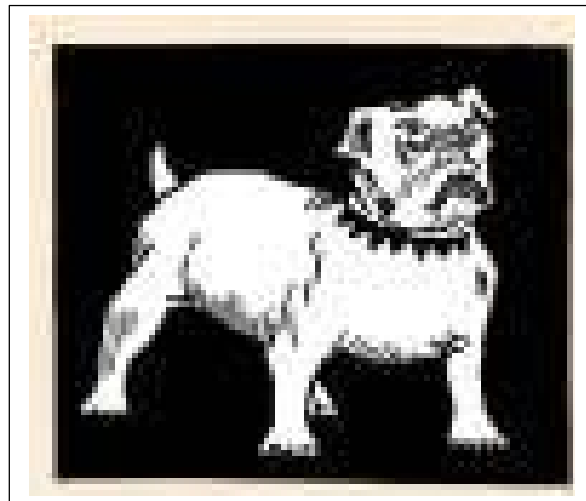


2018

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Author: Robert PALMER



A CONCISE HISTORY OF:

EASTERN COMMAND (HISTORY & PERSONNEL)

A concise history of Middle East Command, a higher level formation of the British Army in existence from 1939 until 1967. In addition, known details of the key appointments held between 1939 and 1950 are included.

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A Concise History of Eastern Command (History & Personnel)

This edition dated: 9 October 2018

ISBN

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Author: Robert PALMER, M.A. (copyright held by author)

Published privately by: The Author – Publishing as:

www.BritishMilitaryHistory.co.uk

Eastern Command

Eastern Command was reorganised in 1920 following the Great War. Its Headquarters were based in Queen's Gardens, Bayswater, London; but it moved to Horse Guards, London SW1 by 1930. As one of the five Home Commands within the United Kingdom, it was a Lieutenant General (or General's) command, who was the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief. This meant he had complete jurisdiction of all land forces within his command.

Eastern Command in 1939 comprised the counties of Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex (except Purfleet and Rainham Rifle Range, and the Guards Barracks at Warley – when occupied by the Foot Guards – which all came under the London District), Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Middlesex, Kent, Sussex and Surrey (less the area within Aldershot Command). Woolwich also came under Eastern Command. There were four Areas within the command, namely the:

- Eastern Area (Norfolk, Suffolk & Essex);
- Shires Area (Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Middlesex);
- Thames & Medway Area;
- South Eastern Area (Kent, Sussex and part of Surrey).

In the mid 1920's this was modified to become the

- East Anglian Area (combining the Eastern Area and Shires Area);
- Home Counties Area (former South Eastern Area);
- Chatham Area.

In 1936, Northamptonshire transferred to the South Midland Area.

There was one Regular Army divisional formation based in Eastern Command, this was the **4 Division**, the headquarters of which was based at Colchester. One of the brigades was located at Shorncliffe, one at Colchester and the other at Dover. The Area Commanders also commanded the Territorial Army division in their area. There were two Territorial Army formations located within the command. The 44 (Home Counties) Division was based in Kent, Sussex and Surrey; with the 54 (East Anglian) Division based in the rest of the command. The commander of the Chatham Area was also the Commandant, School of Military Engineering at Chatham.

In April 1939, the two T.A. formations each formed a duplicate (or second line) division. The 44th Division formed the 12th (Eastern) Division and the 54th Division formed the 18th Infantry Division. The 44th Division duplicated on a mirror image basis (that is each first line unit produced a second line unit in the new division, but the 54th Division duplicated on a geographical basis. This meant that first and second line units were to be found in each formation. In practice, this made little difference as the first-line units lost experienced personnel to form the cadres for the new second-line units, and both gained Reservists and new recruits to make up the strength of that unit.

With the outbreak of the Second World War, the 4th Infantry Division mobilised and deployed to France to join the British Expeditionary Force (B.E.F.). The 44th Infantry Division also travelled to join the B.E.F., as did the 12th Infantry Division, the latter for training and labour duties. The 44th Infantry Division later saw service in the Middle East, but the 12th Infantry Division was disbanded shortly after the evacuation of the B.E.F.. The 54th Infantry Division did not see active service during the war, but the 18th Infantry Division (which was originally earmarked for service in the Middle East) was sent to Singapore. With the capitulation of British forces in Singapore on 15 February 1942, the men from East Anglia faced three and a half years in the captivity of the Japanese, from which many did not return.

