



1 Armoured Medical Regiment (Restructured as 1 Medical Regiment in 2023)

Introduction

1 Armoured Medical Regiment was formed on 1 April 2014 by the re-designation and re-organisation of its immediate predecessor, **1 Medical Regiment**.¹ The new Regiment's first Commanding Officer was Lt Col Paolo Capanni RAMC. Barely a month later it deployed 30 Squadron on the final Op HERRICK tour, to provide the nucleus of the last Close Support Medical Regiment in Afghanistan, on Op HERRICK 20 (April - November 2014).²

1 Medical Regiment itself had only existed for six years (2008 – 2014), having been formed on 1 April 2008 when the large **1 Close Support Medical Regiment** disbanded to form 1 and 2 Medical Regiments.³

1 Close Support Medical Regiment had been formed in Germany on 1 April 2000 by the amalgamation of **1, 2 and 3 Armoured Field Ambulances** (themselves formed from the six field ambulances of the British Army of the Rhine, see detail below). 1 Armoured Medical Regiment maintains links through its squadrons to five of these original six field ambulances.

Re-organisation under Future Soldier programme (2023)

Under the **Future Soldier** programme, 1 Armoured Medical Regiment was scheduled to restructure by May 2023 to provide close support to 20th Armoured Brigade Combat Team, one of two such new formations within the 3rd (United Kingdom) Division.⁴

¹ This was a result of the 'Army 2020' restructuring of the British Army following the Strategic Defence and Security Review 2010. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/army-2020-transforming-the-british-army-for-the-future>

² Vassallo D. Organisation of the medical services in Iraq and Afghanistan. In: *Military Medicine in Iraq and Afghanistan – a comprehensive review*. (Ed: Ian Greaves; CRC Press 2019) p.76. Available online at <https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/op-telic-and-op-herrick/>

³ **1 Medical Regiment** was formed in Munster from 1 Close Support Regiment on 1 April 2008, moving to Bergen-Hohne in 2012, before it was renamed on 1 April 2014 as 1 Armoured Medical Regiment.

Unit lineage in three glances

1967	1977	1982/5	1997 – Med Regt Paper	2005 FAS	2007 IMSB	2014 (Army 2020)
28 Fd Amb 29 Fd Amb	1 Armd Div Fd Amb	1 Armd Fd Amb	A (29) CS Med Sqn 1CSMR		A (29) Med Sqn 2 Med Regt	29 Med Sqn 2 Med Regt
7 Fd Amb 31 Fd Amb	2 Armd Div Fd Amb	2 Armd Fd Amb	B (31) CS Med Sqn 1CSMR		B (31) Med Sqn 1 Med Regt	31 Med Sqn 1 Armd Med Regt
4 Fd Amb 30 Fd Amb	3 Armd Div Fd Amb	3 Armd Fd Amb	C (30) CS Med Sqn 1CSMR		A (30) Med Sqn 1 Med Regt	30 Med Sqn 1 Armd Med Regt
			HQ Sqn		Sp Sqn	14 Sp Sqn 1 Armd Med Regt
			E (28) Evac Sqn 1CSMR	D (28) Critical Care Sqn 1CSMR	B (28) Med Sqn 2 Med Regt	Disbanded

Unit timeline (1967-2014)⁵

OUR HISTORY

2000

1 Close Support Medical Regiment had been formed in Germany on 1 April 2000 by the amalgamation of 1, 2 and 3 Armoured Field Ambulances (themselves formed from the six field ambulances of the British Army of the Rhine, see detail below).

2008

1 Medical Regiment had only existed for six years, having been formed on 1 April 2008 when 1 Close Support Medical Regiment disbanded to form 1 and 2 Medical Regiments.

2014

The regiment was reformed and transitioned from its original role of providing close medical support to 20th Armoured Brigade, which was based in Sennelager, northern Germany, under command of the 1st (United Kingdom) Division.

2015

The Regiment came under the operational command of the 3rd (United Kingdom) Division on 6 January 2015, and now forms part of the Army's Reaction Force, attached to 101st Logistic Brigade.

2015

The Regiment moved in September 2015 from Bergen-Hohne to Dempsey Barracks, Sennelager.

