# 1<sup>st</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division (1)

Headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division

26<sup>th</sup> (London) Anti-Aircraft Brigade (2)

Headquarters, 26<sup>th</sup> (London) Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

53<sup>rd</sup> (City of London) Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (3) (H.Q., 157<sup>th</sup> (City of London), 158<sup>th</sup> (City of London) & 159<sup>th</sup> (Lloyds) Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

86<sup>th</sup> (Honourable Artillery Company) Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (4) (H.Q., 273<sup>rd</sup>, 274<sup>th</sup> & 275<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

88<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (5) (H.Q., 281<sup>st</sup>, 282<sup>nd</sup> & 283<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Batteries. Roval Artillerv)

26<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps

38<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Brigade (6)

Headquarters, 38<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

26<sup>th</sup> (London Electrical Engineers) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers (7) (H.Q., 301<sup>st</sup>, 303<sup>rd</sup>, 321<sup>st</sup> & 339<sup>th</sup> Companies, Royal Engineers)

27<sup>th</sup> (London Electrical Engineers) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers (8) (H.Q., 304<sup>th</sup>, 305<sup>th</sup> 306<sup>th</sup> & 390<sup>th</sup> Companies, Royal Engineers)

75<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment (Middlesex), Royal Artillery (9)

38<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps

# 48<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade (10)

Headquarters, 48<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

54<sup>th</sup> (City of London) Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (11) (H.Q., 160<sup>th</sup> (City of London), 161<sup>st</sup> (City of London), 162<sup>nd</sup> (City of London) & 312<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

60<sup>th</sup> (City of London) Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (12) (H.Q., 168<sup>th</sup>, 169<sup>th</sup> and 194<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

97<sup>th</sup> (London Scottish) Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (13)

(H.Q., 298<sup>th</sup> & 299<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

99<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (14)

(H.Q., 302<sup>nd</sup> & 303<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

48<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps

## 49<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade (15)

Headquarters, 49<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

51<sup>st</sup> (London) Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (16) (H.Q., 151<sup>st</sup> (London), 152<sup>nd</sup> (London) & 153<sup>rd</sup> (London) Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

52<sup>nd</sup> (London) Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (17) (H.Q., 154<sup>th</sup> (London), 155<sup>th</sup> (London), 271<sup>st</sup> (Brentford) & 313<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal

84<sup>th</sup> (Middlesex, London Transport) Anti-Aircraft Regiment (18) (H.Q., 260<sup>th</sup> (London Transport), 261<sup>st</sup> (London Transport), 262<sup>nd</sup> & 263<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

49<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps

### **Divisional Troops**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals
- 1<sup>st</sup> Anti-Aircraft Divisional Workshops, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

