

The 7th Armoured Brigade

History



The 7th Armoured Brigade is one of the three brigades of the 1st (UK) Armoured Division. In 1958 it acquired the name “Desert Rats” from the World War Two era 7th Armoured Division from which it has inherited the badge of a red jerboa and traditions. 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 FV510 Warrior MICV).

In October 1990 the brigade deployed from Germany to Saudi Arabia where under the command of brigadier Patrick Cordingley in 1st (UK) Armoured Brigade it took part in Operation Granby (the liberation of Kuwait), forming the pivot of the “hail Mary” flanking attack. After this success the brigade returned to Germany where it remained although as per normal British policy the units under its command rotated in and out, varying their roles.

As the Sino-Soviet war started the brigade quickly deployed from its garrison in Bergen-Hohne/Bad Fallingborstal, Germany to wartime positions and absorbed the TA and recalled reservist troops it was allocated to bring it up to full strength. In addition like many of the British brigades in Germany, it was allocated an extra infantry battalion, in this case the 1st Bn Royal Regiment of Fusiliers who had only just rotated to a UK posting from the brigade and had retained their armoured infantry roleⁱ. By November the Brigade was gradually stood down although high intensity training continued (in particular of the newly recalled reservists).

“It felt really weird moving back to the positions we had planned to use up until the Wall came down. I actually saw graffiti I had written in those optimistic days saying goodbye to it. At least we still had all the prearranged fire plans (once we had blown the cobwebs off). It’s a shame we never fought from there as it was the most prepared killing ground I ever knew. Mind you the Germans might have been a bit upset at losing half of their country just so we could kill the Russians better...”
Major Tom Wallace
1 Royal Regiment of Fusiliers
“Maelstrom Europa” Sellers
Books 2012

With the outbreak of the Polish-German fighting the brigade was put 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:

- (A)29 Squadron of 1 Close Support Medical Regiment based at Hohneⁱⁱ
- 207 Signal Squadron (Brigade Headquarters) at Hohne

- The Queens Dragoon Guards (Armoured Type 57 Regiment equipped with Challenger II) based at Bad Fallingbostel (these had been returned to an armoured role in 1993 after being an armoured reconnaissance formation)
- 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders (Armoured Infantry equipped with Warrior MICV) based at Bad Fallingbostel
- 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment (Armoured Infantry equipped with Warrior MICV) based at Bad Fallingbostel
- 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (Armoured Infantry equipped with Warrior MICV) based at Tidworth in Wiltshire – these were quickly moved to Germany in November 1995 and added to the brigade strength

The Queens Dragoon Guards traded their A Squadron for B Company of the Fusiliers and B Squadron for A Company of the Staffords resulting in the brigade having one pure armoured infantry battalion, two armoured infantry heavy battle groups and an evenly mixed armoured battle groupⁱⁱⁱ.

Attached to the brigade were:

- 3 Regiment Royal Horse Artillery (Self Propelled Artillery with AS90) based at Hohne
 - C Battery
 - D Battery
 - J (Sidi Rezegh) Battery
 - M (Headquarters) Battery
 - N Battery (The Eagle Troop)
- 10 (Assaye) Light Aid Defence, Battery, Royal Artillery
- 26 Armoured Squadron, 32 Regiment Royal Engineers based at Hohne
- 2 Close Support Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers based at Bad Fallingbostel
- 111 Provost Company Royal Military Police based at Hohne – in wartime these were given the role of traffic direction



Illustration 1: 1 Queens Dragoon Guards Scimitars lead Challenger IIs into positions in eastern Germany (MoD)

Missing from the formation was 2 Royal Tank Regiment that had been transferred to 11 Armoured Brigade as they had more need of heavy armour based on the area they had been assigned.

As the 1st (UK) Armoured Division moved into the eastern part of Germany on the 10th December it moved in a one up formation with the 22nd Armoured Brigade leading and the 7th and 12th Armoured Brigades in the rear. Halting in the area of Buckwitz the division changed formation to have the 12th and 7th brigades forward. Digging into defensive positions, the division allowed the German 7th Panzergrenadier Division to fall back through them. Following quickly on the German's heels was the Soviet 5th Guards Army. Initial contact was made by the 9/12th Lancers of the Division on the 12th when the skirmish screen was probed by reconnaissance elements of the 20th Guards Motor Rifle division. Inflicting a heavy loss on the lead Soviet reconnaissance company from ambush, the 9/12th Lancers suffered the first British ground casualties of the war when a CVR(T) Scimitar of B Squadron was hit by a Soviet ATGM killing all three of the crew. After suffering the loss of two more vehicles the 9/12th's commander Lt Col Paul Taylor ordered the unit to withdraw. Falling back, the 9/12th passed through the 1st Division's lines to regroup. Delayed by this loss of a substantial portion of a recon company the Soviets regrouped and prepared to launch a deliberate attack after using dismounted infantry patrols to try

