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A CONCISE HISTORY OF:

NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT (HISTORY & PERSONNEL)

A short history of the Northern Ireland District, and British Troops in Northern Ireland, 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 the Northern Ireland District (History & Personnel)

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Northern Ireland District

On 1 January 1801, the Act of Union bound the island of Ireland as part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. The great famine between 1845 until 1849 saw the population of the island fall by 30%, as one million Irish people died of starvation or disease, while another one and half million emigrated, mainly to the United States. From 1880 onwards, the Irish Parliamentary Party began arguing for land reforms and Home Rule. The Protestant community began organising from 1886 onwards and opposed Home Rule. The Third Home Rule Act was passed in 1914, but tension between the Protestant and Roman Catholic communities was close to open rebellion. The outbreak of the First World War suspended the implementation of the Home Rule Act. The Unionists, who were organised as a militia within Ulster to oppose Home Rule, formed the 36th (Ulster) Division, while the Catholic community joined the Irish Regiments that formed the 10th (Irish) and 16th (Irish) Divisions.

An armed insurrection began on 24 April 1916 in Dublin with the seizing of the General Post Office in O'Connell Street by Irishmen opposed to British rule. After a week of intense fighting, the British Army suppressed the uprising, with fifteen of the ringleaders being executed. There was general election in December 1918, in which the majority of Members of Parliament elected in Ireland were members of Sinn Fein, who refused to take up their seats in Westminster. They established a Irish Parliament called the Dail Eireann, and in January 1919, issued a Declaration of Independence.

The end of the uprising did not end the violence. In 1918, disturbances following an anti-conscription campaign resulted in the deaths of six people, with about one-thousand people arrested. There was severe rioting in Dublin on Armistice Day, 11 November 1918, that led to about one-hundred British soldiers being injured. The Irish Volunteers, as the men who were prepared to fight against British rule were known, began raids to secure arms. A Royal Irish Constabulary (R.I.C.) policeman was killed and the R.I.C. barracks in Kerry were burnt out. In July 1918, Volunteers ambushed two R.I.C. police officers, one of whom was shot in the neck and the second beaten. Their carbines and ammunition were stolen. On 21 January 1919, in County Tipperary, the Irish Volunteers, now styled the Irish Republican Army (I.R.A.), attacked and shot two R.I.C. Constables escorting some explosives. This incident is generally seen as the opening of the Irish War of Independence which was to last another two years and five months.

A state within a state was steadily established within the Roman Catholic dominated provinces of Ireland, and although violence was low, the Royal Irish Constabulary became a particular target for the members of the I.R.A.. Although the R.I.C. was recruited from the Irish Roman Catholic population, it was seen by its opponents as an arm of the British state and repression. The Dail introduced a policy of ostracization of the R.I.C. on 11 April 1919, which meant that members were unable to buy food or leave their barracks without fear of attack or ridicule. Strikes grew in frequency, and in May 1920, dock workers in Dublin refused to handle any military supplies.

By 1920, the R.I.C. had effectively withdrawn from rural areas into towns, leaving the I.R.A. to dominate these places with their own form of justice. The British court system collapsed, and the Inland Revenue also collapsed as people refused to co-operate with the system.

After a soldier in the King's Shropshire Light Infantry was killed by the I.R.A. when they attacked a church parade on 7 September 1919, the British troops retaliated by looting and burning businesses in the town. The British instituted raids on homes, and arrested suspects for various offences, but sadly, allegations arose of indiscriminate shootings and property being burned. In March 1920, the Sinn Fein Lord Mayor of Cork was killed by men with blackened faces who were seen to return to the local Police barracks. The local District Police Inspector was later tracked down and murdered in Lisburn, County Antrim, as this pattern of quasi-judicial killings and reprisals escalated.

Both sides developed intelligence organisations, with the Dublin Metropolitan Police setting up 'G' Division to subvert the republican movement. The members of 'G' Division became a specific target for the I.R.A., who also infiltrated the Police at many levels. Most I.R.A. activity was focused on Munster and Dublin, with only isolated activity elsewhere, with about three-thousand volunteers on active service at any one time.

