

Northern Ireland District

Regular Depot in the District

The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers
The Royal Ulster Rifles

– Omagh
– Armagh

Regular Troops in the District

2nd Bn. The South Wales Borderers (2)
1st Bn. The East Lancashire Regiment (3)
2nd Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment (4)
2nd Bn. The Royal Sussex Regiment (5)

Militia in the District

The North Irish Horse (6)

Territorial Army Units in the District

3rd (Ulster) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery (7)
(H.Q., 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th Searchlight Batteries, Royal Artillery)
8th (Belfast) Anti-Aircraft Regiment (8)
(H.Q., 21st, 22nd & 23rd Anti-Aircraft Batteries, and 5th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery,
Royal Artillery)
9th (Londonderry) Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (9)
(H.Q., 24th, 25th & 26th Anti-Aircraft Batteries and 6th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery,
Royal Artillery)

NOTES:

1. Northern Ireland District was a Major General's command, with its headquarters based in Belfast. It was responsible for internal security and the overall security of the Province.
2. This battalion was based in Londonderry. The battalion left Northern Ireland on the 18th December 1939 to join the 148th Infantry Brigade. It joined the 24th Infantry Brigade (Guards) on the 1st April 1940 and saw service in Norway in April and May 1940. The battalion returned to the 148th Infantry Brigade in mid-June 1940 and remained with the brigade until December 1941.
3. This regiment was based at Holywood, on the outskirts of Belfast. It mobilized in September 1939 and moved to the United Kingdom to join the 42nd (East Lancashire) Infantry Division. It served in France and Belgium.
4. This battalion was a Regular Army unit, which was based in Ballykinler. On the outbreak of war, it mobilized and moved to Barnard Castle in County Durham on the mainland to join the newly formed 17th Infantry Brigade, 5th Infantry Division. It was to serve with this brigade throughout the war, seeing active service in France (1940), Madagascar, India, Iraq, Sicily, Italy, Palestine and North West Europe.
5. This battalion was based in Belfast. With the outbreak of the Second World War, the battalion mobilized and moved to the United Kingdom to join the 44th (Home Counties) Infantry Division. The battalion served in France and Belgium during the 1940 campaign, and then served in the Middle East, and Persia and Iraq.
6. On the 1st July 1902, the North of Ireland Imperial Yeomanry was formed in Belfast from veterans of the South African War. It comprised four squadrons and a machine gun section. On the 7th July 1908, the regiment was redesignated as the North Irish Horse. After the First World War, it was transferred to the Special Reserve and disbanded in August 1919. On the 1st August 1922, it was reformed as a cadre in the Militia and remained as such until the 30th August 1939 when it was reconstituted as an armoured car regiment in the Supplementary Reserve. The regiment transferred to the Royal Armoured Corps on the 11th September 1939. After the Second World War, the regiment was reconstituted in the Territorial Army with its headquarters at Belfast, and squadrons at Belfast, Londonderry and Lurgan.
7. This regiment was formed in September 1939 and was part of the Supplementary Reserve of the Army. The regiment was under the command of Home Forces until November 1939, when it traveled to France as part of the B.E.F.. On its return from France, it again came under the command of Home Forces. The regiment was converted into a Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment in February 1942. It came under command of 2nd Army in March 1944, and served with the formation in North West Europe for the duration of the campaign.
8. The regiment was also part of the Supplementary Reserve. The Headquarters, 21st, 22nd and 23rd Anti-Aircraft Batteries were all based in Belfast. The 5th L.A.A. Battery was based in Newtownards. The regiment started the war under the command of Home Forces, being redesignated as a Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment. It travelled to France under command of the B.E.F. in November 1939. It returned to the U.K. following evacuation from Dunkirk. It left the United Kingdom in May 1942 bound for India. The regiment served in India and Burma under various commands, but mainly under XV Indian Corps command. It finished the war in India under the command of 164 Lines of Communication.

9. The regiment did not travel to France with the other two Northern Ireland regiments, but was sent to Egypt instead. It arrived in January 1940, being redesignated as a Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment. It was under command of the 8th Army and Middle East Forces, before returning to the United Kingdom in July 1944. The regiment disbanded in the U.K. in September 1944.

SOURCES:

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Available From: Your Old Books and Maps

<http://youoldbooksandmaps.co.uk/british-army-lists-1901-1950.htm>

The Monthly Army List July 1937

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The Half Yearly Army List for the period ending 31st December 1938

Available on-line at: <http://www.archive.org/details/armylisthalfjan1939grea>

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Available From: S & N Genealogy

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Services of British Army Officers & cc 1939 – 1945

Published by Savanna Publications 1999 as reprint of the Half-Yearly Army List January 1946
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Prepared by Lieut-Col H. F. JOSLEN

First Published by the H.M.S.O. in 1960 Reprinted 1990 The London Stamp Exchange Ltd
[ISBN 0 948130 03 2]

Land Forces of Britain, the Empire and Commonwealth.

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[Accessed 19th November 2011]

The Patriot Files – Northern Ireland District 3 September 1939

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<http://www.patriotfiles.com/index.php?name=Sections&req=viewarticle&artid=6692&page=1>