

www.BritishMilitaryHistory.co.uk

Author: Robert PALMER



## **A CONCISE HISTORY OF:**

# ALDERSHOT COMMAND & SOUTH EASTERN COMMAND (HISTORY & PERSONNEL)

A short history of Middle East Command, a higher level formation of the British Army in existence from 1939 until 1967. In addition, known details of the key appointments held between 1939 and 1950 are included.

Copyright ©www.BritishMilitaryHistory.co.uk (2018)

## A Concise History of Aldershot Command (South Eastern Command) (History & Personnel)

This edition dated: 7 September 2018 ISBN:

All rights reserved. No part of the publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means including; electronic, electrostatic, magnetic tape, mechanical, photocopying, scanning without prior permission in writing from the publishers.

Author:	Robert PALMER, M.A. (copyright held by author)
Published privately by:	The Author – Publishing as:
	www.BritishMilitaryHistory.co.uk

## Aldershot Command (South Eastern Command)

Prior to 1854, the British Army in the United Kingdom was stationed either at the Regimental Depots, or in garrison towns. Those stationed in garrison towns were based frequently in castles, forts or similar fortifications dating back several years. These includes London (the Tower of London), Hounslow, Woolwich, Dover, Windsor, Chatham, Dover, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Chester, York, Edinburgh and Dublin. Outside of these main garrison towns, most troops were quartered in billets in towns and villages, often living with civilians in their houses. This meant that troops were distributed widely across the U.K., with no sizeable formation in any one location. The only training facilities were located at Hounslow and Woolwich on the then outskirts of London.

The outcome of the Napoleonic Wars led to a review of the British Army, and as a result, in 1853 a summer camp was held on Chobham Common in Surrey for two divisions consecutively. These two camps proved to be a success, so the Commander-in-Chief, Lord HARDINGE, rode around the commons and heaths in north Hampshire to select a suitable, permanent training area. As the main threat to the U.K. at that date was France, it was important this new garrison and training area was located in the south of the country.

Lord HARDINGE selected Aldershot Heath, which was not used for framing due to the poor nature of the soil on the heathland. About ten-thousand acres were purchased in 1854 at the cost of £12 per acre. This grew later to twenty-five thousand acres in the north Hampshire area. The initial accommodation provided were tents, but in February 1855, construction commenced on two wooden, hutted camps; one to the north of the Basingstoke Canal and the other to the south, with one camp for each of two divisions (namely the 1<sup>st</sup> Division and 2<sup>nd</sup> Division). About one-thousand, two-hundred wooden huts were constructed, by a Mr. HEMMINGS, at a cost of £100,263. The first troops moved into their accommodation in North Camp in May 1855.

Construction then commenced on permanent, brick built barracks in the village of Aldershot. These were to house two brigades of cavalry, infantry and artillery. These were built between 1856 and 1859, and in 1891, they were called 'Wellington Lines' in honour of the Duke of Wellington. They comprised:

- Beaumont Barracks (South Cavalry)
- Warburg Barracks (East Cavalry)
- Willems Barracks (West Cavalry)
- Waterloo Barracks (East Artillery)
- Waterloo Barracks (West Artillery)
- Badajos Barracks (West Infantry )
- Salamanca Barracks (Central Infantry)
- Talavera Barracks (East Infantry)

A long, straight road was built to connect the permanent barracks at Aldershot with the South Camp and North Camp. Contractors, Haywood and Nixon, constructed the wooden huts built in 1855 at South Camp at a total cost of £163,000. In 1890, Parliament passed the Barrack Act to improve further the living conditions of the soldiers of the British Army. In consequence, the wooden huts of South Camp were replaced by brick barracks that became known as Stanhope Lines, constructed by a contractor called Henry Wells.

The barracks in Stanhope Lines were:

- Albuhera Barracks (Guards);
- Barossa Barracks (Guards);
- Buller Barracks (Army Service Corps);
- Clayton Barracks (Army Service Corps);
- Corunna Barracks (Infantry);
- Gibraltar Barracks (Royal Engineers);
- Maida Barracks (Infantry);
- Mandora Barracks (Infantry);
- McGrigor Barracks (Medical Staff Corps).

The McGrigor Barracks were built to house the medical staff working at the Cambridge Military Hospital, which opened in 1879.

