

BFPO No **Location** **Date opened** **Date closed**

Northern Ireland

BFPO 801 Northern Ireland

Notes:

- (i) August 1969 resident British infantry battalions were called onto the streets of Londonderry and Belfast to relieve the hard pressed Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC); as the number of troops increased FPO facilities were introduced and the above BFPO address was initially brought into use.
- (ii) The **HQ 5th Division** moved to the Province in 1970 and became **HQ Land Forces Northern Ireland** at Lisburn. At the same time, the Province was divided into three brigade areas: **3rd Infantry Brigade** at Armagh, **8th Infantry Brigade** at Londonderry, and **39th Infantry Brigade** at Belfast (later Lisburn).
- (iii) Forces Post Offices were initially established in the following locations:

FPO S.302	Ballykelly	(Shackleton Barracks)
FPO S.303	Armagh	(Drumadd Barracks)
FPO S.305	Ballykinler	(Abercorn Barracks)
FPO S.306	Hollywood	(Palace Barracks)
FPO S.308	Aldergrove	(Alexander Barracks)
FPO S.310	Londonderry	(Ebrington Barracks)
FPO S.311	Lisburn	(Thiepval Barracks)
FPO S.314	Lurgan	(Kitchen Hill Factory)
FPO S.315	Omagh	(Lisanelly Barracks)

- (iv) The Supplement to the Post Office Gazette of 16 September 1970 "Guide to Overseas Christmas Post dates" (leaflet PL(B)3013/9/70) listed **BFPO 801** and showed the latest date of posting for all categories of mail (surface parcels; letters; Christmas cards and printed papers surface; and air, including parcels) to be 18 December 1970. There was no indication that the BFPO number was in the UK, other than an identical date for all categories of mail which was completely different and later than the other dates shown.

The Post Office Gazette of 11 November 1970 listed **BFPO 801** under "Christmas Arrangements 1970" for "The latest dates for the acceptance in UK of telegrams to British Forces postal addresses overseas to ensure delivery by Christmas Day are as follows" and showed 23 December 1970 for the address.
- (v) Defence Council Instruction (General) Temporary T75/72 dated 17 May 1972
[The National Archives DEFE73/76]

On 1 June 1972 **HQ Northern Ireland** located in Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn adopted the address **BFPO 825**. All other units, including those in Thiepval Barracks, retained the **BFPO 801** address (*see under BFPO 825 for further details*).
- (vi) Defence Council Instruction (General) Temporary T179/72 dated 13 December 1972
[The National Archives DEFE73/76]

Under the heading "Postal Addresses - Northern Ireland - Royal Navy and Army Units" the following detail was given:

"1. The following postal addresses are to be used for unclassified mail to Naval Units in Northern Ireland:

<u>BFPO No</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date opened</u>	<u>Date closed</u>
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[BFPO 801 cont'd]

Naval Liaison Officer, Northern Ireland, RN Aircraft Yard, Sydenham, BELFAST BT3 9EH	Officer-in-Charge, RN Unit, The MAIDSTONE BELFAST
Commanding Officer, Ulster Division, RNR, HMS CAROLINE Milewater Basin BELFAST BT3 9AD	Superintendent, RNAY, Sydenham, BELFAST BT3 9EH Officer-in-Charge, RN Unit The RAME HEAD BFPO 801

2. Classified Mail (Confidential to Top Secret) for Naval and Army Units must be addressed as follows:

- a. *From Overseas (Outer cover)*
Name of Unit
BFPO 801
- b. *From Great Britain (Outer cover) (Inner cover as at 2(a))*
Forces Courier Office,
Room 3, Northumberland House
WHITEHALL

3. Classified items will be delivered via the courier service to the nearest Forces Courier Office - to be collected.

4. Unclassified mail for Headquarters, Northern Ireland, should continue to be addressed to British Forces Post Office 825. Unclassified correspondence for all other Army formations and units in Northern Ireland should continue to be addressed to British Forces Post Office 801."