The British recruited about seven thousand former soldiers into an Auxiliary force that became known as the 'Black and Tans'. Most came from English and Scottish cities and did not sympathise with the Republican movement. They were first deployed in March 1920, but soon formed a reputation for ill-discipline, and violent conduct. In July 1920, another body was formed by recruiting over two-thousand former British Army officers into the Auxiliary Division, otherwise known simply as the Auxiliaries, and they gained a similar reputation for reprisals. On 9 August 1920, the British Parliament passed the Restoration of Order in Ireland Act, which replaced trial by jury with courts-martial. On 10 December 1920, martial law was proclaimed in parts of Munster. It was extended in January 1921, and internment was introduced. Violence escalated from November 1920 and the Connaught Rangers based in India suffered a mutiny.

Some events had the effect of escalating the conflict. The Lord Mayor of Cork died on hunger strike in Brixton Prison in London in October 1920, while two I.R.A. men died on hunger strike in Cork Jail. On 21 November 1920, I.R.A. members killed fourteen British intelligence officers across Dublin in a coordinated series of attacks. In retaliation, members of the R.I.C. drove in trucks to Croke Park, the Gaelic football and hurling ground in Dublin, and shot into the crowd, killing fourteen and wounding sixty-five others. This event became known as 'Bloody Sunday'.

Over one-thousand people were to die up until a truce was arranged in July 1921 and the Dail declared war on Great Britain. Major confrontations took place between British troops and I.R.A. units, with the latter succeeding in inflicting significant losses on the British forces. The British also had some successes in ambushing I.R.A. active service units, including wiping out the Leitrim flying column at Selton Hill.

Often these events resulted in I.R.A. killing people they suspected on informing the British authorities. On 25 May 1921, several hundred men of the Dublin I.R.A. Brigade occupied and burned the Custom House, which functioned as the local government centre. Five I.R.A. men were killed and eighty captured, which crippled the Dublin Brigade. Neither the British nor the I.R.A. were capable of gaining ascendancy, but the British Government began to accept that the I.R.A. could not be defeated militarily. Sinn Fein now dominated the Parliament of Southern Ireland but did not take up their seats. Governance was therefore exercised by the Lord Lieutenant.

A truce was signed on 11 July 1921, with the conflict at a stalemate. Talks between the Dail and the British Government failed to find a solution to satisfy both sides. The British Prime Minister, David LLOYD-GEORGE remained insistent that the I.R.A. surrender their arms. Both sides were keen on an outcome, the British were finding that the security operations were costly in people and money, while the I.R.A. were short of arms and ammunition. The breakthrough is credited to King George V, General Jan SMUTS, the Prime Minister of South Africa, and David LLOYD-GEORGE. The King was dissatisfied with the behaviour of the Black and Tans, and the tone of his speech prepared for him on the opening of the new Parliament for Northern Ireland. SMUTS offered to draft some ideas on a compromise solution at the request of the King. LLOYD-GEORGE invited SMUTS to address the Cabinet, and the King's revised speech talking of reconciliation was well received.

Sinn Fein and the British Government agreed to terms on 9 July, and the new truce came into force on 11 July. Activity on the ground did not cease, with attacks on R.I.C. members continuing, and on Protestant families living in Southern Ireland. The Anglo-Irish Treaty was signed on 6 December 1921 and ratified by the Dail Eireann on 7 January 1922. Northern Ireland decided to opt out of the treaty, as it was permitted to do under the agreement, with an Irish Boundary Commission formed to decide on the border between the Irish Free State and Northern Ireland. In the end, places with a nationalist majority were incorporated into Northern Ireland, including contentious places such as the City of Londonderry (now called Derry). This led to violence between Republicans and Loyalists in Northern Ireland which has been a feature of the Province ever since.

The new agreement was not deemed acceptable to some more militant Irish republicans, with a group of anti-treaty I.R.A. men occupying several buildings in Dublin in April 1922. Civil war broke out in the Irish Free State (officially formed on 6 December 1922) between those who supported the treaty, and those who did not and wished to continue the conflict with the British Government. The civil war came to a conclusion the following year with the defeat of the anti-treaty group.

In Northern Ireland, inter-sectarian rioting broke out in Derry in June 1920 that resulted in eighteen deaths. Loyalists marched on the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast in July 1920 and forced over seven-thousand Roman Catholic and left-wing Protestant workers from their jobs. Rioting erupted in Belfast with many people of either faith or community being forced from their homes. There was a lull in violence in early 1921, but violence resumed in April.

