

## London District <sup>(1)</sup>

### Regular Troops in the District

The Life Guards <sup>(2)</sup>

Royal Horse Guards <sup>(3)</sup>

'J' Battery, Royal Horse Artillery <sup>(4)</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. Grenadier Guards <sup>(5)</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Coldstream Guards <sup>(6)</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Irish Guards <sup>(7)</sup>

### Territorial Army Units in the District

26<sup>th</sup> (London) Air Defence Brigade <sup>(8)</sup>

51<sup>st</sup> (London) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery

(H.Q., 151<sup>st</sup> (London), 152<sup>nd</sup> (London) & 153<sup>rd</sup> (London) Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

52<sup>nd</sup> (London) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery

(H.Q., 154<sup>th</sup> (London), 155<sup>th</sup> (London) & 156<sup>th</sup> (Barking) Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

26<sup>th</sup> (London) Anti-Aircraft Battalion (London Electrical Engineers), Royal Engineers

26<sup>th</sup> (London) Air-Defence Brigade Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

27<sup>th</sup> (London) Air-Defence Brigade <sup>(9)</sup>

53<sup>rd</sup> (City of London) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery

(H.Q., 157<sup>th</sup> (City of London), 158<sup>th</sup> (City of London) & 159<sup>th</sup> (Lloyd's) (City of London) Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

54<sup>th</sup> (City of London) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery

(H.Q., 160<sup>th</sup> (City of London), 161<sup>st</sup> (City of London) & 162<sup>nd</sup> (City of London) Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

27<sup>th</sup> (London) Anti-Aircraft Battalion (London Electrical Engineers), Royal Engineers

27<sup>th</sup> Air-Defence Brigade Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

Unbrigaded Troops

- 11<sup>th</sup> (Honourable Artillery Company and City of London Yeomanry) Brigade,  
Royal Horse Artillery (10)  
(H.Q., 'A', 'B' & No.1 City of London (Yeomanry) Batteries, Royal Horse Artillery)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry (Middlesex Yeomanry) Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals (11)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Divisional Detachment, Royal Army Ordnance Corps (12)

Supplementary Reserve Units in the District

- 102<sup>nd</sup> (London) Army Troops Company, Royal Engineers (13)  
No. 2 (Great Western) Railway Construction Company, Royal Engineers (14)  
No. 3 (Great Western) Railway Construction Company, Royal Engineers (14)  
Headquarters, Railway Stores Group, Royal Engineers (14)  
No. 1 (Southern) Railway Stores Company, Royal Engineers (14)  
No. 1 (London) Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Corps Signals, Royal Corps of Signals (15)  
No. 1 (City of London) Company, Lines of Communication Signals (15)  
No. 1 (City of London) Base Signal Company, Lines of Communications Signals,  
Royal Corps of Signals (15)

