>th</sup> Guards Motor Rifle Division inflicted heavy losses, especially on 1-3ACR although Soviet losses caused



*Illustration 2: 3ACR pictured "somewhere in Germany" by the BBC. As these are M113s it can be assumed that these are either the Engineer or Intelligence sections 10th December 1996*

<sup>1</sup> The same aircraft returned dependants from Germany to the United States as part of Operation Home Flight.

<sup>2</sup> This equipment was issued to the 116<sup>th</sup> ACR in January 1996 to upgrade them from the M60s and M113s they were then equipped with. The next three months were used to familiarise themselves with the new vehicles before deploying to Europe where the vehicles formerly belonging to the 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR were used by the 116<sup>th</sup> ACR alongside their previous owners during the withdrawal from Warsaw.

<sup>3</sup> Major (retired) Alex J Walters Jnr, “Armoured Cavalry in Europe” Arms & Armour Press (2022)

<sup>4</sup> V US Corps had been temporarily reinforced by elements of III US Corps until it could be reformed in Europe, namely the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armoured Cavalry Regiment, although the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armoured Division and 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division remained with V US Corps.

<sup>5</sup> Probably an SA14.

the 39<sup>th</sup> to be withdrawn to be refitted. Swift action from the US 2<sup>nd</sup> Armoured Division in forming a line for the 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR to withdraw through undoubtedly saved the 3<sup>rd</sup>. After a brief pause to reorganise and rearm, III Corps continued to attack, with 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR leading. A bold thrust captured two bridges over the Spree south of Cottbus<sup>6</sup>, one being captured by the 4<sup>th</sup> Squadron's Blackhawks in an airmobile assault<sup>7</sup>. By late January still short of the Elbe, 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR halted and took up a defensive position west of Berg Muskau as III Corps moved troops south to deal with a weak Czechoslovakian and Soviet offensive north into southern Germany. In order to increase the strength of the regiment, as a temporary measure it took as attachments 2-66 Armor from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Division and 413<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion (Jagerbataillon 413) from the German 41<sup>st</sup> Homeland Security Brigade<sup>8</sup>.

February 1997 saw the 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR relieved in place by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division. At this point the two attached battalions were returned to their parent units. The Regiment then moved by road to Konigsbruck where it absorbed replacement personnel and vehicles. Even with these each cavalry squadron was reduced to two troops. The aviation squadron did not lose any troops but the air cavalry and attack helicopter troops were reduced in size as not enough air frames were available as replacements.



*Illustration 3: Weary troopers of the 2nd Squadron on the morning of 16th May near Wroclaw. (CNN)*

On 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1997 NATO launched Operation Advent Crown aimed at knocking Poland out of the war. III Corps was tasked with pushing towards Wroclaw then Krakow as the northern flank of the German 3<sup>rd</sup> Army. Just east of Wroclaw from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May the 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR was involved in heavy fighting with the rearguard elements of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Guards Motor Rifle Division<sup>9</sup>.

Pushing on, the 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR with the rest of III Corps followed the 6<sup>th</sup> Panzer Grenadier Division towards Opole while Panzergruppe Obersdorf attacked Czeschotowa in Untermehmen Wall (Operation Ramrod). Opole fell on 1<sup>st</sup> June without 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR being engaged. Logistics now slowed the advance and the fighting became more static with the 3<sup>rd</sup> being given a roving role probing the Pact front along the frontage of III Corps.

With the Italian entry into the war and their forcing of the Alpine Passes in early July the stalled southern offensive was suspended and III Corps stretched its frontage as German units of the 3<sup>rd</sup> German Army were moved north to assist British II Corps units in the fighting in Warsaw<sup>10</sup>.

By August NATO was on the defensive as the Soviets threw units fresh from the Chinese Front into the fighting in Poland. Under heavy pressure NATO started a fighting withdrawal. The regiment

<sup>6</sup> These were formally renamed in 2008 by the German government as Sabre Bridge and Longknife Bridge after the squadrons that captured them (although Sabre Bridge is actually a rebuilt bridge from 2006 as the original was destroyed in 1998).

<sup>7</sup> A Valorous Unit Award was made for this in June 1997.

<sup>8</sup> This was a former East German Army unit. At this point the battalion was equipped with Schutzenpanzerwagon (SPW) 70, the German designation for the Romanian made BTR70 slightly improved into the TAB77. These had been upgraded to SPW70A standard with better brakes and headlights although they are identical in game terms.

