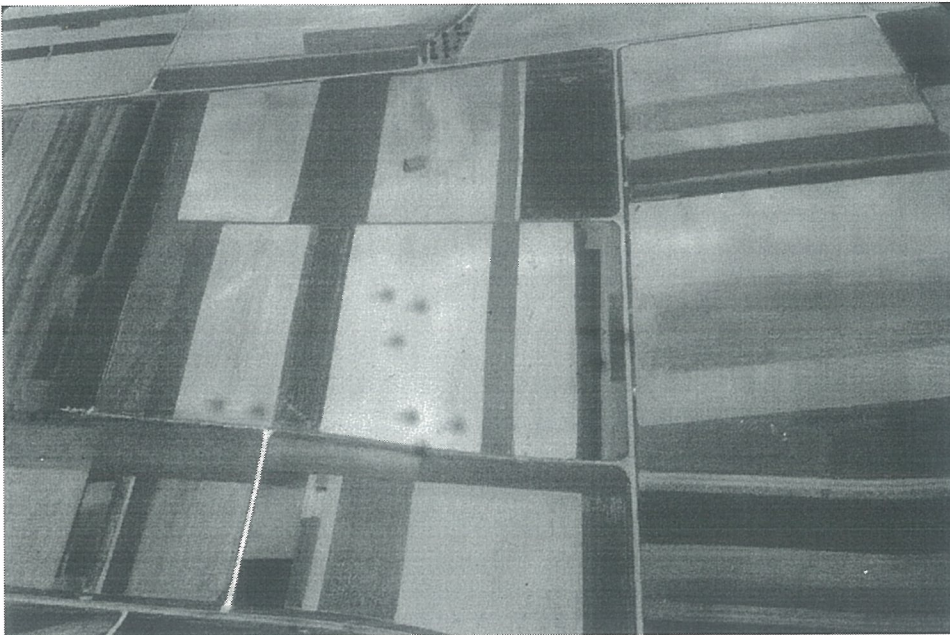


During the first REFORGER (Return of Forces to Germany), thousands of troops maneuvered around the fields of Germany. Entire tank convoys rumbled over the winding cobblestone streets. The REFORGER exercises were designed to prove U.S. ability to move conventional military forces rapidly from the continental United States to Central Europe.

The United States announced plans to withdraw 28,000 troops from Europe in 1968. To demonstrate its continued commitment to NATO, the US agreed to a large scale force deployment of not less than three brigades of a single division to Europe in an annual exercise. Thus was born REFORGER, which both tested the ability of conventional forces to fight in a conventional war scenario and demonstrated American determination. The first REFORGER, denounced by the Russians as a "major military provocation," began on 6 January 1969. Beginning in that year V Corps took part in each of those exercises. Elements of the First Infantry deployed to Germany for REFORGER II in October of 1970

The 122d SAC, supported REFORGER I from it's home base in Hanau. For REFORGER II in October, 1970 the company deployed from Hanau to Schwäbisch Hall and flew missions from there while "roughing it" from our field site on the airport.

The flight to Schwäbisch Hall was done as a flight if 11 aircraft.



This is a picture from the flight of the shadows on the ground. Three flights of three and two in the rear.