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SOUTHERN COMMAND HISTORY & PERSONNEL

A short history of the Southern Command, a static command in the United Kingdom. In addition, known details of the key appointments held between 1930 and 1950 are included.
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A Concise History of Southern Command (History & Personnel)**Version:** 1_1

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Southern Command

In 1920, Southern Command was reorganised following the Great War. It then comprised the:

- South Western Area (Cornwall, Devon and Somerset);
- Southern Area (Hampshire & Dorset);
- Salisbury Plain Area (Wiltshire)
- South Midland Area (Warwickshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire).

In the 1920's the South Western Area and Southern Area were merged to form the Wessex Area, and Wiltshire was transferred from the Salisbury Plain Area only later to be transferred back. The Headquarters of Southern Command were historically based in Portsmouth, but in 1901, they moved to Salisbury Plain. The Headquarters were located in what is now Lucknow Barracks in Tidworth, which opened in 1905. When the Command was reorganised following the Great War, it appears the Headquarters were moved into the city of Salisbury. In both the 1930 and 1938 Army List, the Headquarters are shown as being in Salisbury. The Headquarters of the 43rd (Wessex) Division were located at Langton House, Churchfields, Salisbury. This is now 21, Churchfields Road, Salisbury. When he was appointed as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Southern Command, the then Lieutenant General WAVELL lived at Government House in Churchfields, Salisbury. He used his study as an office, and it is believed that the Command Headquarters were located in the building adjacent to Government House. These buildings now form Number 26 to 29 Churchfields Road, Salisbury.

In 1940, with the outbreak of the Second World War, Wilton House, was requisitioned, which is just outside Salisbury to the west, and it became the new Command Headquarters. Several elements of the COSSAC planning team were located here, and key strategic meetings also took place here for the invasion of Normandy (Operation Overlord). The Pembroke Arms Hotel in the village of Wilton was requisitioned as the Officers' Mess for the Command Headquarters. After the war, land was purchased at Fugglestone St. Peter, adjacent to Wilton, on which were built new Army barracks. They became known as Erskine Barracks, and the Headquarters of Southern Command moved here in 1949. Later, in 1972, they became the Headquarters of U.K. Land Forces.

There was one Regular Army divisional formation stationed in Southern Command, namely the 3rd Division, which had its headquarters at Bulford. One of the division's three brigades was stationed on Salisbury Plain, another at Portsmouth and the third at Plymouth and Devonport. The General Officer Commanding the Salisbury Plain Area was also the General Officer Commanding 3rd Division. There were two Territorial Army divisional formations in Southern Command. The 43rd (Wessex) Division had its headquarters at Exeter until the mid-1930's, when it moved to Salisbury (see above). The General Officer Commanding the Wessex Area also held the appointment of G.O.C. 43rd (Wessex) Division. The other formation was the 48th (South Midland) Division, with its headquarters at Oxford. Again, the G.O.C. of the area was also the divisional commander.

In April 1939, the two Territorial Army formations both formed second-line divisions upon the expansion of the T.A.. The 48th Division simply formed a mirror image formation, the 61st Infantry Division; but the 43rd Division split on a geographical basis to form the 45th Infantry Division. The 48th Division was mobilised and sent to France to join the British Expeditionary Force in early 1940, but the other three formations remained in the United Kingdom until 1944.

At the outbreak of war, the embryonic 1st Armoured Division was based in Southern Command, having been formed in 1938 on Salisbury Plain. It moved to Eastern Command on 4 November 1939, but returned on 26 January 1940. It was deployed to France between 14 May and 16 June 1940, but again returned to Southern Command on its arrival back in the U.K. It transferred to Aldershot Command on 29 June 1940. At the outbreak of war loomed, in late August 1939, Southern Command was reorganised to form four Areas, with the Wessex Area was again split to form a South Western Area and Southern Area. A new Portsmouth Area was formed to assume control of Hampshire. This meant at the 3rd September 1939, Southern Command comprised:

- South Midland Area (Warwickshire, Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire (except Windsor), Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire);
- Salisbury Plan Area (part of Wiltshire);
- South Western Area (Cornwall, Devon and Somerset);
- Southern Area (Dorset and parts of Wiltshire);
- Portsmouth Area (Hampshire – except that part in Aldershot Command).