(vii) Defence Council Instruction (General) Temporary T131/73 dated 8 August 1973
[The National Archives DEFE73/78]

This drew attention to postal addresses used for Forces mail for units based in Northern Ireland and replaced DCI (General) Temporary T179/72 in Note (vi) above. This stated that

"1. All unclassified mail for RN units in Northern Ireland was to be addressed as follows:

Name of Unit
BFPO 801

Seagoing ships will continue to be addressed BFPO Ships.

2. Classified Mail (Confidential to Top Secret) for all Service establishments and units must be addressed as follows:

- a. From Overseas (Outer cover)
Name of Unit
BFPO 801
- b. From Great Britain (Outer cover) (Inner cover as at a)
Forces Courier Office
Room 3, Northumberland House
Whitehall

3. Classified items will be delivered via the courier service to the nearest courier office to be collected.

4. Unclassified mail for Headquarters, Northern Ireland, should continue to be addressed to BFPO 825. Unclassified correspondence for all other Army formations and units in Northern Ireland should continue to be addressed to BFPO 801."

<u>BFPO No</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date opened</u>	<u>Date closed</u>
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[BFPO 801 cont'd]

- (viii) Defence Council Instruction (General) Temporary T93/76 dated (?) September 1976 [introduced wef 1/9/1976]

From 1 September 1976 an additional nine BFPO indicator numbers were introduced for British Forces serving in Northern Ireland (BFPOs 802-809/811). The additional numbers reflected the geographical dispersal of unit locations and also helped speed up the distribution of mail. BFPO 801 remained in use for Lisburn and surrounding areas.

BFPO 801	LISBURN (no change)	BFPO 807	LONDONDERRY
BFPO 802	BALLYKELLY	BFPO 808	ALDERGROVE
BFPO 803	ARMAGH	BFPO 809	PORTADOWN
BFPO 804	OMAGH	BFPO 811	BESSBROOK
BFPO 805	BALLYKINLER	BFPO 825	HQ NORTHERN IRELAND
BFPO 806	HOLLYWOOD		(no change)

Note: The incorrect spelling of Hollywood (*sic* - *Hollywood*) which was repeated on some listings produced by the Directorate certainly in the later 1970s.

- (ix) Post Office Gazette of 25 August 1976 [introduced 1/9/1976 onwards]

The above Gazette introduced additional BFPO numbers (BFPOs 802-809/811) as from 1 September 1976 onwards as an amendment to the September 1975 Edition of the Post Office Guide. It was included with a note that "*The Forces air letter form can be sent free of postage to these destinations*".

- (x) **HQ 3rd Infantry Brigade** was reformed for service in Northern Ireland in 1972. Its area of responsibility contained the four Divisions of the Royal Ulster Constabulary's (RUC) South Region and the Armagh Roulement Battalion. It moved to Northern Ireland in February 1972, from which date **HQ 3rd Infantry Brigade** and South Area Regional Command was headquartered in the Kitchen Hill Factory in Lurgan until it moved to the Mahon Road Barracks in Portadown in January 1976; **FPO S.314** moved at the same time. In September 1981 the brigade was disbanded and its units divided between the other two brigades (**8th Infantry Brigade** and **39th Infantry Brigade**).

HQ 3rd Infantry Brigade reformed at Drumadd Barracks, Armagh on 1 July 1988. The brigade was disbanded again on 1 September 2004 and its former units divided once more between **8th Infantry Brigade** and **39th Infantry Brigade**.

Northern Ireland:	1 Sep 1976	C
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thiepval Bks, Lisburn • Belfast • Sydenham, East Belfast (HMS Gadwall) • Long Kesh Camp (The Maze) (HMP Maze) • HMS Maidstone 		

Notes:

- (i) **Thiepval Barracks**, Magheralave Road, LISBURN, Co Antrim BT28 3NP was the location of **HQ 39th Infantry Brigade** and Belfast Regional Command.
[Britain's Modern Army by Terry Gander (1995) Patrick Stephens Ltd]
[Brigade HQ: The Army List 1997 & 2000]
- (ii) **HMS Maidstone**, a former submarine depot ship laid down in 1936 and commissioned in 1938, arrived in Belfast, under tow as its engines had been removed, on 28 October 1969 and was initially refitted and re-commissioned as an accommodation ship for some 2,000 troops in Belfast. In 1971 it was used as a prison ship for detainees held without trial during **Operation DEMETRIUS** on 9-10 August 1971 and suspected of being involved with the Irish Republican Army (IRA); the detainees included Gerry Adams.

