

NATO'S NORTHERN ARMY GROUP



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This book has been compiled by the Public Information Offices of HQ Northern Army Group, HQ 1st Belgian Corps, HQ 1st British Corps, HQ 1st German Corps and HQ 1st Netherlands Corps, for the use of all Public Information staffs in Northern Army Group.

Any queries should be addressed to:

HQ NORTHAG

Public Information

BFPO 40

4050 Moenchengladbach 5

Tel: NORTHAG/RHINE ARMY 3138

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NORTHERN ARMY GROUP

HISTORY

Northern Army Group (NORTHAG) was formed in 1952 of Belgian, British and Netherlands Corps. A German Corps was added in 1957.

The Headquarters of Northern Army Group (HQ NORTHAG) was formed on 1 November 1952 at Bad Oeynhausen, in Germany. In 1954 it moved to Rheindahlen, Moenchengladbach, and was collocated with Headquarters Second Allied Tactical Air Force (HQ TWOATAF) and two British national headquarters, Headquarters British Army of the Rhine (HQ BAOR) and Headquarters Royal Air Force Germany (HQ RAFG).

During the construction of the headquarters building a battle axe of this type was found. It is a throwing axe or Francisca. It was chosen as the formation sign of Northern Army Group to symbolise the victory of an Allied Army in Western Europe against an eastern invader. In the battle of CHALONS-sur-MARNE in AD 451, it was the Franks, armed with their throwing axe, who played a major role in the defeat of an Eastern army under Attila, thus ending his attempted conquest of Western Europe.

PRESENT

That was a little piece of history, but today Northern Army Group is a powerful and well armed force of 200,000 men in peacetime - half a million in war - composed of four national Corps from Belgium, Britain, Germany and the Netherlands.

TASK

Our task is to prepare together in peace to fight together in war to defend our part of NATO territory.

COMMAND

The Commander (COMNORTHAG) is a British 4 star general, who in peacetime is also Commander in Chief of the British Army of the Rhine.

NORTHAG is under the command of HQ Allied Forces Central Europe (HQ AFCEM) which is the headquarters of the Commander in Chief of the Central Region (CINCENT), a German 4 star general.

AFCEM is part of Allied Command Europe (ACE), one of the four subordinate commands of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). The Commander of ACE is the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe (SACEUR), a United States 4 star general.

HEADQUARTERS NORTHAG

The Headquarters is staffed by the four nations who provide the Corps, plus United States elements, completely integrated as an international headquarters. The 2 star generals are:

Chief of Staff - German
Deputy Chief of Staff (Operations and Intelligence) - Netherlands
Deputy Chief of Staff (Logistics and Administration) - Belgian

NORTHAG SIGNALS SUPPORT GROUP

This group, commanded by a German colonel, contains the only national units under NORTHAG command in peacetime:

13 (Belgian) Signal Company (13 Cie T Tr)
28 (British) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)
840 (German) Signal Battalion
The Netherlands Signal Squadron
NORTHAG Air Support Radio Squadron

LOGISTICS

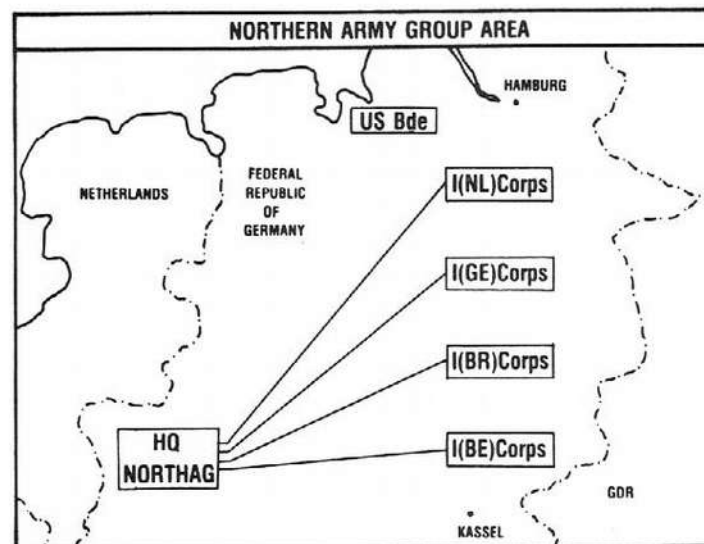
The Corps of Northern Army Group are supplied with all their requirements in peace and war by their own nations, co-ordinated by HQ Northern Army Group. The contributions of those nations is greater therefore than the numbers of men and material shown in the Corps sections of this book.

LANGUAGES

Five languages are used by our soldiers - Dutch, English, French, Flemish and German. Orders and instructions above Corps level are issued in the official NATO languages - English or French.

AREA

The NORTHAG area is roughly from Hamburg to Kassel, and from the Inner German Border to the border of the Netherlands and Belgium.



ORGANISATION

In NORTHAG are the following national forces, which in peacetime remain under national command. When the situation demands they will be placed under NATO command:

1st Belgian Corps) Full details of these
1st British Corps) Corps are contained in
1st German Corps) the succeeding sections
1st Netherlands Corps) of this book.

Together with them comes the German Territorial Northern Command, which is responsible for the security and support of the rear areas of NORTHAG. The HQ is in Moenchengladbach.

PHILOSOPHY

NATO is a defensive alliance whose object is to maintain peace in Europe in two ways:

By deterrence - that is by presenting a formidable and resolute defence sufficient to deter any would-be aggressor.

By disarmament - that is by using the peace won by deterrence to negotiate mutual arms limitations.

Northern Army Group's job is deterrence. To this end, it must train and retrain its regular and conscript soldiers, it must practice re-inforcement by troops from USA, UK, Belgium and Holland, it must rehearse and refine international staff procedures and it must constantly update its weapons and equipment.



1st BELGIAN CORPS

HISTORICAL SURVEY

First formed in 1870, 1 (BE) Corps was disbanded again in the same year because the Franco-German war had caused the Belgian Army to re-adopt divisional formations.

Later, 1 (BE) Corps was reformed from 1886 to 1892 and again between 1923 and 1940. In World War II, it took part in the Campaign of the Eighteen Days. On 3 January 1946, the Corps was set up anew with its headquarters in the Prince Baudouin Barracks in Brussels. After being stationed at Ludenscheid and Bonn, Headquarters 1 (BE) Corps was finally established in Cologne (Junkersdorf) where it has remained since 1949.

PRESENT DEPLOYMENT OF THE BELGIAN FORCES

Almost 80% of the forces of 1 (BE) Corps are stationed in the Federal Republic of Germany and 20% in Belgium, with two brigades east of the Rhine at Soest and Siegen, and two west of the Rhine (in Belgium) at Leopoldsborg and Marche-en-Famenne. The majority of the Corps troops and logistic units are stationed in the Federal Republic of Germany in some 20 garrisons.

