

East Lancashire Area

Regular Depots in the Area

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| The Border Regiment | – The Castle, Carlisle |
| The King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster) | – Bowerham Barracks, Lancaster |
| The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) | – Fulwood Barracks, Preston |
| The Lancashire Fusiliers | – Wellington Barracks, Bury |
| The East Lancashire Regiment | – Fulwood Barracks, Preston |
| The Manchester Regiment | – Ladysmith Barracks, Ashton-under-Lyne |

Regular Troops in the Area

Militia in the Area

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| 13 th Anti-Aircraft Depot | – Carlisle |
| 23 rd Searchlight Depot | – Carlisle |

Territorial Army Troops in the Area

24th Army Tank Brigade (1)

41st Royal Tank Regiment

47th Royal Tank Regiment

Other Unbrigaded Units

The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry (2)

1st/9th Bn. The Manchester Regiment (3)

2nd/9th Bn. The Manchester Regiment (4)

52nd (East Lancashire) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (5)

(H.Q., 154th (East Lancashire), 155th (East Lancashire) & 156th (East Lancashire) Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

56th (East Lancashire) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (6)

(H.Q., 166th, 167th & 168th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery)

257th Field Company, Royal Engineers (7)

NOTES:

1. This brigade was a Territorial Army formation with its Headquarters based in Leeds. The 41st R.T.R. was converted from the 10th (Oldham) Battalion, The Manchester Regiment in November 1938. As its name suggests, it was based in Oldham. In April 1939, the regiment duplicated to form the 47th R.T.R. Both these regiments came under the command of the 24th Army Tank Brigade. The third unit in the brigade was the 45th R.T.R., which was based in Leeds. On 1 November 1940, the brigade was redesignated as the 24th Armoured Brigade. The brigade came under the command of the 8th Armoured Division in November 1940. It arrived in Egypt on 8 July 1942. The brigade, including the three R.T.R. Regiments, was involved in the battle of El Alamein, but was disbanded on the 1st March 1943, to provide reinforcements. The 41st R.T.R. was disbanded in December 1942.
2. This regiment was based in Manchester. In February 1940, it converted into an artillery role, being redesignated as:
77th (Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry) Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery
The regiment was under the command of Home Forces until April 1944. In that month, it came under the command of 2nd Army. In June 1944, the regiment joined 8th Army Group, Royal Artillery, and served with that army group in North West Europe until the end of the war.
3. A first-line Territorial Army battalion, it was based at Ashton-under-Lyne in Manchester. The battalion was allocated to the 42nd (East Lancashire) Infantry Division as the divisional machine gun battalion. However, in September 1939, the battalion was formally under the command of the East Lancashire Area and not the division. The battalion did not travel to France with the Division in April 1940.
4. Formed as the duplicate battalion in 1939, this battalion was based at Audenshaw, just to the south of Ashton-under-Lyne. It was a machine gun battalion like its parent unit, but remained in the U.K.. In November 1941, it converted into the 88th Anti-Tank Regiment and in June 1942, it came under command of the 49th Infantry Division. It transferred to a reserve formation, the 45th Infantry Division in January 1944 and became the 88th Training Regiment in June 1945, not seeing active service throughout the war.
5. This regiment was formed on the 28th November 1938 by the conversion of the 93rd (East Lancashire) Army Field Brigade. This unit had itself been formed in June 1922 by the transfer of two batteries from the 51st (East Lancashire) Brigade, R.F.A. (see 42nd (East Lancashire) Division in 1930 for full details). The Headquarters and 155th Batteries were based in Burnley, with the 154th Battery being based in Church (part of Accrington) and the newly formed 156th Battery in Clitheroe. The regiment was sent to France in November 1939 as part of the B.E.F, under the command of I Corps. For a period in May 1940, it came under command of the 4th Anti-Aircraft Brigade in France. Following its return to the United Kingdom, the regiment remained in the country until leaving for the Middle East in June 1941. It then served in Middle East Forces and later 8th Army in Italy.
6. The 56th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment was raised in June 1939 as a duplicate of the 52nd (East Lancashire) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. The headquarters and three batteries in this unit were based at the Drill Hall, Moscow Mill Street, Oswaldtwistle in Lancashire. The regiment came under command of the 6th Anti-Aircraft Brigade for deployment to Norway in April 1940. It returned to the United Kingdom in early June 1940, and served with Home Forces until January 1941. In that month, it came under command of the 8th Support Group, 8th Armoured Division. It left the U.K. in June 1942 to sail for Egypt with that division. When the division disbanded in November 1942, the regiment came under command of 8th Army until it was placed in suspended animation in Italy in March 1945.

7. This field company was a second-line Territorial Army company based in Manchester. The company was allocated to the 66th Infantry Division, which it formally came under the command of on the 19th December 1939.

SOURCES:

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