The same contractor rebuilt North Camp over the same period, all being infantry barracks. Each barracks was designed to house one infantry battalion (or one artillery regiment), and comprised an officer's mess, serjeant's mess, regimental institute, and twenty, single storey bungalows for other ranks; the barracks housing twenty-five officers and six-hundred and sixty-eight men. The new barracks in North Camp became known as Marlborough Lines, named after John CHURCHILL, First Duke of Marlborough. The barracks were:

- Blenheim Barracks (Infantry);
- Lille Barracks (Artillery);
- Malplaquet Barracks;
- Oudenarde Barracks;
- Ramillies Barracks;
- Tournay Barracks.

In effect, a new military town grew up as during the 1890's, schools, the hospital, a reservoir, sewage works, gas works and power station were all built to serve the military in and around Aldershot. Sports grounds, including cricket and polo, were provided for the garrison, as was a swimming pool.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> March 1901, the Secretary of State for War announced to the House of Commons that six army corps were to be formed to command formations set abroad for service overseas. This was in response to the perceived poor performance of the British Army in the South African War, and earlier conflicts. The first three corps were to be based at Aldershot, Salisbury Plain and in Ireland. Aldershot became the home of 1 Corps, consisting of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Divisions, and a cavalry brigade.

As additional accommodation was required for the corps and its component units, additional barracks were required, so four were built at Deepcut and Blackdown near to Aldershot. All four were constructed in circa 1903, and comprised:

- Minden Barracks (Artillery);
- Frith Barracks (Artillery);
- Dettingen Barracks (Infantry);
- Alma Barracks (Infantry).

At the same time, further barracks were built at Longmoor for infantry and at Bordon for artillery units. This area had been used for training since the 1880's, but it was found that the ground at Longmoor was too wet for a permanent barracks, so the infantry units moved to Bordon. Between 1903 and 1906, the Royal Engineers moved sixty-eight huts by rail from Longmoor to Bordon. The new barracks at Bordon were called:

- Guadaloupe Barracks (Infantry);
- Louisberg Barracks (East and West Artillery);
- Quebec Barracks (Artillery);
- Martinique Barracks (Infantry);
- St. Lucia Barracks (Infantry).

Even with this additional accommodation, one Guards brigade was stationed in London, another Guards battalion was stationed at Windsor, one infantry battalion was based at Inkerman Barracks, Woking; with one artillery regiment based in Brighton and another in Catterick in north Yorkshire. Leipzig Barracks at Ewshott housed one artillery regiment.

A training programme for the units and formations in Aldershot Command came into being in 1903, but one problem was the number of spectators who would come and watch the proceedings. A corps staff of twenty-two officers was formed, some dual rolled with the Staff College. In 1904, the title of the formation changed from 1 Corps to Aldershot Command, and then in the following year, Aldershot Army Corps.

With the outbreak of the Great War in August 1914, I Corps mobilised and moved to France to become part of the British Expeditionary Force. The Corps fought in the first battles of the war, including the retreat to the Marne following the Battle of Le Cateau. In late 1914, it participated in the advance to the Aisne until the war descended into trench warfare. In October 1914, the corps was involved in the First Battle of Ypres then to spend a period resting and refitting.

With the end of the Great War (First World War) Aldershot Command reverted to its peacetime role as the 'home' of the British Army. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Divisions returned to their homes in the U.K., but remained the British strategic reserve at times of crisis. Brigades from Aldershot were sent to Palestine in the 1930's when tensions escalated between the Arab and Jewish populations.

Once again, with the outbreak of war on 3 September 1939, I Corps was mobilised and the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division and 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division left for France. The command continued to perform the role of main reinforcement centre for the B.E.F. until it was evacuated from Dunkirk. With the threat of invasion present, Aldershot Command had only a subsidiary role until it was upgraded with the establishment of South Eastern Command as an operational formation. Aldershot then became the main base for the Canadian Army, as troops began arriving in early 1940. Aldershot was very much a transit camp during the war, although a lot of training bases remained in the town and its environs. Lieutenant General B. C. T. PAGET assumed command as the first General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, South Eastern Command, with effect from 15 February 1941. The new command comprised three Areas, namely:

- Aldershot Area;
- Sussex & Surrey Area;
- Kent Area.

The Sussex & Surrey Area and Kent Area were merged on 20 December 1941 into the North Kent & Surrey Area. At around the date of formation, South Eastern Command assumed command of two operational formations, namely:

- IV Corps (which was located in Sussex);
- XII Corps (which was located in Kent).