Other garrisons of Belgian units are at Verviers, Spa, Bastogne, Amay and Brasschaat in Belgium.

Headquarters Deployment

HQ 1 (BE) Corps : Köln-Junkersdorf (FRG)

HQ 1 (BE) Division : Verviers (Belgium)

HQ 16 (BE) Division : Neheim-Husten (FRG)

HQ 1 (BE) Armoured Infantry Brigade at Leopoldsborg
(Belgium)

HQ 7 (BE) Armoured Infantry Brigade at Marche-en-Famenne
(Belgium)

HQ 4 (BE) Armoured Infantry Brigade at Soest (FRG)

HQ 17 (BE) Armoured Brigade at Siegen (FRG)

PERSONNEL

On 1 January 1984, strengths amounted to approximately 35,000 men, most of whom are regular personnel (64%). This represents about 35% of the total Belgian Forces.

In its 1974 programme, the Belgian Government considered shortening national military service from 12 to 6 months. The final aim was to station only regulars in West Germany starting at least with 1 (BE) Corps. The economic crisis defeated this large-scale programme, however. This setback, combined with a declining draft contingency due to low birth rates, is giving rise to thoughts of reverting to the 12 months' service duration.

Women in the Army

Enlistment of women was started in 1975. On 1 January 1984, their number in 1 (BE) Corps amounted to some 900. They are fully integrated and perform fully-skilled military functions.

ORGANIZATION

1 (BE) Corps comprises:

- ONE Corps HQ
- TWO divisional HQs
- FOUR active brigades
- TWO reserve brigades
- assigned fighting units
- assigned logistic units.

The two divisional headquarters are merely tactical staffs able to exercise command of a certain number of brigades.

Peacetime Command

The Commander of 1 (BE) Division exercises command over 1 and 17 (BE) Armoured Infantry Brigades. 4 (BE) Armoured Infantry Brigade and 17 (BE) Armoured Brigade come under the command of 16 (BE) Division.

Organization of the Armoured Infantry Brigade

This brigade has complete logistic autonomy, holding supplies sufficient for several days. It comprises about 3,500 men and 1,000 vehicles.

It is structured as follows:

One HQ; and

One HQ and Signals Company

Two Armoured Infantry Battalions equipped with French AMX or American M75. From 1984 on, these will be replaced by the IAFV with 25 mm cannon and the M113. Basic armament: the Belgian FAL rifle, the Belgian MAG (7.62 mm) machine-gun and the MILAN anti-tank rocket-launcher.

One Antitank Battalion

consisting of two companies:

- the JPK (Jagdpanzerkanone) Company with 90 mm antitank guns on full-track mount;
- the Missile Company, equipped with the MILAN weapon system. This company is also going to convert to the M113.

One Armoured Battalion equipped with LEOPARD tanks with built-in gun-stabilizer and an automatic fire control system of Belgian design.

One Field Artillery Battalion composed of three batteries each of six self-propelled 105 mm howitzers (the American M108). This (the M108) will be replaced by the 155 mm M109A.

One Engineer Combat Company

One Supply and Transport Company

One Repair and Maintenance Company

One Medical Company

Organization of the Armoured Brigade

The Armoured Brigade differs from the Armoured Infantry Brigade by the number of organic Armoured Battalions: two instead of only one.

Corps Combat Units

- Reconnaissance Units Command of three Reconnaissance Battalions equipped with CVRT vehicles and one Armoured Battalion.

Four Field Artillery Battalions with M109 (155 mm), M110 (8") or LANCE with conventional and/or nuclear capability.

- One Anti-aircraft Artillery (AA) Group of two HAWK (HELIP) Battalions and two GEPARD (35 mm) Battalions.
- One Observation Battery.
- Three Engineer Battalions, namely: one Combat Engineer Battalion, one Bridging Battalion equipped with FSB and UNIFLOTE amphibious material, and one Equipment Battalion.
- Two Signals Battalions.
- Three Light Aviation Squadrons equipped with ALOUETTE II helicopters and some Britten Norman Islander aircraft.
- One Special Reconnaissance Teams Company.

Corps Logistic and Administrative Units

- The Corps logistic troops comprise six multirole logistic battalions and the Army Postal Service.
- One Medical Company.
- Two companies of Military Police.
- The Provost units of the Belgian Forces in Germany.

TRAINING

The training of officers and NCOs takes place at the military schools in Belgium. National Servicemen and regular volunteers are given their basic training in their respective units, with the exception of armoured troops and drivers who are trained at the specialized schools of instruction in Belgium.

Basic training is followed by a phase of general military training which for the National Servicemen lasts until the end of their service and for regulars for a similar length of time.

After completion of general military training, regular personnel proceed to advanced training.

Training of all combat units and support troops takes place:

- on garrison training areas;
- at the Engineer training area in Westhoven;

- in the camps in Belgium (Leopoldsborg, Elsenborn and Lombardsijde);
- on the major NATO training areas: in particular, Vogelsang, Bergen, Munster-South and Sennelager.

Each year, the Corps has two periods of two weeks available at the Bergen camp. These periods are organized in rotation by the brigades for the armoured, reconnaissance and anti-tank units.

Artillery firing exercises take place at Elsenborn, Bergen and Munster-South.

Competition for challenge trophies helps achieve high standards in the field of training. In spite of the disadvantages inherent in this kind of testing, such competitions create healthy rivalry between the units, unquestionably raising the standard of training.

Every year, infantry units compete for the challenge trophy of the "Fusilier d'Assaut" (Stormtrooper Championship), while antitank units take part in the "ATK" challenge for shooting in tactical defensive situations.

The armoured battalions participate in the "Cavalry Veterans" challenge competition which involves tank gunnery.

The three Reconnaissance Battalions compete against each other for their own Reconnaissance Units Challenge Trophy.

The artillery units are put through battery and battalion trials regularly.

Light Aviation also has its own challenge trophy.

Every year a major exercise with troops (FTX) is held. Each division participates in turn, putting all its units in the field for the occasion.

Staff exercises (CPX) are conducted at regular intervals at Corps level.

AFFILIATIONS

At present, 1 (BE) Corps maintains partnership relations with a number of units:

- 4 American
- 19 British
- 22 German
- 16 French
- 7 Dutch

COMMAND

The Commander 1 (BE) Corps simultaneously exercises the function of Commander-in-Chief of the Belgian Forces in Germany.

BELGIAN FORCES IN GERMANY

The Belgian Forces in Germany consist of the units of 1 (BE) Corps stationed in the Federal Republic, plus a Missile Group of the Belgian Air Force.



