



Three TAVR soldiers from 131 Independent Parachute Sqn. R.E. (V).

They are left to right: Sapper Philip Perks (301 Tp), Sapper John Hutchinson (299 Tp), Sapper Garry Redrup (HQ).

Philip lives in Burney Lane, Ward End, Birmingham, and attended the Hodge Hill Comprehensive School in Bromford Lane. He was given three months off from his normal job to work on this project in Canada and was due back in Birmingham in October

John has had the most unusual and exciting life. He lived in Central Africa and served in the Army in Kenya and Nyasaland before they became independent. He left Africa in 1964, and was in the British Army for 5 years before joining the TAVR in 1969.

New Zealander, Garry Redrup from Henderson Crescent, Onekawa, Napier, New Zealand. Garry joined the TAVR when he came to England last year. He is a member of 131 Independent Parachute Sqn. Royal Engineers and previously served for five years in New Zealand with 7th Hawke's Bay and Wellington Bn.

Abseiling on some high vertical rocks in the forest a few miles from the camp was also very popular.

Each Sunday, there was transport into the nearest town, Oromocto, about 20 miles away, and there were also occasional opportunities to get further away on slightly longer weekend trips. As the project drew to an end, it was arranged that each soldier would have several days off to see something of the rest of Canada.

Two Sheffield TAVR soldiers, L/Cpl. George Robinson left and S/Sgt. Barry Peace, discuss the problems of the New World. Both are from 106 (West Riding) Fd. Sqn. R.E. (V).

George, who attended the Western Road School in Sheffield, is a technician in the Post Office engineering department. He joined the TAVR two years ago, and has found that his six years Regular service (1958-64) as a surveyor with the Royal Artillery gave him much useful experience.

Barry lives in Bolsover Road, Sheffield 5, with his wife Marion and children Andrea (11), Melanie (9) and Jason (7) and works for Melba-Moss Ltd. in Norfolk Park Avenue. His employers very kindly allowed him three months off to work on this project in Canada, and he started his civilian work in Sheffield again in October. He has spent much of his life with the Army. He joined as a junior soldier in 1955 and during his Regular service he served on Christmas Island, in Singapore, Borneo, Germany and Kenya.



6/7 QUEEN'S MEET THE BUNDESWEHR

By Major M. J. Dudding

NOT only has 6/7 Queen's recently kept up its exchange links with the US Army (TAVR MAGAZINE, January, 1975, p.13), but the battalion has also forged a close relationship with a reserve battalion of the Federal German Army. In 1974 six German reservists from 441 Jäger Battalion visited us in camp at Warcop, and in the first ten days

of September this year four officers and two senior NCOs joined their battalion at the Westfalen Kaserne in Ahlen, near Münster. These spacious modern barracks are also home for a substantial part of 19 Panzergrenadier Brigade. This was a lucky coincidence for me, since as a regular officer with the Royal Fusiliers I had been attached to a battalion

of this brigade in 1964. I was delighted to meet during our stay two officers who had been with 193 Panzer Grenadier Battalion a decade ago.

The Federal Republic has a 15-month period of National Service, followed by a compulsory reserve liability. Each year reservists are recalled for 14 days' refresher training. The Territorial Defence organisation has as its main task the security of rear areas in time of war. With large Warsaw Pact forces on their borders the German therefore organise and equip their reserve forces to fight not only small parties of saboteurs, but also substantial actions against large elements of the enemy's main forces which may have landed from the air behind the main battle lines, or have broken through them.

The British party with Hauptmann Müller (centre) and Leutnant Gaden (extreme right).



Would you buy a second-hand Leopard tank from Leutnant Charles Hoste?

Consequently the differences between a British General Reserve battalion and a German Reserve battalion are considerable. Furthermore in peacetime their reserve units are more closely integrated with the training organisation than is the case here. Thus 441 Jäger Battalion is normally a basic training unit, feeding recruits to 19 Brigade and other formations in North Germany. In an emergency, the regular officers and NCOs take command of the recalled reservists. 442 Jäger Battalion, on the other hand, is a fully reserve battalion, with a teacher as

Commanding Officer, on the lines of a British TAVR unit, except that training only takes place for the one fortnight each year.

After a journey by hovercraft and minibus we arrived at Ahlen at 1730 hrs on 1st September. We were met by Hauptmann Müller, OC No. 3 Coy, and no sooner had we put our kit down in the rooms allocated to us in one of the barrack blocks than we were tasting our first German beer in the cellar-bar below. From the Tuesday to Friday morning of that week we were shown all aspects of life in a German barracks, and the equipment of 19 Brigade units and of the two Jäger battalions. At the bottom end of the scale we saw and fired small arms, and at the other end we were shown in detail the Marder APC—a very “Rolls-Royce” vehicle but with a very high silhouette—the Leopard tank, a bridge-layer tank on a Leopard chassis and the tracked 90 mm cannon and SS11 missile anti-tank weapons. We were also shown around the brigade supply battalion and saw the excellent facilities for storage of the mobilisation equipment of the reserve battalions. During this period we were particularly pleased to meet some of the German reservists who had been at Warcop the previous year, and were very grateful to Oberleutnant Klaus Hagemeyer for giving up several days of his time in order to help look after us.