"I'll never forget that barrage, it was as if the world just erupted into violence. It transcended the senses, you could taste the heat, touch the sounds, hear the flashes. If you weren't there you could never understand. Just when I thought I couldn't take any more it all went black. Next thing I was lying in a hospital bed without my legs."

Private John Frasier
1 Gordon Highlanders quoted in "Maelstrom Europa"
Sellers Books 2012



Illustration 2: A reconstruction of Pipe Major McAllister's winning of the VC from the 2012 film "Pipes of Glory." Whilst generally accurate the film was shot in summer not winter and the flag on the pipes is incorrect for the Gordon Highlanders (additionally none was fitted to the pipes at the time of the event).

and identify the locations occupied by the British. At 05:00 on the 13th a heavy artillery barrage landed on the suspected positions of the division, inflicting a number of casualties on the 12th Armored Brigade. The 7th Armoured however escaped relatively lightly as the area they occupied was flatter with more corpses offering much more choice of cover. Despite this the 1st Gordon Highlanders were unlucky in that the positions

The First Victoria Cross of the War

The first award of a Victorian Cross during the war was to Pipe Major Sean McAllister of the 1st Battalion Gordon Highlanders for his actions on 12th December 1996. As the senior warrant officer in charge of the band, sergeant major McAllister was not expected to be in front line action. When however word came through that the infantry needed ammunition replenishment he and twelve of his pipers volunteered to assist in the loading and unloading of the ammunition.

As the convoy neared the front line, it was hit by the same barrage that caused heavy casualties to the infantry in their positions. Pipe Major McAllister suffered a light wound to the right arm but continued to direct the unloading of the surviving vehicles.

Once this was completed he was about to return when he observed Soviet infantry infiltrating the wood line in a gap caused by the artillery barrage. Gathering up the surviving pipers and Royal Logistic Corps soldiers he quickly established an ambush. This decimated the lead Soviet elements. Realising however that this was not enough he gave the order to fix bayonets. Seeing the worry on the face of his men he ordered one to fetch his bagpipes from his Land Rover. Standing up he started to play when a round hit his helmet stunning him. Again he stood up and playing the pipes lead the bayonet charge playing. Once the position was cleared he

established communications with the officer commanding B Company and got them to cover the gap before leading the survivors back to fetch further ammunition. When writing the citation for his award the commanding officer asked McAllister what he had played. McAllister however stated he could not remember the tune as he had been concussed by his second injury. Asking the men with him did not help as they could not say with any certainty which tune had been played. To reach a conclusion the Colonel asked the Regimental Sergeant Major who was responsible for the ammunition replenishment. He replied instantly that it was the regimental march "Cock of the North." This is what was therefore written in the citation. Only later did it occur to the colonel that the RSM had been over half a mile away at the other end of the position.

Excerpt from "Scots at War" by Dan Duggan, McDonald Fraser Press 2010

occupied by their C Company were hit badly rendering the unit combat ineffective until late afternoon. In response the British divisional artillery started a nasty cat and mouse game of counter battery fire. In particular the MLRS's of the 5th Heavy Artillery Regiment Royal Artillery were used on the high value targets of the Soviet



Illustration 3: A(29) Coy, 1 Close Support Medical Regiment, RAMC Land Rover Ambulances evacuate casualties from 1 Gordon Highlanders (ITN)

BM27 units. Using shoot and scoot tactics the British artillery enjoyed initial success until by 13:00 it was running out of pre-surveyed alternative fire positions.

Whilst the artillery duel was taking place a Soviet mechanised attack started at 08:00 (it has been assumed by historians that this was due to a delay in deploying or that it was a co-ordination problem). This attack hit the positions occupied by the 7th Armoured. Challenger IIs inflicted heavy losses on the attacking T80s whilst being almost impervious to the T80s 125mm. By 09:00 this

attack had been driven off for the loss of two Warrior MICVs of the Staffords and two Challenger IIs attached to them damaged enough to be incapable of fighting^{iv}. The Soviets had lost over twenty T80s and a similar number of BMPs.