In July, following an I.R.A. ambush on British troops in Raglan Street, Belfast, rioting broke out that led to the deaths of sixteen Roman Catholics and two-hundred and sixteen homes burned out. In Northern Ireland, the Ulster Volunteer Force (U.V.F.) came into prominence, with members joining the Ulster Special Constabulary, known as the 'B' Specials. Even with the truce taking effect in Southern Ireland, there was no cessation of violence in Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland was now ingrained in the cycle of action followed by reaction. In March 1922, sixty people died in Belfast, including six members of the Roman Catholic McMAHON family by the 'B' Specials.

The West Belfast Unionist Member of Parliament, William TWADDELL was murdered in May 1922, which led to the arrest of about three-hundred and fifty I.R.A. members. In June, the British forces used artillery to drive an I.R.A. unit from the village of Pettigo. More people died in sectarian violence in Belfast in particular, with many Roman Catholic families leaving the city for Dublin or Glasgow. The I.R.A. also began targeting Protestant civilians. As matters settled down both in the North and South of Ireland, violence in Northern Ireland steadily declined.

In October 1921, the strength of the British Army in Ireland was about 57,000 men, with the evacuation of British troops commencing on 12 January 1922. The R.I.C. disbanded on 31 August, to be replaced in the Irish Free State by the Gardai Siochana. By November, this was reduced to about 6,600 soldiers, mainly based in Dublin. The last act was the transfer of the Royal Barracks to the Irish Free State on 17 December 1922, with the British garrison embarking at Dublin port that evening to return to the mainland. With effect from 6 December 1922, the Irish Free State became a constitutional monarchy within the British Commonwealth. The U.K. appointed a Governor-General to represent the King. Many of the pro-treaty members of the I.R.A. joined the new Irish Army, which included men who had served with the Irish regiments of the British Army disbanded in 1922. The British supplied some arms and ammunition for the new Army.

The Government of the Irish Free State held a national plebiscite in July 1937 to seek ratification for a new constitution for Ireland. This was passed, and it came into force on 29 December 1937. The country now became known officially as Eire, and the office of President was established. The Governor-General's appointment had ceased in December 1936, but the state of Eire remained a constitutional monarchy and Dominion of the U.K. even though the President exercised the functions of head of state. After the war, Eire terminated its status as a Dominion of the U.K. on 18 April 1949, when the Republic of Ireland Act 1948 came into force.

In respect of the British Army presence in Ireland, in 1902, the Headquarters III Army Corps (Irish Command) was formed in Dublin Castle, Ireland. The Corps had under command three Districts, namely the:

- Dublin District,
- Cork District,
- Belfast District.

In February 1905, this Corps was upgraded to the status of a full Command. It now comprised:

- North Irish Coast Defences,
- South Irish Coast Defences,
- North Irish District (No. 11 District),
- South Irish District (No. 12 District).

With the upsurge of violence in 1916, the Headquarters moved to the Royal Hospital in Dublin, and later to Parkgate also in Dublin. In 1920, the Dublin District was reformed. On 6 December 1922, with the partition of Ireland, Irish Command was disbanded. The South Irish Coast Defences remained however, with No. 11 District reorganised as the Northern Ireland District was formed with its headquarters was based at Belfast. There were three Regular Army regiments with their depots located in the Province:

- The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers at Omagh,
- The Royal Ulster Rifles at Armagh,
- The Royal Irish Fusiliers (Princess Victoria's) at Omagh.

The role of Northern Ireland District was internal security and the defence of the Province. It was a Major General's command. With the outbreak of the Second World War, the establishment of the District was increased. This was achieved in the main by the use of retired officers from the Regular Army Reserve of Officers. The four Regular Army battalions stationed in Northern Ireland were all quickly posted away. They were replaced by the Territorial Army 53rd (Welsh) Infantry Division, which arrived in tranches between October 1939 and April 1940. The first contingent was the 158th Infantry Brigade with its three constituent battalions, plus the 2nd Bn. The Monmouthshire Regiment from the 160th Infantry Brigade. The units were deployed as follows:

- Headquarters 158th Infantry Brigade – Lisburn,
- 6th Bn. The Royal Welch Fusiliers – Lisburn,
- 160th (Welsh) Field Ambulance – Lisburn,
- 4th Bn. The Royal Welch Fusiliers – Belfast,
- 7th Bn. The Royal Welch Fusiliers – Londonderry,
- 2nd Bn. The Monmouthshire Regiment – Ballymena.