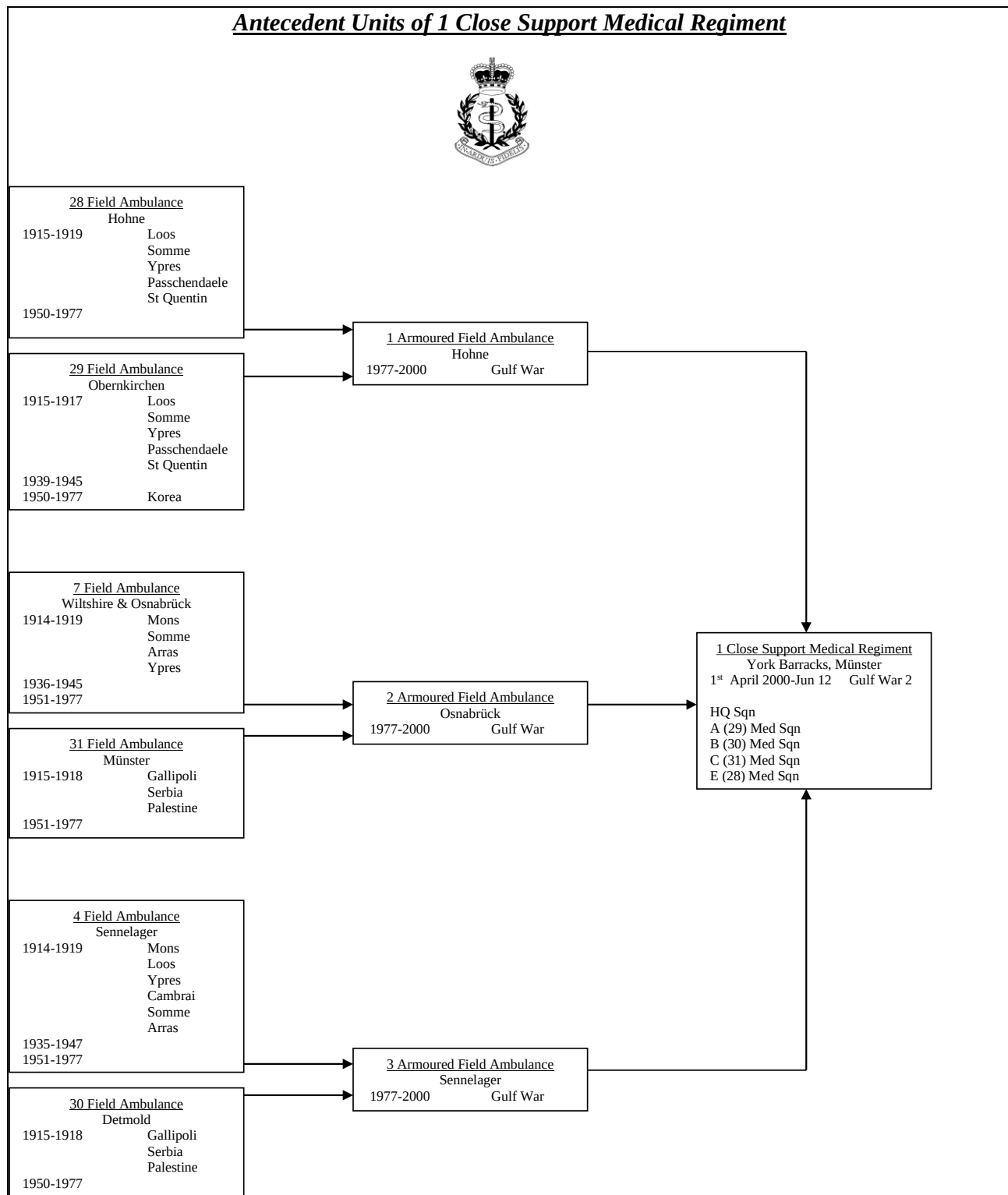
2019

As part of the overall withdrawal of British troops, the Regiment is scheduled to move from Sennelager to Bhurtpore Barracks, Tidworth in 2019, thus starting another chapter in the eventful and distinguished history of the medical regiments of the British Army.

Unit Timeline (2000-2019) on British Army website, adapted from this author's history⁶

⁴ Future Soldier (programme published 25 November 2021; British Army Website <https://www.army.mod.uk/our-future/>. Future Soldier Guide https://www.army.mod.uk/media/15057/adr010310-futuresoldierguide_30nov.pdf)

⁵ Information extracted from: NAMING OF AMS UNITS AND SUBUNITS - Directive to Director General Army Medical Services by Director Medical Capability (Brigadier John McIntosh), AMD18/118, dated 21 June 2013. Annexes: 1. AMS Unit and Subunit Naming; 2. Lineage of Medical Regiments and their Squadrons.



Unit timeline (1914-2003), compiled by WO1 (RSM) J A A'Lee (October 2003)

⁶ 1 Armoured Medical Regiment <https://www.army.mod.uk/who-we-are/corps-regiments-and-units/army-medical-services/1-armoured-medical-regiment/> (Last accessed 30 September 2024; the information on this site was provided by this author. The unit establishment is subject to change)

Recent history (2014 – 2023)

The first two years 2014 – 2015 were a period of major change for the new unit, in addition to the turmoil of providing support to the last Close Support Medical Regiment in Afghanistan on Op HERRICK 20. The unit reformed and transitioned from its original role of providing close medical support to 20th Armoured Brigade,⁷ which was based in Sennelager, northern Germany, under command of the 1st (United Kingdom) Division. 1 Armoured Medical Regiment came under the operational command of the 3rd (United Kingdom) Division on 6 January 2015,⁸ forming part of the Army's Reaction Force, attached to 101st Logistic Brigade.⁹

The unit, after a flag change ceremony held at Haig Barracks, Bergen-Hohne on 20 July 2015, moved that September from Bergen-Hohne to Dempsey Barracks, Sennelager. This marked the end of 70 years' association of British military medical units with Hohne, dating back to the liberation of Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp on 15 April 1945 and the arrival of the first British medical units there on 17 April.

^{10,11,12}

From the end of June 2015, following the departure of the previously co-located 2 Medical Regiment to North Luffenham, Rutland, 1 Armoured Medical Regiment earned the distinction of being the last British military medical unit in Germany.

In 2019, as part of the overall withdrawal of British troops from Germany, the unit moved from Sennelager to Bhurtpore Barracks, Tidworth.

Before restructuring under Future Soldier (2023), the unit comprised a Regimental Headquarters, three Medical Squadrons and a Medical Support Squadron. Its establishment was approximately 300 personnel, wearing seven different cap badges,¹³ and it was equipped with a mixture of armoured ambulances – Bulldog, Mastiff and CVRT – together with soft-skinned Land Rover Battlefield Ambulances.

⁷ **20th Armoured Brigade** is distinguished by the insignia of The Armoured Fist, worn on the left sleeve of all members of the Brigade, including the personnel of 1 Medical Regiment and (initially) 1 Armoured Medical Regiment.

⁸ Army Headquarters Implementation Order 'A2020 Measure 08-003 – Implementation Order: Re-Designation of 1 Medical Regiment as 1 Armoured Medical Regiment' dated 3 September 2014

⁹ **4 and 5 Armoured Medical Regiments** also formed part of the Reaction Force, before Future Soldier changes.

¹⁰ Vella EE. Belsen: Medical aspects of a World War II Concentration Camp *J Roy Army Med Corps* 1984;**130**:34-59

¹¹ Prescott DT. Reflections of forty years ago – Belsen 1945 *J Roy Army Med Corps* 1986;**132**:48-51.

¹² Lerner B. *To meet in Hell – Bergen-Belsen, The British Officer who liberated it, and the Jewish Girl he saved.* (Stroud: Amberley Publishing, 2022)

¹³ It had exactly 306 personnel in June 2015, drawn from the Corps of Royal Engineers, Royal Army Medical Corps, Royal Army Dental Corps, Royal Logistic Corps, Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Royal Army Physical Training Corps, and Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps.

The Unit Insignia (information accurate up to 2023)

The unit insignia represents the Arabic numeral of the Regiment and the Serpent, a symbol of healing, is taken from the Rod of Asclepius from Greek mythology. The logo had previously incorporated a fist (the symbol of 20th Armoured Brigade, to whom 1 Medical Regiment had been attached), but that was superseded in late 2014 on re-formation of the unit as 1 Armoured Medical Regiment and subordination to 101st Logistic Brigade. The insignia was approved by the Army Dress Committee in November 2014.¹⁴



(left) Unit insignia (2014-2023). (right) Initial unit insignia (April - November 2014)

The Unit's Predecessors (1950 – 2014)

The Regiment's direct ancestry goes back to five of the six field ambulances formed in West Germany in 1950-51 under the stimulus of the formation of NATO in 1949 and the reforming of 1 (BR) Corps on 18 June 1951 after its disbandment in 1947.¹⁵ These field ambulances were given the names of predecessors that served with distinction in the First and Second World Wars. The six field ambulances were amalgamated into three armoured divisional field ambulances in 1976-77. These were renamed armoured field ambulances in 1982, before amalgamating to form 1 Close Support Medical Regiment in 2000.

These antecedent units helped to defend Western Europe during the Cold War, they provided medical care to UK Armed Forces in Germany and elsewhere, and they supported UN and NATO humanitarian missions in the Balkans. The unit or individual squadrons deployed on multiple combat support missions to Iraq and Afghanistan, on Ops TELIC and HERRICK.