At mid-day a heavy barrage landed on the now identified fighting positions of the Gordon Highlanders and Staffords causing a number of casualties. At this point another Soviet attack came. This time with the defenders under heavy artillery fire only the committing of the Queens Dragoon Guards Battlegroup and tough fighting at bayonet point stopped the Soviet attack.

By mid afternoon the brigade commander ordered the Fusiliers to move forward and relieve the Gordon Highlanders while the Queens Dragoon Guards relieved the Staffords. The two battered battalions were pulled back and resupplied with quick repairs being made by the REME craftsmen where possible.

That evening the rear areas were hit by a strike from SU25 Frogfoot aircraft that inflicted over fifty casualties on the brigade, mainly from among the engineers of 32 Engineer Regiment.

Over the next four days the unit gradually fell back inflicting losses on the Soviets with carefully arranged ambushes. On the 19th the order was given to dig in around Bolzenburg. By the afternoon of the 20th the Soviets reached the 7th Armoured Brigade but the positions held and the high water mark of the Soviet advance had been reached.



Illustration 4: AS90 of 3RHA firing in support of IRRF near Bolzenburg on the afternoon of the 20th (BBC)

As NATO started its counter offensive, the 7th Armoured Brigade was responsible for taking Kienitz pushing through the 12th Armoured Brigade that had taken Lowerburg in hard fighting. This protected the northern flank of the German IV Corps as it retook Berlin. At this point the 1st (UK) Armoured Division stopped to resupply and to absorb replacements for its numerous casualties.

On 18th March 1997 the 7th moved forward in preparation for Operation Advent Crown. On 2nd April the brigade crossed into Poland as the lead element of the 1st (UK) Armoured Division which with 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 24th the breakthrough came with an ambitious amphibious crossing of the Oder to the south of Schwedt. By 26th the 7th Armoured which was again leading the 1st (UK) Armoured Division reached Chojna which was taken after heavy street fighting against ORMO troops thrown desperately into the fray. On May 4th the division reached Poznan and the Corps split with the 1st and 2nd Divisions continuing east while the remainder headed south east. Moving back to the divisional reserve slot the 7th followed under constant threat of guerilla attacks until the two elements of I Corps met up on the outskirts of Warsaw on 29th May. On 10th June the 7th Armoured dug in south of Radzymain as part of the encircling of Warsaw.



Illustration 5: 1 Queens Dragoon Guards Challenger II during Operation Munro (Independent)



Illustration 6: 1RRF fighting through the suburbs of Warsaw (MoD)

Gradually the British tightened the ring around Warsaw. The 7th Armoured Brigade conducted a number of armoured raids where Challengers of the Queens Dragoon Guards accompanied by Warriors from one of the infantry battalions would conduct a rapid advance through the Pact lines before assaulting a target thought to be safe behind the lines. The unit would then withdraw by smashing another hole in the lines. Against the lightly armed ORMO these tactics proved successful but did on occasions result in heavy casualties. Alternatively the intention was not always a raid but instead to take a location that could be defended and expanded on to create a gap in the Pact lines.

As the 1st (UK) Armoured Division pushed further into the city, the 7th became involved in the fierce battle for the Wielenska Railway Station. Meeting fierce opposition on the approaches, fighting was from house to house and room to room. With



Illustration 7: Aerial reconnaissance photograph taken by a recce Tornado GR1 of the Wielenska Railway Station on 10th July looking east. (MoD)

progress being slow, the two converted Centurion Crocodile flamethrowing tanks converted from AVRE105s belonging to 77 Armoured Squadron, 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment were cross attached from 22nd Armoured Brigade. These helped considerably in clearing out bunkers although one, “Promethius” was destroyed by RPG fire.

The battle lasted from 24th June to 12th July when the 1st Bn Royal Regiment of Fusiliers finally cleared the last remnants of the defenders from the station. On 17th July, the 1st Staffords Battlegroup finally reached the border between the Praga and Kamionek districts which was the objective line. Gradually the pockets of resistance were slowly pushed back through the remainder of July.

Early August saw a change in the 7th Armoured Brigade's fortunes when the Soviet counter attack from the 7th Guards Tank Army pushed towards Warsaw. On 12th they pushed the 2nd (UK) Armoured Division back into the positions held by the 1st (UK) Armoured Division and on 15th the 3rd Guards Tank Division linked up to the defenders of Warsaw. A fierce delaying action as I Corps withdrew resulted in the 7th Armoured Brigade taking heavy losses both in conventional fighting just east of Plock and to chemical and nuclear attacks.