[BFPO 801 cont'd]

<u>BFPO No</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date opened</u>	<u>Date closed</u>
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On 23 May 1978 the *Maidstone* was broken up for scrap at the yard of Thos W Ward Ltd at Inverkeithing in Fife, Scotland.

[Wikipedia - HMS Maidstone: (Retrieved 28/8/2016)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Maidstone_\(1937\)\]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Maidstone_(1937))

- (iii) Sydenham in East Belfast: 21 June 1943 transferred from the RAF to the Royal Navy and commissioned as **HMS Gadwell**, an aircraft maintenance yard. On 1 May 1946 it became **HMS Gannet III**, a Royal Naval Air Station (RNAS).

The RAF assumed responsibility for the **Royal Navy Aircraft Yard Sydenham** on 2 July 1973. As from that date it was known as **RAF Sydenham**; the change was in line with the arrangements under which the RAF undertook the management and repair of fixed wing aircraft for all three Services. The civil address was RAF Sydenham, BELFAST BT3 9EL.

Defence Council Instruction (General) Temporary T110/73 dated 4 July 1973

[The National Archives DEFE73/78]

The airfield finally closed as a military base in 1978 when it then became Belfast City Airport.

- (iv) **RAF Long Kesh** was a RAF station at Maze, Lisburn from 1941 until 1971.

From 1971 the then disused RAF base became the **Long Kesh Detention Centre**. It was here that republicans were interned after 9 August 1971, when the security forces launched dawn raids and arrested 452 known or suspected members of the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

From 1976 these makeshift structures were abandoned in favour of the newly built H-Blocks in what became **Her Majesty's Prison (HMP) Maze** (this was known colloquially as the **Maze Prison, The Maze, The H Blocks** or **Long Kesh**). Its postal address was Bog Road, Lisburn BT27 5RF

The prison was closed in 2000 and demolition began on 30 October 2006.

- (v) **HQ 107th (Ulster) Brigade**, St Patrick's Barracks, BALLYMENA BT43 7AZ.

- (vi) On 15 December 2006 **HQ 107th (Ulster) Brigade**, based at Ballymena, merged with **HQ 39th Infantry Brigade** which was itself replaced by a new regional non-deployable brigade headquarters formed on 1 August 2007.

BFPO 802	Northern Ireland: Ballykelly, County Londonderry - Shackleton Barracks - HMP Magilligan, Limavady - Laurel Camp, Coleraine	1 Sep 1976	c.2008
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Notes:

- (i) Post Office Gazette dated 25 August 1976
[introduced 1 September 1976 onwards]
[Inland postage rates]

With the note that Forces air letter forms could be sent free of postage to BFPO 802-809 & 811 destinations.

- (ii) **Shackleton Barracks** was originally known as **RAF Ballykelly**; the last of the RAF Shackleton aircraft left RAF Ballykelly on 31 March 1971 and the base was handed over to the Army on 2 June 1972 when it reopened as Shackleton Barracks.

[Sandes - Soldiers' and Airmen's Centres - website:

[http://www.sandes.org.uk/news_detail.asp?id=13\]](http://www.sandes.org.uk/news_detail.asp?id=13)

<u>BFPO No</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date opened</u>	<u>Date closed</u>
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[BFPO 802 cont'd]

- (iii) In October 2003 **HQ 8th Infantry Brigade** moved from Ebrington Barracks, Londonderry (BFPO 807) to **Shackleton Barracks**, Ballykelly. However, the HQ disbanded and handed over its responsibilities to HQ 39 Brigade, Lisburn on 1 September 2006.
 [http://www.britishmilitaryzippos.com/royal-corps-of-signals.html]
 [Sandes - Soldiers' and Airmen's Centres - website:
http://www.sandes.org.uk/news_detail.asp?id=13]
- (iv) **Shackleton Barracks** closed in April 2008 when the resident infantry battalion, **2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment**, was scheduled to move out. The Barracks were handed over to the Northern Ireland Executive by the MOD in 2011.
 [http://en.academic.ru/dic.nsf/enwiki/511953]
 [http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-25969373] (Retrieved 28/8/2014)

BFPO 803	Northern Ireland: Armagh - Drumadd Barracks - Gough Barracks	1 Sep 1976	c.2007
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Notes:

- (i) Post Office Gazette dated 25 August 1976
 [introduced 1 September 1976 onwards]
 [Inland postage rates]
- With the note that Forces air letter forms could be sent free of postage to BFPO 802-809 & 811 destinations.

