Southern Area (1)

Regular Depots in the Area

The Hampshire Regiment – Winchester
The Rifle Depot – Winchester

Regular Troops in the Area

1st Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery (2)
(H.Q., 1st/3rd & 5th/22nd Medium Batteries, Royal Artillery)

4th Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery (3)
(H.Q., 9th/13th & 14th/16th Medium Batteries, Royal Artillery)

Royal Artillery Fixed Defences, Southern Ports
(H.Q., Needles Fire Command, Culver Fire Command, Horse Sand Fire Command & Square Tower Fire Command, Royal Artillery)

The Hampshire Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery (4)
(H.Q., 153rd, 154th & 155th Batteries, Royal Artillery)

The Princess Beatrice’s (Isles of Wight Rifles) Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery (5)
(H.Q., 189th & 190th Batteries, Royal Artillery)

4th Fortress Company, Royal Engineers
19th Field Survey Company, Royal Engineers

Militia in the Area

7th Anti-Aircraft Depot, Royal Artillery
9th Anti-Aircraft Depot, Royal Artillery
19th Searchlight Depot, Royal Artillery
21st Searchlight Depot, Royal Artillery

Territorial Army Troops in the Area

Hampshire (Fortress), Royal Engineers
NOTES:

1. This area covered the county of Hampshire, with the exception of the parts of the county under command of the Salisbury Plain Area or Aldershot Command. The headquarters of the area was based in Salisbury.

2. This regiment was based at Portsmouth. It was formerly the 1st Medium Brigade, Royal Garrison Artillery. It left the United Kingdom in October 1939 to join the British Expeditionary Force (B.E.F.) in France. It was evacuated from France to the U.K., where the regiment was re-equipped. It sailed to India in May 1942 and served in Burma for the rest of the war.

3. Based at Fort Brockhurst, the 4th Medium Regiment was a Regular Army unit. It was formerly the 4th Medium Brigade, Royal Garrison Artillery. It also travelled to France in late 1939 and served with the B.E.F.. In October 1942 it joined the 1st Army and fought in Tunisia before moving to Italy where it remained until the end of the war.

4. It had been formed in 1924, and had its headquarters based in Southampton. The 153rd Battery was also based in Southampton, the 154th Battery based in Eastleigh, and the 155th Battery at Portsmouth.

5. This regiment was formerly the 8th (Princess Beatrice’s Isle of Wight Rifles) Bn. The Hampshire Regiment. In 1937, this battalion was converted to an artillery role, being redesignated as the: Princess Beatrice’s Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery. In July 1940, it was redesignated as the 530th (Princess Beatrice’s Isle of Wight Rifles) Coast Regiment, Royal Artillery. The regiment remained with Home Forces for the duration of the war and reformed as the 428th The Princess Beatrice’s (Isles of Wight Rifles) (Mixed) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery.

SOURCES:

Orders of Battle Second World War 1939-1945
Prepared by Lieut-Col H. F. JOSLEN
First Published by the H.M.S.O in 1960 Reprinted 1990 The London Stamp Exchange Ltd
[ISBN 0 948130 03 2]

British Southern Command on 3 September 1939
Available online at:
[Accessed 9th November 2011]