

FORCES 80

BRITISH ARMED FORCES LIVING HISTORY GROUP

1978 to 1988



Membership Information Pack

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More information on the group can be found at

www.forces80.com

Group Objective

The Objective of Forces 80 and its members are to respectively portrait the various units of the British Army from 1978 to 1988, in a fashion that the members of public would find interesting and insightful. Representation of the Units, Uniform and Equipment of the British Infantryman along with information on the various deployments that the Army undertook are our main function, with the core display being the 1982 Falklands War or tailored to suit a particular event. We also aim to support and raise funds for the South Atlantic Medal Association 1982 (SAMA '82).

Creation

The idea behind Forces 80 was conceived in early 2005 by a group of like-minded friends who saw that a gap was appearing in the living history/re-enactment scene, through observations at various events it became clear that the British armed forces were not being fully represented. The main periods covered were the Second World War and the first Gulf war and onwards, there was this little gap in the middle.

The 1980's saw the introduction of several new major pieces of equipment for the Army along with some quite subtle ones as well. Not only was the uniform re-designed from the feet up but also the basic fighting equipment along with the introduction of new fighting vehicles. The start of the 1980's saw much equipment, designed in World War Two, still in service. Then came the 1982 Falklands conflict that served as the biggest testing ground for the soldier and his equipment, it also rewrote the book on tactics.

All this seemed to be forgotten about. One of the founding members whilst at the War and Peace show in 2004, decided to wear the bits of uniform he had which added up to a late 1980's infantry man and preceded to stroll around the show. Much to our surprise the interest it attracted was overwhelming. The chance meeting with a member of the '5 Airborne Living History group' and after a few corrections, in a way created 'Forces 80'. Because from that moment onwards small ideas started creeping in and from those ideas in the Spring of 2005 the group came into being ready for its first outing in 2005 at the War and Peace Show.

Group Activities

We attend various events up and down the country, mostly by choice and some by invitation. At the events, the group wears the uniform and equipment of the average infantryman in the 1980's, centring on the 1982 Falklands Conflict. The groups' main display centres around the kit display that comprises of the type of equipment and items an Infantryman would have carried, this does provide quite a revelation for the public, most of whom never having served in the Armed Forces whatsoever.

The Group has done special events as well, mainly for the charity group 'South Atlantic Medal Association 1982' (SAMA82) such as a Veterans day, The Military Tattoo and more recently taken part in a small film made by a Local film company for the film festival circuit.

Occasionally the group gets together for the sole purpose of having a weekend together without the public distracting the members where new ideas are tried and maybe the odd bit of training. The odd Paintball or Airsoft experience is also within the bounds of the group's activities. It is envisaged that as the group grows new opportunities and activities will reveal them self.

What to Expect

There is no rigid military regime within the group, so you will not be ordered around in a military fashion, but you would be expected to do your fair share to help with the setting up and taking down of the display. You would also be expected to take your turn on the 'Firing Line' which is the roped barrier between the Public and the kit display where you would be expected to talk to the public and ensure little people do not get there hands on any of the items on display.

You may have to cook, wash-up, Brew up, clean weapons and enjoy yourself. Hold no allusions, you may even experience that true nature of an squaddie... Get a bit miffed. You may also have a restless night and get dirty with no facilities within sight. You will also be required to wear the correct uniform for the period and obtain in time your own weapons and equipment. We do not expect you to join and have everything you need immediately.

Above all, you will spend some time with like-minded people that share the same enthusiasm as you. You will meet interested members of the public and even members of our armed forces both current and ex-serving who will not only test your knowledge on the period we represent, but who will also sometimes divulge information and experiences to you that will help you in your re-enactment – it's that kind of hobby you are joining!

Membership, Insurance, and Fees

Membership of Forces 80 is simple. All you have to do is decide on the level of commitment you are willing to under take and take it from there. We do not expect that you attend every event, its up to you as to how much or how little you wish to do.

Full	<p>Full members are expected to attend at least two or more events a year in a manner that contributes towards the display.</p> <p>They are also requested to join the umbrella group c20 and at least attend one c20 meeting a year (This provides the insurance cover necessary for them to attend certain events).</p>
Associated	<p>Associated members are those that are unable to participate, but contribute towards the group's further development and are welcome to spend time with us on the display.</p> <p>Associated membership is granted at the sole discretion of the senior members.</p>
Honorary	<p>Honorary membership is given to those who are unable to participate and is at the discretion of the Senior Members (e.g. Current or ex-serving service personnel).</p>

The degrees of membership are shown in the chart on the left.

Membership Fees

Forces 80 does not, at the time of writing, charge any membership fee – membership of Forces 80 is free of charge, but see “C.20 membership” below.

C20 membership

Unfortunately, many events are now requiring us to have public liability insurance. To allow us to participate at these events, members of Forces 80 are also required to join c.20, the Twentieth Century re-Enactment Society. This is an umbrella group which provides us with the necessary insurance. This will allow a Forces 80 member to participate at those events that require this form of insurance; it also gives us a greater presence within c20.

Membership of c20 (Twentieth Century Warfare & Living History Society) is beneficial as it allows us access to other groups and certain events. The membership fee currently stands at £16 p.a.

Their web site address is:

<http://www.c20warfare.org/>

A web-based forum is also operated by c20 for the benefit of c20 members and its' friends, and is one of the main ways we keep in contact with each other.