BFPO 804	Northern Ireland: Omagh, County Tyrone - Lisanelly Barracks - St Lucia Barracks	1 Sep 1976	c.2007
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- (i) Post Office Gazette dated 25 August 1976
 [introduced 1 September 1976 onwards]
 [Inland postage rates]
- With the note that Forces air letter forms could be sent free of postage to BFPO 802-809 & 811 destinations.

BFPO 805	Northern Ireland: Ballykinler, County Down - Abercorn Barracks	1 Sep 1976	C
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- (i) Post Office Gazette dated 25 August 1976
 [introduced 1 September 1976 onwards]
 [Inland postage rates]
- With the note that Forces air letter forms could be sent free of postage to BFPO 802-809 & 811 destinations.

<u>BFPO No</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date opened</u>	<u>Date closed</u>
BFPO 806	Northern Ireland: Holywood, County Down · Palace Barracks · Moscow Camp, Belfast · RAF Sydenham	1 Sep 1976	C

Notes:

- (i) Post Office Gazette dated 25 August 1976
[introduced 1 September 1976 onwards]
[Inland postage rates]
With the note that Forces air letter forms could be sent free of postage to BFPO 802-809 & 811 destinations.
- (ii) **Moscow Camp** was the location of **Senior Naval Officer Northern Ireland** (SNONI).
- (iii) **RAF Sydenham** closed as a military base in April 1978 when it then became Belfast City Airport.
- (iv) **Palace Barracks**, HOLYWOOD BT18 9RA was the Headquarters for **152 (Ulster) Transport Regiment RLC(V)**.

BFPO 807	Northern Ireland: Londonderry · Ebrington Barracks · Bishops Gate (Masonic Hall) Barracks · HMS Sea Eagle (Royal Naval shore base)	1 Sep 1976	22 Nov 2003
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Notes:

- (i) Post Office Gazette dated 25 August 1976
[introduced 1 September 1976 onwards]
[Inland postage rates]
With the note that Forces air letter forms could be sent free of postage to BFPO 802-809 & 811 destinations.
- (ii) **Ebrington Barracks**: The Barracks were named after Lord Ebrington, the then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and were built between 1839 and 1841 on a site overlooking the River Foyle. They were the location of **HQ 8th Infantry Brigade** and North Area Regional Command. However, in October 2003 Brigade HQ moved to Shackleton Barracks, Ballykelly (BFPO 802). The Barracks were closed by the Ministry of Defence in 2004.
[Britain's Modern Army by Terry Gander (1995) Patrick Stephens Ltd]
[Brigade HQ: The Army List 1997 & 2000]
[<http://www.britishmilitaryzippos.com/royal-corps-of-signals.html>]
[<http://www.discovernorthernireland.com/Ebrington-Barracks-Heritage-Trail-Londonderry-Derry-P20870>] (Retrieved 28/8/2014)
- (iii) **HMS Sea Eagle**: a Joint Anti-submarine Training Base along with the Royal Naval Air Service at Eglinton; the flying section was based at the old wartime airfield at Eglinton and was called **HMS Gannet** until Paid Off on 31 May 1959 whereupon it adopted the parent base name. **HMS Sea Eagle** was Paid Off on 24 June 1970 upon transfer of the base to the Army and renamed **Ebrington Barracks**.
[Shore Establishments of the Royal Navy compiled by Lt Cdr B Warlow RN; Maritime Books, 1992]
[Ilex Urban Regeneration Company Limited (Ilex) website:
<http://www.illex-urc.com/index.cfm/do/EbringtonHistory>]

<u>BFPO No</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date opened</u>	<u>Date closed</u>
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[BFPO 807 cont'd]

- (iv) Londonderry has since been re-named Derry.
- (v) Closure date (22 Nov 2003) from *John Daynes records*.