The Field Ambulances of the British Army of the Rhine (1950 – 1976/77)

There were six field ambulances within the British Army of the Rhine, permanently based in West Germany from the early 1950s, each providing medical support to a Brigade:

¹⁴ Decision 4313., in: Record of Discussion and Decisions of the 352nd Meeting of the Army Dress Committee held in Army Headquarters Andover on 12th November 2014, dated 2 December 2014

¹⁵ The history of **1 (BR) Corps 1901 - 1967**, and that of the **British Army of the Rhine**, can be accessed in more detail at: <http://www.baor-locations.org/historybaor.aspx.html>

28 Field Ambulance (formed in Glyn Hughes Barracks, Hohne on 1 July 1950).^{16,17} The Barracks were named after the inspiring Brigadier H L Glyn Hughes who was Deputy Director of Medical Services, Second Army during the liberation of Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, 15 April 1945.¹⁸ A local German military hospital was emptied to treat some of the 79,000 concentration camp victims, and this was soon renamed Glyn Hughes Hospital (and later Barracks) in his honour.¹⁹

29 Field Ambulance (formed in Goslar on 1 July 1950, moving to Hildesheim in 1951 and to Harden Barracks in Osnabruck, Osnabruck in November 1958).²⁰⁻²¹ The Barracks were named after L/Cpl Eric Harden RAMC who was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross whilst serving with 45 Commando RM in Holland in January 1945.²² The unit remained in Osnabruck until 1977, when it merged with 28 Field Ambulance in Hohne.

4 Field Ambulance (formed in Wheatley, England in 1951, then moved to Munster, becoming operational there in 1958, and then to Korbecke).²³

¹⁶ **28 Field Ambulance RAMC** was identified by Standard Unit Code 5160 0280 (the predecessor of today's Unit Identification Number, UIN). Information obtained from *Army Staff Duty Card (28 Field Ambulance RAMC) - citing General Staff Order - Authority for Formation: BAOR/41772/A (Org 1) dated 13 Jun 1950*. The Army Staff Duty Cards (ASD cards) are an operational index of medical units and formations in the British Army from circa 1945 to circa 1970, containing locations, title changes and establishment references but no personal information, based on the General Staff Orders (GSOs) issued by the War Office / Ministry of Defence. Details were transcribed from the GSOs onto individual 'Unit History and Location Cards', DASD Form 51 or its predecessor SD4(A). This unique set of index cards is held in the Museum of Military Medicine.

¹⁷ See 28th Field Ambulance Veterans Association website: <http://www.28fieldambulanceveterans.com/history.php>

¹⁸ For an excellent and inspiring biography of Brigadier Glyn Hughes and the work of the Army Medical Services, juxtaposed with a moving account of an individual survivor from Bergen-Belsen, read Bernice Lerner's '*To meet in Hell – Bergen-Belsen, The British Officer who liberated it, and the Jewish Girl he saved.*' (Op cit)

¹⁹ **Glyn Hughes Barracks** – liberation of Belsen - see: Vella EE 'Belsen: Medical Aspects of a World War II Concentration Camp' *J Roy Army Med Corps* 1984;130:34-59. See also <http://baor-locations.org/glynnhughes.aspx.html> (accessed 30 January 2021)

²⁰ **29 Field Ambulance RAMC** was identified by Standard Unit Code 5160 0290. The unit had moved to Hildesheim by 4 January 1951 where it remained until August 1958, moving to Harden Barracks, Osnabruck by 1 November 1958 (ASD card - citing *Authority for Formation: BAOR/41772/A (Org 1) dated 13 Jun 1950*). Additional information from: <http://www.baor-locations.org/hardenbks.aspx.html>.

²¹ There was a 29th Field Ambulance (with a separate lineage) in the First World War (see: <http://www.wartimememoriesproject.com/greatwar/allied/ramc29fldamb-l-gw.php>) as well as the Second World War, where it is recorded as serving in Iraq (10 April - 31 May 1941) and Syria (8 June - 12 July 1941) with the Middle East Forces. Information taken from 'Orders of Battle 1939 - 1945 War - RAMC', War Office File 0534 / 3, in 'Second World War Orders of Battle', Historical Branch (Army)

²² **Harden Barracks** – see <http://baor-locations.org/hardenbks.aspx.html> (last accessed 30 January 2021)

²³ **4 Field Ambulance RAMC** was formed in Wheatley, Oxfordshire on 1 February 1951, identified by Standard Unit Code 5160 0040, and then was based at Old Hospital Camp, Catterick, Yorkshire (ASD card - citing *Authority for Formation: 20/Med/1022 (AMD 1) dated 27 Dec 1950*). The unit later moved to Munster, West Germany, becoming operational there on 1 Feb 1958 (ASD card - citing *Authority for Formation: B 1242/3 MPA dated 19 Jun 1958*). By the time of its amalgamation with 30 Field Ambulance on 1 August 1977 to form 3 Armoured Division Field Ambulance, it had moved to Salamanca Barracks, Korbecke (*Ministry of Defence, General Staff Order - Authority for Amalgamation,*

7 Field Ambulance (formed in Wheatley and moving to Roberts Barracks, Osnabruck in 1951, and then to Dortmund, becoming operational there in 1958).²⁴ It moved back to Roberts Barracks, Osnabruck in 1966.²⁵ These Barracks were named after Field Marshal Frederick Roberts, 1st Earl Roberts, one of the most successful commanders of the British Army in the 19th Century. He served in the Indian Rebellion of 1857-58 (during which he was awarded the Victoria Cross), the Second Anglo-Afghan War, the Abyssinian Campaign, and led British Forces to success in the Second Boer War, becoming Commander-in-Chief of the British Army (equivalent to today's Chief of the General Staff) in 1901 before the post was abolished in 1904.

30 Field Ambulance (based in Sennelager since at least 1958)²⁶ The unit, together with 4 Field Ambulance, represented the RAMC in the Queen's Silver Jubilee Review of the Army in Sennelager on 7 July 1977, parading with its FV432s, just weeks before the two units amalgamated to form 3 Armoured Division Field Ambulance on 1 September 1977. The original painting of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Parade now hangs in the Officers Mess of 4 Armoured Medical Regiment (see photograph below).

31 Field Ambulance (formed in Dortmund in 1951, moving to Oxford Barracks, Münster in 1953).²⁷⁻²⁸ Its name commemorated a predecessor in the First World War, the 31st Field Ambulance, formed in late 1914 as part of the 31st Brigade, 10th (Irish) Division. This unit served in Gallipoli, Salonika, and Palestine, and was disbanded in May 1918.²⁹

Apart from 29 Field Ambulance (whose lineage was continued in 2 Medical Regiment), five of these six field ambulances have a direct lineage to the individual squadrons of 1 Armoured Medical Regiment.