On 28 September 1940, the 6th Armoured Division moved to Southern Command from Northern Command where it had formed. It remained until the 24th February 1941 when it transferred to Eastern Command. On 28 February 1941, the South Western Area was designated as the Devon and Cornwall County Division. This was a static formation of three brigades intended for coastal defence against invasion. No 14 Infantry Training Centre was opened at Dorchester to train recruits for the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, Devonshire Regiment and Dorsetshire Regiment in January 1942. No. 15 I.T.C. at Gloucester provided for the Somerset Light Infantry, Gloucestershire Regiment and Wiltshire Regiment and No. 16 I.T.C. at Oxford for the Hampshire Regiment, and Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

With the invasion of North West Europe looming, some alterations were made in the districts within the command. With effect from 17 February 1944, a new Hampshire and Dorset District was formed to cover the two counties. On 15 December 1944, new districts were formed, namely:

- Aldershot and Hampshire District;
- Salisbury Plain District;
- Wiltshire & Dorset District;
- South Western District.

The Wiltshire & Dorset District did not survive long, being disbanded with Wiltshire becoming part of the Salisbury Plain District and Dorset the South Western District. This meant the command comprised the following districts:

- Aldershot District – Headquarters at Aldershot – parts of Hampshire, Berkshire and Surrey;
- Salisbury Plain District – Headquarters at Bulford – Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Wiltshire and Berkshire;
- South Western District – Headquarters at Taunton – Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Channel Islands.

Circa 1961, the Salisbury Plain District and South Western District merged, to be known as the 43rd (Wessex) District/Division. The headquarters of the merged district remained at Taunton. Responsibility for the county of Dorset transferred to Aldershot District.

There was further reorganisation in 1968 with the disbandment of Eastern Command, with Southern Command gaining the London District and Eastern District. The Aldershot District became known as the South East District and the 43rd (Wessex) District became known again as the South West District. Dorset found itself on the move again, transferring back to the South West District. On 1 April 1972, Southern Command was amalgamated with Northern Command, Western Command and Headquarters, Scotland, to form the United Kingdom Land Forces.

General Officer Commanding-in-Chief

26th April 1938 – 23rd July 1939

Lieutenant General Archibald WAVELL,

28th July 1939 – 31st August 1939

Lieutenant General Sir Alan Francis BROOKE, K.C.B., D.S.O., Col Comd't R.A., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

1st September 1939 – 25th June 1940

Lieutenant General Sir Bertie Drew FISHER, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Col 17th/21st L., retired pay (Reserve of Officers), *p.s.c.*

26th June 1940 – 20th July 1940

Lieutenant General Sir Alan Francis BROOKE, K.C.B., D.S.O., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

20th July 1940 – 15th December 1940

Lieutenant General Claude John Eyre AUCHINLECK, C.B., C.S.I., D.S.O., O.B.E., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*, Indian Army

15th December 1940 – 5th March 1942

Lieutenant General The Honourable Harold Rupert Leofric George ALEXANDER, C.B., C.S.I., D.S.O., M.C., Col 3rd/2nd Punjab R., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

9th March 1942 – 17th February 1944

Lieutenant General (Temporary) Henry Charles LOYD, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

18th March 1944 – 28th February 1945

Lieutenant General (Temporary) Sir William Duthie MORGAN, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*

19th March 1945 – 9th June 1945

Lieutenant General (Temporary) Sir Sidney Chevalier KIRKMAN, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., *p.s.c.*

13th June 1945 – June 1947

Lieutenant General Sir John Tredinnick CROCKER, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

21st July 1947 – 1949

Lieutenant General Sir John HARDING, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*

9th July 1949 – ??

