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Appendix 8

ROC Group Headquarters in Town and Cities

ABERDEEN

Formed in 1939 as No 38 Group

Redesignated No 29 Group 1953

Locations

Old Infirmary Building, Woolmanhill, Aberdeen
1939 to 1961

Quarry Road, Northfield, Aberdeen 1961 to *In use*

Protected Accommodation opened May 15, 1961

Emergency Centre, Rosemount Church Hall

Controller

G. A. Williamson

Observer Group Officer

Colonel J. Simpson

Group Commandants

Observer Commander R. S. Pattison 1943 to 1945

Observer Commander Sir G. A. Williamson 1947 to
1950

Observer Commander J. Farquharson 1950 to 1955

Observer Commander J. Archibald 1955 to 1962

Observer Commander J. MacDonald MBE, MA
1963 to 1968

Observer Commander A. MacKenzie 1968 to *Serving*

Stand-Down Caretaker

Observer Lieutenant R. Leith

ABERDEEN A.M.F.

Formed 1940 as No 33 Group

Redesignated No 25 Group, 1953

Locations

Nile Court, Ayr 1940 to 1943

Masonic Hall, Ayr 1943 to 1945

Nile Court, Ayr 1947 to 1951

Bellrock Avenue, Prestwick 1951 to 1962

Monkswell House, 17 Waterloo Road, Prestwick
1962 to *In use*

Protected Accommodation opened 1962

Emergency Centre, Academy Hall, Ayr

Controller

Alex McHarg

Observer Group Officer

James Reid Kay

Group Commandants

Observer Commander J. Kennedy 1943 to 1945

Observer Commander R. Broom 1947 to 1956

Observer Commander J. Whitesides 1956 to 1974

Observer Commander J. F. Graham 1974 to *Serving*

Stand-Down Caretaker

Observer Lieutenant H. McCall

Notes

Group non-operational from 1947 to 1951. Centre personnel continued synthetic training at Nile Court and travelled to Edinburgh for exercise participation throughout the period. Full Group status resumed with the move to Bellrock Avenue, Prestwick.

BEDFORD

Formed 1935 as No 12 Group

Redesignated No 7 Group 1953

Locations

GPO Telephone Exchange, Bedford 1935 to 1943

Days Lane, Biddenham, Bedford 1943 to *In use*

Protected Accommodation opened 1962

Emergency Centre, Montrose Hall, Harper Street,
Bedford

Controller

B. G. L. Perryman

Observer Group Officer

Major A. M. Dawes

Group Commandants

Observer Commander L. C. H. Fuller MBE 1943 to
1945

Observer Commander H. A. N. Tebbs MBE 1947 to
1965

Observer Commander J. Chilton 1965 to 1968

Observer Commander W. J. Gooden FRSH 1968 to

Serving

Stand-Down Caretaker

Observer Lieutenant J. Grimmer MBE

BELFAST

Formed 1953 as No 31 Group

Attack Warning Red

Lieutenant Colonel H. W. Herring MC 1928 to 1943
Observer Group Officer
Major J. Sandeford
Group Commandants
Observer Commander D. Miller MBE 1943 to 1945
Observer Commander J. R. Nixon MBE 1945 to 1961
Observer Commander E. G. J. W. Kent MBE 1961 to
Serving
Stand-Down Caretaker
Observer Lieutenant J. R. Nixon MBE

COVENTRY/RUGBY

Formed 1938 as No 5 Group
Redesignated No 8 Group, 1953
Locations
GPO, Hertford Street, Coventry 1938 to 1941
Broadwater, Earlsdon Avenue, Coventry 1941 to 1963
Lawford Heath, Rugby 1963 to *In use*
Protected Accommodation opened November 2, 1963
Controller H. Garlick
Observer Group Officer
Commander Graveney RN (Ret) 1938 to 1939
C. A. Lakin 1940 to 1943
Group Commandants
Observer Commander C. A. Lakin MBE 1943 to 1959
Observer Commander S. Wooley MBE 1960 to 1968
Observer Commander J. W. Chilton 1968 to 1970
Observer Commander B. Morris 1970 to *Serving*
Stand-Down Caretaker
Observer Lieutenant R. S. Palmer

DERBY

Formed 1937 as No 6 Group
Redesignated No 15 Group 1953
Locations
GPO Telephone Exchange, Derby 1937 to 1942
Highfields, The Broadway, Derby 1942 to 1961
Emergency Centre, Congregational Church Hall,
Victoria Street, Derby
Observer Group Officer
W. B. M. Fielden MC
Group Commandants
Observer Commander W. B. M. Fielden MC 1943 to
1945
Observer Commander H. G. Newman 1945 to 1950
Observer Commander F. Rodgers MBE 1950 to 1961
Stand-Down Caretaker
Observer Lieutenant F. Farnsworth
Notes
In 1953 re-organisation Group absorbed practically whole
territory that had hitherto formed No 11 Group,
Lincoln. Lincoln Group was disbanded but HQ premises,
at RAF Waddington, retained as a Secondary Training
Centre attached to Derby. In 1961, Protected

Accommodation for the Group opened at Fiskerton near
Lincoln. Group HQ transferred to Fiskerton and
premises at The Broadway, Derby, retained as a
Secondary Training Centre until 1968.