Reorganisation and Redesignation: D/AMD/27/4/22 (ASD 2a) dated 16 March 1977, copy accessed at Army Historical Branch, Whitehall. Such orders are hereafter referred to as GSO)

²⁴ **7 Field Ambulance RAMC** was formed in Military Hospital, Holton Park, Wheatley, Oxfordshire on 1 March 1951, identified by Standard Unit Code 5160 0070, moving to a temporary location in Camp 171, Ogbourne St George, Marlborough on 20 March 1951, and then to Roberts Barracks, Osnabruck on 16 December 1951 (*ASD card - citing Authority for Formation: 20/Med/1022 (AMD 1) dated 27 Dec 1950*). It later moved to Dortmund, becoming operational there on 1 February 1958 (*ASD card - citing Authority for Formation: B 1242/3 MPA dated 19 Jun 1958*)

²⁵ **7 Field Ambulance** *Army Medical Services Magazine* 1978 (October); 32(3):86. This short article records aspects of the history of this unit from 1906, through the First and Second World Wars, after which it returned to the RAMC Depot and reduced to cadre strength during the immediate post-war re-organisation, before its re-activation on a BAOR establishment.

²⁶ **30 Field Ambulance RAMC** (date of formation uncertain) was operational in Sennelager on 1 February 1958 (*ASD card - citing Authority for Formation: B 1242/3 MPA dated 19 Jun 1958*). The unit was still in Sennelager (at Normandy Barracks) when it amalgamated with 4 Field Ambulance on 1 August 1977 (*GSO - Authority for Amalgamation, Reorganisation and Redesignation: D/AMD/27/4/22 (ASD 2a) dated 16 March 1977*)

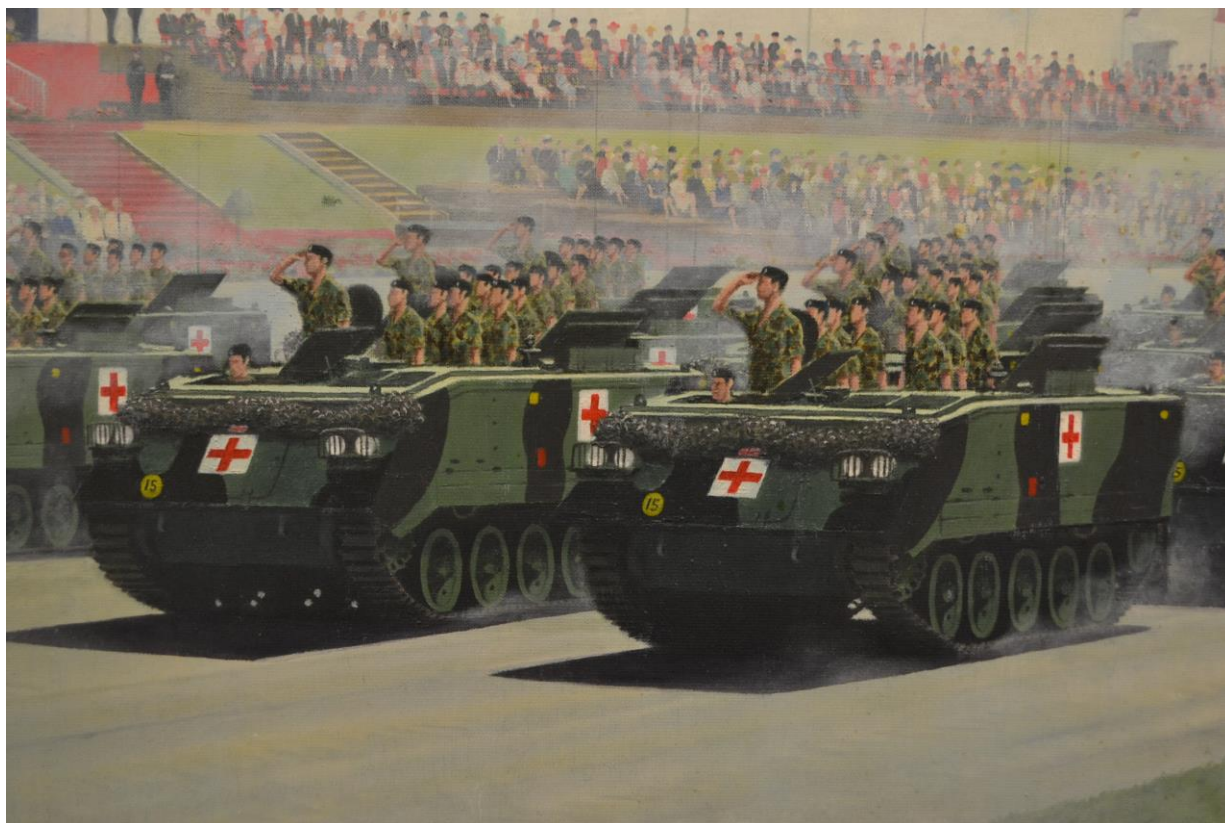
²⁷ **31 Field Ambulance RAMC** was formed in West Riding Barracks, Dortmund on 1 February 1951, identified by Standard Unit Code 5160 0310, and eventually moved to Oxford Barracks, Münster in December 1953 (*ASD card - citing Authority for Formation: BAOR/42017/A (Org 1) dated 4 Jan 1951*)

²⁸ **Oxford Barracks** – see <http://baor-locations.org/oxfordbks.aspx.html> (last accessed 30 January 2021)

²⁹ **31 Field Ambulance** *Army Medical Services Magazine* 1978 (October); 32:85-86



Queen's Silver Jubilee Parade, Sennelager 7 July 1977 (see detail below)



*30 and 4 Field Ambulances representing the RAMC
(Original painting held at RHQ, 4 Armoured Medical Regiment)*



Unit crest, 31 Field Ambulance RAMC

The Armoured (Divisional) Field Ambulances (1976/77 – 2000)

On 1 September 1976, 7 Field Ambulance RAMC amalgamated with 31 Field Ambulance RAMC to form **2 Armoured Division Field Ambulance** in Osnabruck,³⁰ under the command of Lt Col FP Thoresby.³¹ This new armoured field ambulance would be the only one of its kind until a year later, when two others (1 and 3) joined this 'Elite Club'.³² The crucial difference between the previous Brigade Field Ambulances and the new Divisional Field Ambulance was one of size.