#### **NOTES:**

- 1. The 1<sup>st</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division was raised as a Territorial Army formation on 15 December 1935 in the London District. Elements of the divisional headquarters were formed from the headquarters of the 2<sup>nd</sup> London Division, and was located at Hillington House, Uxbridge. At the outbreak of war, the commanding officer was Major General Francis Lindisfarne Morley CROSSMAN, D.S.O., M.C.. The division was responsible for the London Inner Artillery Zone (I.A.Z.), effectively an area consistent with Greater London. With the reorganisation of Anti-Aircraft Command in November 1940, the formation remained responsible for the London I.A.Z., but Major General (Acting) Robert Frederick Edward WHITTAKER, O.B.E., T.D., T.A. assumed command from Major General CROSSMAN who moved to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division. When Major General WHITTAKER was appointed Chief of Staff for Anti-Aircraft Command on 1 January 1942, Major General (Acting) Darcy John Rigby RICHARDS, D.S.O., M.C., p.s.c. took over command. The division was disbanded in October 1942, being replaced by the 1<sup>st</sup> Anti-Aircraft Group that covered the same area.
- 2. This brigade was raised on 16 December 1935 in Chelsea. It was then based at Brompton Road, London SW3. It was one of the three brigades responsible for the air defences in the London Inner Artillery Zone (I.A.Z.)
- 3. Formed in 1922 as an anti-aircraft brigade within the Territorial Army. All four batteries were based at the War Office Department at White City Road, London W12. The regiment was deployed to France as part of the B.E.F. in November 1939. Following evacuation from Dunkirk, it remained in the U.K. until March 1942 when it sailed for India. It served with the 1st Indian Anti-Aircraft Brigade until March 1943, and then with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Indian Anti-Aircraft Brigade from March 1943 to May 1944, and latterly with the 9<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade until July 1944, when it was converted into the 85<sup>th</sup> (City of London) Medium Regiment. As such, it continued to serve in India for the rest of the duration of the war.
- 4. In 1939, this regiment was formed in the Territorial Army. The headquarters and all three batteries were based at Armoury House, Finsbury Barracks. The regiment stayed based in the U.K. until June 1944, when it moved to Normandy as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Army. It served in North West Europe until the end of the war.
- 5. This regiment was formed in April 1939 as a T.A. unit. The headquarters and three batteries were based at White City, London. It transferred the 9<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division on that formation's creation in November 1940. It moved to Egypt in August 1941. It joined 8<sup>th</sup> Army in October 1941, serving in North Africa and Italy until disbanded in September 1944.
- 6. This brigade was raised on 28 September 1938 at Chelsea, London. On 22 January 1945, the brigade headquarters was converted to become the Headquarters, 304<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade. It left the command of 2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Group on 31 March 1945, spending a short time under command of the 55<sup>th</sup> (West Lancashire) Infantry Division before departing to Norway on 30 May 1945. On arrival on 7 June, it came under command of Norway Command (later British Land Forces Norway with effect from 24 August 1945).
- 7. In 1936, the 26<sup>th</sup> (London) Searchlight Battalion was redesignated as the 26<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers. The headquarters and three companies were based at the Duke of York's Barracks at Chelsea. In 1936, the War Office agreed that a London Welsh company could be incorporated into the battalion. In 1939, the 99<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Regiment was formed, which took on the lineage of the London Welsh. In January 1940, the battalion was redesignated as the 26<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It remained as a searchlight unit based in the U.K. until the end of the war.

- 8. A sister unit to the 26<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Battalion, this unit was again formed in 1936. The headquarters of the battalion was located in Mitcham Lane, but the four companies were all based in Rochester Row, London SW1. It was also redesignated in January 1940, becoming the 27<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It left the U.K. in May 1941 to move to Egypt. It came under command of Middle East Forces in November 1941, remaining in North Africa until placed in suspended animation in June 1945.
- 9. This regiment was formed in May 1939. In February 1941, it was redesignated as the 75<sup>th</sup> (Middlesex) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery. It moved to the Middle East in June 1943, and from there served in Sicily and Italy with the 8<sup>th</sup> Army. The regiment was disbanded in September 1944.
- 10. This brigade was raised on 28 August 1939 at Lee Green. It later moved to Lewisham, London SE3. In January 1945, the brigade headquarters was redesignated as the Headquarters, 305<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade.
- 11. Raised in 1923 as an anti-aircraft brigade in the Territorial Army as one of the first six Territorial Army anti-aircraft brigades formed in the early 1920's. All five batteries were based at Putney, London SW15. In May 1943, the regiment moved to North Africa, where it came under command of Middle East Forces. It was placed in suspended animation in February 1945. On 1 January 1947, it was reconstituted in the T.A. as the 454<sup>th</sup> (City of London) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, still based at Putney.
- 12. This regiment was formed in 1932 by the conversion of the 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers). All four batteries were based at Catford, London SE6. The regiment was deployed to France with the B.E.F. in November 1939. On its return to the U.K. in May 1940, it moved to Staffordshire as part of the 1st Anti-Aircraft Brigade. This brigade came under command of the 11<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division. The regiment remained in the U.K. until moving to Normandy in June 1944 with 2<sup>nd</sup> Army. It served throughout the campaign in N.W. Europe. It was reformed on 1 April 1947 at Catford as the 460<sup>th</sup> H.A.A. Regiment, merging in 1955 with the 454<sup>th</sup> H.A.A. Regiment (see above), eventually disbanding in February 1961.
- 13. The London Scottish was a pre-war Territorial Army regiment, which was part of the 1<sup>st</sup> London Division. It formed a duplicate unit in April 1939, and such were the number of recruits, it sought permission to form a third battalion. Permission was granted on the basis it was formed as an anti-aircraft unit. It formed in April 1939, with all three batteries based at Westminster. In March 1943, it left the U.K. bound for North Africa, where it joined 8<sup>th</sup> Army. It served in Sicily and Italy, being redesignated as the 97<sup>th</sup> Garrison Regiment in November 1944. In February 1945, it was again redesignated as the 610<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. As such it continued to serve in Italy.