In 1940, the Home Counties Area and Chatham Area transferred to the newly formed South Eastern Command. The East Anglian Area was re-organised as the:

- East Central Area – (Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire);
 - Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire Sub-Area;
 - Huntingdon, Bedford and Northampton Sub-Area;
- Essex & Suffolk Area;
 - Suffolk Sub-Area;
 - Essex Sub-Area;
 - Colchester Garrison;
 - Harwich Garrison;
 - Southend Garrison;
 - Shoeburyness Garrison;
- Cambridge Area (including Norfolk);
 - Cambridge Sub-Area;
 - West Norfolk Sub-Area;
 - Mid-Norfolk Sub-Area.

On 14 August 1941, the Regimental Depots ceased to train recruits, and new Infantry Training Centres were opened at Command level. These new training centres were located at:

- No. 1 I.T.C. at Warley for the Royal Fusiliers and Essex Regiment;
- No. 2 I.T.C. at Norwich for the Norfolk Regiment and Northamptonshire Regiment;
- No. 3 I.T.C. at Bury St, Edmunds for the Suffolk Regiment and Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment.

In 1944, the South Eastern Command was disbanded and the Areas transferred back to Eastern Command as the Home Counties District, and in addition, the London District came under command. The Headquarters, Eastern Command then moved to Hounslow, Middlesex. The East Anglian District reformed with its headquarters at Colchester. It now comprised the counties of Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Suffolk, Bedfordshire, and Essex. Buckinghamshire transferred to the Salisbury Plain District, and Northamptonshire became part of the North Midland District.

On 28 October 1946, the training functions within the British Army were reorganised yet again. East Anglian District formed 'G' Group Infantry Training Centres for the Royal Norfolk Regiment, Suffolk Regiment, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment and the Essex Regiment.

There were further changes made in primary training in 1948, with Primary Training Centres replaced by Brigade Infantry Training Centres. In 1951, the position reversed with the regimental primary training centres reopened. In 1959, however, the move was made back to brigade infantry training centres. In the early 1960's, Eastern Command was incorporated into Southern Command, being redesignated as the Eastern District. Eastern District was disbanded in 1995.

General Officer Commanding-in-Chief

28th September 1938 – 12th May 1941

Lieutenant General Sir Guy Charles WILLIAMS, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Col Comdt. R.E., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

12th May 1941 – 6th April 1942

Lieutenant General Laurence CARR, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

7th April 1942 – 11th August 1943

Lieutenant General (Acting) Kenneth Arthur Noel ANDERSON, C.B., M.C., *p.s.c.*

7th September 1943 – 3rd January 1944

Lieutenant General (Acting) James Andrew Harcourt GAMMELL, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

4th January 1944 – 11th February 1944 (Officiating)

Lieutenant General (Acting) John Aldam AIZLEWOOD, M.C.*

12th February 1944 – 1st December 1944

Lieutenant General Sir Kenneth Noel ANDERSON, K.C.B., M.C., *p.s.c.*

1st December 1944 – 20th November 1945

Lieutenant General Sir Alan Gordon CUNNINGHAM, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

20th November 1945 – 29th November 1945

Lieutenant General Sir James Andrew Harcourt GAMMELL, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

29th November 1945– 15th December 1946

Lieutenant General Sir Oliver William Hargreaves LEESE, Baronet, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., *p.s.c.*

16th December 1946 – 14th February 1947 (Officiating)

Lieutenant General (Acting) Cyril Ernest Napier LOMAX, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.** , M.C.

18th February 1947 – 18th February 1950

Lieutenant General Sir Evelyn Hugh BARKER, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*

18th February 1950 – 6th February 1952

Lieutenant General Sir Francis Wogan FESTING,

6th February 1952 – 2nd May 1952

Lieutenant General Sir George Watkin Eben James ERKSINE,

Brigadier General Staff

30 June 1939 – 24th October 1939

Brigadier (Temporary) D. G. WATSON, M.C., *p.s.c.*

25th October 1939 – 7th May 1941

Brigadier (Acting) Leonard Arthur HAWES, D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*

27th June 1941 – 10th February 1942

[Brigadier \(Temporary\) George William SYMES, M.C., *p.s.c.*](#)

11th February 1942 – 1943

Brigadier (Acting) E. A. L. GUETERBOCK, M.A., R.E.

