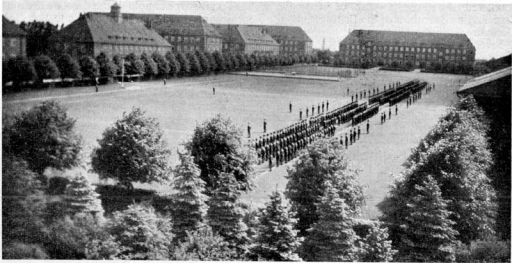




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The Regiment on parade at Adams Barracks

Regimental Notes

The Regiment arrived in Hamburg on 13th January, 1952, and took over barracks which had previously been occupied by the 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars. These barracks lie to the north-eastern end of the city in a suburb called Rahlstedt, possessor of the worst cobbled roads anyone has encountered during a year of extensive manoeuvring over most of the British Zone of Germany.

Several National Service drafts arrived during the spring, and individual, troop and squadron training was completed at high pressure in time to give us trained crews for the summer exercises. Our role of Armoured Car Regiment to 6th Armoured Division did not become a tactical reality until June, as we live some 200 miles from the rest of the Division. We had, however, practised our skill with 7th Armoured Division during the spring, in particular on Exercise "Spring-tide," which was a useful test for our newly drawn vehicles and equipment, since we went as far as the Dutch border and back.

With the summer came Reinsehlen and the foul weather with which it has become synonymous. From the "Blasted Heath" we sallied forth on "Treble Chance," again to the Dutch

border, and on "Night Shift." On these two exercises we welcomed the presence of some "old sweats" in the form of our "Z" reservists, who, having been primed with the most appetizing tales of Hamburg night life, were to their grief fed on the damp disappointment of Lüneberg Heath.

To give an example of the desolate area in which we lived, one can only cite the distinguished staff officer who, after dinner, set off homewards, got lost, heard a dog bark, and assuming that where there was a dog there was a house, stopped his car, switched off the lights and set off into the black to ask his whereabouts. Unable to find the house, he returned towards his car, but failed to find that as well. Dawn found him asleep under a tree in a trackless wood!

After a brief respite back in barracks, during which further drafts arrived from England and were absorbed into crews, we headed south for the "Spearheads." During the first of these two exercises we were only required to umpire, but the refreshingly new area of the Rhine, and fine weather, afforded a pleasant break. On the second exercise we were heavily committed, and as it was an "uncontrolled" exercise it can be imagined

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how considerable was the confusion after ten days.

The main regret of the summer was the lack of cricket, due to the absence of a good pitch, to exercises and to the scarcity of sufficiently close neighbours. We keep our fingers crossed for next season.

“Holdfast,” the largest war game of the year, confirmed our private belief that, as far as circumstances permitted, we were approaching operational fitness. With that comfort, we are now settling down again to barrack life in Hamburg, training the newcomers and preparing for Christmas, which will be past history by the time these notes are read.

Our first year in Germany has nearly ended, with its novelty and problems, its new places and faces, and while uncertain what the future may hold for us, we are now expert at quick moves should they come, and face 1953 with confidence and the benefit of twelve months' work and experience behind us.