BE1 AN ASSURED LOOK INTO THE FUTURE



BE2 A WELL-EQUIPPED CORPORAL IN TOUCH WITH HIS COMMANDER



BE3 THE JPK TAKING OFF AT FULL SPEED



BE4 THE RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON-LEADER WATCHING THE TERRAIN



1st BRITISH CORPS

HISTORY

The First Army Corps was formed in 1901. After the 1914-18 War it was placed in suspended animation.

In 1939 it was reformed and went to France, remaining there and in Belgium until the Dunkirk evacuation in 1940. Prior to the invasion of Europe the Corps remained in the United Kingdom.

On D Day (6 June 1944), 1st (BR) Corps returned to the European mainland for the liberation of France, Belgium and Holland, the Rhine crossing and the end of war in Europe in May 1945.

The 1st (BR) Corps was concerned with immediate post-war administrative problems in North West Europe until 1947 when it was again placed in suspended animation. Reformed in June 1951, 1st (BR) Corps became a formation of the Northern Army Group of NATO in 1952.

ORGANISATION

1st (BR) Corps is commanded by a Lieutenant General. It is organised into three armoured divisions, an infantry division, an artillery division and corps troops.

The Corps is equipped with over 600 Challenger and Chieftain tanks and nearly 3,000 other armoured vehicles.

There are 14 garrisons in the Corps area; the largest at Osnabruck and the smallest at Luebbecke.

Each division is commanded by a major-general. Locations of formation headquarters are as follows:

HQ 1st (BR) Corps & HQ Artillery Division - Bielefeld

HQ 1st Armoured Division - Verden

HQ 2nd Infantry Division - York (a forward HQ
is in Buende)

HQ 3rd Armoured Division - Soest

HQ 4th Armoured Division - Herford

ARMoured DIVISION

Each armoured division consists of three brigades commanded by a brigadier. The following units are to be found in each division:

Three Armoured Regiments

Each comprising of four squadrons. The main vehicle of these regiments is either the Challenger or Chieftain main battle tank; both are widely acknowledged to be formidable tanks with good protection and an accurate and powerful 120mm gun firing armour-piercing and high-explosive rounds.

Mechanised Infantry Battalions

All infantry battalions within the division are equipped with tracked armoured personnel carriers (APV 432s). The soldiers are armed with the self-loading rifle, the general purpose machine gun, mortars and anti-tank guided weapons - mainly Milan which has given battalions a greatly enhanced anti-tank capability.

Artillery

Support for the armoured division is provided by an artillery group equipped with Abbot 105mm self-propelled guns, M109 155mm self-propelled guns, M110 8" self-propelled howitzers and FH70 - a 155mm field howitzer produced as a collaborative project by the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany and Italy. The artillery group also has units equipped with Blowpipe (a hand-held low level anti-aircraft weapon) and Swingfire (a long-range, wire-guided anti-tank missile).

Engineers

The division is supported by an engineer regiment. Its principle task is the creation of obstacles by demolition, laying minefields and cratering roads and tracks. Sophisticated equipment to speed the construction of these obstacles includes the Combat Engineer Tractor, which entered service in 1979; Ranger, a new mechanically-scatterable anti-personnel mine which also arrived in 1979; and an anti-tank device (Barmine) which has been in service for some time.

Signals

Communications for command and control are provided by a divisional headquarters and signal regiment. New equipment has come into service recently

including Clansman radios throughout BAOR and Wavell, a new advanced automatic data processing system. Wavell is a significant aid to operational staff work and has a capability which is ahead of anything in its field worldwide.

Aviation

Air support is provided by an aviation regiment of the Army Air Corps which is equipped with Gazelle and Lynx helicopters. Lynx, like the Gazelle, is an Anglo-French collaborative project. Lynx first entered service in 1978; is now in Squadron service and is fitted with the air-to-ground anti-tank missile (TOW).

Logistic Units

An armoured division has its own logistic units; transport, medical, ordnance, repair and provost.

INFANTRY DIVISION

The Infantry Division consists of three brigades, two Territorial Army and one regular. It is stationed in England, but remains an integral part of the Corps and trains with it in Germany every year.

ARTILLERY DIVISION

The Artillery Division provides the heavier artillery support and air defence for all four divisions. It contains general support regiments equipped with the American 175mm self-propelled gun, a missile regiment equipped with the American long-range surface-to-surface missile Lance; two air defence regiments equipped with Rapier, a formidable anti-aircraft weapon.

CORPS TROOPS

The following are under direct command of Corps HQ:-

Reece Force

A reece force of three armoured reconnaissance regiments acts as the screen in front of the Corps. The regiments in this force are equipped with Scorpion and Scimitar tracked armoured vehicles.

Amphibious Engineer Regiment

Equipped with the M2 bridging equipment which provides ferries and bridges for crossing wider water obstacles.

Armoured Engineer Squadron

Equipped with bridges launched from armoured vehicles and with the Combat Engineer Tractor.

TRAINING

The training carried out by the 1st (BR) Corps is designed to prepare it for its war role, that of supporting NATO. Training is designed to prepare both

the individual and complete units and formations. Training includes field firing on NATO ranges as well as collective training. Collective training is progressive at all levels up to Corps Field Training Exercises. A considerable number of headquarters and command post exercises are also held. The majority of individual and sub-unit training takes place on garrison training areas but these are restricted in scope and too small for unit level exercises. Those must take place on Soltau Lueneburg training area. Above unit level, manoeuvre rights are negotiated with the German federal authorities for the use of the German countryside. Some damage is inevitable on this type of exercise but great care is taken to ensure that damage is reduced to an absolute minimum. In addition measures are taken to forewarn the general public of exercise activity through the Services Liaison Organisation. Any damage that is caused is repaired promptly on the spot where possible by the Damage Control Organisation, or the owner is fully compensated later. Exercising on the German countryside is carried out during the autumn and winter months when the least damage to crops is likely.

Live firing of small arms, tanks and artillery takes place on the NATO ranges of Bergen, Sennelager, Haltern, Munsterlager and Vogelsang. More advanced battle group training is held at Suffield in Canada. This range, comprising 2,500 square kilometres of undulating prairie permits manoeuvring with live firing on a scale which is not currently available anywhere else in the world. Seven battle groups train here each year. In addition to Suffield some units carry out exchange training in Denmark and France and in other parts of the Federal Republic.

Training with Allied Units

Higher formation training is often carried out in conjunction with units of other Allied armies, mainly those which, like 1 (BR) Corps, are part of NATO's Northern Army Group, ie: Belgian, German and Dutch units or with units of the Danish, Norwegian and US Forces. This training is enhanced by training exchanges of individuals and sub-units and affiliations and associations at all levels of command.