6th September 1943 – 1944

Brigadier (Temporary) L. BOOTLE-WILBRAHAM, D.S.O., M.C.

22nd December 1944 – 16th May 1945

Brigadier (Temporary) Maurice Brian DOWSE, O.B.E., R.W.Fus., *p.s.c.*

16th June 1945 – 1948

Brigadier (Temporary) A. G. O'C. SCOTT, C.B.E., *p.s.c.*

26th July 1948 – 1949/50

Brigadier C. L. B. DUKE, M.C., *p.s.c.*

Chief of Staff (New Post)

15th March 1947 – 8th July 1949

[Major General Sir Reginald Francis Stewart DENNING, K.B.E., C.B., *p.s.c.*](#)

General Staff Officer 1st Grade (Operations and Staff Duties)

21st February 1946 – 1947

Colonel (Temporary) E. BRICKMAN, D.S.O., Cameronians (*s.c.*)

General Staff Officer 1st Grade (Operations, Staff Duties, Training and Intelligence)

4th August 1947 – 1948

Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) G. W. H. PETERS, D.S.O., M.C., Beds & Herts R., *j.s.s.c.*

General Staff Officer, 1st Grade (Technical Training)

1st October 1945 – 1947

Brigadier (Temporary) Alfred Sydney BUTTENSHAW, D.S.O., B.Sc. (Eng), A.M.I.Mech.E.

Brigadier Royal Armoured Corps

3rd September 1942 – 1943

Brigadier (Acting) H. R. B. WATKINS, D.S.O., *p.s.c.*

19th July 1943 – 19th July 1944

Brigadier (Temporary) John Lenox Clavering NAPIER, C.B.E., *p.s.c.*

Major General in charge of Administration

25 August 1939 – 15 May 1940

Major General Llewellyn Isaac Gethin MORGAN-OWEN, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., Col S. Wales Bord., retired pay (Reserve of Officers), *p.s.c.*

15th May 1940 – October 1941

Major General Maxwell Spieker BRANDER, C.B., O.B.E., M.I.Mech.E.

6th October 1941 – 28th December 1942

Major General (Acting) Kevin John MARTIN, D.S.O., *p.s.c.*

29th December 1942 – 14th May 1943

Major General (Acting) Harold Reginald KERR, O.B.E., M.C.*, *p.s.c.*

15th May 1943 – 1947

Major General (Acting) Philip Sidney WHITCOMBE, O.B.E., *p.s.c.*¹

Brigadier A/Q (New Post – downgrading of Major General i/c Administration)

2nd June 1947 – 1949/50

Brigadier (Temporary) G. F. H. STAYNER, C.B., C.B.E., *p.s.c.*

Assistant Adjutant-General

14 February 1938 – 3 October 1939

Colonel Jesse Pevensey DUKE, D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*

4 October 1939 – 1942

Colonel J. D. BOYD, D.S.O., retired pay (Reserve of Officers), *p.s.c.*

1st July 1943 – 1945

Colonel C. M. CLODE, M.C., *p.s.c.*

15th May 1945 – 1946/7

Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) F. L. MARTIN, D.S.O., S. Stafford R.

12th February 1947 – 1949/50

Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) D. P. O'KELLY, O.B.E., C. G'ds

¹ Awarded the C.B. during tenure of appointment.

Assistant Quarter-Master-General

24th September 1938 – 31st August 1939

Brevet Colonel Brian CUFF, *p.s.c.*²

26th August 1939 – 1940

Colonel H. C. L. HOWARD, C.M.G., D.S.O., retired pay (Reserve of Officers) (Gentleman of Arms), *p.s.c.*

18th August 1941 – 1942

Lieutenant Colonel (Acting) G. V. BREFIT, M.C., retired pay, *p.s.c.*

14th May 1943 – 1944

Lieutenant Colonel (Acting) C. N. THORNTON-KEMSLEY, M.P., T.A. Reserve

21st November 1943 – 1944

Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) J. F. M. SUMNER, Durham L.I.

22nd December 1944 – 1945

Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) A. L. W. KOCH de GOOREYND, O.B.E., Reserve of Officers

22nd December 1944 – 1945

Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) J. RICE, Hampshire R., T.A.