*2 Armoured Division Field Ambulance, Osnabruck (1976 – 1982)
(photograph courtesy of Terry Hissey)*

On 1 September 1977, 28 and 29 Field Ambulances amalgamated to form **1 Armoured Division Field Ambulance**,³³ based in Hohn, and 4 and 30 Field Ambulances became **3 Armoured Division Field**

³⁰ **2 Armoured Division Field Ambulance** 'Authority is given for the amalgamation of 7 Field Ambulance APC RAMC at Roberts Barracks, Osnabruck, BFPO 36 with 31 Field Ambulance APC RAMC (moving from Oxford Barracks, Munster, BFPO 17) and the reorganisation and redesignation of elements of 2 Division Headquarters and Signals Regiment and 2 Division Field Hygiene Section, to become 2 Armoured Division Field Ambulance RAMC (2 Armd Div Fd Amb RAMC) at Roberts Barracks, Osnabruck, BFPO 36. Effective date is 1 September 1977. [sic – probable error in original, should have read 1976]' (GSO - Authority for Amalgamation, Reorganisation and Redesignation: D/AMD/27/4/22 (ASD 2a) dated 25 October 1976)

³¹ **2 Armoured Division Field Ambulance** Article in *Army Medical Services Magazine*, 1977 (October); 31(3):62-63. This article is the first one to appear from the new unit and confirms that the date of its formation was 1 September 1976.

³² **2 Armoured Division Field Ambulance** Article in *Army Medical Services Magazine*, 1978 (February); 32(1):10-11

³³ **1 Armoured Division Field Ambulance** 'Authority is given for the amalgamation of 28 Field Ambulance APC RAMC at Glyn Hughes Barracks, Hohn, BFPO 30 with 29 Field Ambulance APC RAMC (moving from Harden Barracks, Oberkirchen, BFPO 29) and 1 Division Field Hygiene Section (moving from Shiel Barracks, Verden, BFPO 32) to become

Ambulance,³⁴ in Sennelager. As their names suggest, each provided support to their respective Armoured Division, and were equipped with FV432 armoured personnel carrier ambulances.

On 1 October 1982 'Division' was dropped from unit titles when the Brigade tier was removed from the ORBAT, so the units were renamed **1 Armoured Field Ambulance**,³⁵ **2 Armoured Field Ambulance**,³⁶ and **3 Armoured Field Ambulance**.³⁷



2 Armoured Field Ambulance (1982 – 2000)

During the Cold War period, lasting some 45 years, the role of NATO was to counter the threat posed by the nations of the Warsaw Pact. Each Field Ambulance provided medical support to a Brigade and trained regularly with it. Often, they would exercise alongside the forces of other NATO member states, including

1 Armoured Division Field Ambulance RAMC (1 Armd Div Fd Amb RAMC) at Glyn Hughes Barracks, Hohne, BFPO 30. Effective date is 1 September 1977. (GSO – Authority for Formation: D/AMD/27/4/22 (ASD 2a) dated 21 July 1977)

³⁴ **3 Armoured Division Field Ambulance** 'Authority is given for the amalgamation of 30 Field Ambulance APC RAMC at Normandy Barracks, Sennelager, BFPO 16 with 4 Field Ambulance APC RAMC (moving from Salamanca Barracks, Korbecke, BFPO 106) and 4 Division Field Hygiene Section (moving from Wentworth Barracks, Herford, BFPO 15) to become 3 Armoured Division Field Ambulance RAMC (3 Armd Div Fd Amb RAMC) at Normandy Barracks, Sennelager, BFPO 16. Effective date is 1 August 1977.' (GSO - Authority for Amalgamation, Reorganisation and Redesignation: D/AMD/27/4/22 (ASD 2a) dated 16 March 1977)

³⁵ **1 Armoured Field Ambulance** GSO – Authority for Redesignation: D/AMD/27/1/1 (ASD2) dated 3 Jan 1983

³⁶ **2 Armoured Field Ambulance** GSO – Authority for Redesignation: D/AMD/27/1/1 (ASD2) dated 7 Jan 1983.

³⁷ **3 Armoured Field Ambulance** GSO – Authority for Redesignation: D/AMD/27/1/1 (ASD2) dated 6 Jan 1983.

the Bundeswehr (the West German Army). From this developed a detailed understanding of each other's capabilities, and a mutual respect between military medical services who shared a common purpose. Although NATO troops were better trained and better equipped than their adversaries, the Eastern Bloc forces were far greater in numbers. Above all this, like the Sword of Damocles, hung the ever-present threat of nuclear war.



3 Armoured Field Ambulance (1982 – 2000)

The Cold War, however, at least provided a degree of stability. Many officers and soldiers enjoyed long and successful careers, serving largely in these units based on the North German Plain. It also enabled the British to forge close links with the German communities, and lasting friendships with local people. British troops would speak of the warm welcome that they received from the German people, often marrying them and choosing to continue living in Germany after retirement.

The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and reunification of Germany in October 1990 were momentous events that marked the end of the Cold War. This was followed by the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 and presaged the eventual drawdown of British troops from Germany, a process that would take until 2019.

Op GRANBY (First Gulf War, 1990 – 1991)

The dawning post-Cold War era was heralded by the unexpected invasion of oil-rich Kuwait by its neighbour, Saddam Hussein's Iraq, on 2 August 1990, with major repercussions for Europe and the rest of the world. By the end of that year, 1 and 2 Armoured Field Ambulances, reinforced by squadrons from

other armoured field ambulances, had deployed to the Gulf on Op GRANBY in support of the multinational effort to liberate Kuwait.³⁸

As a result of its attachment to 7 Armoured Brigade during the Gulf War, 1 Armoured Field Ambulance was given authorisation to wear the Desert Rat insignia, on the top of the right sleeve of the new Combat 95 uniform, on 15 December 1995.³⁹

The Balkans

In the 1990s, following the break-up of Yugoslavia, 1, 2 and 3 Armoured Field Ambulances deployed in support of the UN, and later NATO, on missions in Bosnia and Croatia, providing much needed medical assistance to the local population.