Adventurous Training

This training is designed to improve the mental and physical robustness of soldiers and to develop the leadership qualities of officers and non commissioned officers. It is extensively used by all units of 1 (BR) Corps. At unit level ski huts are hired in Bavaria every year under the Exercise Snow Queen scheme where soldiers are taught langlauf skiing. At a higher level there are a number of centres which cater for adventurous training activities. The Army Mountain Training Centre at Silberhutte in the Harz Mountains teaches cross country skiing in winter and potholing, rock climbing, canoeing and trekking in summer. In Norway the British Outdoor Bound Centre at Kristiansand trains men in mountaineering, rock climbing, trekking, cross country skiing and living in the open under both summer and winter conditions. There are also centres specialising in free-fall parachuting and offshore sailing. Additional adventurous training is available to units who obtain grants to mount expeditions in Europe and other parts of the world. In all about 15,000 soldiers a year are involved in adventurous training pursuits.

CONCLUSION

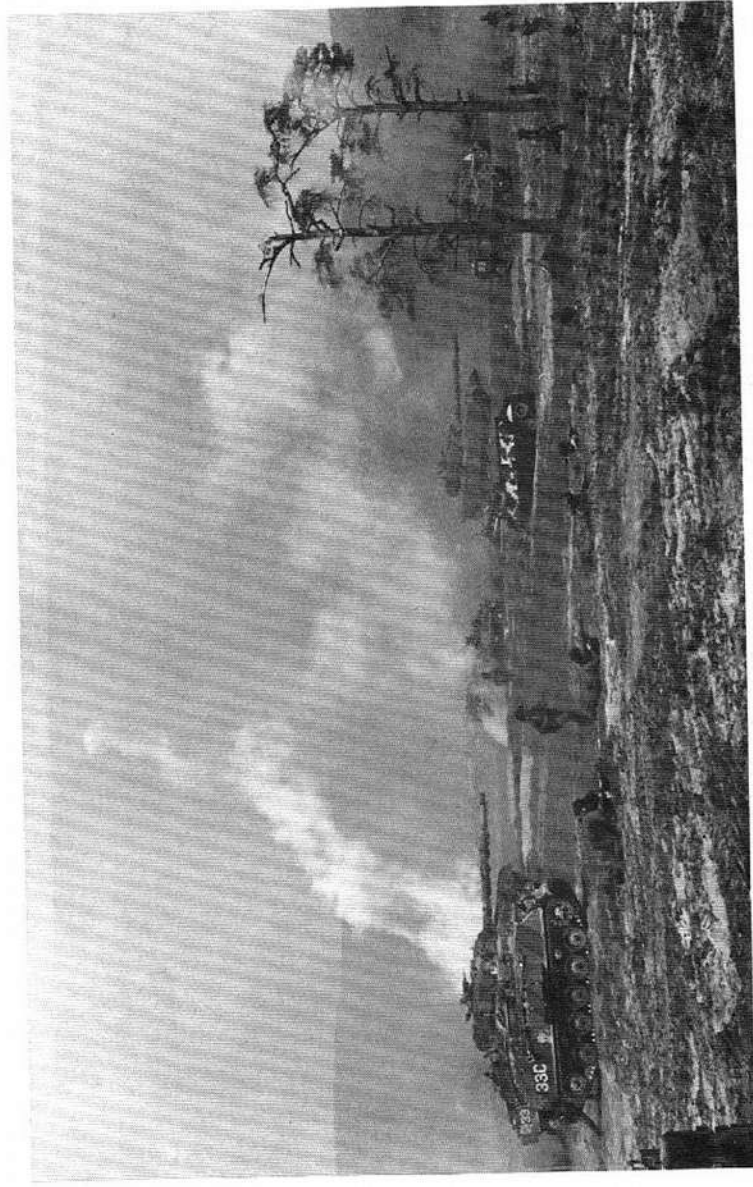
The peacetime strength of 1st British Corps is over 50,000 men (all regular soldiers). This figure is more than doubled in the event of emergency and each year some 20,000 regular and reserve reinforcements join units in Germany for training at all levels. With its predominance of long term regular soldiers, good recruiting and low wastage rates, a high standard of training is attained. Given the steady introduction of improved equipments, 1st British Corps remains a workmanlike, effective and powerful asset in NATO's armoury.



BR1 Two Chieftain MBTs covered by the fire of a third
in a hull down position on exercise in North Germany



BR2 A patrol of 1st British Corps by the Mittelland Kanal



RR3 INFANTRY DISMOUNTING FROM AFV 432s UNDER COVERING FIRE
FROM CHIEFTAIN MBTs DURING AN EXERCISE.



BR4 BRITISH SOLDIERS PLAYING ENEMY DIGGING A SHELL-SCRAPE -
STILL A VITAL INFANTRY SKILL



1st GERMAN CORPS

HISTORY

The 1st German Corps was formed in 1956, and joined Northern Army Group in 1957.

STRENGTH

1 (GE) Corps, with a total strength in the NORTHAG area of approximately 86,000 soldiers in peace and approximately 135,000 in a defence emergency, is the strongest of the Bundeswehr's three Corps. It has at its disposal 25,000 combat vehicles including 1,200 battle tanks and tank destroyers, 1,000 armoured personnel carriers, 600 anti-tank guided missile systems and 500 guns and rocket launchers. About 60% of the Corps are 15-month conscripts, the remaining 40% being professional and short-service soldiers.

ORGANISATION

Under 1 (GE) Corps, with Headquarters at Munster, Westphalia, there are:

- 1 Armoured Division - Headquarters in Hannover.
- 3 Armoured Division - Headquarters in Buxtehude.
- 7 Armoured Division - Headquarters in Unns.
- 11 Armoured Infantry Division - Headquarters in Oldenburg.
- (6 Armoured Infantry Division, with its Headquarters in Neumunster, is under Corps command in peace - but not under neither Corps nor NORTHAG command in war.)

The Divisions are organized in three Brigades and Divisional Troops, comprising Artillery, Engineer, Medical, Resupply and Repair formations as well as an Army Aviation unit. Security and Field Replacement elements are added for war.

The Armoured Infantry Division normally has at its disposal two Armoured Infantry Brigades and one Armoured Brigade.

The Armoured Divisions have two Armoured Brigades and one Armoured Infantry Brigade.

Three Armoured Infantry Battalions, an Armoured Battalion and an Armoured Artillery Battalion as well as Brigade units are assigned to the Armoured Infantry Brigades. The Brigade units each comprise one anti-tank infantry, one armoured engineer, one medical, one resupply and one repair company. The Armoured Brigades, however, have at their disposal three Armoured Battalions and only one Armoured Infantry Battalion.

MISSION AND EQUIPMENT

The arms and services of the major and minor formations of 1 (GE) Corps are referred to collectively as combat, combat support, command support and logistic troops.

The combat troops form the nucleus comprised of armoured, armoured infantry, anti-tank infantry and armoured reconnaissance units.