The 29<sup>th</sup> Independent Infantry Brigade came under direct command of the South-Eastern Command on 1 April 1941 however, it left on 6 May 1941 to pass to War Office control for deployment to Madagascar as part of Force 121. South Eastern Command also gained command of the 8<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division, which transferred in from Southern Command on 30 May 1941. This formation remained in South Eastern Command until the threat of invasion had passed, when it was sent to Egypt. It left this command on 6 May 1942 to prepare to sail for Egypt.

On 30 November 1944, South Eastern Command was disbanded, and Aldershot District was formed under Southern Command. This now included Hampshire. Kent, Surrey and Sussex became part of the reformed Home Counties District in Eastern Command. In 1948, Aldershot District gained parts of Surrey from the Home Counties District.

With the departure of the Canadians in 1945, Aldershot became a base for the new National Service Army. This included the Mons Officer Cadet School, and no less than eight depots and training centres for Corps of the British Army. In addition, Aldershot became the depot for the Parachute Regiment, which had been formed during the Second World War.

## General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Aldershot Command

<u>12<sup>th</sup> October 1933 – 11<sup>th</sup> October 1937</u> General The Honourable Sir J. Francis GATHORNE-HARDY, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., C.M.G., D.S.O. <u>12<sup>th</sup> October 1937 – 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1939</u> Lieutenant General John Greer DILL, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. <u>3<sup>rd</sup> September 1939 – 7<sup>th</sup> March 1940</u> Lieutenant General Charles Noel Frank BROAD, C.B., D.S.O. <u>7<sup>th</sup> March 1940 – 15<sup>th</sup> February 1941<sup>1</sup></u> Lieutenant General Michael George Henry BARKER, C.B., D.S.O.

## General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, South Eastern Command

<u>15<sup>th</sup> February 1941 – 25<sup>th</sup> December 1941</u> Lieutenant General (Acting) Bernard Charles Tolver PAGET, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.* <u>25<sup>th</sup> December 1941 – 9<sup>th</sup> August 1942</u> Lieutenant General (Temporary) Bernard Law MONTGOMERY, C.B., D.S.O., *p.s.c.* <u>10<sup>th</sup> August 1942 – 6<sup>th</sup> September 1942</u>

<u>7<sup>th</sup> September 1942 – 19<sup>th</sup> March 1944</u>

Lieutenant General (Acting) John George Des Reaux SWAYNE, C.B.E., *i.d.c., p.s.c.* <u>19<sup>th</sup> March 1944 – 24<sup>th</sup> September 1944</u> Lieutenant General (Temporary) Edmond Charles Acton SCHREIBER, C.B., D.S.O., *p.s.c.*<sup>2</sup> <u>25<sup>th</sup> September 1944 – 1<sup>st</sup> December 1944 (Temporary)</u> Lieutenant General (Acting) Eric Grant MILES, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., *i.d.c., p.s.c.* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> On the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1940, Lieutenant General BARKER was transferred to command I Corps in the B.E.F. in France. On 31 May 1940, he handed over command of I Corps to Major General ALEXANDER and returned to the U.K., where he resumed command of Aldershot Command on 7 August 1940.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Created K.C.B. on the 8<sup>th</sup> June 1944.

**General Staff Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Grade** <u>16<sup>th</sup> March 1940 – 20<sup>th</sup> February 1941</u> Colonel (Acting) A. E. STOKES-ROBERTS, O.B.E., M.C., Hampshire R., *p.s.c.* 

## Brigadier General Staff – (B.G.S.)

24<sup>th</sup> July 1941 – 13<sup>th</sup> March 1942 Brigadier (Temporary) John Alexander SINCLAIR, O.B.E., R.A., *p.s.c.* 14<sup>th</sup> March 1942 – 7<sup>th</sup> May 1943 Brigadier (Temporary) Maurice Somerville CHILTON, O.B.E., *p.s.c.* 8<sup>th</sup> May 1943 – November 1944 Brigadier (Temporary) Maurice Brian DOWSE, O.B.E., R. W. Fus., *p.s.c.* 

## Brigadier in charge of Administration

<u>1<sup>st</sup> September 1939 – 1941</u> Brigadier (Acting) J. S. WILKINSON, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., retired pay (Reserve of Officers)