The rest of the 53rd Infantry Division had arrived by May 1940. With the arrival of the rest of the division, the Northern Ireland District was divided into four areas:

- Belfast (Headquarters 53rd Infantry Division),
- Northern Area – Londonderry (159th Infantry Brigade),
- Eastern Area – Lisburn (158th Infantry Brigade),
- Southern Area – Portadown (160th Infantry Brigade).

By April 1940, the whole of the 53rd Infantry Division was deployed to the Province. The 61st Infantry Division arrived on 20 June 1940, leading to a reorganisation of the areas as:

- Northern Area (61st Infantry Division),
- Southern Area (53rd Infantry Division).

With two field formations now deployed in the Province, on 12 July 1940 a new appointment was made as General Officer Commanding British Troops in Northern Ireland (B.T.N.I.), a Lieutenant General's position. The Headquarters, VI Corps was formed in the Province, however, the corps appears not to have functioned as an operational formation being absorbed by B.T.N.I.. The role of B.T.N.I. was to prepare for:

- Action against enemy forces invading Eire,
- Action to repel an enemy invasion of Northern Ireland,
- A combination of both of the above,
- Dealing with enemy raids on the coast,
- Action against the I.R.A.,
- Control of the Eire – Northern Ireland border.

Northern Ireland District remained in being to control non-field force units and depots in the Province. The 5th Infantry Division arrived in the Province in April 1941. Headquarters III Corps was sent to the Province in June 1941, to take command of the 5th and 53rd Infantry Divisions. The 53rd Infantry Division returned to the mainland in November 1941, and the 5th Infantry Division left in early 1942 to move to be deployed overseas. The 61st Infantry Division left Northern Ireland on 2 February 1943 to return to XI Corps District on the Mainland. Headquarters III Corps left the Province on 31 May 1942, to commence its move to Persia and Iraq. The 59th (Staffordshire) Infantry Division transferred from III Corps to B.T.N.I. on this date. This division remained in Northern Ireland until 19 March 1943 when it returned to the mainland.

The first U.S. Troops arrived at Belfast in January 1942. On 7 May 1942, Major General Russel P. HARTLE, assumes command of the U.S. Army Northern Ireland Force. In November 1942, most U.S. troops left Northern Ireland on being deployed on Operation Torch, the invasion of French North Africa. In autumn 1943, U.S. troop levels began to build again in Northern Ireland in anticipation of the invasion of France. Most American forces left in June 1944, with the last U.S. Army unit leaving on 7 July 1944 for France.

On 9 May 1943, the Headquarters B.T.N.I. was amalgamated with the Northern Ireland District to form one combined headquarters, which was located at Lisburn in County Antrim. This amalgamation arose because the threat from the Republic of Ireland has disappeared. On 21 December 1943, the H.Q. of the 55th Infantry Division arrived in the Province to come under command of B.T.N.I..

The divisional headquarters and two brigades returned to the mainland in July 1944, but the 199th Infantry Brigade remained under command of Northern Ireland District until June 1945, when it left to rejoin the rest of the division. In 1944, the areas disbanded and B.T.N.I. was downgraded back down to a District establishment.

After the Second World War, British Troops in Northern Ireland continued to exist as a District command within the United Kingdom. For the first time, Territorial Army units were recruited in Northern Ireland. In 1963, Northern Ireland was raised to the status of a command, and it became a Lieutenant General's appointment in response to the increasing tensions between the Roman Catholic and Protestant communities in the Province. With the upsurge in violence and terrorist attacks, when Lieutenant General Sir Ian FREELAND, K.C.B., D.S.O. was appointed on 9 July 1969, his post was entitled General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland and Director of Operations. In addition, during this period, a Major General was appointed as the Commander Land Forces and Deputy Director of Operations. In 2009, with the departure of Major General C. C. BROWN, C.B.E., the post of General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland was downgraded to that of a Brigadier, who now commands all the British Troops in the Province.

In 2011, there were two brigades stationed in Northern Ireland, the:

- 19th Light Brigade,
- 38th (Irish) Brigade.

The former is the deployable brigade currently stationed in Northern Ireland; and the latter is the Territorial Army regional brigade for the Province.

General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland District

1st July 1929 – 16th September 1931

Lieutenant General Arthur Grenfell WAUCHOPE, C.B., C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O.