BFPO 808	Northern Ireland: Aldergrove, County Antrim	1 Sep 1976	C
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alexander Barracks - Lisanelly Barracks - Massereene Barracks, Randalstown Road, Antrim - RAF Aldergrove 		

Notes:

- (i) Post Office Gazette dated 25 August 1976
[introduced 1 September 1976 onwards]
[Inland postage rates]

With the note that Forces air letter forms could be sent free of postage to BFPO 802-809 & 811 destinations.
- (ii) **RAF Aldergrove**, CRUMLIN BT29 4BP was the location of **Joint Helicopter Force (Northern Ireland)**. The Station became **Joint Helicopter Command Flying Station Aldergrove** on 20 September 2009 when after 91 years the RAF ensign was lowered for the last time. Aldergrove is approximately 6 miles from the town of Antrim.
- (iii) At the start of the "Troubles" aviation assets in Northern Ireland comprised a detached flight of Wessex HC.2 helicopters from **No 72 Squadron RAF** and an air troop of six Sioux AH.1 helicopters from AAC. These were all based at **RAF Aldergrove**. As the unrest and terrorist activity intensified then helicopter assets were also increased. RAF, AAC and RN helicopters were based at **RAF Aldergrove** and deployed to forward operating bases throughout the Province in support of Army and Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) operations and activities.

The RAF provided two squadrons: **No 72 Squadron RAF** equipped with Wessex HC.2 helicopters and **No 230 Squadron RAF** equipped with Puma HC.1 helicopters; the latter moved to Aldergrove from Gütersloh in Germany on 1 May 1992. There were also two Chinook helicopters a heavy lift capability provided either by **Nos 7 or 18 Squadron RAF**.

From 1969 the Army steadily increased its aviation support and by 1972 provided two AAC Squadrons (one from BAOR) a fixed wing flight, together with RAOC and REME support elements. At that point the **Northern Ireland Regiment AAC** was formed to provide a formal command and administrative structure to support Army flying operations. On 1 October 1993 it was re-named **5th Regiment AAC**. In 1986 the provision of a roulement squadron ceased and was replaced was a resident squadron. Until 1991 the regiment was split between Ballykelly and Aldergrove, but since that time has been centralised at the latter base. **651 Squadron AAC** moved back to Northern Ireland in July 2008 (the Squadron had served initially in Germany as part of 1 Regiment AAC and was then stationed at Odiham). The Regiment comprised the following units:

- HQ 5 Regiment AAC**
- 651 Regiment AAC**
- 655 Squadron AAC** (Lynx AH.7 helicopters)
- 665 Squadron AAC** (Gazelle helicopters)
- 1 Flight AAC** (fixed wing Islander aircraft)
- 3 (Northern Ireland) Aircraft Support Unit RAOC**
- 5 Regiment Workshop REME**

<u>BFPO No</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date opened</u>	<u>Date closed</u>
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[BFPO 808 cont'd]

The Royal Navy first established a permanent presence in Northern Ireland on 10 October 1977 when four Wessex HU.5 helicopters were based at Bessbrook and Aldergrove as part of the **Support Helicopter Detachment Northern Ireland** (SHDNI). They remained there for five years until the Falklands war in April 1982. The Royal Navy returned to Northern Ireland on 1 October 1993 when **No 707 Naval Air Squadron** was tasked with setting up a Sea King HC.4 detachment at RAF Aldergrove. In April 1994 707 NAS was replaced by **No 846 Naval Air Squadron**; the detachment comprised some 40 personnel (detachment commander, six pilots, three aircrew and 30 maintenance staff).

["Buzzards and Eagles" - Patrick Allen reports on British helicopter operations in Northern Ireland, Air Forces Monthly (AFM No 76, July 1994)]

- (iv) **HQ 107th (Ulster) Brigade**, a Territorial Army Brigade under the command of 5th Division, was located at Ballymena. The Brigade exercised administrative command over all TA units in Northern Ireland.