The Armoured Units are the hard core of the combat troops. Their main task is the fight against enemy tanks. Their combat vehicles are the main battle tanks LEOPARD 1 and LEOPARD 2 with a deep wading capability. They are equipped with a main gun of either 105 mm or 120 mm, with a range of up to 3,500 m, and two machine guns.

The Armoured Infantry units supplement the battle of the armoured units and fight independently against enemy infantry and anti-tank elements. Their combat vehicle is the MARDER APC/AIFV. It is armed with a 20 mm rapid-firing main gun and two machine guns and carries ten men. In addition to the normal infantry weapons, the armoured infantry have full-tracked 120 mm mortars with ranges of up to 6,000 m and the MILAN anti-tank guided weapon with a maximum range of 2,000 m. With the latter weapon they can also engage enemy armour independently.

The Anti-Tank Infantry units bear the brunt of the anti-tank defence battle. Their weapons are the gun and missile tank destroyers. They are armed with the anti-tank guided weapons systems HOT and TOW. Between 75 and 4,000 m, these systems are extremely accurate and exceed the effective range of battle tanks.

The Armoured Reconnaissance formations reconnoitre over large areas. They produce the basic data for the conduct of operations and secure friendly forces against surprise. They have long-range communication facilities, battle tanks and the LUCHS armoured reconnaissance vehicle. This low-noise-level, amphibious, eight-wheel-drive combat vehicle with its exceptional cross-country capability has a cruising range of almost 900 kms.

The Combat Support Troops comprise Artillery, Army Anti-Aircraft Artillery, Army Aviation, Engineer and NBC Defence troops.

The Artillery formations engage area targets. Moreover they support the Commander with intelligence support. Because of the great range and mobility of

its fire, the artillery is in a position to create and shift fire concentration rapidly. The artillery can thus influence the battle directly and often decisively.

The Artillery battalions of the brigades are equipped with the M109G 155mm howitzer. The divisional artillery has field howitzers of the type 155-1 with a calibre of 155mm and a range of up to 23 kms, and armoured howitzers of the type SF M 110 with a calibre of 203 mm and a range of 17 kms. Additionally, the divisional artillery has 110mm SP multiple rocket-launchers, an area-fire weapon, with a range of up to 15 kms.

The Corps Artillery also has the Lance missile. With its range of up to 110 kms, it can fire deep into the enemy's operational area. Thus it is the Commander's main weapon in both the conventional and nuclear fire battle.

The Locating Artillery at divisional level is responsible for artillery reconnaissance using optical, acoustic and electronic means. Through target acquisition, it operates the basis for the engagement of enemy artillery, ranges friendly artillery and controls its fire for effect.

The Army Air Defence units engage enemy aircraft. At divisional level units are equipped with the GEPARD anti-aircraft tank-mounted system. The GEPARD has a surveillance range of up to 15 kms and an engagement range of up to 3,500 m. With its 35 mm dual automatic gun, it can engage enemy aircraft and helicopters flying at low level, and has a search radar for air space surveillance, a tracking radar and a fire direction system.

The Army Air Defence units directly assigned to the Corps are equipped with radar-controlled 40 mm guns. Additionally, the Corps has an AD Missile Group with 36 ROLAND weapons systems. The ROLAND has a surveillance coverage of 16 kms and a maximum effective range of 6 kms. It will supplement the GEPARD, giving defence also against aircraft at medium level.

The Engineers assist the movement of friendly forces and impede the enemy's movements by creating barriers or laying demolitions. They have a variety of specialist equipments, including bridging equipment and amphibious vehicles. For the direct support of combat troops, there are armoured vehicles with blade and earthboring equipment for clearing barriers and negotiating obstacles, and also the BIBER bridgelaying tank capable of laying a 22-metre bridge with a capacity of 50 tons.

The Army Aviation troops of the Corps provide air mobility, transporting troops, material and casualties. They have the UH-1D light helicopter which can carry either 13 men or 1,000 kg of cargo, and also the CH-53G medium transport helicopter with a capacity of either 41 men or 6 tons or cargo. In addition, the Corps and the divisions have army aviation squadrons equipped with BO-105 helicopters. These are committed for liaison, reconnaissance and surveillance. Moreover, the Corps has available an anti-tank helicopter regiment equipped with the BO 105 tank destroyer helicopter.

The NBC Defence formations and units of the Corps support the troops in protection against nuclear, biological and chemical agents. With their special equipment, these units/formations are capable of detecting radiation and chemical agents, and of decontaminating personnel and material. In addition they can

produce artificial smoke. The Command Support Troops available to the Corps are Signals Battalions and a Survey Battery.

The Signals units have the mission of transmitting orders, reports and information to both Command and the troops, and of supervising electronic security. For this they have radio, radio relay and line equipment. Moreover, the Corps and the divisions have signals units for electronic warfare, whose task is to obtain electronic intelligence and to employ electronic counter-measures to harass and deceive the enemy.

The Survey Battery produces and procures geographical data. It has survey, aerial photography and cartographic platoons: enabling the battery to produce maps, overprints and reproductions as well as to develop, copy and evaluate aerial photographs.

The Logistic Troops of the Corps comprise medical, resupply and repair units.

The Medical formations and units include in their duties medical check-ups casualty care and evacuation as well as resupply and repair of medical equipment. For this, mobile surgical hospitals, casualty clearing stations and field hospitals as well as armoured and soft-skinned casualty evacuation vehicles are available.

The Resupply formations and units store, handle and transport supplies. The combat readiness of a force depends on a constant flow of supplies and these units/formations have been equipped with modern transport vehicles, handling equipment and data-processing equipment.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

What has 1 (GE) Corps achieved in the course of over twenty-five years of existence? What picture do we form of this period, in which the Corps has gone from strength to strength and not only gradually become an integral part of the forces of the Alliance, but has also reinforced its relations with its NATO partners in joint exercises and training periods both at home and abroad?

A few examples will serve to illustrate the most important development that have been achieved in the fields of armament and equipments:

Amongst the armoured troops, the LEOPARD 1 and LEOPARD 2 combat tanks have replaced the USM48 tank. The armoured infantry has converted from the 1.5 ton UNIMOG, the HS 30 AIFV, and the M113 APC (tracked) to the MARDER AIFV. The artillery has been re-equipped with modern SP guns and taken on rocket launchers and new guided missile systems. The Army Air Defence has received the anti-aircraft weapon system GEPARD and the AD weapons system ROLAND. The air mobility has been considerably improved through the introduction into service of the CH-53G medium transport helicopter. In the field of anti-tank defence, the conversion to anti-tank missile systems of the second generation has been completed, and the LUCHS recon vehicle and the FUCHS armoured transport vehicle have been introduced with the armoured reconnaissance troops.