3rd August 1946 – 1946/7

Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) T. G. G. COOPER, 4th/7th D.G., *p.s.c.*

28th May 1948 – 1949/50

Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) D. St. C. THOM, R.T.R., *p.s.c.*

Brigadier, Royal Artillery – (B.R.A.)

17 July 1939 – 24 October 1939

Brigadier (Temporary) William Edmonstone DUNCAN, C.V.O., D.S.O., M.C.*, *p.s.c.*

25 October 1939 – 21 April 1940

[Brigadier \(Temporary\) Sidney Charles Manley ARCHIBALD, M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*](#)

22 April 1940 – 14 February 1941

[Honorary Brigadier Arthur Joseph Thomas FARFAN, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., retired pay.](#)

15th February 1941 – 30th June 1943

Brigadier (Temporary) William Edmonstone DUNCAN, C.V.O., D.S.O., M.C.*, *p.s.c.*

1st July 1943 – 1944

Brigadier (Temporary) E. G. EARLE, D.S.O., *p.s.c.*

4th May 1944 – 22nd April 1945

Brigadier (Temporary) George Travers NUGEE, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

23rd April 1945 – 2nd April 1946

Brigadier (Temporary) Gerald Knocker DIBB, C.B.E., M.C., *p.s.c.*

3rd April 1946 – 1946/7

Brigadier (Temporary) A. G. MATTHEW, C.B.E., D.S.O., R.A.

1st December 1947 – 1949/50

Brigadier (Temporary) J. M. S. PASLEY, C.B.E., M.V.O., G.

² Promoted Colonel on 29 September 1938.

Chief Engineer – (C.Eng.)

1938 – 3rd September 1939

Brigadier W. CAVE-BROWNE

4 September 1939 – 22 April 1940

Brigadier (Acting) Alexander MASON, M.C.

25th April 1940 – 3rd July 1940

Brigadier (Acting) H. W. TOMLINSON, retired pay (Reserve of Officers)

4th July 1940 – 25th July 1943

Brigadier (Temporary) John Eric CHIPPINDALL, C.B.E., M.C.

26th July 1943 – 27th July 1945

Brigadier (Temporary) Gilbert STREETEN, C.B.E., M.C.

28th July 1945 – 25th May 1946

Brigadier (Temporary) E. W. PERT, M.C.

26th May 1946 – 1946/7

Brigadier (Temporary) E. E. READ, C.B.E., M.C.

28th May 1948 – 1949/50

Brigadier (Temporary) A. B. D. EDWARDS, C.B.E., M.C.

Deputy Chief Engineer – (D.Ch.Eng.)

17th February 1939 – 3rd September 1939

Colonel Alexander MASON, M.C.

4 September 1939 – 1940

Colonel H. L. BINGAY, D.S.O., retired pay (Reserve of Officers)

4th July 1940 – 1942

Colonel H. W. TOMLINSON, retired pay (Reserve of Officers)

15th February 1941 – 1942

Colonel (Temporary) A. L. TOMLINSON, M.C., T.D., F.R.I.B.A., T.A. Reserve

25th March 1941 – 1942

Colonel (Temporary) R. C. R. STEVENSON, M.I.Mech.E., R.E.

25th March 1941 – 1942

Colonel (Acting) R. L. C. COLVILL, R.E.

12th August 1943 – 1944

Colonel Francis Edward ORANGE-BROMEHEAD, O.B.E.

10th September 1945 – 1946/7

Colonel (Temporary) G. H. H. LEE, R.E.

1st September 1947 – 1949/50

Colonel G. F. H. REID, O.B.E.

Chief Signal Officer – (C.S.O.)

15 August 1939 – 1940

Colonel R. H. R. NEALE, M.I.E.E.

1940 – 2nd January 1941

Colonel L. G. PHILLIPS, C.B.E., M.C.

3rd January 1941 – 8th May 1943

Brigadier (Acting 25/02/41) C. H. H. VULLIAMY, D.S.O., *p.s.c.*

9th May 1943 – 1944

Brigadier (Temporary) C. M. F. WHITE, C.B.E., D.S.O.

19th November 1943 – 1944

Brigadier (Temporary) E. J. MURPHY, C.B.E.