## Major General in charge of Administration

<u>7<sup>th</sup> February 1941 – 13<sup>th</sup> August 1942</u> Major General (Acting) Reginald Henry LORIE, C.B.E., *p.s.c.* <u>14<sup>th</sup> August 1942 – 5<sup>th</sup> February 1943</u> Major General (Acting) Charles Harvey MILLER, C.B.E., *p.s.c.* <u>11<sup>th</sup> February 1943 – 27<sup>th</sup> July 1944</u> Major General (Temporary) Reginald Francis Stewart DENNING, C.B., *p.s.c.* <u>28<sup>th</sup> July 1944 – 21<sup>st</sup> December 1944</u> Major General (Temporary) George SURTEES, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., *p.s.c.* 

## **Colonel, Royal Artillery**

<u>3<sup>rd</sup> September 1939 – 1941</u> Honorary Brigadier P. G. YORKE, D.S.O., retired pay (Reserve of Officers)

## Brigadier, Royal Artillery – (B.R.A.)

<u>15<sup>th</sup> February 1941 – 31<sup>st</sup> May 1942</u> Brigadier (Temporary) Fendall William Harvey PRATT, D.S.O., M.C., R.A., *G.* <u>16<sup>th</sup> September 1942 – 9<sup>th</sup> September 1943</u> Brigadier (Temporary) Charles Frederick Kelk MARSHALL, D.S.O.\*, M.C. <u>10<sup>th</sup> September 1943 – 5<sup>th</sup> December 1943</u> Brigadier (Temporary) Edward Barrington De FONTBLANQUE, *p.s.c.* <u>6<sup>th</sup> December 1943 – November 1944</u> Brigadier (Temporary) Maurice Andrew Brackenreed JOHNSTON, D.S.O., M.C. Chief Engineer – (C.Eng.) 1<sup>st</sup> August 1939 – 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1939 Temporary Brigadier Richard Lawrence BOND, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., *i.d.c., p.s.c.* <sup>t</sup> September 1939 – 1941 Colonel L. C. REID, M.B.E., M.C., M.I.Mech.E 15<sup>th</sup> June 1941 – 15<sup>th</sup> April 1942 Brigadier (Temporary) John Drummond INGLIS, O.B.E., M.C. 16<sup>th</sup> April 1942 – 9<sup>th</sup> May 1943 Brigadier (Acting) John Southam Wycherley STONE, O.B.E., M.C., *p.s.c.* 15<sup>th</sup> May 1943 – 1944 Brigadier (Temporary) M. LUBY, D.S.O., M.C.

## **Deputy Chief Engineer**

<u>19<sup>th</sup> September 1939 - 1942</u> Honorary Brigadier E. de L. YOUNG, retired pay <u>17<sup>th</sup> February 1942 – 1943/4</u> Colonel (Acting) C. P. WORSFOLD, M.C., R.E., *p.s.c.* <u>1<sup>st</sup> May 1944 – 1944</u> Colonel R. W. CARDEW, M.C., A.M.I.E.E.

## Chief Signal Officer – (C.S.O.)

9<sup>th</sup> September 1939 – 1941
Colonel R. H. R. NEALE, M.I.E.E.
9<sup>th</sup> February 1941 – 1941
Brigadier (Acting) R. T. O. CARY, M.B.E.
27<sup>th</sup> March 1942 – November 1944
Brigadier (Acting) Francis Herbert DALLISON, O.B.E., M.C., R.Signals

Assistant Chaplain-General <u>1943 – 1944</u> Reverend A. T. A. NAYLOR, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.A., Chaplain to the Forces 1<sup>st</sup> Class

## Deputy Director Supplies and Transport - (D.D.S.T.)

<u>September 1939 – 1941</u> Honorary Brigadier B. L. BEDDY, D.S.O., retired pay. <u>23<sup>rd</sup> May 1941 – 30<sup>th</sup> August 1942</u> Brigadier (Acting) Eric Stuart WHITE, D.S.O., (S.C.) <u>31<sup>st</sup> August 1942 – 1943</u> Brigadier (Temporary) E. S. HACKER, M.C., A.M.I.Mech.E. <u>7<sup>th</sup> September 1943 – 1944</u> Brigadier (Temporary) Arthur de Brisay JENKINS, O.B.E. Deputy Director Medical Services – (D.D.M.S.)

