

British Army Succession of Titles: Signals



Although the Royal Corps of Signals was established in the summer of 1920, its roots reach back to 1870 when the Royal Engineers formed the first dedicated unit: 'C' Telegraph Troop. Having been expanded and seeing action in the Anglo-Zulu War, in 1884 the Troop was now formed into the Telegraph Battalion Royal Engineers. Before the Great War, the word 'telegraph' was replaced with 'signal' and these signallers communicated via wireless sets and motorcycle despatch riders to great effect. Today, "the Royal Signals are leaders in IT, Cyber and Telecommunications, providing battle winning communications to every part of the Army" (Source: British Army).

As with the other resources in this series, the focus is on regiments. Depots and battalions are included only where they became or were later amalgamated into regiments.

| Interwar Years | WW2 | Late-1940s | 1950s | 1960s/70s | 1980s/90s | 2000s |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| 1st Divisional Signals (1920-46) | | 1st Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (1946-56; 1958/59) then 1st Signal Regiment (Divisional) (1959-60) | | 1st Signal Regiment (1960-65) then 1st Division HQ & Signal Regiment (1965-78) then 1st Armoured Division HQ & Signal Regiment (1978-93) | Lower Saxony Signal Regiment (1993) then 1st (UK) Armoured Division HQ & Signal Regiment (1993-2016) | 1 Signal Regiment (2016-present) 1 Sig Regt |
| 5th Divisional Signals (1920-47) | | | 5th Divisional Signal Regiment (1958/59) then 5th Signal Regiment (Divisional) (1959/60) | | | |
| 7th Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment (1940-58) | | | | | | |
| 2nd Divisional Signals (1920-46) | | 2nd Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (1947-59) then 2nd Signal Regiment (Divisional) (1959/60) | | 2nd Signal Regiment (1960-65) then 2nd Division HQ & Signal Regiment (1965-76) then 2nd Armoured Division HQ & Signal Regiment (1976-82) | 2nd Infantry Division HQ & Signal Regiment (1982-95) then 2nd Signal Regiment (CS) (1995) | 2 Signal Regiment (1995-present) 2 Sig Regt |
| Welsh Divisional Telegraph Company, Royal Engineers (1907-14) then 53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signal Company (1914-20) | 53rd (Welsh) Division Signal Regiment (1920-47) | 53rd (Welsh) Division Signal Regiment (1947-67) | | | | |
| 3rd Divisional Signals (1920-46) | | 3rd Infantry Division Signal Regiment (1946/47) | 3rd Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (1947-59) then 3rd Division Signal Regiment (1959/60) | 3rd Signal Regiment (1960-64) then 3rd Division HQ & Signal Regiment (1964-77) then 3rd Armoured Division HQ & Signal Regiment (1977-92) | 3rd (UK) Division HQ & Signal Regiment (1992-present) | 3 (UK) Div Sig Regt |
| 4th Divisional Signals (1920-47) | | | 4th Infantry Division Signal Regiment (1956-58) then 4th Division Signal Regiment (1958-60) | 4th Signal Regiment (Division) (1960) then 4th Signal Regiment (1960-65) then 4th Division HQ & Signal Regiment (1965-78) | 4th Armoured Division HQ & Signal Regiment (1978-93) | 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt |
| | 11th Armoured Divisional Signals (1941-46) | 11 Armoured Division Signal Regiment (1952-56) | | | | |



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|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| | 6th Airborne Divisional Signals (1943-46) | 6th Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment (1946-48) | 6th Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment (1952-58) | | | |
| | | 6th (Boys) Training Regiment (1949-57) | | Junior Leaders Regiment (1957-67) | Junior (26th) Signal Regiment (1975-85) | |
| | 'A' Signal Company, I Corps (1911-46) | 1st Corps District Signal Regiment (1946/47) | 1st Corps Signal Regiment (1957-59) then 7th Signal Regiment (Corps) (1959-62) | | 7th Signal Regiment (1962-2012) 7 Sig Regt | |
| 2 (Wireless) Company (1923-40) | No. 2 Special Wireless Group (1940-47) 2SWG | 2nd Wireless Regiment (1947-59) | 9th Signal Regiment (Radio) (1959-99) 9 Sig Regt | | | Joint Services Signal Unit, Cyprus (1999-present) JSSU Cyprus |
| 2 Special Wireless Company (1934-40) | | | | | | |
| | | | 5th Corps Signal Regiment (1951-56) then 90th Signal Regiment (Trials) (1956-58) | 30th Signal Regiment (Trials) (1959-65) | 30th Signal Regiment (1965-present) 30 Sig Regt | |
| | War Office Signal Regiment (1920-52) | | 2nd War Office Signal Regiment (1952-56) then UK Commonwealth Communication Army Network Signal Regiment (1956-59) | 14th Signal Regiment (1959-76) | | |
| | | 1st War Office Signal Regiment (1947-59) | | | 14th Signal Regiment (Electronic Warfare) (1977-present) 14 Sig Regt (EW) | |
| | 21 Army Group Signals (1943-45) | HQ BAOR Signals (1945) then No.1 HQ Signals (1945) then 2nd (Line of Communications) Signals (1945-48) then HQ BAOR Signal Regiment (1948-52) | HQ Northern Army Group Signal Regiment (1952/53) then 18th Army Group Signal Regiment (1953-59) | 10th Signal Regiment (Army Group) (1959-62) then 10th Signal Regiment (Eastern Command) (1964-68) then 10th Signal Regiment (Southern Command) (1968-83) | 10th Signal Regiment (UKLF Support) (1983-87) | 10th Signal Regiment (2002-present) 10 Sig Regt |
| | | | HQ BAOR Signal Regiment (1948-59) | 16 Signal Regiment (Line of Communications) (1959) then 16 Signal Regiment (BAOR) (1960) | | |
| | | | | | 16th Signal Regiment (1960-present) 16 Sig Regt | |