16th April 1945 – 1st July 1946

Brigadier (Temporary) J. P. CHARLESWORTH, O.B.E., R. Signals

2nd July 1946 – 1949/50

[Brigadier \(Temporary\) Reginald Herbert Ryrie STEWARD, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.*, M.C.](#)

Deputy Chief Signal Officer

4th February 1946 – 1947

Brigadier (Temporary) D. W. BURRIDGE, C.B.E., R.Signals, (s.c.)

Assistant Chaplain-General

1939 – 1940

Reverend J. H. McKEW, M.C., M.A., Chaplain to the Forces 1st Class

Assistant Director Supplies and Transport – (D.D.S.T.)6 December 1938 – 24 August 1939Colonel George King ARCHIBALD, D.S.O., A.M.I.Mech.E.³25th August 1939 – 1940

Colonel R. M. CAMPBELL, C.B.E., retired pay (Reserve of Officers)

Deputy Director Supplies and Transport – (D.D.S.T.)4th March 1940 – 9th July 1942

Brigadier (Temporary) R. M. CAMPBELL, C.B.E., Reserve of Officers

10th July 1942 – 1944

Brigadier (Temporary) A. F. St. C. COLLINS, C.B.E., M.C., A.M.I.Mech.E., R.A.S.C.

1944 – 1945

Brigadier A. de B. JENKINS, C.B.E.

8th January 1946 – 30th July 1946

Brigadier (Acting) G. B. HOLMES, C.B.E., R.A.S.C.

31st July 1946 – 1949/50

Brigadier (Temporary) W. T. F. EASSIE, C.B.E., D.S.O.

Assistant Director of Supplies and Transport5th September 1939 – 1940

Major General H. N. FOSTER, C.M.G., C.B.E., A.M.I.Mech.E, retired pay (Reserve of Officers)

21st March 1945 – 1946/7

Colonel D. W. BOILEAU

³ Promoted to the rank of Acting Brigadier on 2 September 1939 on being appointed Deputy Director of Supplies and Transport, British Expeditionary Force.

Deputy Director of Medical Services – (D.D.M.S.)

26th March 1937 – 1939

Major General J. W. L. SCOTT, D.S.O.

1939 – 1940

Major General Fitzgerald G. FITZGERALD, D.S.O., retired pay (Reserve of Officers)

February 1940 – November 1941

Temporary Brigadier Leopold Thomas POOLE, D.S.O., M.C., M.B.

26th March 1941 – 1944

Major General (Acting) S. W. KYLE, M.B., Retired Pay.

1st December 1944 – 1945

[Major General Oswald William McSHEEHY, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., M.B.](#)

1945 – 1947

Major General W. C. HARTGILL, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., K.H.S.

1947 – 1949

Major General William FOOT, C.B., M.C., M.B., K.H.P.

1949 – 1951

Major General Kenneth Alexander Macdonald TOMORY, C.B., O.B.E.

Assistant Director of Medical Services

1939 – 1940/1

Colonel G. A. BLAKE, M.B.

Consulting Physician

1943 – 1944

Major General A. G. BIGGAM, O.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P.

Consulting Surgeon

23rd October 1943 – 1944

Colonel (Acting) A. E. PORRITT, O.B.E., M.B., M.S., F.C.R.S., R.A.M.C.

1944 – 1945

Major General (Temporary) W. H. OGILVIE, M.D., F.R.C.S., R.A.M.C.

Assistant Director of Dental Services

1944 – 1945

Colonel H. L. McCALLUM.

5th October 1946 – 1946/7

Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) J. WREN, B.D.S., A.D. Corps

21st September 1945 – 1946

Colonel G. F. CHARLES, C.B.E.

1947 – 1949/50

Colonel J. WREN, B.D.S.

Assistant Director Ordnance Services – (D.D.O.S.)28th November 1939 – 1940

Colonel N. W. WINGATE-SAUL, retired pay

1939 – 1940Colonel S. G. LESLIE, O.B.E., *retired pay* (Reserve of Officers)**Deputy Director Ordnance Services – (D.D.O.S.)**10th October 1940 – May 1942

Brigadier (Temporary) A. F. B. HOPWOOD, A.M.I.Mech.E., R.A.O.C.

28th January 1942 – 11th November 1943

Brigadier (Temporary) Cecil Francis Tyssen HAIGH, M.C. *, R.A.O.C.

12th November 1943 – 1946

Brigadier (Temporary) H. R. SHILLINGTON, R.A.O.C.