17th September 1931 – 16th September 1935

Major General Eric Stanley GIRDWOOD, C.B., C.M.G.

17th September 1935 – 6th May 1938

Major General Sir William James Norman COOKE-COLLIS, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

7th May 1938 – 29th April 1940

Major General Robert Valentine POLLOCK, C.B.E., D.S.O.

29th April 1940 – 13th July 1940

Major General Hubert Jervoise HUDDLESTON, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., M.C., retired pay (Reserve of Officers)¹

14th July 1940 – 7th June 1941

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

7th June 1941 – 14th May 1943

Major General Vivian Henry Bruce MAJENDIE, C.B., D.S.O., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

General Officer Commanding British Troops in Northern Ireland

14th July 1940 – 30th September 1940

Lieutenant General (Acting) Hubert Jervoise HUDDLESTON, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., M.C., retired pay (Reserve of Officers)

1st October 1940 – 19th May 1941

Lieutenant General (Temporary) Sir Henry Royds POWNALL, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O.*, M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

19th May 1941 – 8th May 1943

Lieutenant General (Acting) Harold Edmund FRANKLYN, C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

General Officer Commanding, British Troops in Northern Ireland (Combined with N.I. District)

9th May 1943 – 28th July 1943

Lieutenant General Harold Edmund FRANKLYN, C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

29 July 1943 – 30 October 1944

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

General Officer Commanding, Northern Ireland District

1 November 1944 – 31 December 1947

Major General Gerald Corfield BUCKNALL, C.B., M.C.*, *p.s.c.*

1st January 1948 – July 1949

Major General Ouvry Lindfield ROBERTS, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., B.A., *p.s.c.*

9th July 1949 – 14th July 1952

Lieutenant General Sir Reginald Francis Stewart DENNING, K.B.E., C.B.,

¹ Promoted Local Lieutenant General on 20 June 1940.

Brigadier General Staff

14 October 1940 – 27 October 1941

Brigadier (Acting) Philip George Saxon GREGSON-ELLIS, O.B.E., Gren Gds, *p.s.c.*

General Staff Officer 1st Grade

2 September 1939 – 19 January 1941

Honorary Brigadier C. W. FRIZELL, D.S.O., M.C. retired pay Reserve of Officers.

20 January 1941 – 5 August 1941

Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) William Patrick Everard WALTON, N. Stafford R., *p.s.c.*

6 August 1941 – 1942

Lieutenant Colonel (Acting) E. N. K. ESTCOURT, R.A.

8 September 1942 – 1 February 1944

Colonel Francis Greville DREW, O.B.E., *p.s.c.*

2 February 1944 – 27 August 1945

Colonel (Local) The Honorable E. G. YOUNGER, O.B.E., T.D., A.& S.H. (T.A.), *p.s.c.*

28 August 1945 – 11 January 1946

Colonel (Local) I. H. GOOD, D.S.O., R.U.Rif, *p.s.c.*

12^h January 1946 – 1946/7

Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) C. A. I. SUTHER, O.B.E., Cheshire R., *p.s.c.*

General Staff Officer 2nd Grade – (G.S.O. II)

As at 1937

Major R. E. HOBDAY, D.S.O., Royal Irish Fusiliers, *p.s.c.*

4th February 1940 – 1941

Major R. A. CURRIES, R.A., *p.s.c.*

General Staff Officer 3rd Grade – (G.S.O. III)

Major E. D. CORKERY, M.C., Devonshire Regiment, *p.s.c.*

Colonel i/c Administration

2 September 1939 – 27 June 1940

Colonel R. E. HOLMES A' COURT, D.S.O., (S.C.), retired pay Reserve of Officers

28 June 1940 – 9 October 1940

Brigadier (Acting) Charles Joseph Edwards GREENWOOD, M.C., *p.s.c.*²

11 October 1940 – 4 April 1942

Colonel Alexander Vass ANDERSON, M.B.E., *p.s.c.*³

Deputy Adjutant and Quarter-Master-General – (D.A. & Q.M.G.)

5 April 1942 – 5 May 1942

Brigadier (Acting) Alexander Vass ANDERSON, M.B.E., *p.s.c.*

8 July 1942 – 14 May 1943

Brigadier (Temporary) Philip Sidney WHITCOMBE, O.B.E., *p.s.c.*

1 June 1943 – 16 May 1945

Brigadier (Temporary) George Stephen BRUNSKILL, C.B.E., M.C., *p.s.c.*

Brigadier i/c Administration

17th May 1945 – 1946/7

Brigadier (Temporary) J. W. KENNY, O.B.E., R.A., *p.s.c.*

Deputy Assistant Adjutant and Quarter-Master-General – (D.A.A. & Q.M.G.)