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|--|---|--|--|---|-----------|--|
| | 3rd Operators Training Battalion (1939-46) 3 OTB | 3rd Training Regiment (1947-59) then 23rd Signal Regiment (1959-61) | | 24th Signal Regiment (1961-70) 24 Sig Regt | | |
| 1st Training Battalion (1920-22) | 2nd Trades Training Battalion (1922-48) | 5th Training Regiment (1948-59) then 25th Signal Regiment (1959/60) | | | | |
| 2nd Training Battalion (1920-22) | | | | | | |
| 2nd Operators Training Battalion (1939-43) 2 OTB | | 2nd Operators Training Regiment (1943-46) 2 OTR | 4th Training Regiment (1946-59) then 24th Signal Regiment (1959-61) | 8th Signal Regiment (1959-94) 8 Sig Regt | | 11th (Royal School of Signals) Signal Regiment (1994-present) RSS or 11 (RSS) Sig Regt |
| 1st Operators Training Battalion (1939-43) 1 OTB | | 1st Operators Training Regiment (1943-47) then 1st Training Regiment (1947-59) | | | | |
| 1st General Trades Training Battalion (1939-46) | | 1st Trades Training Regiment (1946-59) | | | | |
| 1st Depot Battalion (1919-46) | | 1st Depot Regiment (1946-59) | 11th Signal Regiment (Depot) (1959-61) | 11th Signal Regiment (1961-94) 11 Sig Regt | | |
| | | 7th Selection Regiment (1948-51) | 7th Training Regiment (Selection) (1951-59) then 26th Signal Regiment (1959-61) | | | |
| 4 Company War Office Signals (1934-38) | 2 Company GHQ Signals (1938-40) then No 1 Special Wireless Group (1940-45) | No 1 Special Wireless Regiment (1945-47) | 1 Wireless Regiment (1947-59) | 13th Signal Regiment (Radio) (1959-67) then 13th Signal Regiment (1967-95) | | 13th Signal Regiment (2020-present) 13 Sig Regt |
| Egypt Command Signals | GHQ Signals, Middle East (1939-46) | 3rd GHQ Signal Regiment (1946-59) then 15th Signal Regiment (Middle East) (1959/60) | | 15th Signal Regiment (Cyprus) (1961-63 and 1965-67) | | 15th Signal Regiment (1990-present) 15 Sig Regt |
| | | Cyprus District Signal Regiment (1955-59) then 29th Signal Regiment (1959/62) 29 Sig Regt | | | | |
| | | 17th Gurkha Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (1953-59) | | 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment (1959-70) | | |

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|----------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|---|
| | | GHQ Allied Land Forces, South East Asia (ALFSEA) (1945-47) then GHQ Far East Land Forces Signal Regiment (1947-58) | Royal Signals Singapore Administrative Regiment (1958/59) | 18th Signal Regiment (1959-71) | | 18th (United Kingdom Special Forces) Signal Regiment (2005-present) 18 (UKSF) Sig Regt |
| | 19th Air Formation Signals (1943-46) | 19th Air Formation Signal Regiment (1946-59) | | 19th Signal Regiment (Air Formation) (1959-68) then 19th Signal Regiment (Air Support) (1968-71) | | |
| | 4th Air Formation Signals (1942-49) | 4th Air Formation Signal Regiment (1949-59) | | 20th Signal Regiment (Air Formation) (1959-62) | | |
| | 12th Air Formation Signals (1943-46) | 11th Air Formation Signals (1946-52) | 12th Air Formation Signal Regiment (1952-59) | 21st Signal Regiment (Air Formation) (1959-71) | 21 Signal Regiment (Air Support) (1971-2014) | 21 Signal Regiment (2014-22) then 21st Signal Regiment (Electronic Warfare) (2022-present) 21 EW Regt |
| | 11th Air Formation Signals (1943-46) | | 83 Group Air Formation Signal Squadron (1952-54) then 83 Group (12) Air Formation Signal Regiment (1954-58) | | | |
| | 15th Air Formation Signals (1945-47) | | 22nd Signal Regiment (Air Support) (1959-62) then 22nd Signal Regiment (1962-92) | | | 22nd Signal Regiment (2007-present) 22 Sig Regt |
| | | 40th Divisional Signal Regiment (1949/50) | Hong Kong Signal Regiment (1950-59) then 27th Signal Regiment (1959/60) | HQ Royal Signals, Hong Kong (1960-71) then 27th Signal Regiment (1971-76) 27 Sig Regt | | |
| | | | 4th Line of Communications Signal Regiment (1952-53) then 19th Army Group Signal Regiment (1953-59) | 28th Signal Regiment (Army Group) (1959-68) then 28th (British) Signal Regiment (Northern Army Group) (1968-93) 28 Sig Regt (NA Gp) | | |
| | | Gurkha Signals (1948/49) | Gurkha Royal Signals (1949-54) | Gurkha Signals (1954-77) | Queen's Gurkha Signals (1977-present) QG SIGNALS | |