6th May 1946 – 1946/7

Brigadier (Temporary) G. C. EVELEGH, C.B.E.

23rd May 1947 – 1949/50

Brigadier (Temporary) H. R. SHILLINGTON, o.

Chief Ordnance Mechanical Engineer6th September 1939 – 1940/1

Colonel (Acting) A. R. STAMFORD, D.S.O., M.I.Mech.E., R.A.O.C.

1940 – 1940

Brigadier (Temporary) John Donald WHITE, D.S.O., M.C., A.M.I.Mech.E.

Deputy Director Mechanical Engineering1st June 1942 – 11th June 1945

Brigadier (Temporary) A. F. B. HOPWOOD, A.M.I.Mech.E., R.A.O.C.

12th June 1945 – 1st September 1946

Brigadier (Temporary) J. ORR, C.B.E., B.Sc. (Eng), R.E.M.E.

2nd September 1946 – 1949

Brigadier (Temporary) Colin BULLARD, C.B.E., B.Eng., M.I.Mech.E., A.M.I.E.E.

Command Paymaster

1939 – 22 April 1940

Colonel E. E. E. TODD, O.B.E., R.A.P.C.

24th April 1940 – 10th August 1942

[Brigadier \(Acting\) William John How BILDERBECK, O.B.E., R.A.P.C.](#)

11th August 1942 – 10th November 1942

Colonel T. L. ROGERS, C.B.E., R.A.P.C.

11th November 1942 – 1946

Brigadier (Temporary) E. E. E. TODD, C.B.E., R.A.P.C.

28th January 1946 – 22nd April 1946

[Brigadier \(Acting\) Noel FORDE, R.A.P.C.⁴](#)

23rd April 1946 – 1946/7

Brigadier (Temporary) C. E. BEDNALL, O.B.E., M.C., R.A.P.C.

1st July 1948 – 1949/50

Brigadier (Temporary) R. W. HACKETT, R.A.P.C.

Deputy Assistant Director of Veterinary Services

1939 – 1940

Lieutenant Colonel J. J. M. SOUTER, O.B.E., R.A.V.C.

Deputy Director of Labour

14th August 1945 – 1946

Colonel (Acting) D. S. FRASER, D.S.O., R.A.C.

3rd June 1946 – 1946/7

Colonel (Acting) E. R. CULVERWELL, M.C., R.A.

Command Education Officer

1939 – 1940

Lieutenant Colonel R. INGLIS, D.S.O., B.Sc., A.E.C.

22nd December 1944 – 1945

Colonel (Temporary) J. LLOYD, B.A., A.E.C.

10th January 1946 – 23rd September 1946

Colonel (Acting) G. E. GUNNER, T.A. Reserve

24th September 1946 – 1946/7

Colonel (Temporary) C. A. WILSON, A.E.C.

1st April 1948 – 1949/50

Colonel (Temporary) A. E. WATTS, A.E.C.

⁴ Had been Command Paymaster of British Troops in China, and as such, had been incarcerated by the Japanese from 25 December 1941 until August 1945. Moved to Northern Command on 22 March 1946, so dates overlap.

Command Welfare Officer22nd December 1944 – 1945

Colonel J. W. COHEN, C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., T.D., (S.R.)

11th February 1946 – 1946/7Colonel William Oswald LAY, D.S.O., *p.s.c.*26th November 1947 – 1949/50

Colonel J. A. S. HOPKINS, D.S.O.

East Anglian Area

The Barracks, Hertford – Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Middlesex, Huntingdonshire, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

Area Commander

3 July 1939 – 5 June 1940

Colonel William Percy BUCKLEY, D.S.O., *p.s.c.*⁵

Assistant Director of Medical Services

1939 – 1940

Colonel A. DAWSON, O.B.E., M.B., *retired pay* (Reserve of Officers)

Headquarters Colchester Garrison

September 1939 – 1940

Colonel R. L. McCALL, D.S.O., M.C., *retired pay* (Reserve of Officers)

East Anglian District

June 1944 – June 1945

Major General (Temporary) Eric Charles HAYES, *p.s.c.*

June 1945 – August 1948

Major General Cyril Ernest Napier LOMAX, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. **, M.C.

1948 – 1950

Major General Maurice Somerville CHILTON,

⁵ Promoted Acting Brigadier on 1 September 1939 and Temporary Brigadier on the 1st March 1940.