Captain E. M. TYLER, M.C., Royal Artillery, *p.s.c.*

Staff Captains

Captain G. M. F. PRYNNE, Border Regiment

Captain J. R. WATERS, Royal Artillery, *p.s.c.*

² GREENWOOD was awarded the C.B.E. on 11 July 1940 and reverted to the rank of Colonel on 21 July 1940

³ Post upgraded on 5 April 1942, see below.

Commander, Royal Artillery – (C.R.A.)

Colonel R. A. Western Command acts as C.R.A. Northern Ireland District

Brigadier Royal Artillery – (B.R.A.)

1 May 1943 – November 1944

Brigadier (Temporary) Alexander Allardyce MIDDLETON, R.A., g.

Chief Engineer

3 September 1939 – 26th October 1940

Colonel (Acting) G. de C. E. FINDLEY, M.C., retired pay Reserve of Officers

27th October 1940 – 23rd August 1942

Colonel Victor Edward Gwynne GUINNESS.

24th August 1942 – 30th April 1943

Colonel H. E. MOORE, D.S.O., M.C.

1st May 1943 – 14th May 1946

Colonel J. F. PHIPPS.

Commander Royal Engineers – (C.R.E.)

15th May 1946 – 1947

Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) R. le H. GULTON, R.E.

Deputy Chief Engineer

27th November 1940 – 30th April 1941

Colonel (Acting) J. F. PHIPPS, R.E.

30th December 1940 – 4th June 1941

Colonel (Acting) H. GENET, M.C., R.E.

5th June 1941 – 1942

Colonel (Acting) A. R. HILDEBRAND, R.E.

Chief Signal Officer – (C.S.O.)

31st July 1940 – 23rd July 1941

Lieutenant Colonel C. J. ASTON, M.C., retired pay Reserve of Officers

24th July 1941 – 1942

Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) E. M. COGAN-HARRIS, M.A., M.I.E.E., R. Signals.

1st May 1943 – 1944

Colonel (Acting) R. H. RAYNER, M.B.E., M.P., Reserve of Officers

19th June 1944 – 17th October 1945

Colonel (Acting) R. JEE, M.C., R.Signals.

18th October 1945 – 1946/7

Lieutenant Colonel (War Substantive) L. de M. THUILLIER, O.B.E., R.Signals.

Officer Commanding Royal Army Service Corps – (C.R.A.S.C.)

At 1937

Lieutenant Colonel H. A. C. GARDNER, Royal Army Service Corps

At 1938

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

Assistant Director of Supplies and Transport – (A.D.S.T.)

September 1939 – 12th July 1940

Lieutenant Colonel F. L. HEWSON, O.B.E., A.M.I.Mech.E. retired pay Reserve of Officers

13th July 1940 – 14th May 1942

Colonel R. M. AYLMER, retired pay Reserve of Officers

Deputy Director of Supplies and Transport – (D.D.S.T.)

15 May 1943 – 1944

[Colonel Eric Stuart WHITE, D.S.O.](#)

24th August 1944 – 1946

Colonel (Acting) J. T. FIELD, R.A.S.C.

Assistant Director of Medical Services – (A.D.M.S.)

As at 1937

Colonel A. L. FOSTER

As at April 1940

Colonel E. GIBBON, O.B.E., M.B., retired pay Reserve of Officers

27 July 1940 – 6 August 1941

[Colonel John Galbraith GILL, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., M.B.](#)

30th August 1941 – 1942

Colonel (Acting) D. S. MARTIN, M.B., R.A.M.C.

Deputy Director of Medical Services, British Troops in Northern Ireland.

30 June 1940 – 10 February 1941

Colonel David Turnbull RICHARDSON, M.C., M.B.⁴

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

May 1943 – 1944

Brigadier (Temporary) J. S. McCOMBE, D.S.O., M.B., retired pay Reserve of Officers

1944 – 11 August 1946

Brigadier (Temporary) R. R. G. ATKINS, O.B.E., M.C., M.D.

12th August 1946 – 1946/7

Colonel J. J. MAGNER, M.C., M.B.

