

## British Troops in China <sup>(1)</sup>

Headquarters, British Troops in China

### Hong Kong Infantry Brigade <sup>(2)</sup>

Headquarters, Hong Kong Infantry Brigade & Signal Section

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Somerset Light Infantry (Prince Albert's)

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The King's Own Scottish Borderers

3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. 15<sup>th</sup> Punjab Regiment

### Other Troops in the Hong Kong Area

Hong Kong Heavy Brigade, Royal Artillery <sup>(3)</sup>

(H.Q., 12<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> Heavy Batteries, Royal Artillery)

Hong Kong Brigade, Hong Kong and Singapore Royal Artillery

(H.Q., 1<sup>st</sup> Mountain Batteries and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Heavy Batteries, Hong Kong and Singapore Royal Artillery)

40<sup>th</sup> (Fortress) Company, Royal Engineers

Hong Kong Signal Company, Royal Corps of Signals

Supply Detachment, Royal Army Service Corps

27<sup>th</sup> Company, Royal Army Medical Corps

Detachment, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Detachment, Royal Army Pay Corps

Detachment, Royal Army Veterinary Corps

## NOTES:

1. China Command was a pre-war independent command, responsible for the British possessions of Hong Kong and Kowloon, and the British concessions in the Chinese cities of Shanghai and Tientsin. Command of the British Troops in China was a Major General's appointment. The Japanese forces attacked on 8 December 1941, and despite gallant resistance, the colony was forced to surrender on 25 December 1941. Few personnel escaped, with the majority facing four years in captivity.
2. The two British battalions were based at Nagking Barracks on the Mainland. The Indian battalion was based at Whitfield Barracks on Hong Kong island. The 1<sup>st</sup> Somerset Light Infantry arrived in 1928, and left in October 1930 to move to Madras in India.
3. This pre-war Regular Army regiment was based in Hong Kong. On 16 November 1939, 'X' Battery was redesignated as 36<sup>th</sup> Heavy Battery. On the same date, the 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Batteries transferred to the newly formed 12<sup>th</sup> Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery, which had been formed in Hong Kong. The regiment was redesignated as the 8<sup>th</sup> Coast Regiment, Royal Artillery on 14 December 1940.

Shanghai Area (1)

Headquarters, Shanghai Area

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. The Worcestershire Regiment

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's)

Detachment, Royal Engineers

Shanghai Signal Section, Royal Corps of Signals

12 Company, Royal Army Service Corps

No. 7 General Hospital, Royal Army Medical Corps

Detachment, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Detachment, Royal Army Pay Corps

Shanghai Section, Corps of Military Police

## NOTES:

1. The Treaty of Nanking of 1842 opened up the Chinese port of Shanghai to international trade, one of the main commodities being opium. The United Kingdom was one of the countries that took up concessions within the city. To protect British interests, the U.K. Government deployed British troops to Shanghai. With the increased threat from Japanese forces, the British troops withdrew from Shanghai in August 1940.

Tientsin Area (1)

Headquarters, Tientsin Area

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment)

2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's)

Detachment, Royal Engineers

Tientsin Signal Section, Royal Corps of Signals

Detachment, Royal Army Service Corps

Detachment, Royal Army Medical Corps

Detachment, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Detachment, Royal Army Pay Corps

## NOTES:

1. The Tientsin Area was responsible for the British concession in the Chinese city of Teinstin (now called Tianjin). During the war between Japan and China, the city of Teintsin was captured by Japanese troops on 30 July 1937. Japan, however, respected the foreign concessions in the city, and the British troops remained in situ.

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