1 Armoured Field Ambulance deployed on Ops GRAPPLE (Croatia, in 1994), RESOLUTE (Bosnia, 1996 – 1997) and PALATINE (Bosnia, 1999); 2 Armoured Field Ambulance deployed on Ops GRAPPLE and RESOLUTE (the two operations merging into one another, 1995) and finally Op AGRICOLA (Macedonia and Kosovo, 1999).⁴⁰



³⁸ B Squadron of 1 Armoured Field Ambulance was specially formed for Op GRANBY from a squadron provided by 4 Armoured Field Ambulance. This squadron was commanded by a dental surgeon, Major Ewan Carmichael RADC, who would later become the only dentist to fill the role of Director General Army Medical Services, 2012 - 2014. B Squadron supported the British Artillery Group during the ground war. Details from: 1st Armoured Field Ambulance (Desert Medics) Op GRANBY *Army Medical Services Magazine* Feb 1991, pp.34-35; 1 Armoured Field Ambulance *Army Medical Services Magazine* June 1991, p.92; 1 Armoured Field Ambulance RAMC *Army Medical Services Magazine* October 1991, pp.167-170; and Carmichael, Ewan 'An Army Dentist at War' *Army Medical Services Magazine* 1991, p.37

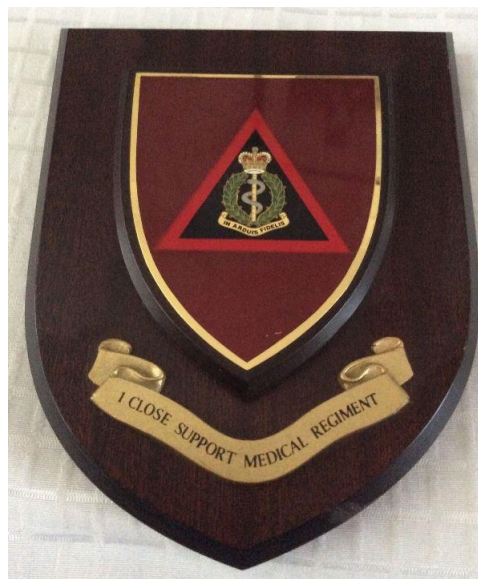
³⁹ 1 Armoured Field Ambulance, Unit Historical Record 1 April 1995 – 31 March 1996, Annex G

⁴⁰ Information from Unit Historical Record

1 Armoured Field Ambulance, Ops RESOLUTE & LODESTAR, 1996 – 1997
(courtesy of Terry Hissey, variant on left photographed at the Museum of Military Medicine)

The end of the 1990s was marked by 2 Armoured Field Ambulance deploying to Macedonia (early 1999) to help relieve a growing humanitarian crisis. In June 1999 it entered Kosovo as part of the NATO-led international peacekeeping force on Op AGRICOLA. These humanitarian and peacekeeping missions typified the new role faced by the armed forces of many NATO member states after the Cold War.

1 Close Support Medical Regiment (2000 – 2008)



Insignia and shield of 1 Close Support Medical Regiment
(The 1 Division sign was a triangle representing the point of the 1 British Corps spear)

On 1 April 2000, the three Armoured Field Ambulances (1, 2 & 3) amalgamated to form the large **1 Close Support Medical Regiment**, based in York Barracks, Münster (with a Medical Squadron in Bergen-Hohne).⁴¹ The individual squadrons of the new regiment formally retained links through their names to the original field ambulances.⁴²

Medical Squadrons from the Regiment deployed to Bosnia in 2000, to Kosovo in 2001 (where they excelled during the major medical incident arising from the Nis Express coach bombing of February 2001),⁴³ to Iraq

⁴¹ **1 Close Support Medical Regiment** 'Authority is given for the redesignation, reorganisation and amalgamation of 2 Armoured Field Ambulance, 3 Armoured Field Ambulance and 1 Armoured Field Ambulance to form 1 Close Support Medical Regiment at York Barracks, [Munster] BFPO 17 (RHQ, A (29) Sqn, B (30) Sqn, E (28) Evac Sqn and HQ Sqn) ... and Talbot Barracks, [Bergen-Hohne] BFPO 16 (C (31) Sqn). Effective 1 April 2000' (GSO - Authority for Redesignation, Reorganisation and Amalgamation: D/DASD/2/3326 (AMD 1) dated 1 Sep 1999)

⁴² **1 Close Support Medical Regiment** was composed of Headquarters Squadron, A (29) Close Support Medical Squadron, B (31) Close Support Medical Squadron, C (30) Close Support Medical Squadron, and E (28) Evacuation Squadron.

⁴³ Vassallo DJ, Graham PJK, Gupta G, Alempijevic Dj. "Bomb explosion on the Nis Express" – Lessons from a major incident, Kosovo 16 Feb 2001. *Journal Royal Army Medical Corps* 2005;**151**:19-29.

on Op TELIC 1 (see below), and back again to the Balkans in 2004,⁴⁴ supporting the UN and NATO missions in these countries and providing humanitarian relief.

Association with German Regiment

On 29 June 2002, the association between 1 Close Support Medical Regiment and its German equivalent, Sanitätsregiment 7 (Bundeswehr), was formally recognised by a historic Patenschaft Parade held at Paracelsus Kaserne in Hamm. The long and fruitful friendship continues to this day between their successors, 1 Armoured Medical Regiment and Sanitätsregiment 22 'Westfalen' (based in Ahlen). The Regiments now mutually support each other in preparing for operational deployments, ensuring the highest standard of medical care for NATO troops as well as for local nationals. The officers and soldiers of both Regiments also enjoy strong professional, as well as social, links.

Deployment to Iraq (Op TELIC 1)

In February 2003, 1 Close Support Medical Regiment (commanded by Lt Col Andy Terrell and reinforced by personnel from some 40 units from all three Services) deployed to Iraq on Op TELIC 1 in support of 7th Armoured Brigade (the Desert Rats), part of 1st (UK) Armoured Division. It assumed a structure similar to that of the previous Armoured Divisional Field Ambulances, which worked very well in practice, namely one Forward Squadron (with four troops each attached to a battlegroup)⁴⁵ and two Dressing Stations (DS 1A and DS 1B, each with four resuscitation bays and a field surgical team providing Role 2 support).⁴⁶

3 Close Support Medical Regiment from Catterick, which was twinned with the unit, provided DS 1B as a formed sub-unit.

⁴⁴ **E (28) Evacuation Squadron** deployed to the Balkans on Op OCULUS (March – October 2004), providing area medical cover to the Multi-National Task Force (North West), with detachments in Bihac, Bos Gradiska, Zagreb and Pristina. (Unit News – 1 Close Support Medical Regiment *The Royal Army Medical Corps Magazine* June 2005; Vol 5(1): pp.17-21)

⁴⁵ The Forward Squadron deployed A Troop in support of Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, B Troop in support of 2 Royal Tank Regiment, C Troop in support of 1 Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, and D Troop in support of 1 Black Watch.

⁴⁶ 1 Close Support Medical Regiment: Interim Post Operational Report and Lessons Learned – Op TELIC, dated 6 May 2003



'The Sergeant Major's Packet' 1 CSMR medics recovering the wounded during the attack on the Ba'ath Party HQ, Az Zubayr, 28 March 2003 (David Rowlands, artist, with permission)⁴⁷



Supporting the entry into Basra - 1 CSMR Forward Squadron at Bridge 4, on the west bank of Shatt al-Basrah, April 2003 (David Rowlands, artist, with permission)

⁴⁷ David Rowlands, Military Artist <http://www.davidrowlands.co.uk> Prints available from this site.