<sup>9</sup> In this action Warrant Officer Juliet Tilley became the first female Medal of Honour winner for twice landing her OH58 helicopter behind Pact lines under fire to rescue downed AH1 crews. In the second incident she dismounted to help a wounded pilot from the wreckage of his helicopter, engaging a number with her M231.

<sup>10</sup> Further north the offensive continued and eventually lead elements actually reached the Polish-Russian border.

suffered heavy casualties while serving as a rear guard during the retreat from Warsaw. On October 17<sup>th</sup> while falling back, the Regiment was turned around and thrown into the line at Rawicz as the only reserve available to the 3<sup>rd</sup> German Army. Here it delayed the 10<sup>th</sup> Guards Tank Division long enough for the remainder of the corps to escape possible encirclement. In this one action the regiment took 25% casualties including the acting commanding officer who was killed in an artillery barrage<sup>11</sup>.



*Illustration 1: 2-3ACR M1s under air attack in September 1997 (ITN)*

Thanksgiving Day Massacre. In the last days of December 1997 the regiment was reformed as a single squadron as personnel and equipment were not forthcoming in the aftermath of the nuclear exchanges.

Returning to the front line in February 1998, the 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR was given control of the sector centred on Luban. Despite heavy fighting to the south and south west, little fighting occurred in this area. Most of the action seen by 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR was against the bands of marauders that were being forced westwards by Pact anti-marauder sweeps. In particular the group known as the Silent Wolves caused a number of headaches to the regiment until it was finally broken up in May 1998 when it was caught between US and Soviet anti-marauder sweeps<sup>12</sup>.

The Pact offensive of June 1998 ended the quiet period, 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR only just escaped being cut off as the Pact troops pushed north from Czechoslovakia following the line of the Spree<sup>13</sup>. By August the line had stabilised again with 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR tasked with holding the area around Freiburg. As NATO prepared for Operation Mornington Crescent, the attack into Czechoslovakia, the 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR was temporarily attached to I (UK) Corps (which with the augmentation units was known as Army Group Cromwell) as a strengthener for the two (in British fashion, lighter equipped) Corps recce elements. 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR was responsible for reaching elements of 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion the Parachute Regiment that had dropped as



*Illustration 4: Lt Sean Gillis of 2nd Troop interrogates a suspected marauder. April 1998 (US Army)*

<sup>11</sup> A second Valorous Unit Award was made for this action in November 1997.

<sup>12</sup> It is believed that there may have been some unofficial co-operation to remove this threat with the local mayor being the go between for US commander and Major General Tupulin of the 1<sup>st</sup> Tank Division.

<sup>13</sup> This fighting resulted in the last of the helicopters being finally grounded due to a lack of spares and battle damage. The last AH1 "Apollo" was destroyed on the ground when it could not be refuelled before the break out.

part of 44<sup>th</sup> Airborne Brigade to take the bridge at Zatec<sup>14</sup>.

At the end of Operation Mornington Crescent in early October, the 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR returned to III Corps command and moved into western Austria around Worgul. Here it undertook long range anti-marauder operations mainly using HMMWVs and locally acquired transport<sup>15</sup>. At regular intervals it also rotated through front line duties (although this was mainly static defensive positions on this minor front). This situation continued through the remainder of 1998 and all of 1999.



*Illustration 1: 1st Squadron soldiers in the fighting near Slany, late September 1998. (US Army)*

By 2000 little had changed until the start of Operation Ancient Mariner in June. In preparation for this the Regiment moved north to Rothenburg on the old Polish-German border and was transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> German Army. This move was not as simple as it appears on paper as the 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR encountered opposition from a marauder group near Ebersbach when the group attacked the logistics element. In a fierce firefight the logistics train managed to hold out until a relief force arrived and in a co-ordinated attack forced the marauders to flee towards a blocking force causing heavy casualties and shattering the band. Unfortunately a number of tankers were destroyed and two captured.

This shortage of fuel complicated the move north with some units reaching the form up point for the offensive without any reserves of fuel (some vehicles were showing that they were running on empty for the last few miles of the journey). As a result the 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR was delayed in leaving their start point and was only capable of doing this by stripping a number of tankers and fuel from the 44<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division<sup>16</sup>. Leading III Corps the 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR eventually reached the Oder at Scinawa where an inability to seize a crossing in the light of strong Soviet dug in defence and roving Polish guerrillas, stopped the attack. In late August the corps was ordered to withdraw and passed through relieving German units to return to Worgul in Austria. This move was only achievable by using logistics supplies provided by the relief units as the regiment was still short of tankers having returned most to the 44<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division.