East Central Area

28th July 1941 – 13th December 1941

Brigadier (Temporary) Llewilyn Arthur Augustus ALSTON, D.S.O., M.C.

14th December 1941 – 22nd February 1943

Major General Lionel Hugh Knightley FINCH, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., *p.s.c.*

23rd February 1943 – 30th November 1943

Major General (Temporary) Charles John WALLACE, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C.,

1st December 1943 – June 1944

Major General (Temporary) Eric Charles HAYES, *p.s.c.*

General Staff Officer 1st Grade

6th August 1941 – 1942/3

Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) G. W. PRESTON, R.E., *p.s.c.*

General Staff Officer 1st Grade – Home Guard

12th August 1941 – 1942/3

Colonel H. St. G. SCHOMBERG, D.S.O., retired pay (Reserve of Officers)

Colonel in charge of Administration

15th December 1941 – 19th April 1942

Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) Edward Gordon AUDLAND, M.C., R.A., *p.s.c.*

Assistant Director of Medical Services

1941 – 1942/3

Colonel (Temporary) J. A. L. WILSON, M.B., retired pay

Assistant Director of Ordnance Services

6th August 1941 – 1942/3

Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) G. R. THORNLEY, R.A.O.C.

Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire Sub-Area

16th December 1940 – 1942

Colonel Douglas Stewart DAVIDSON, D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*

Huntingdon, Bedford and Northampton Sub-Area

1941 – 1942

Colonel O. G. BODY, D.S.O., *p.s.c.*

Essex and Suffolk District

Area Commander

22nd June 1940 – 20th October 1941

Brigadier (Temporary) William Percy BUCKLEY, D.S.O., *p.s.c.*

21st October 1941 – 1943

Brigadier (Temporary) Guy St. George ROBINSON, D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*

1943 – June 1944

Major General (Acting) John Aldam AIZLEWOOD, M.C.*

Commanding Officer Suffolk Sub-Area

23rd December 1940 – 1942

Colonel R. A. P. GRANT, M.C. (S.E.L.) Indian Army

Commanding Officer Essex Sub-Area

16th December 1940 – 1942

Colonel (Acting) P. N. ANSTRUTHER, D.S.O., M.C., retired pay, *p.s.c.*

Commanding Officer Colchester Garrison

1941 – 1942

Colonel John Linnaeus FRENCH, T.D., T.A.

Harwich Garrison

Southend Garrison

Shoeburyness Garrison

Essex County Division

General Officer Commanding

18th February 1941 (Formed) – 7th October 1941 (Disbanded)

Major General John Hedley Thornton PRIESTMAN, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

Cambridge Area

19th June 1940 – 3rd May 1943

Brigadier (Temporary) John Arnold Atkinson GRIFFIN, D.S.O.

West Norfolk Sub-Area

28th July 1940 – 1942

Colonel M. D. JEPHSON, C.B.E., T.A., (Major retired pay)

Cambridge Sub-Area

1942

Vacant

1943 – 1944

Colonel John Bernard GAWTHORPE, C.B.E., T.D., T.A. (Major, retired pay) (Reserve of Officers)

Mid-Norfolk Sub-Area

28th July 1940 – 1942

Colonel W. B. MACKIE, M.C.

Chatham Area

Comprising area of North Kent (including Gravesend, Faversham, Detling), and area of Essex bordering the River Thames at Foulness Point (including Grays, Thurrock to Stanford-le-Hope)

Area Commander

1 September 1939 – 13 January 1941

Major General Arthur Alec GOSCHEN, C.B., D.S.O.** , retired pay (Reserve of Officers), *p.s.c.*

Home Counties Area

Comprising Woolwich, the county of Kent (except the land within Chatham Area), Sussex, and Surrey (less the land within Aldershot Command).

Area Commander

3 July 1939 – 4 February 1940

Brigadier (Temporary) Alastair Ian MacDOUGALL, D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*, A.D.C.

29 February 1940 – 18 December 1941

Brigadier (Acting) James Salter DAVENPORT, M.C., Beds & Herts R.

Assistant Director of Medical Services

1939 – 1940

Colonel J. J. D. ROCHE, M.B.

Headquarters Shorncliffe Garrison

Officer Commanding Troops

Headquarters Dover Garrison

Officer Commanding Troops

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