<u>1<sup>st</sup> March 1937 – 28<sup>th</sup> February 1941</u>
Major General Frederick Duke Gwynne HOWELL, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., K.H.S.
<u>1<sup>st</sup> March 1941 – 8<sup>th</sup> November 1942</u>
Major General (Acting) Oswald William McSHEEHY, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.B.
<u>9<sup>th</sup> November 1942 – 1943</u>
Brigadier (Temporary) James Buckley Aquilla WIGMORE, M.D.
<u>1943 – 30<sup>th</sup> November 1944</u>
Major General Oswald William McSHEEHY, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.B.

## **Consultant Physician**

<u>1941 – 1942</u> Major General A. G. BIGGAM, O.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., K.H.P.

## **Consultant Surgeon**

<u>1941 – 1942</u> Colonel (Temporary) C. M. PAGE, D.S.O., M.B., F.R.C.S., R.A.M.C.<sup>3</sup>

## **Deputy Director of Hygiene**

<u>10<sup>th</sup> December 1941 – 1944</u> Colonel (Acting) F. McKIBBIN, M.B., R.A.M.C.

## Deputy Director Ordnance Services - (D.D.O.S.)

<u>1<sup>st</sup> September 1939 – 1941</u> Colonel W. T. SHEPPARD, D.S.O., retired pay <u>1<sup>st</sup> February 1941 – 29<sup>th</sup> March 1942</u> Brigadier (Acting) George Alexander Neville SWINEY, O.B.E., M.C., R.A.O.C., *o.* <u>30<sup>th</sup> March 1942 – 20<sup>th</sup> October 1942</u> Brigadier (Temporary) Wallace Edward Colin PICKTHALL, O.B.E., *e. o.* <u>20<sup>th</sup> October 1942 – 21<sup>st</sup> December 1944</u> Brigadier (Temporary) Maurice Richard NEALE, C.B.E., M.C., R.A.O.C.

## **Chief Ordnance Mechanical Engineer**

<u>1<sup>st</sup> September 1939 – 1941</u> Colonel R. F. BARBER, D.S.O., M.I.Mech.E., retired pay (Reserve of Officers)

**Deputy Director Ordnance Services (Mechanical Engineering)** <u>15<sup>th</sup> July 1941 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 1942</u> Brigadier (Acting 15/12/41) C. CAMPBELL, A.M.I.Mech.E., R.A.O.C.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Promoted Local Major General on 7 September 1942 whilst in post.

#### **Deputy Director of Mechanical Engineering**

<u>1<sup>st</sup> October 1942 – 1943</u> Brigadier (Temporary) C. CAMPBELL, A.M.I.Mech.E. R.E.M.E. <u>5 May 1943 – 29 October 1944</u> Brigadier (Temporary) Colin BULLARD, C.B.E., B.Eng., A.M.I.Mech.E., A.M.I.E.E., R.E.M.E.

## **Command Paymaster**

<u>1939 – 10<sup>th</sup> November 1942</u> Colonel L. J. LIGHTFOOT, O.B.E., Retired Pay (Reserve of Officers). <u>11<sup>th</sup> November 1942 – 10<sup>th</sup> October 1943</u> Colonel T. L. ROGERS, C.B.E., R.A.P.C. <u>11<sup>th</sup> October 1943 – 11<sup>th</sup> April 1944</u> Brigadier (Temporary) Gordon Henry CHARLTON, M.C., R.A.P.C. <u>12<sup>th</sup> April 1944 – 1944</u> Colonel (Temporary) Francis Talbot BAINES, O.B.E., R.A.P.C.

### **Assistant Director of Dental Services**

<u>15<sup>th</sup> February 1941 – 1942</u> Colonel A. B. AUSTIN. <u>24<sup>th</sup> August 1942 – 10<sup>th</sup> August 1943</u> Colonel (Acting) Edward Honore Clarence CAUTE, A.D.C. <u>24<sup>th</sup> July 1943 – 20<sup>th</sup> April 1944</u> Colonel (Temporary 14/08/43) Arthur Frank SALSBURY, A.D.C. <u>21<sup>st</sup> April 1944 – 1944</u> Colonel H. L. McCALLUM.

## **Deputy Director of Labour**

<u>21<sup>st</sup> February 1941 – 1943</u>
 Colonel (Acting) The Marquess of Reading, M.C., Territorial Army Reserve
 <u>11<sup>th</sup> May 1943 – 1944</u>
 Colonel (Temporary) C. H. GAISFORD-St. LAWRENCE, O.B.E., M.C., Employed List.