When Operation Omega was launched in October 2000, the regiment did not respond to the order but remained in Worgul regarding the difficulties of reaching Bremahaven as insurmountable, in particular the shortage of tankers<sup>17</sup>. See Annex A for more information.

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14 As a result of this members of 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR who were serving with the unit at that time started to wear a red X behind the Regimental patch (this is the DZ patch of 10 Para). This has never been formally recognised but was tolerated by III Corps. At least two officers were known to have traded their Stetsons for maroon berets. One of these (with the inked in name Kovich is traditionally worn by the most junior officer of 10 Para on a mess dinner that commemorates the battle (British mess dress does not include any form of headgear). He traditionally arrives after the main course has finished and the band plays the American cavalry march "Gary Owen" as he enters the room.

15 Unusually for a unit assigned to this role, the 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR did not convert either as a whole or by sub-units to a horsed cavalry role. The quiet nature of the sector covered by III Corps allowed the corps commander to concentrate fuel resupply to the 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR to act as a central anti-marauder unit instead of the more local measures adopted elsewhere.

16 The journalist Gill Fiesta has argued that this resulted in the 44<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division's slow progress and early bogging down which in turn exposed the southern flank of XIth US Corps that caused the death of the 5<sup>th</sup> Division. Few accept this hypothesis as the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was attacked predominantly from the front and overrun, a few (such as Professor Jerome Hand) however accept that had the 44<sup>th</sup> been closer the 5<sup>th</sup> might have had a better route to retreat, angling more northwards.

17 This is the popular account of why the 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR did not follow the orders of Operation Omega. It does not however explain why other units in III Corps also refused to follow orders and withdraw. More recent accounts would indicate that the unit was war weary and was prepared to accept the new life in what would soon become part of

In early 2002 the 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR became part of German 2<sup>nd</sup> Panzer Grenadier Division as it's



*Illustration 5: A German NCO instructor trains US troops on the Uzis (MP2) the unit was issued in early 2004. The wooden stocked Uzis were less popular than the folding stocked MP2A1 but were more more frequently available from stores by this date. A number of simplified MP2A2s were available by this date but these were generally issued to Territorial units. By this date the 3<sup>rd</sup> Panzer Pitterregiment had been issued German uniforms but most continued to wear the US versions until they wore out. (Bundersarchive)*

reconnaissance element (the division having converted to horsed cavalry reconnaissance in mid 1999) and adopted a German version of the unit name. The renamed 3<sup>rd</sup> Panzer Ritterregiment<sup>18</sup> re-equipped with M1s and M3s left at Bremehaven participated in the unsuccessful attempt in April 2003 to retake the Zone Mort. After this it was withdrawn back to the former areas of Austria that had been incorporated into Germany to deal with threats from former Soviet units that were in the eastern part of Austria that were casting covetous eyes on the area's resources. Gradually the unit became more German in character as recruits became predominantly German and worn out equipment was replaced with German equivalents. When Germany gradually fragmented, the regiment became part of the armed forces of Bavaria and the insignia changed to have a white above light blue backing replacing the green and yellow.

*Organisation as of 1<sup>st</sup> November 1996*

*Subordination: V US Corps*

Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters

Troop "Remington"

3 Cavalry Squadrons (1-3ACR "Tiger", 2-3ACR "Sabre", 3-3ACR "Thunder"), each<sup>19</sup>:

HQ: 2 M3A1, 3 M1 AVLB

3 Cavalry Troops, each: 12 M3A1, 9 M1A1, 2 M113A3, 2 M18, 1 M88

1 Tank Company: 14 M1A1

1 Howitzer Battery: 8 M109A5<sup>2021</sup>

Aviation Squadron (4-3ACR "Longknife"):

HQ: 3 EH60, 3 UH60, 1 OH58

3 Air Cavalry troops (N,O and P Troops), each: 6 OH58C, 4 AH1

2 Attack Helicopter Troops, (Q and R Troops) each: 4 OH58C, 7 AH1

1 Assault Helicopter Troop: (S Troop) 15 UH60

43<sup>rd</sup> Regimental Engineer Company:

3 Platoons, each: 4 M113A3, 3 Engineer Squads, 2 M9 ACE, 2 HMMWV with trailer, 2 5

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Germany in return rather than trying the risky return to the United States which most regarded (correctly) as almost as ruined as Europe. The suspicion that they might be required to fight in further actions in the States (in particular against CIVGOV units) may have also influenced their decision. Like many historical decisions it is probable that there was no decisive factor but instead a multitude of reasons all contributing. Annex A gives some very useful primary source data.