DUNDEE

Formed 1939 as No 37 Group
Redesignated No 28 Group, 1953
Locations
St Cuthberts Hall, Dundee 1939 to 1942
Craigiebarns, Dundee 1942 to *In use*
Emergency Centre - East Hall, St Andrews Church,
King St, Dundee
Protected Accommodation opened April 29, 1961
Controller
R. R. Overstone
Observer Group Officer
N. J. H. Goodchild
Group Commandants
Observer Commander N. J. H. Goodchild 1943 to
1947
Observer Commander J. R. L. Halley 1947 to 1958
Observer Commander A. J. S. Stewart DFC, MA
1959 to 1969
Observer Commander A. D. Douglas 1969 to *Serving*
Stand-Down Caretaker
Observer Lieutenant N. J. H. Goodchild
Note
Group absorbed the territory of former No 36 Group
Dunfermline in re-organisation of 1953.

DUNFERMLINE

Formed 1938 as No 36 Group
Locations
Ministry of Labour Building, Dunfermline 1938 to
1943
Victoria Works, Pilmuir Street, Dunfermline 1943 to
1945
RAF Petreavie Castle 1947 to 1953
Emergency Centre, Squash Racquet Court, Abbey
Park House, Dunfermline
Group Commandants
Observer Commander R. C. Blackwood MC 1943 to
1945
Observer Commander D. George 1947 to 1953
Stand-Down Caretaker
Observer Lieutenant D. George
Notes
Group disbanded in re-organisation of 1953. Major
Posts then attached to Dundee to form No 28 Group
Pitreavie Castle retained as Secondary Training Centre
until 1968.

Appendix 8

DURHAM

Formed 1937 as No 30 Group
Redesignated No 23 Group, 1953

Locations

GPO, Providence Row, Durham 1937 to 1951
The Sands, Durham 1951 to *In use*
Emergency Centre, Durham Castle
Protected Accommodation opened June 1961

Controller

E. G. Jones, MBE, MA

Observer Group Officer

Lieutenant Colonel F. H. Charlton, DSO

Group Commandants

Observer Commander F. H. Charlton DSO 1943 to 1945

Observer Commander R. V. Dickenson 1947 to 1948

Observer Commander R. L. Hay 1948 to 1953

Observer Commander T. W. Dobson MBE 1953 to 1973

Observer Commander K. Whitfield 1973 to *Serving*

Stand-Down Caretaker

Observer Lieutenant E. G. Jones MBE MA

Notes

Emergency Centre used operationally for a few months during 1943, while structural alterations to permit the mounting of a Long Range Board were undertaken at the Providence Row premises. In 1953 re-organisation Group absorbed some of the Posts from former Galashiels Group.

EDINBURGH

Formed 1947 with the transfer of No 31 Group
Headquarters from former location at Galashiels
Redesignated No 24 Group, 1953

Locations

14 Carleton Terrace, Edinburgh 1947 to 1962
RAF Turnhouse, Edinburgh 1962 to *In use*
Protected Accommodation opened October 1964

Group Commandants

Observer Commander R. C. Blackwood MC 1947 to 1949

Observer Commander I. R. Smith 1949 to 1954

Observer Commander G. B. Scott 1954 to 1965

Observer Commander J. W. R. White 1965 to 1973

Observer Commander W. M. Holmes MBE 1973 to *Serving*

Stand-Down Caretaker

Observer Lieutenant T. L. W. Stallibrass

EXETER

Formed 1940 as No 21 Group
Redesignated No 10 Group, 1953

Locations

"Speranza" (over GPO), High Street, Exeter 1940 to 1942

"Barnfield", Southernhay East, Exeter 1942 to 1945
GCI Station, RAF Exminster 1947 (*few months*)
Ex-RAF Sector Ops. Room, Poltimore Park, Exeter 1947 to 1961

Protected Accommodation, Poltimore Park, Exeter 1961 to *In use*

Emergency Centre, The Quay, Exeter (1942/43 only)

Observer Group Officer

J. Griffiths-Morgan, Barrister at Law

Group Commandants

Observer Commander L. P. R. L. Cooke 1943 to 1945

Observer Commander W. R. Snell MBE 1947 to 1954

Observer Commander R. H. G. Neville OBE, MC 1954 to 1957

Observer Commander F. C. Sturgiss OBE 1958 to 1971

Observer Commander K. G. Tyers BSc 1971 to *Serving*

Stand-Down Caretaker

Observer Lieutenant W. R. Snell MBE

Notes

During enemy raid on Exeter, May 3/4, 1942, former Centre at Speranza destroyed. Emergency Centre used operationally for nine months in 1942/43 while structural alterations to facilitate the installation of a Long Range Board in progress at Barnfield. Appointment of Group Commandant remained vacant from April 1957 to April 1958. The DGC Observer Lieutenant D. W. Egginton administered Group during this period.