Over the next few years, the Regiment or its separate Medical Squadrons deployed to Iraq as part of the UK Medical Group, on a total of four Op TELIC tours, with the last troops returning to Germany in July 2008 in time for the unit to be disbanded and reformed as 1 and 2 Medical Regiments.⁴⁸

1 Medical Regiment (2008 – 2014)



Insignia of 1 Medical Regiment

On 1 April 2008, after eight years of existence, 1 Close Support Medical Regiment disbanded to form **1 Medical Regiment**, based in Münster and attached to 20 Armoured Brigade, and **2 Medical Regiment**, based in Bergen-Hohne.

Due to 1 Close Support Medical Regiment being on deployment on Op TELIC 11 at the time, the formal disbandment and formation parade was postponed until after the Regiment's return from Iraq and post-tour leave.⁴⁹ In 2012, 1 Medical Regiment moved to Haig Barracks in Bergen-Hohne.

Prior to any Army 2020 changes, 1 Medical Regiment comprised a Regimental Headquarters, two Regular Medical Squadrons, a Force Support Squadron and a Medical Support Squadron.

1 Medical Regiment as such deployed either as a whole or in squadron strength on two six-month operational tours in its six years of existence, until it was renamed on 1 April 2014. It deployed 30 Medical

⁴⁸ **1 Close Support Medical Regiment** deployed to Iraq on Ops TELIC 1 (February – May 2003, Commanding Officer Lt Col Andy Terrell), TELIC 4 (30 CS Squadron only, May – October 2004), TELIC 7 (November 2005 – April 2006) and TELIC 11 (November 2007 – June 2008). In the latter three tours, the Regiment commanded the UK Medical Group. 1 CS Med Regt had been informed shortly before its deployment on Op TELIC 11 that it would be disbanded on its return, with the changeover to the two new Medical Regiments.

⁴⁹ 'The momentous occasion of the disbandment of 1 Close Support Medical Regiment and the formation of 1 and 2 Medical Regiments was fittingly marked with due pomp and ceremony. The parade was attended by HRH The Duke of Gloucester (as the RAMC Colonel-in-Chief), Director General Army Medical Services, the four previous Commanding Officers, Commander Medical 1 (UK) Armoured Division, and the two Commanders of 7 and 20 Brigades, there to welcome their two new Medical Regiments into the fold.' (Disbandment of 1 Close Support Medical Regiment, Formation of 1 & 2 Medical Regiments *The Royal Army Medical Corps Magazine* December 2008; Vol 8(2): pp. 29-30)

Squadron to Iraq on Op TELIC 13 (the last Op TELIC, December 2008 - April 2009), and the whole regiment deployed to Afghanistan on Op HERRICK 15 (October 2011 – April 2012).⁵⁰



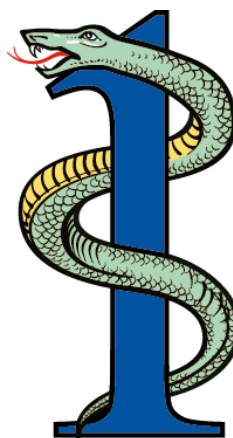
*An unofficial memento of Op TELIC 13 (the last Op TELIC)
(courtesy of Major Andre Romanovitch, OC 30 Close Support Medical Squadron)*



Welcome home from Afghanistan, 2012

1 Armoured Medical Regiment (2014 – 2023)

⁵⁰ See: Vassallo D. Organisation of the medical services in Iraq and Afghanistan. *Op cit.*



(left) Unit insignia (2014-2023) (right) Initial unit insignia (April - November 2014)

A new name – and the last Op HERRICK tour

The unit was renamed on 1 April 2014 as **1 Armoured Medical Regiment**. Shortly thereafter it became the last British Medical Regiment to deploy to Afghanistan, when 30 Medical Squadron deployed on Op HERRICK 20 (the final HERRICK tour) from May – October 2014 to form the Medical Squadron of the United Kingdom Medical Group led by 34 Field Hospital.⁵¹ It thereby helped bring to a close one of the longest British military campaigns in history.



Formation Parade for 1 Armoured Medical Regiment; Commanding Officer Lt Col Paolo Capanni RAMC

Re-subordination of 28 Medical Squadron

On 5 July 2014, 1 Armoured Medical Regiment re-subordinated 28 Medical Squadron from 2 Medical Regiment to its command, as another consequence of the Army 2020 changes.⁵² The occasion was suitably commemorated by a formation parade in Hohne.

⁵¹ This was in conjunction with the Reserves from 225 (Scottish) Medical Regiment.

⁵² The BFBS video of the formation parade can be accessed here: <http://web202.ssvc.com/news/articles/army/2998>

A summary

Through its antecedent units, 1 Armoured Medical Regiment served continuously in Germany for over 60 years, as well as taking a full part in combat operations since the Cold War came to an end. During this long and eventful period of service to the British Crown, it has helped to defend Western Europe and the German people, provided medical care to UK Armed Forces, and advanced the cause of peace throughout the world. The unit's very close ties with Germany and the Bundeswehr endure despite it having re-deployed to the UK in 2019.⁵³



FV 432, 1 Medical Regiment

⁵³ Before they left Germany, 1 Armoured Medical Regiment and the other units of 20 Armoured Infantry Brigade were awarded Federal Republic of Germany Fahnenbands, at a Freedom of the City of Paderborn Parade on 29 June 2018 (20 Brigade had been awarded the Freedom of the City in 2005). The Fahnenband award is normally presented for participation in campaigns and battles or for other forms or acts of distinguished military service, or on the occasion of major jubilees or anniversaries. The Bundespräsident of the Federal Republic of Germany may also present a Fahnenband to allied units of battalion or larger size who leave the country after five years or more, in recognition of their service.



Mastiff Armoured Ambulance, 1 Armoured Medical Regiment

Commanding Officers and Regimental Sergeant Majors (2000 - March 2015)

COMMANDING OFFICER 1 CLOSE SUPPORT MEDICAL REGIMENT			
APR 00 - SEP 02	LT COL	JH McINTOSH	
SEP 02 - JAN 05	LT COL	AG TERRELL	RAMC
JAN 05 - JUL 07	LT COL	RJ DUNCAN	RAMC
JUL 07 - JUL 08	LT COL	MS BELL	RAMC
On the formation of 1 MEDICAL REGIMENT			
JUL 08 - JUL 10	LT COL	MS BELL	RAMC
JUL 10 - JUL 12	LT COL	AP FINN	RAMC
JUL 12 - APR 14	LT COL	PD CAPANNI	RAMC
On the formation of 1 ARMoured MEDICAL REGIMENT			
APR 14	LT COL	PD CAPANNI	RAMC



Squadron History - 28 Medical Squadron (lineal successor to 28 Field Ambulance)

Introduction

This Squadron bears the lineage of 28 Field Ambulance, which was formed in West Germany in 1950, but carries the name of predecessors from both World Wars. The Squadron has subsequently formed part of **1 Armoured Division Field Ambulance** (formed in 1977), **1 Armoured Field Ambulance** (1982), **1 Close Support Medical Regiment** (2000), **2 Medical Regiment** (2008), and **1 Armoured Medical Regiment** (which took command of the Squadron on 1 July 2014).