Through systematic and constructive training as well as continual further education and stabilization of the internal structure, it has been possible

substantially, to improve the readiness for action and cohesion within the Corps. In a large number of exercises both at home and abroad, most recently during autumn exercise STARKE WEHR in September 1982 when the Corps co-operated closely with formations from the Netherlands, the United States, the Allied Air Forces, the German Territorial Army and Civil Agencies, it has been able to demonstrate convincingly its efficiency and thus its high deterrent value.

Not only in exercises have the soldiers of 1 (GE) Corps demonstrated their efficiency and determination; they have also been put to the test in many crisis situations. For instance, during the floods of 1962 and 1976 when the dykes broke along the German North Sea coast; or during the storm disaster with its devastating consequences in 1971. Likewise in 1975, when large forested areas in Lower Saxony were burned, and also during the great drought of 1976 when there was a scarcity of fodder. Not only during these noteworthy commitments but also in many other cases, soldiers from 1 (GE) Corps have stood side by side with members of the civilian auxiliary organization to fight disaster, often risking their lives, for the benefit of man, animal and material.

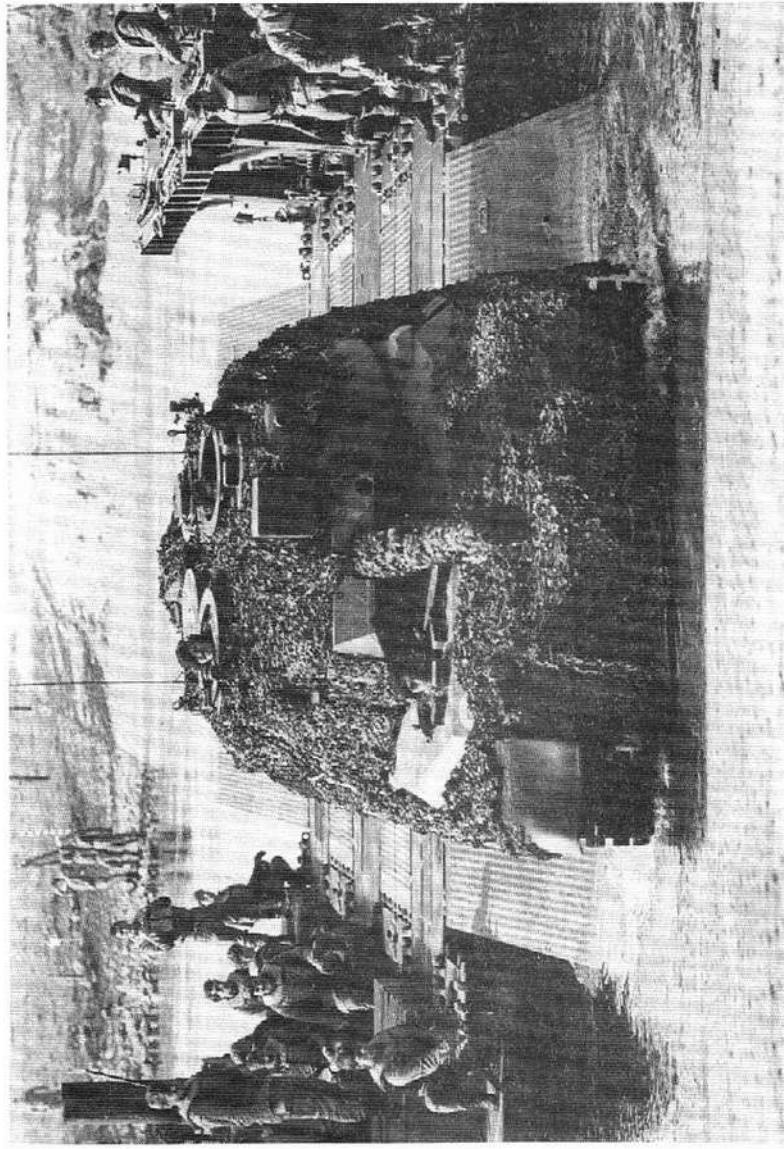
More than 300 partnerships between soldiers of the Corps and allied military and civilian neighbours have grown out of this activity.

1 (GE) Corps will continue to stand by the tried and tested ways and means. It will focus its efforts on all measures aimed at improving its fighting strength. In this connection it is important not only to intensify co-operation with the NATO partners, the Territorial Army, the Allied Air Forces, and the Civilian Authorities, but also to achieve a high standard of mastery of the most modern and improved weapon systems.

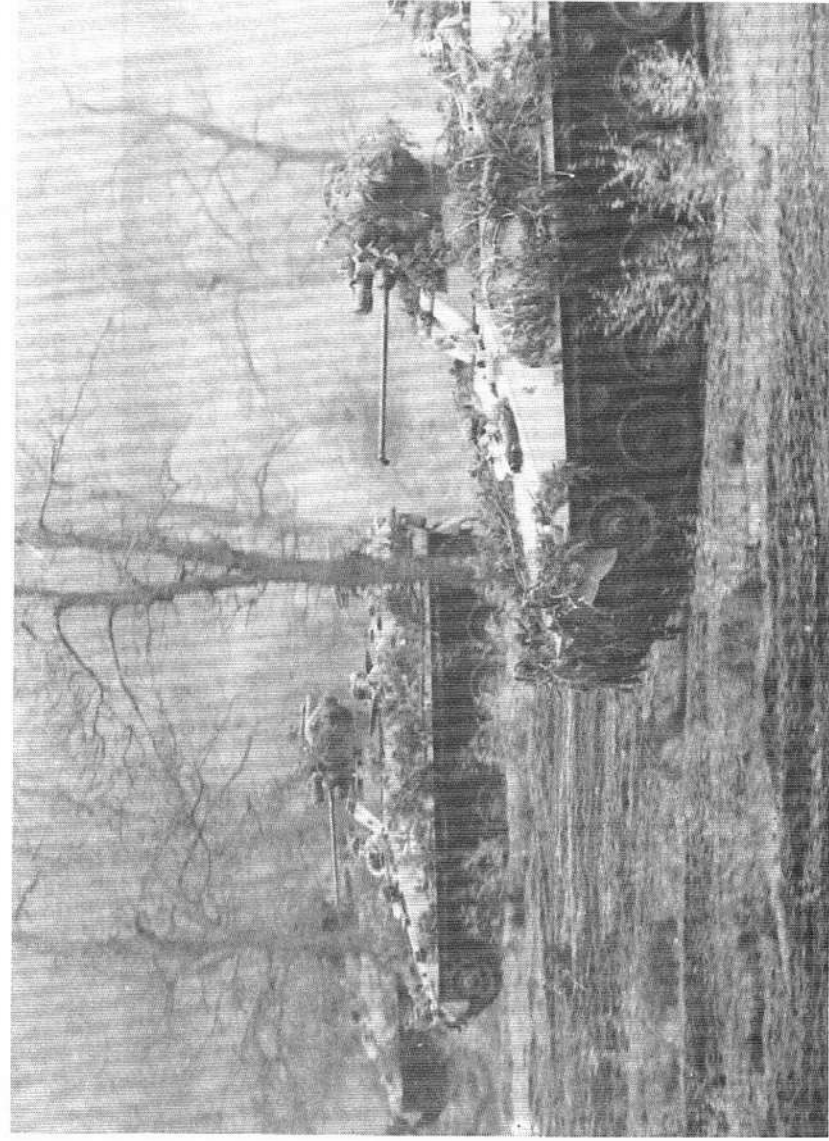
At the end of 1979 1 (GE) Corps started its reorganization in line with the new Army structure. Particularly at brigade level, the best possible peacetime conditions have been created for a high degree of readiness and for optimum training to fulfil all tasks. Amid all the developments and modifications necessitated by progress and change, the Corps will draw on the lessons and experience of its more than 25 years history and will continue also in the future to make a reliable contribution to the maintenance of peace.