Withdrawn from the line the brigade absorbed replacements of personnel and equipment for the losses of the last few months. Much of the replacement equipment was older pattern such as Chieftain tanks pulled from storage^v. The brigade also lost its fourth battalion and return to the normal triangular structure. 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 to battle.



Illustration 8: 1 Gordon Highlanders dig in around Finsterwald (Daily Telegraph)

Finsterwald. Under heavy attack the brigade withdrew west to Herzberg conducting company sized delaying actions along the way. By October NATO was ready to conduct a counter offensive and in Operation Highwayman the 7th retook Finsterwald and continued pushing the Czechoslovaks back to the border at Ebersbach. With the front stabilized in late November, the 7th (along with the rest of 1st (UK) Armoured) was again withdrawn to refit.

"The fighting for Wielenska was the worst I fought in. The front line was across a corridor or set of stairs. When they talked we could hear them. One of their guys was a nightmare, his snoring kept us awake. Our OC launched an attack across the platform between us just to try and let us get some sleep. My home for five days was a mound of rubble I hollowed a small hole in. By the time we cleared the station my platoon of 26 was down to 6. And as for the rats, well lets say I never saw a thin one. One even tried to eat my nose when I was asleep – and you know what I was so exhausted I nearly slept through it."
Corporal Karl Lister
1 Royal Regiment of Fusiliers quoted in "FIBUA" PSL Books 2014

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 43rd Infantry Division from the line to strengthen the flank. I Corps conducted a road and rail march that saw the 7th Armoured Brigade hastily dig in around

"Do you know what the worst job is in a unit, families officer, that's who. I spent a whole day going round after Operation Mornington Crescent telling wives that their husbands wouldn't be coming home or that bits of their husbands would be. Some refused to open the door to me. What do you do in those cases, shout through the letter box that their husband (or sometimes their wife) was spread over the following grid reference? I read somewhere that family officers had the highest suicide rate in the army and most suffered from PTSD. Me, I hit the bottle pretty badly until the OC of the rear party arranged for me to be transferred to Germany. I still have nightmares and can't cope with anyone knocking on my door."

Major (then 2Lt) Mary Horton
1st BN Staffordshire Rgt
Quoted in "Damaged Voices of the Twilight War" Harper Collins 2032

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. 7th Armoured gained the 1st Bn Royal Anglian Rgt.

In August 1998 the now reorganised division attacked towards Fulda as part of Operation Vista. Hitting the Soviets head on the 7th was instrumental in the destruction of the Soviet 51st Tank Division when it blocked the escape routes of the division. Only a few survivors on foot reached the Soviet lines. Capitalising on this I Corps was ordered to attack to divert the Pact from the battles further south. Operating as the main part of Army Group Cromwell (which incorporated elements of US, German and Dutch units), the 7th was tasked with linking up with the airborne troops of the 44th Airborne Brigade that was dropped to seize vital bridges.

"When the CO came back from the briefing he poured us both a whiskey and told me that Mornington Crescent had all the possibility of being another bridge too far. His instructions were clear to us, we were to go for it hammer and tongs, there would be no stopping for anything. It was our job to get to the 44th regardless."

Major Gary Baker
1 Staffords quoted in
"Operation Mornington Crescent" by Mary Trellis
North Wales Press 2012

Fighting through the thinly spread border guards (although taking heavy losses from concealed anti-tank weapons), the 7th reached the 44th 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). 1 Staffords who wore the glider badge to commemorate their fighting as part of the airborne element at Arnhem in particular were determined to succeed and those troops who were part of operation Derby often added a small Warrior APC under the glider on the badge to indicate their role in Operation Mornington Crescent (in May 2008 this was recognised by the Army Board as an official badge for the regiment). Once relieving the 44th however the 7th was fought to a standstill by the Soviet 18th Motor Rifle Division (which earned the honorific Guards for actions against Army Group Cromwell).

In the aftermath of the 18th Motor Rifle Division's defence the 1st



Illustration 9: 1 Royal Scots Warrior near the Czechoslovakian border January 1999 (The Times)

Czechoslovakian Army has been given time to dig in and the 7th 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.

In February 1999 the 7th 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.

