

CGS

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DMO

GUARDS BATTALIONS FOR 5 INF BDE

1. You asked for further details on the penalties of committing both 2 SG and 1 WG to 5 Inf Bde - both in the short term for work up training, and in the long term should they be deployed.

2. Short Term.

a. For planning purposes we consider the short term to be the 3 week period 13 Apr to 3 May. - On 3 May QB2 (an essential requirement to move 5 Inf Bde) once more becomes available - being on a cruise between 13-19 Apr and 20 Apr-3 May.

b.. 1 WG have just completed a Spearhead tour and thus are current on their basic infantry skills.

c. 2 SG are less up to date though have just completed their annual weapon training camp.

d. GOC London District has taken a close personal interest in the earmarking of these battalions, and considers that both are "high class battalions" but would benefit considerably from a period of work up training - and could be made available, under command of 5 Inf Bde, wef Fri 16 Apr.

e. LONDIST consider they can cope with all their Public Duty commitments with the remaining 3 battalions during the short term without additional assistance.

f. HQ UKLF are investigating availability of training areas, ammunition etc - but foresee no insuperable difficulties.

g. RAF Strike Command could make a maximum of 10 PUMA's available, without denuding AMF(L), Belize or NI.

3. Long Term.

a. If these battalions are required after 3 May there are two penalties.

b. The Queens Birthday Parade is on <sup>11</sup>19 Jun, and only 6 as opposed to the usual 8 guards would be on parade. The Major General has personally confirmed his support for this reduction, and is quite confident that HM Queen will accept it under these circumstances. He further feels it might be of 'positive merit' to demonstrate that the Household Division are taking their share of the operational commitment. Furthermore it is 'highly probable' that the absence of 1 WG would have reduced the parade to only 6 guards in any case. A similar reduction to 6 guards happened in 1979 without any serious loss.

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c. Immediately after the Parade 1 COLM GDS start their work up training for a NI roulement tour Sep 82-Jan 83. This will reduce HQ LONDIST to only two battalions, and they will need an additional battalion from UKLF. This will mean a 'Khaki' battalion doing Public Duties during the summer months - but again this has precedent and is acceptable to HQ LONDIST. HQ UKLF are aware of this possible commitment and are confident they can meet this requirement.

4. A related issue concerns CLANSMAN radio. HQ 5 Inf Bde have put in a strong bid to re-equip with CLANSMAN, and this is being urgently staffed. Meanwhile 2 SG and 1 WG can start their training with LARKSPUR - and conversion training will not take very significant time.

5. In conclusion both HQ UKLF and LONDIST are confident that these two battalions can form part of 5 Inf Bde, both will benefit from work up training, and there are no insuperable problems.

13 April 1982

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