GEI LEOPARD 2 : THE ARMY'S BEST NUMBER



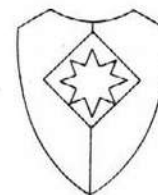
GE2 THE ENGINEERS WILL FIX IT: A LEOPARD 1 A2 COMBAT TANK GETTING ACROSS DRY-SHOD



GE3 MARDERS IN THE ASSEMBLY AREA



PAH 1 (A/TK GW HELICOPTER) IN FIRING POSITION



1st NETHERLANDS CORPS

HISTORY

The First Netherlands Army Corps was formed on 15 November 1953.

ORGANISATION

The Corps Headquarters is at Apeldoorn, a rural town in the Eastern part of Holland.

The formations of the Corps are:

1st Division	
4th Division	
5th Division) Reserve
101st Infantry Brigade)

In addition the Corps has its own Corps troops: artillery, armour, engineers, signals and logistic units. The latter are, together with the Medical Corps units and the transport units, grouped in an Army Corps Logistic Command. In addition, there is a Light Aircraft Group, for surveillance, liaison and transport, and a battalion of Military Police, for traffic regulation and police duties.

In peacetime, the Corps' strength is approximately 35,000 of which approximately 25,000 are 14 month conscripts. The wartime strength is approximately 90,000.

The Corps is kept rolling in war by 19,500 wheeled and 2650 tracked vehicles (950 tanks, 1,500 armoured personnel carriers and 200 self propelled guns). Peacetime figures are approximately 50% of these.

One of the brigades is stationed in the Federal Republic of Germany, at Seedorf, Hohne and Langemanshof.

THE FORMATIONS

The First Division "7 December" was formed on the 1st of September 1946. It received its name after a historical radio speech of the late Queen Wilhelmina on 7 December 1942. In this speech she presented an outline of the future structure of the Netherlands Commonwealth.

It is, therefore, this Division that carries the coat-of-arms of ancient Batavia, the capital of the former Netherlands East Indies, together with the letters "EM", the Dutch initials of "Expeditionary Force".

The Division stayed from December 1946 until the end of 1949 in the former colony and took part in several large scale military actions and anti-guerilla operations. After its return, the Division was demobilized and only skeleton staff remained. The Division was reactivated after the events in Hungary, 1956, and from 1 November 1957 carries out its role in NORTHAG.

The Division consists of three brigades:

- 11 Armoured Infantry Brigade, at Schaarsbergen
- 12 Armoured Infantry Brigade, at Nunspeet, and
- 13 Armoured Brigade, at Oirschot.

The Headquarters of the Division is at Schaarsbergen.

The 4th Division was formed in 1905, as part of the Field Army of that time. In 1908, after being reinforced with a cavalry regiment and a regiment of Field Artillery, it lost its original name "Infantry Division".

During the First World War it was mobilised to guarantee the integrity of the Dutch territory and during the Second World War fought with its outdated equipment against the German invaders in the bloody battle of the Grebbe.

The Division was disbanded on the 15th of May 1940 and reactivated on 1 February 1953. Already in December of the same year it took part in the NATO exercises in Germany. During this time, the Division was equipped with British material, mostly of World War II vintage. Later on, organisation and armament were changed, and in 1963 it was thought fit to station at least part of the Division in the Federal Republic of Germany (a reinforced armoured brigade).

The 4th Division consists of three brigades:

- 41 Armoured Brigade, in Germany
- 42 Armoured Infantry Brigade at Assen and
- 43 Armoured Infantry Brigade at Havelte.

The Headquarters of the Division is at Harderwijk.

The Division's insignia is the four-leafed clover.

The 5th Division

The First Netherlands Army Corps, in peacetime consisting of two Divisions, 1st and 4th, will in times of war or threat of war be reinforced by a reserve division, the 5th.

Although this Division can be considered a "sleeping beauty" the Divisional Headquarters is operational, which guarantees a smooth transition from peace to war.

The history of the Division goes back to 1914, when it was installed on 7 March. Its insignia is the chestnut-leaf with its five sections.

It consists of the following brigades.

- 51 Armoured Brigade
- 52 Armoured Infantry Brigade
- 53 Armoured Infantry Brigade

The Division's Headquarters is at Stroe.

101 Infantry Brigade

This reserve formation has an operational (skeleton) Headquarters at Stroe.

THE ARMY CORPS ARTILLERY

Each brigade has its own Artillery battalion (155 mm). The Corps Artillery has additional fire power to lend flexibility and provide additional artillery support to the brigade when needed. It consists of two Field Artillery Groups and an Anti-Aircraft Artillery Group.

The Field Artillery Group is equipped with the 155 mm SP howitzer; the 203 mm SP howitzer, the 175 mm gun and the Lance Missile Weapon system.

The Anti-Aircraft Artillery Group is equipped with the Dutch version of the 35 mm GEPARD.

There is also a survey capability.

In wartime the Corps Artillery will be reinforced by further Field Artillery Battalions.

The Corps Artillery has its Headquarters in Stroe.

THE ARMY CORPS LOGISTIC COMMAND

This organisation was formed on 1 June 1971. The peacetime strength is 4,500. For war this would increase to 14,500.