Lieutenant General Ouvry Lindfield ROBERTS, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

Brigadier General Staff – (B.G.S.)

9th February 1936 – 1938

Temporary Brigadier James Syme DREW, D.S.O., M.C.

2nd September 1939 – 1940

Honorary Brigadier F. B. HURNDALL, M.C., Col 14th/20th H., retired pay (Reserve of Officers), *p.s.c.*

26th June 1940 – 27th October 1940

Brigadier (Temporary) Neil Methven RITCHIE, D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*¹

28th October 1940 – 1942

Brigadier (Temporary 28/11/40) S. COLLINGWOOD, M.C., *p.s.c.*

3rd February 1941 – 26th March 1942

Brigadier (Acting) Thomas John Willoughby WINTERTON, O.B.E., *p.s.c.*

19th November 1942 – 1943

Brigadier (Temporary) W. A. M. STAWELL, M.C., *p.s.c.*

22nd November 1943 – 1944

Brigadier (Acting) G. H. BOLSTER, O.B.E., *p.s.c.*

26th May 1944 – 1945

Brigadier (Temporary) John Mather KIRKMAN, C.B.E., *p.s.c.*

1945 – 28th August 1945

Brigadier (Temporary) Hugh Salusbury Kynaston MAINWARING, C.B.E., D.S.O., *p.s.c.*

29th August 1945 – 18th May 1947

Brigadier (Temporary) Cecil Bruce ROBERTSON, O.B.E., M.C., *p.s.c.*²

Chief of Staff

19th May 1947 – June 1948

Major General (Acting) Cecil Bruce ROBERTSON, C.B.E., M.C., *p.s.c.*³

Brigadier General Staff

2nd June 1947 – 1948

Brigadier (Temporary) R. H. BOWER, C.B.E., *p.s.c.*

1948 – 1949

Brigadier Peter ST. CLAIR-FORD, D.S.O.*

¹ Awarded the C.B.E. on 11 July 1940.

² Awarded the C.B.E. on 1 January 1946.

³ Awarded the C.B. on 10 June 1948 and retired on 19 August 1948

General Staff Officer 1st Grade, Staff Duties15th May 1944 – 19th July 1946

Lieutenant Colonel J. T. MILNER, Worc. R.

20th July 1946 – 1946/7

Brigadier (Temporary) R. F. JOHNSTONE, R. Scots.

General Staff Officer 1st Grade, Operations Section14th June 1940 – 1941Colonel (Temporary 04/11/40) H. R. HALL, D.S.O., M.C., R.A., *p.s.c.*15th July 1942 – 1943Lieutenant Colonel B. H. CHURCHILL, M.C., Manch. R., *p.s.c.***General Staff Officer 1st Grade Intelligence Section**23rd June 1941 – 1943Lieutenant Colonel J. M. F. CARTWRIGHT, R.A., *p.s.c.***General Staff Officer 1st Grade, Staff Duties and Training Section**22nd April 1942 – 1943Lieutenant Colonel E. P. DICKSON, R.E., *p.s.c.***General Staff Officer 1st Grade, Operations, Intelligence and Training Section**4th December 1945 – June 1946Brigadier (Temporary) Ralph Carson COONEY, D.S.O., O.B.E., Employed List, *p.s.c.*

Major General in charge of Administration

20th August 1939 – 20th April 1940

Major General Walter Pitts Hendy HILL, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., retired pay (Reserve of Officers)

20th April 1940 – 20th January 1941

Major General Ernest Ord LEWIN, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., retired pay (Reserve of Officers), *p.s.c.*

21st January 1941 – 14th April 1942

[Major General \(Acting\) John Gregson HALSTED, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., *p.s.c.*](#)

15th April 1942 – 13th October 1943

Major General (Acting) Arthur Arnhold Bullick DOWLER, *p.s.c.*

15th October 1943 – 18th June 1945

Major General (Temporary) Charles Harvey MILLER, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., *p.s.c.*

19th June 1945 – 31st October 1946

Major General (Temporary) C. A. WEST, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