We all—senior NCOs included—dined in the one officers' mess which served the whole barracks. Before leaving England I had warned the rest of the party that the food would be rather different. Nevertheless it took some of us a few days to adjust to the normal routine of:

- Breakfast* Rolls, salami or cheese, coffee or cocoa
- Lunch* The one three-course hot meal of the day at 1200 hrs.
- Supper* Bread, salami and cheese, and perhaps a vegetable salad, at 1730 hrs.

Lieutenant Charles Hoste, from our Camberwell drill-hall, struggled daily to get a “cuppa” but had to rest content with a glass of tea, from bags, with condensed milk. C/Sgt. Peter Chapman at once saw how easy it would be as a CQMS in the Bundeswehr, with only one cooking session per day, and it may be that C Coy at Crawley are in for a change!

The officers' mess, of course, featured strongly in the social side of our visit. On the first two nights we ended up in the well-fitted cellar-bar, and I for one didn't get to bed until 3.30 a.m. On Friday night we were very kindly entertained by Oberleutnant Graf von Paschma and his wife at their home in Ahlen. This was a welcome opportunity to meet our hosts in a family setting. Another non-military activity, but of great interest to all of us, was a visit to a nearby coalmine. After a very thorough briefing by the managing director, we descended some 3,000 feet underground and walked about a mile to the coal-face. No sooner had we started to walk along the face than there was an ominous rumbling and a large section of the roof just ahead of us collapsed. I suspect that most of us would have welcomed the opportunity of getting to cover in

the normal infantry way, but of course we were far from the open country above. The subsequent bath, and inevitable beer and schnapps, were never more welcome.

On another evening we were entertained by CSM Feldmann and the NCOs of 3 Coy. The evening ended in a positive orgy of clothing and badge exchanges, which left Lt. Gordon Andrew in little other than trousers and shirt! Also in the programme was a visit to Münster, with a conducted tour of the Cathedral—almost totally rebuilt after 1945—and the historic Rathaus, where the Treaty of Westphalia ending the Thirty Years War was signed in 1648. After some shopping and an excellent lunch in a village gasthaus, we were at long last able to snatch one or two hours' sleep, before joining a party of German officers and NCOs, and their wives, in a visit to 2 Queen's at Werl.



*Leutnant Gaden and Colour Sergeant Peter Chapman
lunching in the field*

During the week the reservists of 441 Jäger Battalion, who had been recalled for their annual training, had been on an exercise near the Moselle. On Sunday they moved up to a concentration area near the Dutch border around Ahaus, prior to another exercise run by their Territorial Defence formation headquarters Heimatschutzkommando 15. At this stage Oberleutnant Graf von Paschma, who had been our guide in barracks, handed over to Leutnant Gaden. On our arrival in the exercise area we

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were welcomed by Colonel Runge, the Commander of HSK 15, and Colonel Hermann his deputy. We were shown around the headquarters—similar to a brigade headquarters—and the aims and course of the exercise were explained by the directing staff. For the first 24 hours we remained as a group, seeing how a delaying battle was fought by a tracked 120mm mortar company, an anti-tank company and a company of infantry reservists. In this action the tracked elements, made up of National Servicemen in the main, played the key part, leaving the lorry-borne infantry manning obstacles, OPs and blocking positions. We now saw more of the reservists, some of whom still used the celebrated Bundeswehr hairnets. In the second 24 hour period "Red" forces came up against a prepared defensive position, manned by the main body of 441 Jäger Battalion. Now our group was split into pairs, attached to different companies. Whilst we noted faults in the fieldwork, as one would indeed expect in the circumstances, we also noted the cheerful acceptance by all ranks of their reserve liability.

On the evening of Tuesday, 9th September, we sat down to a farewell supper with Lieutenant Colonel Tolksdorf and some of his staff. The table was in an open farmyard, and with our final mugs of beer toasts and unit plaques were exchanged. I should perhaps mention at this point that although only two of us spoke any German, language was certainly not an impenetrable barrier, and Lieutenant Stephen Northdale's ability in German improved considerably over the ten days. We came home with a deep sense of gratitude to our hosts for their most generous hospitality. Our thanks are particularly due to Lieutenant Colonel Tolksdorf, Hauptmann Müller, Oberleutnant Graf von Paschma and Leutnant Gaden of 441 Jäger Battalion, Sergeant Kreuzberg of the Officers' Mess, and to Lieutenant Colonel Hanke, the Assistant Military Attaché in London, for making this visit possible. This firm link with the Bundeswehr is one which we have every intention of maintaining in future years.

156 REGIMENT RCT (V)

On 20th September, 1975, despite the counter attraction of the football season being in full swing, the Regimental HQ, 234 Sqn. and 238 Sqn. from Liverpool, Birkenhead and Bootle respectively, some 380 men, departed for the annual training expedition of 156 (Lancs and Ches.) Regt. RCT (V) to BAOR.

Two locations were used to muster before deployment on exercise and to recover to at the conclusion of the field training to prepare stores and equipment for hand back. These locations were at Wrexham Barracks, Mulheim, courtesy of 38 Sqn. RCT and Caernarvon Barracks, Dusseldorf, courtesy of 28 Tpt. Mov. Regt. and HQ Rhine Area.

The basic concept of training was to have two exercises, one to prove to RCT units that their feet