In October the 7th received an allocation of further replacements and equipment from the UK. While still a shadow of its former self, this further enhanced the capabilities of the brigade. A further minor reorganisation occurred with the 1st Bn Royal Regiment of Fusiliers leaving and the 1st Bn Royal Scots being added. I Corps remained in location while II Corps prepared to move to the jump off point for Operation Atlantis



Illustration 10: US troops of the 60th (American) Rifles undergoing training on British equipment by instructors from 1 Royal Scots (MoD)

as part of Operation Ancient Mariner. This resulted in the 7th being given a larger area to operate over and civil aid tasks become secondary to dealing with the marauders plaguing the area. With the return of II Corps in late August, the 7th 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. At this time due to logistic difficulties the 1st Bn Staffordshire Regiment was transferred to 12th Armoured Brigade rather than move the battalion, leaving the Brigade short.

During Operation Omega, the 7th Armoured Brigade turned over many supplies to formed American units that were passing through their area as per British Government policy. The winter and spring were spent rebuilding these stocks prior to a move back to the UK planned for late 2001 or early 2002.

During this period a number of American individuals realising that they would have difficulty reaching Bremhaven in time have attached themselves to the unit.

These have been collected together to form the 60th (American) Rifle Regiment which is a resurrection of the unit originally raised during the American War of Independence to fight for the British before fighting in the Peninsula War against Napoleon before becoming amalgamated into the Royal Green Jackets. There is currently a petition before the Army Board to consider reawarding the Royal prefix used in that era. They have adopted the rifle green beret and rifles badge. They retain the large US flag but this is moved to the right arm in the (US) traditional place reserved for the division the soldier had previously fought for. Uniforms are a mix of DPM and US BDUs with the later gradually growing as the BDUs wear out. Equipment is a mix of British and American although vehicles are British (or at least supplied by the British). They have taken great delight in adopting the light infantry

marches (and traditions such as marching with the rifle at the trail) although purists have been known to object to their use of newly written rap style songs as a cadence. Currently the unit consists of 200 men from across the 1st (UK) Armoured Division who have become British citizens. It is expected that when the 1st Armoured returns to the UK it will amalgamate with other US units in British service. Note that American are not required to join the 60th but most are keen to. It must also be noted that the unit is not exclusively American, a number of the soldiers there are German or Dutch and at least one officer is British.

Despite the planned date for withdrawal to UK being late 2001 or early 2002, the 1st (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.



Illustration 11: British Army memorial in Hanover



Illustration 12: 12 (Bermuda Regiment) Platoon, 1 Royal Anglian on arrival in the UK June 1997

Current Organisation

As of 1st July 2001 the 7th Armoured Brigade consists of the following:

- 29 Squadron of 1 Close Support Medical Regiment – 30, 2 Land Rover Ambulance, 1 Saxon ambulance
- 207 Signal Squadron (Brigade Headquarters) - 60
- 1st Queens Dragoon Guards – 200, 3 Challenger II, 2 Chieftain
- 1st Bn Royal Scots – 200, 2 Warrior MICV
- 1st Bn Royal Anglian Regiment – this still contains a platoon of volunteers from the Royal Bermuda Regiment carrying on their historical tradition of supplying drafts to the antecedents of 1 Royal Anglian during World

War One and Two – 350, 3 Warrior MICV, 2 x FV432

- 1st Bn 60th (American) Rifle Regiment – 200
- N Battery (The Eagle Troop) 3 Regiment Royal Horse Artillery - 35, 2 AS90, 1 x Foden configured for ammunition carrying
- J (Sidi Rezegh) Battery 3 Regiment Royal Horse Artillery – 40, 4 x 81mm mortar with 4 x 1 ton Landrovers, 1 Landrover 90

- M (Headquarters) Battery 3 Regiment Royal Horse Artillery – 20, 3 x Landrover 110 (1 configured for counter battery radar, 1 configured for mortar locating radar)
- 32 Regiment Royal Engineers – 65 1 x FV180
- 2 Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers - 80
- 111 Provost Company Royal Military Police – 20

Note softskin vehicles in particular are only noted where they are of especial interest or unusual to be held. These are based on the strength returns given by the units on 1st July 2001.

Equipment

The brigade still has a number of operating Challenger IIs, although many are battered. A number of Chieftains were issued as replacement vehicles and some of these are also in service with the brigade.