*[Britain's Modern Army by Terry Gander (1995) Patrick Stephens Ltd]
[Brigade HQ: The Army List 1997 & 2000]*

On 15 December 2006 the Brigade HQ merged with **HQ 39 Infantry Brigade**.

BFPO 809	Northern Ireland: Portadown, County Armagh - Mahon Barracks	1 Sep 1976	c.2007
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Notes:

- (i) Post Office Gazette dated 25 August 1976
[introduced 1 September 1976 onwards]
[Inland postage rates]

With the note that Forces air letter forms could be sent free of postage to BFPO 802-809 & 811 destinations.

- (ii) Location of **HQ 3rd Infantry Brigade** and South Area Regional Command.
*[Britain's Modern Army by Terry Gander (1995) Patrick Stephens Ltd]
[Brigade HQ: The Army List 1997 & 2000]*

The Brigade disbanded on 1 September 2004 and its former units divided between 8 Brigade and 39 Brigade.

*[Wikipedia - retrieved 1/9/2013
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3rd_Infantry_Brigade_\(United_Kingdom\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3rd_Infantry_Brigade_(United_Kingdom))]*

- (iii) **Mahon Barracks** closed in October 2006.
*[Fourteenth Report of the Independent Monitoring Commission: Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed 12 March 2007 (The Stationery Office) HC370:
http://www.independentmonitoringcommission.org/documents/uploads/14th_IMC_Report.pdf]*

BFPO 810	<i>[NUMBER NOT ALLOCATED]</i>		
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<u>BFPO No</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date opened</u>	<u>Date closed</u>
BFPO 811	Northern Ireland: Bessbrook, County Armagh	1 Sep 1976	c.2007

Notes:

- (i) Post Office Gazette dated 25 August 1976
[introduced 1 September 1976 onwards]
[Inland postage rates]
With the note that Forces air letter forms could be sent free of postage to BFPO 802-809 & 811 destinations.
- (ii) Postal address only, there was no FPO at Bessbrook.
- (iii) In a letter to the author from D/DPCS dated 9 January 1998
[Reference: D/DPCS/7/01/09 (PCS2)]
States BFPO operates as an Isolated Detachment of BFPO 808.
- (iv) **Bessbrook Mill** closed on Monday 25 June 2007, when the last soldiers to be based there left the barracks for the final time. They were from **2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment**, who rejoined their parent unit at Ballykelly for the final few weeks of **Operation BANNER**.
*[The National Archives preserved MOD website:
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/tna/+http://www.mod.uk/defenceinternet/defencenews/defencepolicyandbusiness/soldiersdepartbessbrookmillforthefinaltime.htm>]*

BFPO 812	Northern Ireland: Dungannon, County Tyrone	-?-	now closed?
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Notes:

- (i) In a letter to the author from D/DPCS dated 9 January 1998
[Reference: D/DPCS/7/01/09 (PCS2)]
States BFPO operates as an Isolated Detachment of BFPO 808.

<u>BFPO No</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date opened</u>	<u>Date closed</u>
BFPO 813	Northern Ireland: Enniskillen, County Fermanagh - Grosvenor Barracks - St Angelo Camp	4 Dec 1980	now closed?

Notes:

- (i) Post Office Gazette dated 28 January 1981 [introduced]
[as an amendment to Postal Rates Overseas Compendium 1/81 issue]
[introduced on 4 December 1980]
[Inland postage rates identical to BFPO 811 & 825]
[as an amendment to Telecommunications Guide, November 1980]
[acceptance of telegrams]
- (ii) Postal address only, there was no FPO at Enniskillen.
- (iii) In a letter to the author from D/DPCS dated 9 January 1998
[Reference: D/DPCS/7/01/09 (PCS2)]
States BFPO operates as an Isolated Detachment of BFPO 808.
- (iv) RAF St Angelo was established originally as an airfield in April 1941 and remained in use by the RAF until February 1947. For some time the airfield was abandoned until it was transferred to the Army and became known as St Angelo Camp (also referred to as St Angelo Barracks). It was used for helicopter operations over Northern Ireland and was also an accommodation barracks for both the Ulster Defence Regiment and other Army units.