## **Command Education Officer**

<u>1939 – 1941</u> Lieutenant Colonel S. G. SIMPSON, O.B.E., M.A., A.E.C. <u>15<sup>th</sup> February 1941 – 1942</u> Colonel A. R. McIVOR, M.B.E., B.Sc., A.E.C. <u>15<sup>th</sup> April 1942 – 1944</u> Colonel (Acting) H. H. JOSEPH, B.A., A.E.C.

## Command Welfare Officer <u>11<sup>th</sup> March 1941 – 1943</u> Colonel (Acting) F. MEDLICOTT, M.P., General List. <u>26<sup>th</sup> January 1943 – 1944</u> Brevet Colonel G. B. CHETWYND-STAPYLTON, T.D., D.L., late Territorial Army Reserve.

## Aldershot Area

## General Officer Commanding Aldershot Area

21<sup>st</sup> May 1940 – 25<sup>th</sup> June 1940 Major General Geoffrey Taunton RAIKES, C.B., D.S.O. 25<sup>th</sup> June 1940 – 13<sup>th</sup> March 1941 Major General Dudley Graham JOHNSON, V.C., C.B., D.S.O.\*, M.C. 13<sup>th</sup> March 1941 – 19 December 1941 Major General Roger EVANS, C.B., M.C., *i.d.c., p.s.c.* 

## **General Officer Commanding Aldershot District**

<u>20 December 1941 – 31 August 1944</u> Major General Roger EVANS, C.B., M.C., *i.d.c., p.s.c.* <u>1 September 1944 – 14 December 1944</u> Major General Charles Wake NORMAN, C.B.E., *p.s.c.* 

## **General Officer Commanding Hampshire and Aldershot District**

<u>15<sup>th</sup> December 1944 – 1945</u>
Major General Henry Osborne CURTIS, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*<u>1945 – 1946</u>
Major General Robert Knox ROSS,
<u>September 1946 – 1946</u>
Major General Sir Noel G. HOLMES,
<u>1946 – 1948</u>
Major General Joseph Aloysuis BAILLON, C.B.E., M.C.

## **Railway Training Centre, Royal Engineers**

<u>1<sup>st</sup> September 1939 – 1941</u>
 Brigadier (Acting) W. G. TYRRELL, D.S.O., retired pay (Reserve of Officers)
 <u>1 January 1941 – 1942/3</u>
 Brigadier (Temporary) R. D. WAGHORN, R.E.

## Headquarters Aldershot North <u>12<sup>th</sup> September 1939 – 1940</u> Brigadier (Acting) Bowcher Campbell Senhouse CLARKE, D.S.O., retired pay (Reserve of Officers)<sup>4</sup>

## Headquarters Aldershot South <u>12<sup>th</sup> September 1939 – 1940</u> Brigadier (Temporary) R. M. BIRKETT, D.S.O., retired pay (Reserve of Officers)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Born 19 April 1882, commissioned on 28 January 1903, retired on 1 December 1938.

## Blackdown & Deepcut Sub-Area

<u>20<sup>th</sup> September 1939 – 1941</u> Brigadier (Temporary) H. W. D. McCARTHY-O'LEARY, D.S.O., M.C., retired pay (Reserve of Officers) <u>23 September 1941 – 25 August 1942</u> Brigadier (Acting) Humphrey Cecil Travell STRONGE, D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*<sup>5</sup>

## Farnborough Sub-Area

<u>1<sup>st</sup> May 1941 – 1942/3</u> Brigadier (Temporary) Sidney Thomas LUCEY, M.C., *p.s.c.* 

## Bordon & Longmoor Sub-Area

<u>22<sup>nd</sup> September 1939 – 1942/3</u> Brigadier (Acting) W. J. O'B. DAUNT, Reserve of Officers

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Appointment reduced to rank of Colonel on 31 December 1941.

## Surrey & Sussex Area

Area Commander

<u>27 January 1941 – 19 December 1941</u> Brigadier (Acting) Henry Percival CURREY, *retired pay* (Reserve of Officers), *p.s.c.*<sup>6</sup>

General Staff Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Grade <u>11 March 1941 – 19 December 1941</u> Colonel George William SUTTON, C.B.E., D.S.O., T.D., Territorial Army

Assistant Director of Medical Services <u>1941 – 19 December 1941</u> Colonel A. S. HEALE, M.C.