<sup>18</sup> The term usually used in the German Army was PanzerAufklärungs but the commanding officer argued for a literal translation of the American term.

<sup>19</sup> Troops/Companies are A,B,C and D respectively in 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron E, F, G and H in the 2<sup>nd</sup> squadron and I, K, L and M in the third squadron.

<sup>20</sup> Some sources state that during REFORGER these were upgraded to M109A6 Paladins but no documentary evidence has been found and personal recollections differ (it is possible that only some sub units were upgraded).

<sup>21</sup> These were known as Howitzer Battery 1/2/3 Squadron respectively

ton trucks

1 Assault and Barrier Platoon: 3 M1 AVLB, 3 CEV, 2 mine dispensers

1 Equipment Section: Various heavy construction-type vehicles

Regimental Air Defense Platoon (usually dispersed to the three ground sections and headquarters):

4 Section, each: 3 HMMWV Avenger 2 HMMWV

66<sup>th</sup> Intelligence Company: 3 M113 and 3 ground-surveillance radar units  
O Signal Group

*Organisation as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 1998*

*Subordination: V US Corps*

Cavalry Squadron (1-3ACR)

HQ and Signals Group

“Remington”: 2 M3A1, 1 M1 AVLB, 2 HMMWV Avenger, 2 HMMWV (2 Stinger teams each), 1 M113A1 (engineer section)

1 Cavalry Troop (A/1-3ACR



*Illustration 6: B Troop 3ACR pictured in September 2000 (Courtesy of Heidi Millward, widow of Captain Barry Millward who is the 2<sup>nd</sup> from the left in the front row)*



*Figure 1: March 1998 – “Sharkey’s Shark,” one of the two surviving AH1s belonging to 3ACR takes off on it’s final flight. It was observed coming under fire from what is believed to have been a ZSU30-2 and shot down later that morning. Both crew, Warrant Officer Charles Sharkey and Warrant Officer Bob Holt were killed. The remaining AH1 was grounded in June 1998 when aviation fuel reserves were exhausted.(US Army)*

*Subordination: III U.S. Corps*

1-3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Cavalry Squadron

“Tiger”): 12 M3A1, 6, IMPM1, 1 M113A3

1 Cavalry Troop (B/1-3ACR

“Sabre”): 9 M3A1, 6 IMPM1, 1 M113A3

1 Cavalry Troop (C/1-3ACR

“Thunder”): 12 M3A1, 3 IMPM1, 3 M113A3, 2 M113A1

1 Tank Company (D/1-3ACR

“Lightning”): 13 M1A1, 1 M113A3

1 Air Cavalry Troop (E/1-3ACR “Longknife”): 4 UH60<sup>22</sup>, 2 OH58, 2 AH1, 2 HMMWV

1 Artillery Battery (F/1-3ACR

“Steel”): 4 M109A5, 4 M106A1, 4 M18

1 Support Troop (S/1-3ACR

“Muleskinner”): 2 M113A1, 2 M88A1

1 Convoy Escort Troop (Z/1-3ACR “Road Warrior”): 1

M113A3ACAV with dozer blade, 6 HMMWV Avenger, 3 HMMWV)<sup>23</sup>

*Organisation as of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2000*

<sup>22</sup> Some sources state that these were UH1s. At least 1 UH1 was in use by the troop in June 1998 although this may have been a replacement issue.

<sup>23</sup> This was never an established unit but was used in an anti-marauder role escorting convoys. It used the rarely needed HMMWV Avengers in a ground role using their TV cameras to great effect.

