

## Northern Ireland District

### Regular Depot in the District

The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers  
The Royal Ulster Rifles

– Omagh  
– Armagh

### Regular Troops in the District

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

### Militia in the District

The North Irish Horse (6)

### Territorial Army Units in the District

3<sup>rd</sup> (Ulster) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery (7)  
(H.Q., 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Batteries, Royal Artillery)  
8<sup>th</sup> (Belfast) Anti-Aircraft Regiment (8)  
(H.Q., 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Batteries, and 5<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery)  
9<sup>th</sup> (Londonderry) Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (9)  
(H.Q., 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Batteries and 6<sup>th</sup> 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 18 December 1939 to join the 148<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade. It joined the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade (Guards) on 1 April 1940, and saw service in Norway in April and May 1940. The battalion returned to the 148<sup>th</sup> 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 42<sup>nd</sup> (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 17<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 5<sup>th</sup> 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 44<sup>th</sup> (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 1 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 7 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 1 August 1922, it was reformed as a cadre in the Militia and remained as such until 30 August 1939 when it was reconstituted as an armoured car regiment in the Supplementary Reserve. The regiment transferred to the Royal Armoured Corps on 11 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Batteries were all based in Belfast. The 5<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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:

The Monthly Army List January 1930

Available From: Your Old Books and Maps

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

The Monthly Army List July 1937

Available From: Your Old Books and Maps

<http://youoldbooksandmaps.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

<http://www.genealogysupplies.com/>

Services of British Army Officers & cc 1939 – 1945

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90, Dartmouth Road, Forest Hill, LONDON. SE23 3HZ [ISBN 1 902366 02 6]

Orders of Battle Second World War 1939-1945

Prepared by Lieut-Col H. F. JOSLEN

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Website and Internet

Land Forces of Britain, the Empire and Commonwealth.

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Available on-line at: <http://web.archive.org/web/20070622075214/http://www.regiments.org>

[Accessed 19<sup>th</sup> November 2011]

The Patriot Files – Northern Ireland District 3 September 1939

Available on-line at:

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