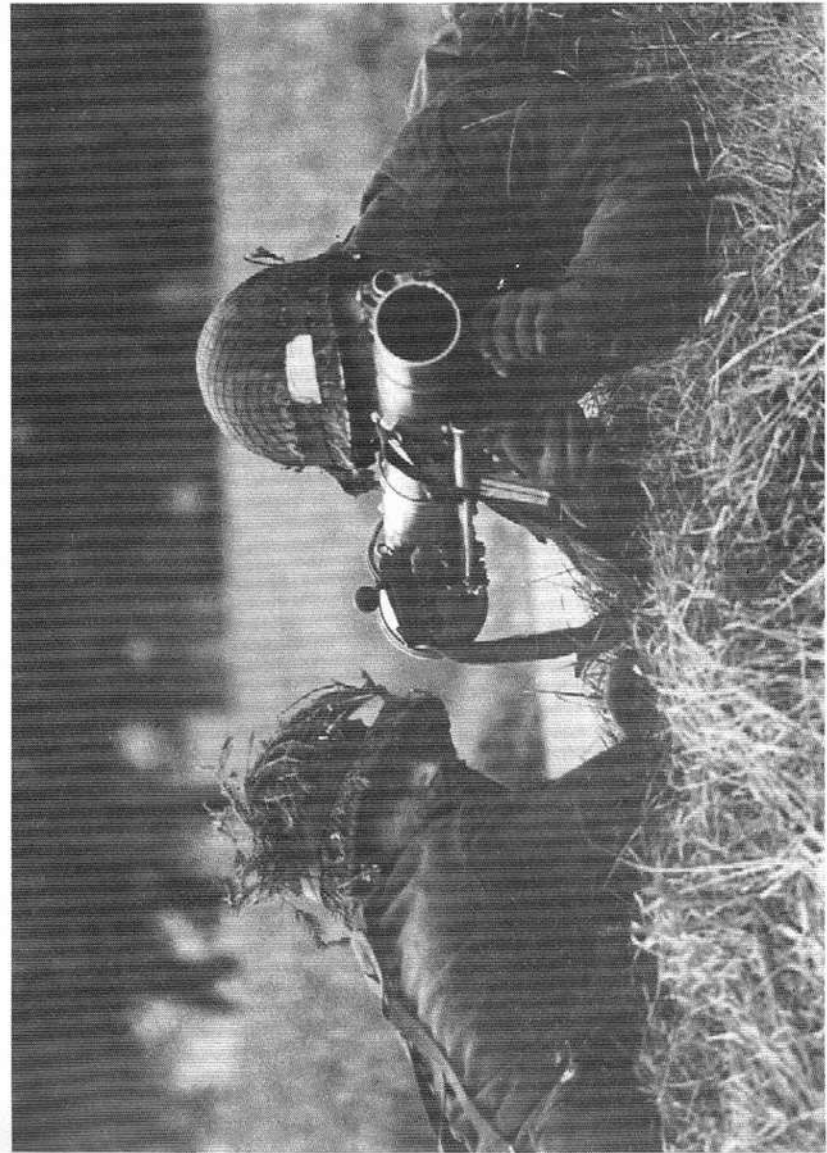
Its task is to guarantee the logistic support of the Army Corps. The Logistic Command supplies the fighting units with fuel, ammunition, food, water, and all other things that are needed to keep a modern Western army fighting; (mail, mobile laundry and bathing facilities, workshops, etc).

It has a large Transport Service of its own, to bring the goods to the supply points.

It also contains a Medical Group, with mobile hospitals, ambulance companies etc.

Symbol of the Army Corps Logistic Command is the "busy bee".

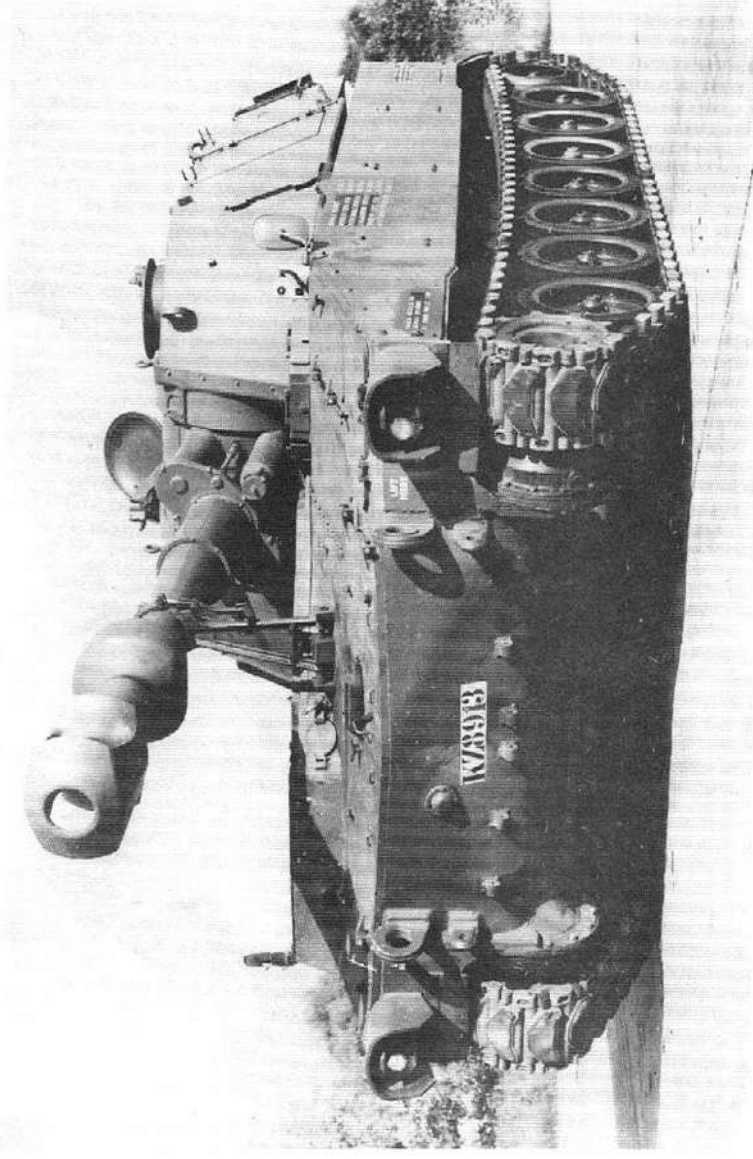
The Headquarters is at Apeldoorn.



NL1 DUTCH INFANTRY FIRING THE SWEDISH MADE CARL GUSTAV 84MM ANTI-TANK ROCKET LAUNCHER



NL2 THE 35MM TWIN-BARRELLED GERMAN ANTI-AIRCRAFT CANNON (GEPARD) IN SERVICE WITH THE NETHERLANDS ARMY.
THE DUTCH HAVE FITTED THEIR OWN RADAR TO THIS EQUIPMENT.



NL3 THE 155MM US BUILT M109 IN SERVICE WITH 1ST (NL) CORPS



NL4 GUN CREW OF 1ST (NL) CORPS WITH THEIR 203MM M110 ABOUT TO LEAVE A FIRE POSITION