Headquarters, Logistic and Signal (R) Troop “Remington” (15) 2 HMMWV 2 2 1/2ton truck  
A Troop “Avenger” (30)– 1 M1A1 1 T80 1 M113A1 2 HMMWV  
B Troop “Buffalo” (30) – 2 HMMWV  
Support (S) Troop “Shock” (25) – 5 ton truck 4 81mm mortar 1 M18 3 HMMWV Avenger

### *Organisation as of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2004*

*Subordination:* II Panzer Grenadier Division

*Current Location:* Southern Germany

3<sup>rd</sup> Panzer Reiterregiment

Headquarters Troop - “Wotan”– 2 M113A3, 1 M1A1G1<sup>24,25</sup>, 6 HMMWV

A Troop – “Tyr” - 6 M3A1, 2 M1A1G1

B Troop – “Heimdallr” - 4 M3A1, 3 M1A1G1

C Squadron<sup>26</sup> - “Thor”– 7 M1A1G1

D Troop - “Seigfreid”– 3 M691, 2 M113A1 (engineer – 1 with dozer blade)

Support (E) Troop - “Fafnir” 3 M18, 4 HMMWV with TOW<sup>27</sup>

Signal and Recovery (F) Troop “Freya”– 2 M113A3, 6 trucks (type unknown probably assorted), 2 M88A1

Medical Section “Brunhilda” – 1 M113A3 Ambulance 2 HMMWV Ambulance<sup>28</sup>

## **Commanders**

May 1994 – March 1997

Colonel Stephen Orwell (promoted and moved to III Corps)

March 1997 – September 1997

Colonel Robin Tagus (killed in action)

September 1997

Major Terri York (killed in action)

September 1997

Major Norman Roland (wounded in action and evacuated)

September 1997 – October 1997



*Illustration 7: Major Norman Roland pictured in November 1996 (Mrs Paula Roland)*

<sup>24</sup> The M1A1G1 is an M1A1 refitted with the engine of the Leopard II and in some cases with the M240 MGs replaced by MG3s. This work was usually undertaken at German base workshops as vehicle parts wore out. All M1A1G1 in front line service were replaced with Leopard II in 2006.

<sup>25</sup> The command M1A1G1 is notorious for the name painted on the gun tube “Gotterdamernungswagon.” The names are all taken from Wagner’s Ring Cycle (based on Norse mythology) and are a result of the Regiment’s commander’s love of German culture. It is worth noting that when four Bo105s were added to the squadron in 2007 they were given the call sign of Valkyrie. Valkyrie 3 even had a large set of speakers added by an enterprising mechanic to play a certain operatic musical track...

<sup>26</sup> Note that the US term would have been C Company (as tank pure) – it appears that the name was changed due to the German influence.

<sup>27</sup> When operating near the Zone Mort the Support Troop also had around a dozen HMMWV Avengers as part of the air defence role. These were withdrawn when the unit was moved to Austria.

<sup>28</sup> At least one photograph in the Bundersarchive taken in 2005 shows a UH1 in use by the section (with 3 Panzer Ritter Regiment insignia) with the caption (translated) of “Medical evacuation of a casualty in a border skirmish with Austrian bandits. Known as Valkyries the medical UH1 flights give casualties survival chances not seen since the start of the Third World War.” No record of the UH1 occurs in the (admittedly patchy) records.

Major Hal Thompson (missing in action)

October 1997

Major (acting Lt Colonel) Warren Fox (temporary command)

October 1997 - December 1997

Captain Paul Irvington (temporary command)

December 1997 – February 1998

Lt Col Oscar Mitchell (relieved of command)

February 1998 – June 1999

Major later Lt Col Morgan Stevens (died of disease)

June 1999 – May 2000

Major Mary Jones (transferred to III Corps)

May 2000 – August 2002

Major Paul Irvington (retired)

August 2002 – June 2004

Major John Chance (retired)

June 2004 – January 2008

Major Peter Kurtz (German Army) (transferred to 2 Panzer Grenadier Division)

## Famous members of the regiment



*Illustration 8: Wayne as a PFC in late 1997 (Dresden Books)*

Larry "Batman" Wayne served with the regiment from March 1997 to his discharge in Germany in 2006 where he reached the rank of sergeant. On his discharge he undertook a major effort to reconstruct the history of 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR through the war in his history "Brave Rifles: From REFORGER to the Rhine." Being discharged in Dresden he found the surviving publishing houses susceptible to a book about US units taken into German service. The book, after much negotiation between author (who wanted a tighter focus) and publisher was an oral history that was one of the first published that focussed on a smaller unit than the bigger unit focussed books published prior to 2010. It was a completely honest account that admitted that incidents that could be considered war crimes had been committed by all sides and

that on at least one occasion a no prisoners order had been issued<sup>29</sup>. Wayne encouraged contributions by allowing anonymity of contributors, a fact that while achieving his aim has made it harder to either verify or disprove statements made<sup>30</sup>. Wayne went on to author a further twelve

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<sup>29</sup> This caused considerable controversy when published as no documentary evidence of any orders has ever been found (although considerable numbers of US soldiers attest to them being issued).