GALASHIELS

Formed 1938 as No 31 Group
Closed, 1946 on transfer of Group Headquarters to Edinburgh

Location

Corn Exchange, Walker Street, Galashiels 1938 to 1945
Emergency Centre, Town Hall, Galashiels

Controller

T. Lees Esq

Observer Group Officer

Major R. C. Blackwood MC

Group Commandant

Observer Commander J. R. Dickenson 1943 to 1945

Stand-Down Caretaker

Observer Lieutenant T. L. W. Stallibrass

GLASGOW

Formed 1939 as No 34 Group
Redesignated No 26 Group, 1953
Closed 1962.

Locations

New Temperance House, Pitt Street, Glasgow 1939 to 1949

RAF Bishopbriggs, Glasgow 1949 to 1962

Emergency Centre - 89 Wellington Street, Glasgow

Attack Warning Red

Controller

Major R. B. Wharrie MC

Observer Group Officer

Sir Windham E. F. Carmichael-Anstruther Bart DSO,
DL, JP

Group Commandants

Observer Commander Sir Windham E. F. Carmichael-
Anstruther Bart DSO, DL, JP 1943 to 1944

Observer Commander J. Hartley 1944 to 1950

Observer Commander E. J. B. Irving 1950 to 1962

Stand-Down Caretakers

Observer Lieutenant R. C. Harrod 1945 to 1946

Observer Lieutenant Ian Murray 1946 to 1947

Note

Group disbanded 1962. Some of its territory absorbed by
No 25 Group, Ayr, remainder by No 27 Group, Oban.

GLOUCESTER

Formed 1937 as No 24 Group

Closed 1953

Locations

GPO Exchange, George Street, Gloucester 1937 to
1942

Northgate Mansions, Gloucester 1942 to 1953

Emergency Centre, Shire Hall (Basement), Gloucester

Controller

P. Hough Esq

Observer Group Officer

Flight Lieutenant B. E. Barwell

Group Commandant

Observer Commander C. H. Davey MBE 1943 to 1953

Stand-Down Caretaker

Observer Lieutenant P. Hough

Note

Group disbanded in re-organisation of 1953. Major part
absorbed into Bristol Group.

HORSHAM

Formed 1925 as No 2 Group

Locations

Attic of GPO, The Carfax, Horsham 1925 to 1929

"The Lindens", 11 North Street, Horsham (Centre at
TA Rifle Range) 1929 to 1938

TA Drill Hall, Denne Road, Horsham 1938 to *In use*

Protected Accommodation opened April 1962

Controller

H. T. Knott MBE

Observer Group Officer

Lieutenant Colonel W. G. Moore OBE

Group Commandants

Observer Commander W. G. Moore OBE 1943 to 1945

Observer Commander M. H. W. Smithers 1945 to 1955

Observer Commander J. N. Thompson MBE 1955 to
1959

Observer Commander T. W. Birch 1959 to 1964

Observer Commander W. S. Gardiner CB, OBE, DL
AFC 1964 to 1969

Observer Captain W. Rusby OBE 1969 to 1974

Observer Commander J. D. Ballington 1974 to *See*
Stand-Down Caretaker

Observer Lieutenant R. J. Phelps

Notes

Emergency Centre set up in The Masonic Hall, Denne
Road, Horsham, in late 1942 and used operationally
whilst premises capable of accommodating a Long R.
Board prepared at The Drill Hall.

