

Western Command (1)

2nd Anti-Aircraft Group (2)

1st Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery

2nd Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery

Regular Troops in the Command

Infantry

2nd Bn. The King's Shropshire Light Infantry (3)

Artillery

2nd Brigade, Royal Horse Artillery (4)

(H.Q., 'C' & 'I' Batteries, Royal Horse Artillery)

Headquarters Royal Artillery Fixed Defences North Western Ports

Mersey Fire Command (5)

Headquarters, Royal Artillery Fixed Defences Wales

Milford Haven Fire Command (6)

Severn Fire Command (6)

Royal Corps of Signals

Western Command Signal Company, Royal Corps of Signals (7)

Royal Army Service Corps

16th Company, Royal Army Service Corps (8)

'I' Company, Royal Army Service Corps (8)

Royal Army Medical Corps

19th Company, Royal Army Medical Corps (9)

Royal Army Ordnance Corps

10 Section, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Royal Army Pay Corps

Chester Detachment
Lichfield Detachment
Preston Detachment
Shrewsbury Detachment

South Irish Coast Defences

Royal Artillery

2nd Heavy Brigade, Royal Artillery
(H.Q., 1st, 8th, 19th & 26th Heavy Batteries, Royal Artillery)

Royal Engineers

33rd (Fortress) Company, Royal Engineers

Royal Corps of Signals

South Irish Coast Defence Signal Section, Royal Corps of Signals

Royal Army Service Corps

Detachment

Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Detachment

NOTES:

1. Headquarters, Western Command, were located in Chester. In 1907, they moved to Watergate House, Chester, where the headquarters remained until 1938, when a new purpose-built, headquarters opened at Queen's Park, Chester. In 1930, Western Command covered Wales, and the English counties of Cheshire, Shropshire, Herefordshire, Monmouthshire (including Beachley, Gloucestershire), Lancashire, Cumberland and Westmorland. In addition, The Isle of Man, and the Coast Defence Garrisons of Berehaven, Queenstown, and (for purposes of technical training only) Lough Swilly in the Irish Free State (as the new country became Ireland or Eire in 1937) were part of this command.
2. This anti-aircraft formation was based at Lichfield in Staffordshire. The 1st Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Fortress Artillery was formed in 1920 as the first anti-aircraft unit in the British Army. It was based at Lichfield. The 2nd Anti-Aircraft Brigade was formed in 1927 alongside the 1st A-A Brigade at Lichfield.
3. This infantry battalion was stationed at Pembroke Dock in west Wales. It was, however, part of the 7th Infantry Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, which was stationed in Southern Command.
4. Also under Southern Command for training purposes, this brigade was based at Raglan Barracks, Newport, Monmouthshire, where all three batteries were stationed. The barracks, which date from 1845, were built as Cavalry barracks, so were known simply as 'The Cavalry Barracks. After the Great War, the barracks were occupied by one brigade (regiment) of the Royal Horse Artillery, so became known as 'The Artillery Barracks'. It was named Raglan Barracks in 1965. The 2nd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, as this unit became, saw active service in France and Belgium in 1940, North Africa, Greece, Egypt and Libya, Tunisia, and Italy.
5. Prior to the Second World War, the main ports of the United Kingdom were protected from seaborne attack by a series of coastal artillery commands and units. The Mersey and Barrow Fire Command was based at Liverpool, with each port's coastal artillery commanded by a Major. The Lancashire and Cheshire Heavy Brigade, Territorial Army, was based at 19, Low Hill, Liverpool, under its honorary Colonel, The Right Honourable The Earl of Derby, K.G., G.C.B., G.C.V.O., T.D.. It comprised two batteries, No. 177 and 178 Heavy Batteries, both of which were based in Liverpool. It had been reconstituted in February 1920 as the Lancashire and Cheshire Royal Garrison Artillery, with the two batteries. On 1 June 1924, with the merger of the Royal Field Artillery and Royal Garrison Artillery, this unit became the Lancashire & Cheshire Heavy Brigade, Royal Artillery. By June 1937, the Headquarters and 177th Heavy Battery were based at the Drill Hall, Everton Road, Liverpool 6, while 178th Heavy Battery was based in the Drill Hall, Riverview Road, Seacombe, Wallasey. On 14 July 1940, the unit became the 524th (Lancashire and Cheshire) Coast Regiment, Royal Artillery. There were various changes to the constituent batteries of this regiment during the war, until it was converted to an infantry regiment as 619th (Lancashire & Cheshire) Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery with effect from 15 January 1945. The regiment was reconstituted after the Second World War as an artillery unit, but changed their role later to become engineers.

6. The headquarters of the Milford Haven and Severn Fire Command was located in Pembroke Dock, Pembrokeshire. With a large natural harbour, Milford Haven and Pembroke were important military locations until the 1960's. A Lieutenant Colonel, R.A. commanded the unit, with his Adjutant (a Captain), and two Majors. There were two heavy brigades based in this area. The Pembrokeshire Heavy Brigade had its Headquarters and 184th Batteries based at the Drill Hall, Milford Haven. The other battery, the 185th Heavy Battery, was based at Saundersfoot. This regiment had been formed in 1924, and in September 1940, it was redesignated as the 532nd (Pembrokeshire) Coast Regiment, Royal Artillery. The regiment was stationed in the U.K. for most of the Second World War (unsurprisingly taking account of its role), but in January 1945, with the threat of coastal attack from enemy forces negligible, it was converted into the 620th Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery. The Glamorgan Heavy Brigade was based at the Drill Hall, Cardiff. It comprised only one battery, the 181st Heavy Battery, which was also based at the same Drill Hall. In September 1940, it was redesignated as the 531st Coast Regiment, Royal Artillery. It disbanded in December 1942.
7. The signal company was based in Chester with the Headquarters, Western Command.
8. The 16th Company, R.A.S.C. was based in Preston, Lancashire; with 'I' Company located in Chester, Cheshire.
9. This company of the Royal Army Medical Corps was based in Warrington, Cheshire.
10. The section of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps was based in Burscough, Lancashire.
11. As their titles suggest, the three detachments of the Royal Army Pay Corps were located in Chester, Shrewsbury and Preston to cover Western Command.
12. The Southern Irish Coast Defences were seen by the British as an important defence against the threat of U-boat attacks following the First World War. As a prelude to the creation of the Irish Free State in December 1922, the Irish Premier signed an agreement in December 1921 to allow the U.K. to continue to use three defended ports in Ireland, namely Lough Swilly in County Donegal, Queenstown (now known as Cobh in County Cork, and Bere Island (or Berehaven) also in County Cork. The Headquarters, Southern Irish Coast Defences was located at Queenstown, with the 19th and 26th Heavy Batteries located on Spike Island at Queenstown. The 32nd Heavy Battery was based at Fort Carlisle, and the 33rd Heavy Battery at Bere Island. The 33rd Fortress Company, Royal Engineers, was based at Queenstown Harbour, with the Signal Section and Royal Army Ordnance Corps Detachment located at Spike Island. These enclaves of the British Army presence in the newly independent state of Ireland lasted until 1938. Spike Island was handed over on 11 July 1938, Berehaven on 29 September 1938, and finally, Lough Swilly on 3 October 1938. Thus, the British presence in the independent country of Ireland came to an end.

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