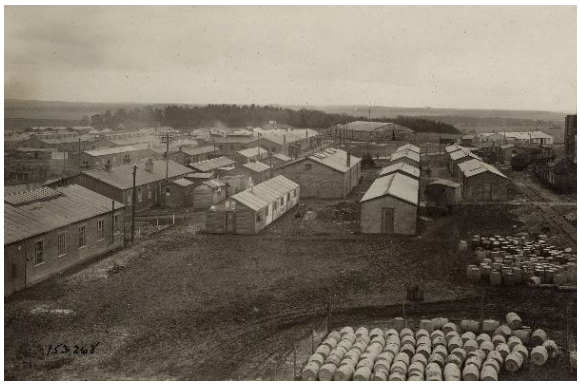
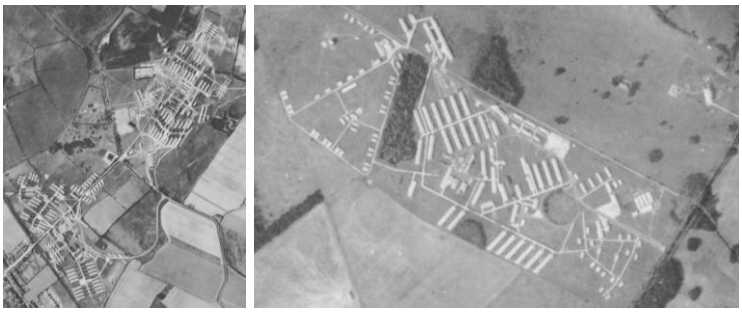
MILITARY BARRACKS AND CAMPS

Military barracks have long been established in towns and cities across the UK. Most barracks would include accommodation, canteens and messes, an armoury, and a parade ground. Barracks built for a particular regiment would also have specific buildings to suit their needs, such as stables for a cavalry barracks.

The onset of World War One (WWI) required additional camps to be established to accommodate the large number of troops enlisted. Both tented and hutted camps were established, often near training areas or existing military establishments.



Tented cavalry (top) and hutted infantry (bottom) camps, WWI



Temporary hutted camps, WWII

Military barracks block plans, post-WWII

During World War Two (WWII), additional accommodation for troops was again needed. As in WWI, camps were established near training areas, but also near defences such as Anti-Aircraft (AA) emplacements. Temporary camps were also established in the grounds of country houses requisitioned for the war effort.

After WWII, some camps were reused as Prisoner of War (PoW) and resettlement camps, whilst others were dismantled. Many military barracks and permanent camps continue in use as troop accommodation.

Hazard

Military barracks and camps would typically have an armoury and stores for Small Arms Ammunition (SAA) and Land Service Ammunition (LSA), such as grenades and mortars. The potential for munitions stored at a barracks or camp to have been spilled or disposed of locally cannot be discounted.

Some barracks and camps had firing ranges used by the troops stationed there. This can provide an elevated Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) hazard around the firing points and target butts from extended use.

An Unexploded Bomb (UXB) hazard may also exist at former barracks or camps as a result of enemy bombing.

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