INVERNESS

Formed 1939 as No 39 Group

Redesignated No 30 Group in 1953

Locations

Caledonian Hotel (Annex), Inverness 1939 to 1945

"Raigmore", Inverness 1947 to *In use*

Protected Accommodation opened December 13, 1947

Observer Group Officer

J. O. A. Fraser-MacKenzie Esq

Group Commandants

Observer Commander J. O. A. Fraser-MacKenzie MBE
1943 to 1945

Observer Commander E. E. Fresson OBE 1954 to 1956

Observer Commander C. E. Cagienard 1956 to 1957

Observer Commander D. S. Bell DFC, AFC 1957 to 1959

Serving

Stand-Down Caretaker

Observer Lieutenant J. W. Barnett

LANCASTER

Formed June 1939 as No 29 Group

Redesignated No 21 Group, 1953

Locations

Lancaster Castle 1939 to 1942

Bank Chambers, Church Street, Lancaster 1942 to 1947

Lancaster Castle 1947 to 1956

Willow Lane, Lancaster 1956 to 1961

Emergency Centre, Timms Cafe, Church Street,
Lancaster

Controller

H. Cross Esq

Observer Group Officer

Lieutenant Colonel L. I. Cowper OBE, DL

Group Commandants

Observer Commander L. I. Cowper OBE, DL 1943 to
1948

Observer Commander W. Wolfendale MC 1948 to 1949

Observer Commander E. B. Riley 1949 to 1961

Stand-Down Caretaker

Observer Lieutenant I. R. Smith

Attack Warning Red

Group Commandants

Observer Commander A. R. C. Huntingdon 1943 to 1945

Observer Commander J. B. Russell 1947 to 1961

Stand-Down Caretaker

Observer Lieutenant E. B. Michaelis

Notes

Group disbanded December 31, 1961. Territory merged with much of former No 21 Group, Lancaster, to form the new No 21 Group, Preston. Premises at Levenshulme retained as Secondary Training Centre until 1970.

NORWICH

Formed 1934 as No 16 Group

Redesignated No 6 Group, 1953

Locations

GPO, Dove Street, Norwich (Basement) 1934 to 1940

GPO (New Premises), St Andrews, Norwich 1940 to 1942

"Fairfield", Lime Tree Road, Norwich 1942 to 1947

RAF Old Catton (later renamed Chartwell Road)

Norwich 1947 to *In use*

Protected Accommodation opened September 27, 1961

Controller

C. F. Hill

Observer Group Officers

Colonel Kerrison 1934 to 1937

Colonel Jacob 1937 to 1939

C. G. Cooke 1939 to 1942

Group Commandants

Observer Commander C. F. Hill MBE 1943 to 1945

Observer Commander E. C. Reeve 1945 to 1952

Observer Commander C. F. Hill MBE 1952 to 1970

Observer Commander H. J. Teague 1970 to *Serving*

Stand-Down Caretaker

Observer Lieutenant T. Flack

Notes

From 1942 onwards St Andrews premises retained as Emergency Accommodation and used operationally in late 1942 after Main Cable to "Fairfield" had been damaged by enemy action. They were again used in 1943 while structural alterations to accommodate a Long Range Board were carried out at "Fairfield".

OBAN

Formed 1940 as No 35 Group

Redesignated No 27 Group, 1953

Closed 1973. Territory absorbed by No 30 Group, Inverness. Accommodation retained as comms. centre

Locations

Telephone Exchange, Drimvargie Terrace, Oban 1940 to 1945

Albany Street (Nissen Huts), Oban 1947 to 1962

North Connel, Argyll (ex-RAF Station) 1962 to 1973

Protected Accommodation opened May 26, 1962

Controller

C. A. MacAllister

Observer Group Officer

Major J. C. Struthers DSC

Group Commandants

Observer Commander J. C. Struthers DSC 194

1944

Observer Commander D. A. J. Boyle 1944 to

Observer Commander W. A. Nimmo 1947 to

Observer Commander V. W. Huntingdon 1955

Stand-Down Caretaker

Observer Lieutenant Wilson

OXFORD

Formed 1935 as No 4 Group

Redesignated No 3 Group, 1953

Protected Accommodation opened May 15, 1961

Locations

GPO Oxford 1935 to 1941

New Bodleian Library, Oxford 1941 to 1945

Drill Hall, North Way, Oxford 1947 to 1949

Woodstock Road, Wolvercote, Oxford 1949 to

Cowley Barracks, Oxford 1965 to *In use*

Controllers

H. Bennet 1935 to 1939

R. J. Hickmott 1939 to 1943

Observer Group Officers

Brigadier L. P. Collins CB, CSI, DSO, OBE 1942

Captain F. Gardiner MBE, MC, JP 1942 to 1945

Observer Commander F. Gardiner MBE, MC, 1943 to 1953

Observer Commander R. L. Crofton MBE, AF 1953 to 1959

Observer Commander D. N. James 1959 to 1961

Stand-Down Caretaker

Observer Lieutenant T. Dixon

PORTREE, Isle of Skye

Formed 1941 as No 40 Group

Closed 1945

Location

Skye Gathering Hall, Portree

Controller

Chief Woman Observer Flora MacDonald BE 1941 to 1945

OGO and later Group Commandant

Observer Lieutenant D. A. Donald

Notes

The Group consisted of five Posts and a small Post. Posts now form part of the Inverness Group.