- 14. This regiment was raised in April 1939 'as a new unit of London Welshmen'. Whereas the London Scottish and London Irish were part of the London Regiment, the London Welsh were affiliated to the Royal Welch Fusiliers. The 15<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> London Welsh) Bn. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers, was inaugurated on 16 September 1914, in London. The headquarters were established at the Inns of Court Hotel, Holborn, and by December 1914, the strength of the battalion was about 1,100 men. In February 1915, a second battalion was raised as the 18<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> London Welsh) Bn. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers. The 1<sup>st</sup> London Welsh fought in France as part of the 38<sup>th</sup> (Welsh) Division, but was disbanded in February 1918. In 1936, a committee lobbied the War Office to reform the London Welsh, with the War Office agreeing to one company of the 26<sup>th</sup> (London) Anti-Aircraft Battalion being designated as London Welsh. In April 1939, the new regiment was formed, with its headquarters at Iverna Gardens, London W8. In 1940, its title was changed to the 99<sup>th</sup> (London Welsh) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery. Until 1942, the unit wore a yellow on dark blue cloth shoulder title 'London Welsh'. The regiment served in the U.K. until joining 2<sup>nd</sup> Army in March 1944, moving to Normandy in June. It served throughout the campaign in N.W. Europe, being placed in suspended animation in 1946.
- 15. This brigade had only formed on 28 August 1939, being based in Lower Belgrave Street, London SW1. On 22 January 1945, brigade headquarters were converted to become Headquarters, 305<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade. It left the command of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Group on 31 March 1945, coming under command of 55<sup>th</sup> (West Lancashire) Infantry Division for a short period of time. On 20 April, it arrived in North West Europe, coming under command of 2<sup>nd</sup> Army and then XXX Corps.
- 16. The first T.A. Anti-Aircraft unit formed, this regiment has been raised in 1922. All four batteries were based in the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London SW3. The regiment was deployed to Norway in April and May 1940. Following its return to the U.K., it left again in January 1941, this time bound for Egypt. It moved to Palestine in December 1941, under 9<sup>th</sup> Army. It joined 8<sup>th</sup> Army in September 1942, and moved to Italy in September 1943, staying there until the end of the war.
- 17. This sister regiment was formed in 1923. The Headquarters, 154<sup>th</sup> and 155<sup>th</sup> Batteries were based in Acton, London NW3. The 271st and 313th Batteries were based in Brentford. The regiment left the U.K. in March 1942, bound for Ceylon. It moved from Ceylon to Burma in November 1944. It served with IV Corps, 24<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade and 3<sup>rd</sup> Indian Anti-Aircraft Brigade until the end of the war. On 1 January 1947, it reformed as the 452<sup>nd</sup> Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, still based at Acton. It amalgamated with other regiments in 1955.
- 18. Raised in 1938, this regiment had its Headquarters, 260<sup>th</sup> and 261<sup>st</sup> Batteries based in Willesden, London NW10. 262<sup>nd</sup> and 263<sup>rd</sup> Batteries were based at Arnos Grove. In April 1940, the 260<sup>th</sup> H.A.A. Battery was deployed to Norway to land at Aandalnes in Norway. Six of their 3" guns were lost at sea, as was all the battery's transport. The other two 3" guns were damaged in unloading and did not see action. The battery was evacuated from Aandalnes on 30 April to return to Scapa Flow and then rejoin the regiment. The regiment left the U.K. in November 1942 for North Africa. Later, it served with 8<sup>th</sup> Army in Italy, until placed in suspended animation in November 1944.

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