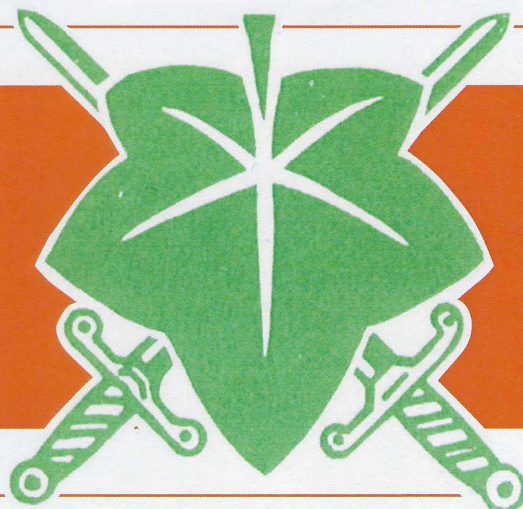


THE FORMATION SIGN

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Samson's Pride



Thanks to **Mike Danin** herewith a selection of commemorative cloth patches for an annual Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineer Recovery Exercise known as Samson's Pride.

Although the patches shown were all designed by our late member **Jim MacDonald** little is known about the Exercise itself, although the badges indicate it was designed to test REME's skills in recovering armoured vehicles.

The designs show that the Exercise took place annually in the early 1980s in support of 1st and 7th Armoured Divisions, the latter's rat represented in all the designs. The designs for *Pride VII*, *VIII* and *IX* also feature the red stag's head originally worn by the Territorial 22nd Armoured Brigade from 1956 but long vanished by the 1980s, the signs for 1980 and 1983 referring to 1st Armoured Division.

The significance of the Continental 7 with a line through the upright is not known but may be a reference to a REME unit as 7 REME features on a notice board in a 2009 video on U Tube of Recovery for 1st Armoured Division by 2nd Armoured Close Support Battalion. Apparently there was also a REME tie for Samson's Pride.

The patches in the frame belonged to Jim but it is not known if more were produced for later camps. Mike says it would be interesting to find out if any members have later or earlier examples for Sampson's 1 to 3 as Jim never told Mike how many patches were produced although it can't have been a lot. The 2009 video of Samson's Pride is at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYGHJ4nFYQ0>.