Ranks

Under NO circumstances will a member of Forces 80 be allowed to wear an Officer rank insignia, unless a previous commission in HM Armed Forces entitles him or her to bear said rank, and Forces 80 Senior Members agree to it.

Only members who were entitled during their service, or who are currently entitled by service, and/or have been granted permission from the Forces 80 senior membership, are allowed to wear NCO rank insignia.

Note that the wearing of badges of rank does not denote any position of seniority within Forces 80.

Political Aims

The Group has **NO** political agenda and does not enter into the politics of the conflicts that are represented. Forces 80 main aim is to educate and remember.

Expenses payments to members

The group does not have an actual income, and as such is *unable* to pay members to attend shows. It *may* be possible that if a member contributes in such a way that is beneficial to the group as a whole, and via pre arrangement, if an event makes a donation to the group, that a contribution towards fuel costs could be made, but this is not always possible, and *must* be agreed by the senior members *in advance*.

Senior Members

Senior Members are the founding members who are also usually responsible for organising the events. *Their word is final.*

Rules of Conduct

For obvious reasons we must have a rules of conduct section, which is upheld by the Senior membership, and may in exceptional situations, lead to an offender being expelled from the group.

In connection with this, Forces 80 members are required to act in such a way that does not reflect badly upon the group, its efforts and members. If a member is found to have acted in a manner that is not acceptable then that member may be asked to leave the event and if agreed to by core members, the group. In exceptional and/or serious cases, the Police may be called and/or notified.

Kit Requirements

You will be expected to supply your own basic kit, which should include:

- 1968 pattern DPM combat Jacket
- 1968 pattern DPM combat trousers
(alternatively, the “Trousers, Lightweight, Green” (the British ones with map pocket on the left thigh) can be worn instead)
- DMS ankle boots
- Puttees
- KF Shirt
- Woolly Jumper
- Beret (with a regimental badge to adorn it)
- 1958 pattern webbing belt

Upon joining the group, a more complete and comprehensive kit list will be supplied.

Women within Forces 80

Forces 80 operates an equal opportunities policy.

Although Forces 80 is by its nature, a male dominated group. Women are quite welcome and encouraged to join. In the 1980's, it was common to find women serving along side men in roles which the MOD deemed at the time suitable.

There were two branches of the armed forces that women were able to join, The Woman's Royal Army Corps (WRAC) and Queens Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps (QARANC), the later being a medical profession, whilst the WRAC provided members to various postings within the UK and overseas.

Women soldiers were expected to dress the same as their counterparts when in the field but also had their own dress codes. Until 1982, women were not allowed to carry weapons. After 1982, the army allowed women to carry either a pistol or SMG for use in self-defence only.

Under 18s

Because of insurance policies we can not accept membership requests from any person under the age of 18, but please see 'Children within Forces 80', below.

Children within Forces 80

Insurance and Group Rules, and the very nature of what we represent, prevent child membership of Forces 80. However, they are welcome to come to events with the group, IF one of their parents is a member of Forces 80.

The dressing up of children in uniform is a controversial issue within the Living History and re-enactment scene, yet it does happen, and there is no getting away from this. Therefore, and with the prior permission of senior member(s), a child may wear a uniform at an event - but there are certain events where this might not be permitted, and this should be borne in mind. If in doubt, please ask a Senior member!

Where children are permitted to wear costume/uniform, children of ages 11 to 17 may wear the uniform of an Army Cadet, but may ***not*** carry weapons, unless being instructed by a older member of the group acting as an adult instructor.

Membership Application Form

Attached is a Membership application form; this, once completed, must be sent either by post or electronically to the contact information below. All information within it will be immediately treated as confidential material, and barring the usual legalistic exceptions, no information will be divulged without your prior agreement.

Finally

Some of the above may not make sense to you, or look a bit abrupt, so if you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to ask us, as we may be able to explain the problem better in person or over the telephone. You will also find that we are a wealth of information on the areas we represent, have an easy out look to living history, and will welcome your application or questions with interest and enthusiasm.

Contact Details

There are several ways you can contact us. Either directly at an event or through the royal Mail and Internet.

Group email: forces80@fsmail.net
By Post: Jonathan Smith
52 Shurlach Road
Northwich
Cheshire
CW9 7JX

Thank you for your interest
J. Smith

Forces 80 Membership Application Form

Please include a passport photo with your application form!

Name	Last	
	First	
	Middle	

Address	Line 1	
	Line 2	
	Line 3	
	Line 4	
	Post Code	

Telephone Number	Land Line	
	Mobile	

Email Address	
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D.O.B		Male/Female:	
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Next of Kin Details	Name	
	Address	
	Telephone Number	
	Relationship	

Which Regiment or Service do you wish to represent?
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Do you have previous Military experience?	Yes/No	
<i>If you do, please give details on the back of this form.</i>		

Do you have an unspent criminal record?	Yes/No	
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If "yes", please explain briefly below and if necessary on the back of this form (remember to sign and date the expanded answer). Please note that, dependent upon the offence you were convicted of, your application may be declined, and that we are not required to explain why.

Answering falsely may also result in expulsion from Forces 80.

Court and court location	Offence	Date of Offence	Date Sentenced	Sentence

Signed		Date	
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F80 use only:

Accept: YES/NO?		Acceptance information sent: YES/NO?		Date:	
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Full		Associated		Honorary	
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