⁴ Promoted Acting Brigadier in role on 6 August 1940.

Deputy Assistant Director of Hygiene and Pathology

Major J. R. HAYMAN, Royal Army Medical Corps

Deputy Assistant Director of Ordnance Services – (D.A.D.O.S.)

As at 1937

Major B. E. A. O'REILLY, M.C., Royal Army Ordnance Corps

14th December 1939 – 16th July 1941

Lieutenant Colonel (acting) Leslie Cuthbert TURNBULL, R.A.O.C.

17th July 1941 – 1942

Lieutenant Colonel (Acting) W. KIRKBRIDGE, R.A.O.C.

Assistant Director of Ordnance Services (O)

1941 – 4 May 1942

Lieutenant Colonel J. M. DICKSON, B.Sc., M.I.Mech.E., R.A.O.C.

19th April 1942 – 4th May 1943

Lieutenant Colonel N. A. LEE, T.D., R.A.O.C. (T.A.)

Deputy Director of Ordnance Services

5 May 1943 – 22 October 1944

Colonel (Temporary) George Christopher Hamilton HERON, O.B.E., R.A.O.C.

23 October 1944 – 1945/6

Colonel (Temporary) W. T. COBB, O.B.E., M.C., R.A.O.C.

Assistant Director of Ordnance Services

4 July 1946 – 1946/7

Lieutenant Colonel T. P. LILLY, O.B.E., R.A.O.C.

Assistant Director of Ordnance Services (E)

(Chief Ordnance Mechanical Engineer)

20 August 1940 – 27 March 1941

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

28 March 1941 – 19 May 1943

Lieutenant Colonel J. M. DICKSON, B.Sc., M.I.Mech.E, R.A.O.C.

Deputy Director of Mechanical Engineering

20 May 1943 – 1944

Colonel (Acting) J. M. DICKSON, B.Sc., M.I.Mech.E., R.A.O.C.⁵

18 June 1945 – 1946

Brigadier (Temporary) Leonard Hamilton HOWARD-JONES, C.B.E., B.Sc. (Eng), M.I.Mech.E., R.E.M.E. (T.A.)

Assistant Director of Mechanical Engineering

1946 – 1946/7

Lieutenant Colonel (War Substantive) L. H. HOWARD-JONES, O.B.E., B.Sc. (Eng), M.I.Mech.E., R.E.M.E. (T.A.)

District Paymaster

As at 1937

Lieutenant Colonel W. D. N. ROBOTHAM, Royal Army Pay Corps

12 December 1939 – 1940/1

Major R. L. L. INGPEN, R.A.P.C.

10 September 1940 – 12 October 1941

Lieutenant Colonel C. D. VINT, R.A.P.C.

13 October 1941 – 30 April 1943

Lieutenant Colonel A. S. R. HUGHES, R.A.P.C.

1 May 1943 – 1945/6

Lieutenant Colonel C. HOLMES, M.C., R.A.P.C.

1 March 1946 – 1946/7

Major (Temporary) R. T. NEAL, Captain Reserve of Officers, R.A.P.C.

Assistant Director of Dental Services

17 October 1941 – 1943

Colonel (Acting) Benson Edward GENTLEMAN, A.D.Corps.⁶

May 1943 – 1945/6

Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) John McLean FOREMAN, A.D.Corps.

20th July 1946 – 1946/7

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

Assistant Director of Labour

21 April 1941 – 1943

Lieutenant Colonel S. G. JOHNSON, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., retired pay Reserve of Officers

⁵ On 1 October 1943, he transferred to the new Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (R.E.M.E.).

⁶ Actually Assistant Director Dental Services Western Command, but covered the Northern Ireland District.

Command Welfare Officer

15 May 1943 – 1945/6

Colonel R. C. A. McCALMONT, C.V.O., D.S.O., retired pay.

BELFAST AREA

18 November 1940 – 13 February 1942

Brigadier (Temporary) Gilbert France WATSON, D.S.O., R.W.Fus, *p.s.c.*

NORTHERN AREA (G.O.C. 61st Infantry Division)

6 April 1941 – 10 September 1942

Major General (Acting) Charles St. Quentin Outen FULLBROOK-LEGGATT, D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*

SOUTHERN AREA

14 March 1941 – 1942

Colonel (Acting) W. T. H. GREGG, D.S.O., Retired Pay (Reserve of Officers)

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