

Orkney and Shetland Defences ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, Orkney and Shetland Defences

65th (The Manchester Regiment) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽²⁾

66th (Leeds Rifles) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽³⁾

81st Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁴⁾

19th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁵⁾

38th (The King's Regiment) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁶⁾

39th (The Lancashire Fusiliers) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁷⁾

59th (Warwickshire) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁸⁾

NOTES:

1. The Shetland Islands are the most northerly part of the United Kingdom. The islands contained the major anchorage for the Royal Navy Home Fleet at Scapa Flow. As such, the Orkney and Shetland Islands required air defences, hence the creation of the Orkney and Shetland Defences, usually known by its abbreviation of OSDEF. It started as a Brigadier's command, but this was raised to a Major General's command in 1940.
2. Raised in 1936 by the conversion of the 6th/7th Bn. The Manchester Regiment, the H.Q. and all four batteries were based in Hulme, Manchester. Initially under command of the 44th Anti-Aircraft Brigade, by November 1940, the regiment was serving with the Orkney and Shetland Defences (OSDEF). After serving with Home Forces until March 1943, the regiment spend a period in the Middle East, returning to the U.K. in August 1944, where it served until the end of the war. After the war, it was reformed as the 465th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment.
3. The Leeds Rifles, a long standing volunteer army regiment, was based at Carlton Barracks in Leeds. It became the 7th (Leeds Rifles) Bn. The West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own). In 1936, it converted from an infantry to an anti-aircraft role. All four batteries were based at Carlton Barracks. The regiment left the U.K. in March 1942 to travel to India. There it joined the 9th Anti-Aircraft Brigade and served in Burma until April 1944. In that month, it moved back to India, where it was placed in suspended animation in April 1945.
4. This unit was formed in 1938 from the 60th (6th Cheshire & Shropshire) Medium Brigade, Royal Artillery. The Headquarters, 253rd and 254th Batteries were based in Stockport, with the 255th Battery being based in Stalybridge. By November 1940, this regiment had made the long journey north to come under command of the Orkney and Shetland Defences (OSDEF). The regiment remained in the United Kingdom until August 1942 when it sailed for the Middle East. It was placed in suspended animation in August 1944.
5. Formed in January 1939, this regiment had its headquarters and 59th Battery based in Edinburgh. The 60th Battery was based in Falkirk. Originally part of the 51st Anti-Aircraft Brigade, by November 1940 it had moved to the Orkney and Shetland Islands as part of OSDEF (Orkney and Shetland Defences), primarily to guard the Royal Navy anchorages of the Home Fleet at Scapa Flow. The regiment served with Home Forces for the duration of the Second World War, apart from a period between April and September 1942 when it was under command of the 54th Infantry Division in the U.K..
6. This unit was converted from the 6th Bn. The King's Regiment (Liverpool) in 1936. The Headquarters and all four companies were based in Liverpool. In August 1940, it became the 38th (The King's Regiment) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It remained based in the United Kingdom. In January 1945, it was converted to an infantry role and became the 635th Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery. It came under command of the 303rd Infantry Brigade, and was deployed to Norway in June 1945.
7. In 1936, the 7th Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers was converted into a searchlight battalion of the Royal Engineers. The headquarters and all four companies were based in Salford. In August 1940, it became the 39th Searchlight Regiment. In May 1943, it was converted back to an infantry battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers.

8. The 59th (Warwickshire) Searchlight Regiment was raised in 1938 by the transfer and expansion of the 399th Anti-Aircraft Company, Royal Engineers. The headquarters and three batteries were all based in Birmingham. By November 1940, the regiment had been transferred north to come under command of the Orkney and Shetland Defences. In April 1943, it was converted into the 148th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery. The regiment remained serving in the U.K. joining the 61st Infantry Division (a training formation) in March 1944. It was still serving with that formation at the end of the war.

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