1st November 1946 – 1947

Major General Alan Colquhoun DUFF, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., *p.s.c.*

Brigadier A/Q

11th June 1947 – 1948

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

Assistant Adjutant-General

24th April 1937 – 1940

Colonel E. G. GIDLEY-KITCHEN, *p.s.c.*

28th September 1940 – 1941

Colonel (Acting) H. P. SPARKS, M.C, Suffolk R., *p.s.c.*

21st January 1941 – 1943

Colonel C. A. L. BROWNLOW, D.S.O., *p.s.c.*

18th November 1943 – 1945

Lieutenant Colonel N. COLLINS, Loyal R.

7th December 1945 – 1947

Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) N. J. DARLING, M.C., General List.

1947 – 1948

Lieutenant Colonel H. Du P. FINCH, D.S.O., R. Berks R., (*s.c.*)

Assistant Quarter-Master-General26th October 1939 – 1941Lieutenant Colonel (Acting) J. T. GODFREY, R.E., *p.s.c.*18th April 1941 – 1945Colonel A. B. THOMSON, M.B.E., *p.s.c.*18th October 1946 – 1947Lieutenant Colonel E. H. ALLEN, The Buffs, *p.s.c.*1st October 1947 – 1948Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) R. G. F. FRISBY, D.S.O., M.C., R. Hampshire R., (*s.c.*)**Colonel Quarter-Master (Movement)**28th August 1944 – 1945

Colonel K. S. BINNY, The King's R.

Assistant Quarter-Master-General (Movement Control)17th August 1946 – 1948Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) P. F. METCALFE, Oxs & Bucks L.I., *p.s.c.***Commander, British Advisory Staff – Polish Resettlement Corps**16th August 1948 – 1948/9

Brigadier (Temporary) H. R. B. WATKINS, C.B.E., D.S.O.

Brigadier Royal Artillery1st September 1939 – 1941

Honorary Brigadier R. C. PRANCE, D.S.O., retired pay (Reserve of Officers)

10th March 1941 – 14th May 1942Brigadier (Temporary) John Kirkland McNAIR, *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*1st June 1942 – 15th June 1943Brigadier (Temporary) Robert STAVELEY, D.S.O., R.A., *p.s.c.*26th June 1943 – 6th March 1945

Brigadier (Temporary) John WEDDERBURN-MAXWELL, D.S.O., M.C., R.A.

7th March 1945 – 15th December 1946Brigadier (Temporary) Percy George CALVERT-JONES, D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*16th December 1946 – 30th November 19471st December 1947 – May 1951

Brigadier (Temporary) Herbert Clive PHIPPS, D.S.O.

Commander Fixed Defences26th February 1937 – 1941

Brigadier (Temporary) F. M. MONTRESOR, M.C., retired pay (Reserve of Officers)

Chief Engineer

4th September 1939 – 26th December 1940

Brigadier (Temporary) H. N. NORTH, D.S.O., retired pay, *A.D.C.*

27th December 1940 – 15th February 1943 (Died on Active Service)

Brigadier (Temporary) Percy William CLARK, C.B.E., D.S.O. *, M.C.

1st March 1943 – 30th November 1944

Brigadier (Temporary) Henry George PYNE, M.C.

1st December 1944 – 7th April 1946

Brigadier (Temporary) Arnold MINNIS, C.B.E.

8th April 1946 – 15th December 1946

Brigadier (Temporary) H. de L. PANET, C.B.E.

16th December 1946 – 1948/9

Brigadier (Temporary) J. S. W. STONE, C.B.E., M.C., *p.s.c.*

Deputy Chief Engineers

18th May 1936 – 1941

Colonel O. E. WYNNE, O.B.E., *p.s.c.*

26th May 1939 – 1941

Colonel J. C. P. TOSH, M.C.

6th November 1939 – 1941

Colonel (Acting) G. S. CASTLE, M.C., T.D., R. Signals

4th January 1940 – 5th September 1944

Colonel A. J. CRUIKSHANK, D.S.O., Reserve of Officers

15th July 1942 – 1943

Colonel K. D. YEARSLEY, M.C.