First World War

The first medical unit to bear the designation of 28 Field Ambulance formed as part of the newly created 9th (Scottish) Division on 21 August 1914.⁵⁴ It served on the western front from May 1915, caring for casualties from the Battles of Loos, the Somme, the Arras offensive, the various battles for Ypres and the Battle of the Lys. On 16 March 1919 the Division was disbanded, and 28 Field Ambulance's name went into abeyance.

Second World War

At the outbreak of the Second World War, 28 Field Ambulance was reformed under the Malaya Command, caring for prisoners in POW Camps, and comprised of mixed service organisation (MSO) staff.

Post-War

28 Field Ambulance reformed in Glyn Hughes Barracks, Hohne on 1 July 1950.⁵⁵ The Unit was now manned with regular British soldiers as opposed to MSO staff, and the unit was equipped with FV 432 armoured personnel carriers and ambulances.

Amalgamation with 29 Field Ambulance

On 1 September 1977, 28 Field Ambulance amalgamated with 29 Field Ambulance to form **1 Armoured Division Field Ambulance**, based at Hohne, and supporting 1st UK Armoured Division,⁵⁶ with the field ambulances becoming squadrons in the larger armoured field ambulance. The amalgamation resulted in the designation 28 again going into abeyance, as each squadron was listed alphabetically, with **E Squadron** taking on the lineage of 28 Field Ambulance. On 1 October 1982, 1 Armoured Division Field Ambulance was renamed **1 Armoured Field Ambulance**.⁵⁷ This unit played a key role in the First Gulf War (1990 – 91) and in the Balkans in the 1990s.

⁵⁴ *The 9th (Scottish) Division in 1914 – 1918*. The Long, Long Trail <https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/order-of-battle-of-divisions/9th-scottish-division/> (last accessed 30 September 2024)

⁵⁵ See footnote '28 Field Ambulance RAMC' on p.6.

⁵⁶ **1 Armoured Division Field Ambulance** 'Authority is given for the amalgamation of 28 Field Ambulance APC RAMC at Glyn Hughes Barracks, Hohne, BFPO 30 with 29 Field Ambulance APC RAMC (moving from Harden Barracks, Oberkirchen, BFPO 29) and 1 Division Field Hygiene Section (moving from Shiel Barracks, Verden, BFPO 32) to become 1 Armoured Division Field Ambulance RAMC (1 Armd Div Fd Amb RAMC) at Glyn Hughes Barracks, Hohne, BFPO 30. Effective date is 1 September 1977.' (GSO – Authority for Formation: D/AMD/27/4/22 (ASD 2a) dated 21 July 1977)

⁵⁷ **1 Armoured Field Ambulance** GSO – Authority for Re-designation: D/AMD/27/1/1 (ASD2) dated 3 January 1983

E (28) Evacuation Squadron

On 1 April 2000, the three Armoured Field Ambulances (1, 2 & 3) amalgamated to form the large **1 Close Support Medical Regiment** (1 CS Med Regt),⁵⁸ based in York Barracks, Münster (with one squadron remaining in Hohne). The squadrons of the new regiment formally retained links through their names to their antecedent field ambulances,⁵⁹ with **E (28) Evacuation Squadron** now being based in Munster.

During this phase of its existence, the Squadron exercised in Cyprus on Exercise LION SUN 02 and served with the rest of the regiment on Op TELIC 1 in 2003. It also deployed to the Balkans (Op OCULUS 21, March – October 2004), providing area medical cover to the Multi-National Task Force (North West), with detachments in Bihac, Bos Gradiska, Zagreb and Pristina.⁶⁰

D (28) Medical Squadron

The establishment of the Medical Regiments was altered in 2005 under the Future Army Structures plan. The Evacuation Squadron was disbanded in July 2005, to be reformed in January 2006 as **D (28) Medical Squadron**, known as 28 Squadron.⁶¹ The Squadron deployed to Iraq (with the rest of 1 Close Support Medical Regiment on its final tour) on Op TELIC 11 (December 2007 – May 2008).

B (28) Squadron

On 1 April 2008, 1 Close Support Medical Regiment disbanded to form 1 Medical Regiment, based in Münster, and 2 Medical Regiment in Hohne. D (28) Squadron (then still in Munster) was re-subordinated to 2 Medical Regiment, where it was re-designated as **B (28) Squadron**. It relocated to Hohne on 27 July 2008.

28 Squadron deployed with the rest of 2 Medical Regiment to Afghanistan on Op HERRICK 10 (April - October 2009) in support of 19 Light Brigade, and subsequently individuals deployed to reinforce 29 Squadron on Op HERRICK 19 (October 2013 – April 2014) in support of 7 Armoured Brigade. In July 2014, as a result of the Army 2020 changes, the recently re-titled **28 Medical Squadron** was again re-subordinated, from 2 Medical Regiment to **1 Armoured Medical Regiment**.⁶²

⁵⁸ **1 Close Support Medical Regiment** 'Authority is given for the redesignation, reorganisation and amalgamation of 2 Armoured Field Ambulance, 3 Armoured Field Ambulance and 1 Armoured Field Ambulance to form 1 Close Support Medical Regiment at York Barracks, [Munster] BFPO 17 (RHQ, A (29) Sqn, B (30) Sqn, E (28) Evac Sqn and HQ Sqn) ... and Talbot Barrack, [Bergen-Hohne] BFPO 16 (C (31) Sqn). Effective 1 April 2000' (GSO - Authority for Redesignation, Reorganisation and Amalgamation: D/DASD/2/3326 (AMD 1) dated 1 Sep 1999)

⁵⁹ 1 Close Support Medical Regiment was composed of Headquarters Squadron, A (29) Close Support Medical Squadron, B (31) Close Support Medical Squadron, C (30) Close Support Medical Squadron, and E (28) Evacuation Squadron.

⁶⁰ Unit News – 1 Close Support Medical Regiment *The Royal Army Medical Corps Magazine* June 2005; Vol 5(1): pp.17-21

⁶¹ Unit News – 1 Close Support Medical Regiment *The Royal Army Medical Corps Magazine* June 2007; Vol 17 (1): pp. 50-51

⁶² Army Headquarters, A2020 Measure 08-005 – Implementation Order: Reorganisation of 2 Medical Regiment, dated 11 August 2014



Acknowledgements

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If you notice any errors or wish to contribute to this unit history, please contact the author at djvassallo@aol.com.

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