Assistant Director of Ordnance Services <u>1940 – 19 December 1941</u> Colonel R. A. CARDEW, retired pay (Reserve of Officers)

North Sussex Sub-Area <u>1941 – 1942</u> Colonel H. A. J. PARSONS, M.C., *p.s.c.* 

**Dorking Sub-Area** <u>18<sup>th</sup> July 1940 – 1942/3</u> Colonel (Acting) R. PAPWORTH, T.D., Territorial Army Reserve.

<sup>6</sup> Awarded the C.B.E. on 2 June 1943, and reverted to retired pay on 21 December 1944.

## North Kent & Surrey Area

Area Commander <u>20 December 1941 – 1942/3</u> Brigadier (Acting) Henry Percival CURREY, *retired pay* (Reserve of Officers), *p.s.c.*<sup>7</sup>

General Staff Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Grade <u>20 December 1941 – 1942/3</u> Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) R. E. H. HUDSON, R.A., *p.s.c.* 

General Staff Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Grade (Home Guard) <u>20 December 1941 – 1942/3</u> Brigadier (Temporary) J. MacREADY, D.S.O., O.B.E.

Assistant Adjutant & Quarter-Master-General <u>20 December 1941 – 1942/3</u> Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) P. D. S. PALMER, Leicester R., *p.s.c.* 

Commander Royal Engineers 20 December 1941 – 1942/3 Lieutenant Colonel E. T. G. CARTER, O.B.E., A.M.I.E.E., R.E.

Assistant Director of Medical Services 20 December 1941 – 1942/3 Colonel A. S. HEALE, M.C.

Assistant Director of Ordnance Services <u>20 December 1941 – 1942/3</u> Lieutenant Colonel (Acting) G. C. GOLDING, R.A.O.C.

North Sussex Sub-Area <u>20 December 1941 – 1942/3</u> Lieutenant Colonel F. R. H. MORGAN, D.S.O., Border R.

Maidstone Sub-Area <u>20 December 1941 – 1942/3</u> Lieutenant Colonel L. D. BENNETT, M.C., T.D., Gordons (T.A.)

Dorking Sub-Area <u>18 July 1940 – 1942/3</u> Colonel (Acting) R. PAPWORTH, T.D., Territorial Army Reserve.

Gravesend Sub-Area 20 December 1941 – 1942/3 Colonel J. SCOTT, M.C.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Awarded the C.B.E. on 2 June 1943, and reverted to retired pay on 21 December 1944.

Adjutant, Headquarters, Gravesend Garrison <u>16 February 1941 – 1942/3</u> Lieutenant (War Substantive) M. S. TURNER, M.C., E. Surrey R.

#### Headquarters, Chatham Garrison

#### **Commanding Officer**

<u>14 August 1941 – 1942/3</u> Colonel (Acting) G. V. PALMER, The Queen's R. (T.A.) (Lieutenant, Reserve of Officers)

Garrison Adjutant <u>22 May 1940 – 1942/3</u> Captain (Temporary) H. R. HEWLETT, General List

Adjutant Headquarters, Sheerness Garrison <u>1 March 1940 – 1942/3</u> Captain F. B. G. WYNES, late Indian Army

Adjutant, Headquarters, Margate Garrison 20 December 1941 – 1942 Vacant

Adjutant, Headquarters, Canterbury Garrison <u>28 February 1941 – 1942/3</u> Captain (Temporary) R. N. HOLMAN, M.C., *retired pay* 

Adjutant, Headquarters, Dover Garrison <u>10 March 1941 – 1942/3</u> Captain T. L. WALL, M.B.E., M.C., *retired pay* 

Adjutant, Headquarters, Shorncliffe Garrison

<u>3 December 1940 – 1942/3</u> Captain (Temporary) J. L. ROBBINS, R.A. (T.A.)

## Kent Area

### Area Commander

<u>19<sup>th</sup> January 1941 – 19 December 1941</u> Brigadier (Temporary) James Salter DAVENPORT, M.C.

## **Assistant Director of Medical Services**

<u>1941 – 19 December 1941</u> Colonel D. S. SKELTON, C.B., D.S.O., *retired pay* (Reserve of Officers).