6th September 1944 – 1945

Colonel (Temporary) H. W. BLAKENEY, M.C., R.E.

11th June 1946 – 1947

Colonel R. E. WOOD.

1st December 1947 – 1948/9

Colonel P. A. CLAUSON, M.B.E.

Chief Signal Officer

1st September 1939 – 1940

Honorary Brigadier C. H. PRICKETT, D.S.O., retired pay (Reserve of Officers)

1st July 1940 – 1941

Colonel A. C. SYKES, C.B.E., D.S.O., A.M.I.E.E.

25th February 1941 – 1942

Brigadier (Acting) A. C. SYKES, C.B.E., D.S.O., A.M.I.E.E.

20th September 1942 – 1944

Brigadier (Acting) C. P. PRESCOT, M.A., A.M.Inst.C.E., Reserve of Officers

1st February 1945 – 1947

Brigadier (Temporary) C. K. THURSBY-PELHAM, C.B.E., M.C.

10th December 1946 – 1948/9

Brigadier (Acting) W. A. SCOTT, C.B.E., (*s.c.*)

Assistant Chaplain-General

6th June 1945 – 1948

Reverend W. T. BECKERSON, O.B.E., B.A., B.D., Chaplain to the Forces 1st Class, K.H.C.

Deputy Director of Supplies and Transport

4th September 1939 – 1941

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

1st November 1941 – 1942

Brigadier (Acting) T. J. R. LANGMAID, C.V.O., M.C.

7th November 1942 – 1st January 1944

Brigadier (Temporary) Lionel George HUMPHREYS, A.M.I.Mech.E.

2nd January 1944 – 11th October 1944

Brigadier (Temporary) R. J. O. DOWSE, A.M.I.Mech.E

12th October 1944 – 1948

Brigadier (Temporary) J. K. GILLESPIE, O.B.E.

Assistant Director of Supplies and Transport

30th November 1939 – 1940

Colonel A. GILLIBRAND, D.S.O., T.D., T.A.

23rd July 1940 – 1942

Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) W. S. SEYMOUR, R.A.S.C.

25th March 1942 – 1943

Lieutenant Colonel (Acting) H. J. BARTLETT, O.B.E., R.A.S.C.

10th April 1942 – 1943

Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) F. W. J. WHITE, R.A.S.C.

2nd May 1944 – 1948

Lieutenant Colonel (Acting) D. G. TURNER, M.B.E., E.R.E. List

24th May 1945 – 1947

Lieutenant Colonel R. W. CARROLL, O.B.E., A.M.I.Mech.E., R.A.S.C.

25th March 1947 – 1948

Lieutenant Colonel B. E. WITT, O.B.E., R.A.S.C.

Deputy Director of Medical Services

1939 – 1941

Major General F. CASEMENT, D.S.O., M.B., K.H.S.

1941 – 1945

Major General R. E. BARNESLEY, M.C., M.B.

1946 – 1948

[Major General Neil CANTLIE, C.B., M.C., F.C.R.S., K.H.P.](#)

Assistant Director of Medical Services

1946 – 1948

Colonel (Temporary 28/08/46) J. A. D. JOHNSTON, O.B.E., M.C., M.B., R.A.M.C.

Consulting Surgeon

23rd September 1941 – 1942

Colonel (Acting) Sir James M. S. WALTON, F.R.C.S., R.A.M.C.

12th August 1942 – 1943

Brigadier (Local) H. C. EDWARDS, M.B., F.R.C.S., R.A.M.C.

7th March 1944 – 1945

Brigadier (Local) C. DONALD, O.B.E., M.B., M.S., F.R.C.S., R.A.M.C.

Consulting Physician

1940 – 1941

Colonel (Temporary 08/03/40) H. L. TIDY, F.R.C.P., R.A.M.C.

1st March 1942 – 1945

Brigadier (Local) S. SMITH, M.B., F.R.C.P. K.H.P., R.A.M.C.