## NOTES:

1. In 1939, the population of the United Kingdom was 47,762,000, excluding service personnel serving overseas, and merchant seaman. The population of London in the same year was 8,610,000, which constituted 18% of the total population of the entire U.K.. The population of London declined significantly during and after the Second World War, mainly due to the destruction of housing and the threat of air attack by aircraft and missiles. By 2015, the population of the inner London boroughs declined from 4,440,000 to 3,440,000, but the population of the outer boroughs increased by 24% to 5,190,000. This is the order of battle for the London District in 1930. The Guards units were deployed on ceremonial duties in and around London, very much as they are today.
2. One of the two Regular Army units of the Horse Guards, the Life Guards were based at Regent's Park Barracks, London. The regiment was formed on 21 May 1922 by the amalgamation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Life Guards and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Life Guards. It was initially designated as The Life Guards (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>), until June 1928, when the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> suffix was dropped. The 1<sup>st</sup> Life Guards were formed on 25 June 1788 as the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Life Guards with a troop of Horse Guards and a troop of Horse Grenadier Guards. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Life Guards was formed on the same date in the same manner. During the South African War, the 1<sup>st</sup> Life Guards contributed to the Household Cavalry Composite Regiment, and the same happened with the outbreak of the Great War. From 1922 until September 1939, the regiment was based in London. With the outbreak of the Second World War, the Life Guards, and the Royal Horse Guards formed the Household Cavalry Composite Regiment, which was an armoured car unit, and the Household Cavalry Training Regiment. The regiments separated in July 1945, but they were amalgamated again on 19 October 1992.
3. The Royal Horse Guards (The Blues) were based at Windsor. The regiment was formed in August 1650 as the Regiment of Cuirassiers at Newcastle-upon-Tyne as part of the Parliamentary Army. Ten years later, the regiment transferred to the service of The King, as the Royal Regiment, but it was disbanded in December 1660. On 26 January 1661, the regiment was reformed with the creation of the British Regular Army as The Royal Regiment of Horse, where it ranked as the 1<sup>st</sup> Horse. It was also known as The Oxford Blues. In 1750, the regiment was redesignated as the Royal Horse Guards Blue, and in 1819, it was again retitled as The Royal Regiment of Horse Guards (The Blues). In 1827, the regiment was placed on the same footing as the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Life Guards, but ranked third, even though it pre-dated the other two regiments. In 1877, the title of the regiment was simplified to Royal Horse Guards (The Blues). In September 1939, it formed the Household Cavalry Composite Regiment and Household Cavalry Training Regiment with The Life Guards. On 23 March 1969, the Royal Horse Guards amalgamated with The Royal Dragoons (1<sup>st</sup> Dragoons) to form The Blues and Royals (Royal Horse Guards and 1<sup>st</sup> Dragoons).
4. This battery was based at St. John's Wood.
5. This battalion was based at Warley, Essex. This location was part of the London District, although located near Brentwood.
6. Based at Chelsea Barracks, this Regular Army battalion was deployed on ceremonial duties in London.
7. This battalion was deployed at the Tower of London on ceremonial and guarding duties at this location.

8. The headquarters of this air defence brigade were located at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea. The 51<sup>st</sup> A-A Brigade was also based at the Duke of York's Headquarters. The headquarters of the 52<sup>nd</sup> A-A Brigade were also based at the Duke of York's Headquarters, along with the 154<sup>th</sup> and 155<sup>th</sup> Batteries. The 156<sup>th</sup> Battery, however, was based at Ripple Lane, Barking. The 26<sup>th</sup> A-A Battalion was also based at the Duke of York's Headquarters.
9. This air defence brigade was also based at the Duke of York's Headquarters in Chelsea. The headquarters of the 53<sup>rd</sup> A-A Brigade and all three batteries were based at Lytton Grove, Putney, London SW15. The headquarters and all three batteries of the 54<sup>th</sup> A-A Brigade were also based at Lytton Grove. The 27<sup>th</sup> A-A Battalion was based at Rochester Row, London SW1.
10. This regiment combined two regiments. The headquarters of the brigade were located at Finsbury Barracks, City Road, London EC1. 'A' and 'B' Batteries of the H.A.C. were based at Armoury House, Finsbury, London EC1. The City of London Yeomanry (Rough Riders) Battery was based nearby at 130, Bunhill Row, London EC1.
11. In 1920, the 1<sup>st</sup> County of London Yeomanry (Middlesex, Duke of Cambridge's Hussars) was converted into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Divisional Signals. The unit was based at the Duke of York's Headquarters in Chelsea, London.
12. This unit was based at the Duke of York's headquarters at Chelsea.
13. Supplementary Reserve unit, this company was based at 10, Victoria Park Square, Bethnal Green, London. It was collocated with the 1<sup>st</sup> London Engineers.
14. These transportation units were part of the Supplementary Reserve. The two Great Western units were based at the Divisional Engineer's Office, Paddington Station, London W.2. The L.M. & S.R. company was based at the Locomotive Works, Bow, London. E.3.. The Headquarters Store Group and the Southern unit were based at the Southern Railway, 15, York Road, Lambeth, London S.E.1..
15. All these units of the Royal Corps of Signals were based at Signal House, 20, Atkins Road, Clapham Park, London S.W.12.