The base at St Angelo was originally one of the locations for elements of **4th (County Fermanagh) Battalion**. However, it closed at the end of March 1996 when the temporary accommodation buildings were demolished, since when St Angelo airfield has been in use as a civilian facility.
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/4th_Battalion,_Ulster_Defence_Regiment]
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enniskillen/St_Angelo_Airport]
[<http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/issues/politics/docs/nio/nio1003security.pdf>]
- (v) **Grosvenor Barracks** closed in December 2006.
[Fourteenth Report of the Independent Monitoring Commission: Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed 12 March 2007 (The Stationery Office) HC370:
http://www.independentmonitoringcommission.org/documents/uploads/14th_IMC_Report.pdf]
- (vi) The station at St Angelo was first used by the RAF and later became a centre for helicopter operations over Northern Ireland when St Angelo was transferred to the Army. It was used as an accommodation barracks for the Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) and other regiments, with most personnel housed in a vast array of temporary portacabins. The military use of St Angelo came to an end in March 1996 when the temporary accommodation buildings were demolished and the airfield has been in private ownership as a civilian airport since then.

BFPO 814	Northern Ireland: Armagh	-?-	now closed?
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Notes:

- (i) In a letter to the author from D/DPCS dated 9 January 1998
[Reference: D/DPCS/7/01/09 (PCS2)]
States BFPO operates as an Isolated Detachment of BFPO 808.

<u>BFPO No</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date opened</u>	<u>Date closed</u>
BFPO 815	Northern Ireland: Girdwood Barracks, Belfast	-?-	<i>now closed</i>

Notes:

- (i) In a letter to the author from D/DPCS dated 9 January 1998
[Reference: D/DPCS/7/01/09 (PCS2)]
States BFPO operates as an Isolated Detachment of BFPO 808.
- (ii) The Barracks were closed in February 2005 and the site handed over to the Northern Ireland Executive (Department for Social Development) for redevelopment.
[<http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/precis-crumlin-masterplan.pdf>] (Retrieved 28/8/2014)

BFPO 816	Northern Ireland: Musgrave Park Hospital (MPH), Belfast (<i>Military Wing</i>)	-?-	<i>now closed</i>
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Notes:

- (i) In a letter to the author from D/DPCS dated 9 January 1998
[Reference: D/DPCS/7/01/09 (PCS2)]
States BFPO operates as an Isolated Detachment of BFPO 808.

BFPO 817 - 824

Notes:

- (i) In a letter to the author from D/DPCS dated 9 January 1998
[Reference: D/DPCS/7/01/09 (PCS2)]
States these BFPOs, as Isolated Detachments of BFPO 808, may be used periodically in support of operational deployments.

BFPO 825	HQ Northern Ireland, Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn, County Antrim	1 Jun 1972	C
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Notes:

- (i) The civilian postal address was: **HQ Northern Ireland**, Thiepval Barracks, Magheralave Road, LISBURN, Co Antrim BT28 3NP.
[*The Army List 1973*]
- (ii) Major Doug Swanson writes on the "Postal & Courier Services Branch, Royal Engineers Association" website (retrieved 6/9/2013):
<http://www.pcsbranch.org.uk/Posties%20in%20UK%20%20v2.pdf>
"I introduced BFPO 825 for HQ NI. Before this all mail was addressed to BFPO 801 and was sorted in our CDO in Lisburn. When I calculated that almost 50% was for the HQ I saw a quick solution and much earlier mail delivery to the HQ. All we had to do was open the 825 final bags and list the Registered mail for delivery as well as the Courier mail - of which there was a lot. We also stopped sending some outbound mails through the GPO - after the IRA robbed the GPO sorting office in Londonderry and took the military mail and registered mails."
- (iii) Defence Council Instruction (General) T75/72 dated 17 May 1972
[*The National Archives DEFE73/76*]
"1. BFPO 825 will open on 1 June 1972 for all correspondence intended for delivery to **Headquarters Northern Ireland**.

<u>BFPO No</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date opened</u>	<u>Date closed</u>
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[BFPO 825 cont'd]

2. This address is exclusive to HQ Northern Ireland and correspondence for all other formations and units in Northern Ireland should continue to be addressed to British Forces Post Office 801."