Assistant Director of Dental Services

9th September 1939 – 1940

Colonel A. B. AUSTIN, A.D. Corps

6th May 1940 – 1945

Colonel (Acting) R. J. CONDLE, A.D. Corps.

10th September 1946 – 1947

Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) T. D. CORKE, A.D. Corps.

10th January 1948 – 1948

Colonel G. ap G. JONES, K.H.D.S.

Assistant Director of Ordnance Services

3rd September 1939 – 9th July 1940

Colonel J. H. STONE, D.S.O., retired pay.

Deputy Director of Ordnance Services

10th July 1940 – 19th October 1942

Brigadier (Acting) Maurice Richard NEALE, C.B.E., M.C., R.A.O.C.

20th October 1942 – 23rd January 1945

Brigadier (Temporary) Cyril William BACON, O.B.E., R.A.O.C.

24th January 1945 – 9th February 1947

Brigadier (Temporary) Maurice Richard NEALE, C.B.E., M.C., R.A.O.C.

10th February 1947 – 1948

Brigadier (Acting) G. A. N. SWINEY, C.B.E., M.C.

Assistant Director of Ordnance Services

10th July 1940 – 18th October 1940

Colonel J. H. STONE, D.S.O., retired pay.

19th October 1940 – 1941

Colonel (Acting) H. C. JOEL, O.B.E., Reserve of Officers

Chief Ordnance Mechanical Engineer

1st September 1939 – 1940

Colonel W. H. ADAMS, O.B.E., M.I.Mech.E., retired pay (Reserve of Officers)

15th July 1941 – 1942

Colonel (Temporary) C. M. BOSTOCK, A.M.Inst.C.E., A.M.I.Mech.E., R.A.O.C.

Deputy Director of Mechanical Engineering

12th October 1942 – 1943

Brigadier (Temporary) E. R. ASH, A.M.I.Mech.E., R.E.M.E.

5th November 1943 – 15th January 1946

Brigadier (Acting) J. P. McLARE, M.Sc., M.I.E.E., R.E.M.E.

16th January 1946 – 1947

Colonel W. A. STACK, O.B.E., M.I.Mech.E., R.E.M.E.

1st January 1948 – 1948/9

Brigadier (Temporary) E. R. ASH, M.I.Mech.E., R.E.M.E.

Command Paymaster

2nd September 1939 – 1940

Colonel E. L. MALONE, Reserve of Officers

1940 – 1941

Lieutenant Colonel G. W. BROWNING, R.A.P.C.

1st May 1941 – 1944

Colonel H. GENGE-ANDREWS, R.A.P.C.

(Promoted Acting Brigadier 01/10/42)

14th December 1944 – 1945

Brigadier (Temporary) G. A. C. ORMESBY-JOHNSON, C.B.E., M.C., R.A.P.C.

11th June 1946 – 1947

Brigadier (Temporary) F. C. WILLIAMS, C.B.E., M.C., R.A.P.C.

24th July 1947 – 1948/9

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

Deputy Director of Labour

26th November 1940 – 1944

Colonel G. F. A. PIGOT-MOODIE, M.C., retired pay (Reserve of Officers)

22nd January 1945 – 1945

Colonel (Temporary) B. W. W. GOSTLING, O.B.E., M.C., Reserve of Officers

1st August 1945 – 1947

Colonel (Temporary) F. A. H. OWEN-LEWIS, O.B.E., P. Corps.

Command Education Officer

12th November 1940 – 1943

Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) A. C. T. WHITE, V.C., M.C., B.A., A.E.C.

(Promoted Acting Colonel 20/11/41)

23rd October 1943 – 1944

Colonel R. JONES, O.B.E., M.A.

12th January 1945 – 1948

Colonel (Temporary) F. WREN, M.B.E., A.E.C.

Command Welfare Officer

11th March 1941 – 1945

Lieutenant Sir Reginald KENNEDY-COX, General List.

