

## Salisbury Plain Area

### Regular Depots in the Area

The Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's)

– Devizes

### Regular Troops in the Area

8<sup>th</sup> Royal Tank Regiment (1)

9<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (2)

(H.Q., 19<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> Field Batteries, Royal Artillery)

12<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (3)

(6<sup>th</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> Field Battery, Royal Artillery)

3<sup>rd</sup> Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery (4)

(H.Q., 2<sup>nd</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Medium Batteries, Royal Artillery)

### Militia in the Area

2<sup>nd</sup> Field Depot, Royal Artillery

### Territorial Army Troops in the Area

## NOTES:

1. The Salisbury Plain Area was reformed in 1920 as part of Southern Command. It comprised all War Department land on or about Salisbury Plain, Salisbury, Trowbridge and Chisledon. The General Officer Commanding 3<sup>rd</sup> Division was also the commanding officer of the area. His headquarters were located at Bulford. In September 1939, a separate General Officer Commanding Salisbury Plain Area was appointed as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division mobilised and travelled to France to join the B.E.F..
2. This regiment was formed on 16 May 1938 and was based at Perham Down near Tidworth. In 1939, the unit came under command of the 1<sup>st</sup> Army Tank Brigade. The brigade was sent to France to join the B.E.F. in April 1940, but the 8<sup>th</sup> R.T.R. did not travel with the brigade as it had still not been equipped with sufficient tanks, nor was it adequately trained for operational deployment.
3. This regiment was based at Bulford. It had been formed in 1900 as the 9<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. The regiment joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in France in December 1939. It served later with the division in Madagascar, leaving the division in India. It then served with the 20<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Division in Burma for most of the 1944-45 campaign.
4. Based at Larkhill, this battery was part of the 12<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment. The regiment did not go to France, but was sent to Malta, arriving in April 1941. In March 1942, it left Malta and served with Middle East Forces, being converted to a medium regiment November 1943, being redesignated as the:  
**17<sup>th</sup> Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery**
5. Also based at Larkhill, this regiment was formed as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Medium Brigade, Royal Garrison Artillery. It mobilised and travelled to France to join the British Expeditionary Force in October 1939. It came under command of I Corps. After evacuation from France, the regiment remained in the U.K. until leaving for the Middle East in May 1943. It later served in North Africa and Italy.

## SOURCES:

**Orders of Battle Second World War 1939-1945**

Prepared by Lieut-Col H. F. JOSLEN

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