- (iv) Post Office Gazette of 21 June 1972 [inserted]
[as an amendment to the February 1971 Edition, Post Office Guide]
[acceptance of telegrams]
Post Office Gazette of 19 July 1972 [inserted]
[revised listing as an amendment to the February 1971 Edition, Post Office Guide]
[acceptance of telegrams]
[This corrected the previous amendment as regards to the page number in the Guide where it was to be inserted]
Post Office Gazette of 24 January 1973 [inserted]
[as an amendment to the August 1972 Edition, Post Office Guide]
[Under the heading "Surface Mail" and as part of the text "Normal inland rates should be charged for parcels" to be added after BFPO 801 (two entries)]
- (v) In a letter to the author from D/DPCS dated 9 January 1998
[Reference: D/DPCS/7/01/09 (PCS2)]
States BFPO operated as an Isolated Detachment of BFPO 808; referred to as "HQNI Complex".
- (vi) On 1 August 2007 **38th (Irish) Brigade** was formed; this acted as a non-deployable regional brigade with its headquarters in Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn and with regional brigade functions and responsibilities.
- (vii) On 6 August 2007 **HQ Northern Ireland** and **HQ 38 (Irish) Brigade** combined to create a single transitional headquarters with a two star General Officer Commanding (GOC) (Major General Chris Brown CBE) as **HQ Northern Ireland and 38 (Irish) Brigade**, BFPO 825.
- (viii) On 1 January 2009, **HQ 38th (Irish) Brigade** emerged as a single headquarters when residual regional functions were migrated to **HQ 2nd Division** in Edinburgh, due to the disbandment of **HQ Northern Ireland**.

General Notes:

(1) Postal Unit designations:

FPOs were staffed by personnel who belonged to postal units of the Royal Engineers (RE) (since 5 April 1993 the postal service was amalgamated into the newly formed Royal Logistic Corps (RLC)). These units have also changed name over the years, reflecting changes in the military structures above them and the following shows the change of identity for the postal unit which provided postal and courier facilities in Northern Ireland:

Initially known as: **Northern Ireland Postal & Courier Communications Unit RE**

1 October 1973 redesignated: **2 (Postal & Courier Communications) Squadron**, as part of the **United Kingdom (Support) Postal & Courier Communications Unit RE** [2 (PCC) Sqn, UK (Sp) PCCU RE]

1978 redesignated: **2 Postal & Courier Communications Squadron**, part of **2 Postal & Courier Regiment RE** [2 PCC Sqn, 2 PC Regt RE]

1 January 1979 redesignated: **22 Postal & Courier Squadron**, part of **2 Postal & Courier Regiment RE** [22 PC Sqn, 2 PC Regt RE]

5 April 1993 transferred and redesignated: **84 Postal and Courier Squadron RLC** [84 PC Sqn RLC] as part of the **21 Logistic Support Regiment RLC**; 1 December 1999 redesignated: **Northern Ireland Combat Service Support Regiment**; on 31 July 2007 the NI CSS Regt disbanded.

In 2007 restructured and redesignated: **Northern Ireland Postal & Courier Troop RLC** [NI PC Tp] based in Aldergrove as part of the **Northern Ireland Garrison Support Unit (NIGSU)**.

(2) Under **84 Postal & Courier Squadron** (part of **Northern Ireland Combat Service Support Regiment**)

<u>BFPO No</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date opened</u>	<u>Date closed</u>
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stated *"With Normalisation, the Squadron has commenced its streamlining programme in [the] Province closing static Forces Post Offices in Omagh, Armagh and Portadown and replacing them with mobile counters operating out of the Lisburn Detachment."*

Taken from "The Sustainer" - Journal of The Royal Logistic Corps (Volume 15, No 2, April 2007)

- (3) Under **84 Postal & Courier Squadron** (part of **Northern Ireland Combat Service Support Regiment**) stated *"In line with Normalisation the Squadron has been streamlining operations in the Province with the closure of static Forces Post Offices in Omagh, Armagh and Portadown, and their replacement by mobile counters operating out of Lisburn."*

Taken from "The Sustainer" - Journal of The Royal Logistic Corps (Volume 15, No 3, June 2007)