(Promoted Acting Colonel 11/03/41)

1st April 1946 – 1947

Colonel G. W. A. PAINTER, D.S.O.

13th October 1947 – 1948

Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) H. G. G. NIVEN, O.B.E., R. Berks R., (s.c.)

Salisbury Plain Area

Area Commander

September 1939 – 4th December 1939

Major General Bernard Cyril FREYBERG, V.C., C.M.G., D.S.O.**, LL.D., *p.s.c.*, retired pay (Reserve of Officers)

18th December 1939 – 1940

Brigadier (Acting) G. J. P. St. CLAIR, D.S.O., *p.s.c.*

27th August 1940 – 1941

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

1941 – 1942

Major General R. P. PAKENHAM-WALSH, C.B., M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

12th April 1943 – 16th February 1944

Major General Henry Osborne CURTIS, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*

17th February 1944 – 1947

Major General Rufus Henry LAURIE, C.B., C.B.E., *p.s.c.*

1947 – 1948

Major General Edward Temple Leigh GURDON, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., *p.s.c.*

Assistant Adjutant and Quarter-Master-General

25th July 1939 – 1940

Brigadier (Acting 02/01/40) C. H. MILLER, *p.s.c.*

Colonel in charge of Administration

15th December 1941 – 1942

Lieutenant Colonel C. E. STRANACK, D.S.O., retired pay (Reserve of Officers)

Headquarters Bulford Garrison

23rd May 1940 – 1941

Colonel G. FLEMMING, O.B.E., M.C., T.A. (Major retired pay)

Headquarters Larkhill Garrison

1939 – 1942

Honorary Brigadier F. FIZGIBBON, D.S.O., retired pay (Reserve of Officers)

Headquarters Tidworth Garrison

September 1939 – 1940

Colonel H. C. HAWTREY, C.M.G., D.S.O., retired pay, *p.s.c.*

Headquarters Corsham Garrison1941 – 1942

Colonel A. H. BURNS, C.I.E., O.B.E., retired Indian Army

North Wiltshire Sub-Area**Officer Commanding**10th October 1941 – 1942

Brigadier (Temporary) J. M. HAMILTON, D.S.O.

South Wiltshire Sub-Area**Officer Commanding**1st February 1941 – 1942

Brigadier (Temporary) Gordon FLEMMING, O.B.E., M.C., T.A., Major retired pay.

South Midland Area

Area Commander

3rd July 1939 – 14th December 1941

Brigadier (Temporary 01/03/40) Hugh Tennent MacMULLEN, M.C.

District Commander

15th December 1941 – 7th June 1942

Major General (Acting) Hugh Tennent MacMULLEN, C.B.E., M.C.

8th June 1942 – 1944

Major General (Temporary) Leonard Arthur HAWES, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*

Colonel in charge of Administration

15th December 1941 – 1942

Colonel W. R. MEREDITH, C.B., D.S.O., Reserve of Officers, *p.s.c.*

Headquarters Birmingham Sub-Area

1939 – 1940

Colonel P. DOCKER, T.D., T.A.

Berkshire and Oxfordshire Sub-Area

8th December 1941 – 1942

Brigadier (Temporary) Charles Walter MASSY, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

Headquarters Shrivenham Garrison

8th May 1939 – 1940

Brigadier (Temporary) A. J. R. M. LESLIE, C.B.E.

Headquarters Bristol Garrison

1939 – 1940

Brevet Colonel R. R. FORBES, D.S.O., O.B.E., retired pay (Reserve of Officers)

South Western Area⁴

Area Commander

3rd January 1938 – 1940

Major General W. GREEN, C.B., D.S.O., *p.s.c.*

1940 – 23rd February 1941

Major General C. W. ALLFREY,

15th January 1943 – July 1944

Major General Herbert William Vansittart STEWART, C.B.E., D.S.O.

Assistant Adjutant and Quarter-Master-General

14th December 1939 – 1940

Colonel J. K. DUNLOP, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., T.A.