Personalities

The current commander (as of 1st July 2001) of the 7th Armoured Brigade is Brigadier Harry Thornley, a pre-war regular who was previously a company commander in and then the commanding officer of 1 Royal Anglian. Having served throughout the war he has had enough of fighting and plans to retire once the brigade has safely returned to the UK. He has not planned much further than this but is considering a political career. His immediate superiors were aware of this plan and hoping to keep an experienced and effective officer planned to entice him to stay with staff appointments to challenge his highly developed analytical skills. These were unsuccessful and in late 2003 after the return to the UK he resigned. Standing for Parliament as a Conservative MP in 2004 he was narrowly defeated and retired and wrote the scholarly account of 1 Royal Anglian during the War, “Vikings at War.” After the success of this he also wrote a sequel “Poachers at War” covering the second battalion. He was researching the third and fourth volumes covering the other two regular battalions when he died of a heart attack in 2011.



Illustration 13: Brigadier Harry Thornley pictured in June 2000



The future government minister Sian Calver served with the 7th Armoured Brigade as part of 111 Provost Company RMP from 1997-2007 reaching the rank of major before resigning her commission to enter politics.

The BBC reporter Gerald Francis served with the 7th Armoured as part of 207 Signal Squadron from 1998 to 2002 before being

*Illustration 14:
Captain Sian Calver,
May 2004 (The New
Sun)*

Written by James Langham as a supplement for the Twilight 2000 RPG

demobilised with the rank of corporal. Joining the BBC in 2009 he became famous for his reports from the front line in the Saudi War, in particular the report during the Royal Marine raids on the Kuwaiti Coast and the Al Faw Peninsula.

The future rap star C K Jones (full name Clarence Keith Jones) was a member of 7th Armoured, serving in 1 Royal Anglian from 1999 to 2002. His songs were

*"Bombs falling,
Men screaming,
Silent dead
Noisy dying
Missing limbs
Bloody pools
Never ending"*

C K Jones

"My War" from the album
"End of Days" EMI 2008

heavily influenced by his time in the military, alternating between the horrors of war and the comradeship. Earning his living as an entertainer after discharge, he evolved his unique style. His debut album "Tears for the Living" released in May



*Illustration 15: C K Jones
June 2001 (personal
collection)*

2006 was an instant hit.

Commanders

1994 – May 1996: brigadier Jason Mulkeen (late Royal Green Jackets) – promoted and moved to 1(UK) Armoured Division as commander

May 1996 – November 1996: brigadier Shaun Wilson (late Royal Tank Regiment) – died in a car crash

November 1996 – February 1997: brigadier Henry Wall (late Royal Engineers) – transferred to 12th Armoured Brigade

February 1997 – June 1997: Colonel (brigadier February 1997) Arnold de la Henri (late Light Infantry) – killed in action

June 1997 – October 1997: brigadier Joshua Owens (late Scots Guards) – died of wounds (radiation)

October 1997 – August 1998: brigadier Calvin Black (late Army Air Corps) – missing in action

August 1998 – March 1999: brigadier John Gibson (late Parachute Rgt) – died of disease

March 1999 – December 2003: brigadier Harry Thornley (late Royal Anglian) - retired

December 2003 - : brigadier Daniel Kettle (late Royal Logistic Corps)

See also

- ⚡ 7th Armoured Brigade for details of the sister brigade
- ⚡ 22nd Armoured Brigade for details of the sister brigade
- ⚡ British Army Vehicle Guide Vol1: Main Battle Tanks

- i Despite retaining the armoured infantry role, they had just started preparing for a six month tour of Northern Ireland before becoming the demonstration battalion at the School of Infantry in Warminster. Brigadier Mulkeen argued however that with their current experience and familiarity with the brigade staff they would be more useful returned to Germany. This was quickly agreed.
- ii It has previously been thought that the sister squadron B(28) Squadron was been part of 7th Armoured Brigade but evidence found by the 22nd Armoured Brigade's official historian Major Thomas Wood has shown that the squadron moved to support the 22nd Armoured Brigade on 8th September 1995.
- iii British terminology us that if a unit is operating as a formed entity it is referred to as a battalion, if it has units attached from another it is referred to as a battlegroup.
- iv Both of the Challengers were repaired and back in action within the day. One of the Challenger II "Boxwood" actually survived the war to be returned to the UK in 2003 having survived the war. By the time of its return it had been upgraded to Mk 2* (uparmoured) standard. When it was retired from service in 2008 it was returned to Mk2 configuration by
- v In contrast however, many of the tanks still held by the brigade were actually upgraded by base depots.