<sup>30</sup> In a court case in 2015, Wayne refused to identify the sources of statements even when threatened with prison. In a

books on similar subjects (even authoring one on the 21<sup>st</sup> Panzer Grenadier Division). He died in a car crash in 2032.

2Lt Sean Gillis (pictured above) joined the regiment in March 1997 straight from ROTC. His service career was unspectacular but he had reached Captain before his end of service in August 2004. After serving he opened a restaurant in Worgul specialising in various American dishes (in particular an eclectic mix of regional specialities or close approximations thereof). By 2010 he had expanded to include a chain of six covering areas that were strong in ex-US servicemen. Despite his success he suffered badly from PTSD and was a major campaigner for ex-service personnel and charities supporting them. He died in 2052 of a heart attack.

Major Norman Roland (pictured above) was a pre-war regular soldier. Initially the Executive Officer (XO) of 2 Squadron he was given the command of the squadron when his commanding officer was badly injured in a vehicle accident as the unit moved up to it's war positions on 5<sup>th</sup> December 1996. Christmas Day 1996 saw him delivering mail and as much of a Christmas dinner as possible, his troopers remember fondly seeing his M3 arriving complete with a flashing red nose and commander visible in the hatch in full Santa outfit. Even an artillery barrage did not stop his deliveries. Through 1997 he proved to be an inspired leader, earning the Silver Star for his actions between 13 and 15<sup>th</sup> May in the heavy fighting against the rearguard Pact defence near Wroclaw. Here his M3 was destroyed by a tank shell and despite a number of minor wounds, Major Roland pulled his badly injured gunner out of the turret and treated him before waving down another M3 and retaking command of the squadron. With the death of the commander of 3ACR Major Terri York and the wounding of the XO Major Paul Nicowitz on 7<sup>th</sup> September, Major Roland was given command of 3ACR. Unfortunately less than two weeks later he was badly injured in an SU25 strike as part of the Soviet Operation Zhukov when the reserves released from the Chinese Front. Evacuated to the United States he was in transit to his new unit at Fort Knox when the nuclear strikes started. Unable to complete his journey he started to pull together stragglers and civilian volunteers to try and keep law and order. Gradually establishing control he managed to contact what had become MILGOV in mid 1999 reporting that his location was under pressure from a strange organisation that later accounts indicate was a splinter group of New America. As such he was the first person to report it's existence. His fate is unknown as conflicting accounts of his death exist as do a number where he is believed to have escaped. No confirmed sighting as yet exists however.



*Illustration 9: WO Tiley photographed just prior to setting out on her Medal of Honour winning mission. (Courtesy of ex-mechanic Fiona Watson)*

Warrant Officer Juliet Tiley was a pre-war member of the regiment's aviation squadron. She was the first female medal of honour winner (related above). In June 1998 when the last of the helicopters were grounded, she and the other aircrew and ground personnel were transferred to other roles in the regiment. WO Tiley was transferred to an M1 tank where after learning the skills required she took command. Rising to command D Troop, she was killed in action near Suzewo on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2000 in the last offensive of the war when her M1A1 "Polish Penguin<sup>31</sup>" was hit by a 125mm round from a T72. Her husband who served as a troop commander in D/1-3 ACR was killed in the same action two days later. A 2033 film of her life "Courage Under Fire" starring Gem Rany

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legal stand off, prosecutors eventually dropped the case.

31 All tanks commanded by aircrew changed the vehicle names to include a type of flightless bird.

gives a fairly good reconstruction of both incidents although in a number of details it is inaccurate (for example it uses a UH1 instead of an OH58 and an M60A4 instead of an M1A1). This is based on the more accurate biography “Courage Under Fire: A life lived” by Fiona Watson a self-published account of her friend (PFC Watson was the driver of “Polish Penguin” and lost her right arm and suffered severe burns in the destruction of the tank).

