



7TH ARMoured BRIGADE – THE DESERT RATS

Commanded by Brigadier P A E Nanson MBE (Late RRF) since January 2011

The British 7th Armoured Brigade is one of the most famous formations in the British Army. The brigade was raised as part of 7th Armoured Division from troops stationed in the deserts of North Africa in 1938. They fought in the Second World War across Egypt, the Middle East, Burma, Italy and finally into Germany. Since then the 'Desert Rats' have deployed operationally in 1990 to Kuwait/Iraq, 1994 and 1997 to Bosnia, 2000 to Kosovo, 2003, 2005 and 2008 to Iraq and currently have elements deployed to Afghanistan. 7th Armoured Brigade is currently the British 1st Land Component Command Headquarters for contingency operations until October 2011.

7th Armoured Brigade is one of two armoured brigades based in Germany in 1 (UK) Armoured Division.

The 'Desert Rats' are based across three locations in Lower Saxony, north of Hannover in Germany at Bergen-Hohne, Bad Fallingbommel and Celle. They have been based in Germany since 1947.

Currently the Brigade is formed from the following units:

- 7th Armoured Brigade Headquarters and Signals Squadron
- Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Challenger 2 Main Battle Tank)
- 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Formation Reconnaissance)
- 4th Battalion Royal Regiment of Scotland (Light Role Infantry)
- 3rd Battalion Mercian Regiment (Armoured Infantry – Warrior Fighting Vehicle)
- 2nd Battalion Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (Light Role Infantry)

The Brigade still wears the famous Desert Rat (Jerboa) flash on its uniform. This originates from the North Africa campaign when 7th Armoured Division adopted the insignia and the nickname of 'The Desert Rats'.