Headquarters Plymouth Garrison

Officer Commanding Troops

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⁴ On 28 February 1941, the Headquarters South West Area was redesignated as the Devon and Cornwall County Division and came under command of VIII Corps. Major General ALLFREY was appointed as the divisional commander on 24 February. This division was redesignated as the 77th Infantry Division on 1 December 1941. The South-Western Area was reformed on 15 January 1943 with the appointment of Major General STEWART.

Southern Area⁵

Area Commander

1st August 1939 – 23rd February 1941

Brigadier (Temporary) John Noel LUMLEY, M.C., *p.s.c.*

Headquarters Bovington Garrison

Officer Commanding Troops

1st May 1939 – 1941

Brigadier H. L. EVANS, M.C.

Headquarters Blandford Garrison

Officer Commanding Troops

9 February 1940 – 10 February 1943 (Died on Active Service)

Brigadier (Temporary) Harold Sealy WOODHOUSE, T.D., T.A.

Headquarters Winchester Garrison

Officer Commanding Troops

1939 – 1941

Colonel O. C. DOWNES, D.S.O., M.C., retired pay (Reserve of Officers)

Dorset County Division

24 February 1941 – 31 December 1941

Major General (Acting) Gerald Ion GARTLAN, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

⁵ On 24 February 1941, the Headquarters Dorset County Division was formed under the command of Major General G. I. GARTLAN. On 10 March, it took over the operational commitments of Southern Area, but did not assume command of the infantry brigades until 24 April. The division ceased to function on 24 November 1941, and formally disbanded on 31 December.

Portsmouth Area

Area Commander

30th August 1939 – 19th April 1940

Major General Ernest Ord LEWIN, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., retired pay (Reserve of Officers), *p.s.c.*

20th April 1940 – 1942

Major General (Acting) E. D. H. TOLLEMACHE, D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*, *A.D.C.*

Headquarters Southampton Garrison

8th September 1939 – 1940

Brigadier (Temporary) E. D. H. TOLLEMACHE, D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*, *A.D.C.*

20th April 1940 – 1941

Brigadier (Acting) W. T. HODGSON, D.S.O., M.C., retired pay (Reserve of Officers)

Headquarters Portsmouth Garrison

September 1939 – 1940

Brigadier (Temporary) C. St. Q. O. FULLBROOK-LEGGATT, D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*

15th May 1940 – 1941

Honorary Brigadier R. T. HAMMICK, D.S.O., retired pay (Reserve of Officers), *p.s.c.*

Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley

Officer Commanding

Colonel H. L. HOWELL, O.B.E., M.C., retired pay (Reserve of Officers)

Hampshire and Dorset District

General Officer Commanding

17th February 1944 – 14th December 1944

Major General Henry Osborne CURTIS, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*

General Officer Commanding Hampshire and Aldershot District

15th December 1944 – 1945

Major General Henry Osborne CURTIS, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*

1945 – 1946

Major General Robert Knox ROSS,

1946 – 1948

Major General Joseph Aloysius BAILLON, C.B.E., M.C.

Western Area

(by January 1942 Bristol and Somerset Area)

Area Commander

1st August 1939 – 1941

Brigadier (Temporary) J. N. LUMLEY, C.B.E., M.C., *p.s.c.*

3rd March 1941 – 30th March 1942

Brigadier (Temporary) John Atherton CHURCHILL, D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*, *A.D.C.*

Somerset Sub-Area

21st October 1940 – 30th June 1941

Colonel (Acting) W. R. STYLES, M.C., T.A.

1941 – 1942

Colonel C. P. J. LAYARD, M.C., retired pay (Reserve of Officers)

Headquarters Yeovil Garrison

Gloucester Sub-Area 1941

6th August 1940 – 1941

Colonel R. G. CHERRY, M.C.

1st July 1941 – 1942

Colonel (Temporary) W. R. STYLES, M.C., T.A. Res

City of Bristol and Avonmouth Sub-Area 1942

Officer Commanding

1941 – 1942

Colonel E. G. GIDLEY-KITCHEN, *p.s.c.*

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