## Annex A: Excerpt from Why did 3ACR not go home?

Original Title Allies Among Us

First published in the Salzberg Weekly News on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2007

Written by Hans Dieter Lang

Translated by John Peters

“We have now become accustomed to hearing American accents in our towns. The fact that they are wearing our national uniform (although often with odd items of sentimental value displayed), strikes some as unusual and sometimes a little jarring once they open their mouths. Hauptman Oliver Hammond of 3rd Panzer Ritterregiment is a prime example with his Texan drawl blurring a little with a hint of a Salzberg accent. A former member of the US Army he opted to stay behind when the Heuschreckenplage (Plague of Locusts Order) was given<sup>32</sup>. When I asked him he was frank about why he stayed, “well, what was there for me if I went home? I was one of the last batch of officers to be sent as a reinforcement, by that point Austin was gone, my parents were very likely dead in the nuclear strikes, I had seen society start to break down (I had had to shoot at looters desperately trying to steal from our base during training), we heard stories of Mexican troops overrunning the state. I was single, what was there to go back to? Captain Millward (commander of B Troop) came back from a briefing with the commanding officer Major Irving<sup>33</sup>, he told us we had been given an order to go home. I remember PFC Chavez cheering but the rest of us looked at the Captain as we could tell he was troubled. Chavez picked up on this and shut up pretty damn quickly. Captain Millward went on to tell us that 3ACR as a unit was not going to follow the order. As far as the major was concerned the chance of us getting there as a unit was low, we did not have fuel or vehicle spares. We would end up leaving others behind. He went on to tell us that as individuals however could go, the major would give them what vehicles, fuel, spares and food he could spare. He told us to go away, think about it and if we wanted to try to get to Bremehaven then we should parade here at 06:00 the following morning carrying our personal possessions in a single kit bag. We could take our personal weapons but not any machine guns or grenade launchers. A truck would take us to HQ to be processed. When we were dismissed, lots of us wandered around thinking. Do we risk everything to get back to a now unfamiliar world or do we stay here in a battle-torn land? I think everyone resented the fact we were to make the decision, most would have willingly gone home but I know I for one would have felt we were deserting our comrades. Only five eventually were stood there at dawn, forelorn figures not talking to anyone. I often wonder what became of them.”

Records obtained by researchers from the rolls taken at Bremehaven although incomplete give an indication of the numbers returning. Listed against 3ACR are a total of six personnel, given as:

- PFC Estavez, A
- PFC Jones, S
- PFC Quinn, J
- Spec 4 Lovell, T<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> This is the name given by many Germans to the depravations inflicted on the German population as US troops withdrew during Operation Omega.

<sup>33</sup> Hammond is mistaken here, the commander was Major Irvington, a captain Irving was commanding S Troop at this point however. This may explain the confusion or the mistake by the journalist.

<sup>34</sup> Presumably a local recruit as nobody of this name has ever featured on 3ACR nominal rolls

- Sgt Rodriguez, J
- 2Lt Kingd[...records damaged]

Outprocessing when the flotilla arrived in the United States shows PFC Estavez discharged, PFC Jones as having being transferred to the Middle East Task Force at Bremerhaven,, PFC Quinn as being buried at sea after dying of his wounds Sgt Rodriguez as being transferred to the 49<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division and (oddly) a PFC Skipowski<sup>35</sup>. Of the other two no trace of their records have been found, possibly they were among the casualties that occurred during transit.

A study of the 3rd Panzer Ritterregiment's surviving American members in late 2006 conducted by Salzburg University under the auspices of the German Army, gave the following results. The percentages are the percentage who answered who felt that this was a factor in the decision.

<b>Factor</b>	<b>Mild influence</b>	<b>Moderate influence</b>	<b>Heavy influence</b>
Lack of family in the United States	6	8.5	12.6
Family in Germany <sup>36</sup>	1	4	9
Desire to stay with unit	45.9	20	9.3
Desire to stay in Europe	2	1.3	0.4
Fear of conditions in the United States	5	10.5	12.1
Considered journey too difficult	33.5	12.4	1.6
Wish to continue to fight communism	0.5	0.2	0.1
Other	14.3	13.7	12.5

Unfortunately the full details of the study are no longer available having been lost in the fires following the Food Riots of 2011.

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<sup>35</sup> It is assumed that PFC Skipowski was named in the missing documents at Bremerhaven.

<sup>36</sup> Presumably local residents as the families were evacuated