**Gravesend Sub-Area** <u>1941 – 19 December 1941</u> Colonel Noel Irwine WHITTY, D.S.O., *retired pay* (Reserve of Officers)

Maidstone Sub-Area <u>1941 – 31<sup>st</sup> October 1941</u> Colonel Sir Edward C. T. WARNER, Bt., D.S.O., M.C., retired pay (Reserve of Officers) <u>1<sup>st</sup> November 1941 – 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1943</u> Colonel (Acting) Lewis Duncan BENNETT, M.C., T.D.

**Chatham Garrison** <u>14<sup>th</sup> January 1941 – 4<sup>th</sup> May 1943</u> Colonel (Acting) Godfrey Vaughan PALMER, The Queen's R., (Lieutenant, Reserve of Officers), T.A.

#### SOURCES:

#### Primary Sources – Army Lists

The Monthly Army List January 1930 Available From: Your Old Books and Maps at: http://youroldbooksandmaps.co.uk/british-army-lists-1901-1950.htm The Monthly Army List July 1937 Available From: Your Old Books and Maps at: http://youroldbooksandmaps.co.uk/british-army-lists-1901-1950.htm The Half Yearly Army List for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 1938 Available on-line at: http://www.archive.org/details/armylisthalfjan1939grea The Monthly Army List April 1938 Available From: S & N Genealogy at: <u>http://www.genealogysupplies.com/</u> The Half Yearly Army List for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 1939 http://www.archive.org/details/armylisthalfjan1940grea Available on-line at: The Monthly Army List April 1940 Available From: S & N Genealogy at: <u>http://www.genealogysupplies.com/</u> Services of British Army Officers & cc 1939 – 1945 (London, Savanna Publications 1999 as reprint of the Half-Yearly Army List January 1946) [ISBN 1 902366 02 6]

Secondary Sources

BELLIS Malcolm A.	<i>Divisions of the British Army 1939 – 1945</i> (Published BELLIS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition, 2000) [ISBN 0-9529693-1-9]
BELLIS, Malcolm A.	British Tanks and Formations 1939 – 45 (England, BELLIS, Second Edition 1987) [ISBN 0 9512126 2 1]
BELLIS, Malcolm A.	Brigades of the British Army 1939 – 45 (England, BELLIS, 1986) [ISBN 0 9512126 1 3]
BEVIS, Mark	British and Commonwealth Armies 1939-43 (U.K. Helion and Company, 2001) [ISBN 1 874622 80 9]
BEVIS, Mark	British and Commonwealth Armies 1944-45 (U.K., Helion and Company, 2001) [ISBN 1 874622 90 6]
BEVIS, Mark	British and Commonwealth Armies 1939-45 Supplement Volume 1 (U.K., Helion and Company, 2005) [ISBN 1 874622 18 3]
BEVIS, Mark	British and Commonwealth Armies 1939-45 Supplement Volume 2 (U.K., Helion and Company, 2005) [ISBN 1 874622 38 8]
HEARNS, Doug V. P.	Companions of The Distinguished Service Order 1923 – 2010 Army Awards (Uckfield, The Naval and Military Press Ltd, 2011).
HUGHES, Major General B. P.,	The History of the Royal Regiment of Artillery – Between the Wars 1919-39 (England, The Royal Artillery Institution 1992) [ISBN 0 08 040984 9]
JOSLEN Lieut-Col H. F. (Ed.)	Orders of Battle Second World War 1939-1945 (London: H.M.S.O., 1960) (Reprinted London: The London Stamp Exchange Ltd, 1990) [ISBN 0 948130 03 2]
Various	Who Was Who Volume III 1929 – 1940 Volume IV 1941 – 1950 Volume V 1951 – 1960 Volume VI 1961 – 1970 Volume VII 1971 – 1980 Volume VIII 1981 – 1990 Volume IX 1991 – 1995 Volume X 1996 – 2000 Cumulative Index
	(London, A & C BLACK Publishers Ltd., Various)

#### **Websites**

Aldershot Military Museum Available online at: http://www3.hants.gov.uk/aldershot-museum.htm

[Accessed 7 September 2018]

Generals.dk The Generals of WWII http://www.generals.dk/

[Accessed 19 November 2011]

Land Forces of Britain, the Empire and Commonwealth. Author: T. F. MILLS Available on-line at: <u>http://web.archive.org/web/20070622075214/http://www.regiments.org</u>

[Accessed 7 September 2018]

*Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives – Location Register* <u>http://www.kcl.ac.uk/lhcma/searchlocreg.cgi</u>

[Accessed 3 February 2011]