

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

Headquarters, 2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division

32<sup>nd</sup> (Midland) Anti-Aircraft Brigade <sup>(2)</sup>

Headquarters, 32<sup>nd</sup> (Midland) Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

42<sup>nd</sup> (The Robins Hoods, Sherwood Foresters) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers <sup>(3)</sup>  
(H.Q., 366<sup>th</sup>, 367<sup>th</sup>, 368<sup>th</sup> & 369<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Companies, Royal Engineers)

44<sup>th</sup> (The Leicestershire Regiment) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers <sup>(4)</sup>  
(H.Q., 374<sup>th</sup>, 375<sup>th</sup>, 376<sup>th</sup> & 377<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Companies, Royal Engineers)

50<sup>th</sup> (The Northamptonshire Regiment) Anti-Aircraft Battalion,  
Royal Engineers <sup>(5)</sup>  
(H.Q., 400<sup>th</sup>, 401<sup>st</sup>, 402<sup>nd</sup> & 403<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Companies, Royal Engineers)

68<sup>th</sup> (North Midland) Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(6)</sup>  
(H.Q., 200<sup>th</sup>, 222<sup>nd</sup> (Derby), 276<sup>th</sup> & 277<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

32<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps

40<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade <sup>(7)</sup>

Headquarters, 40<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

33<sup>rd</sup> (St. Pancras) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers <sup>(8)</sup>  
(H.Q., 332<sup>nd</sup>, 333<sup>rd</sup> & 334<sup>th</sup> Companies, Royal Engineers)

36<sup>th</sup> (Middlesex) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers <sup>(9)</sup>  
(H.Q., 317<sup>th</sup>, 345<sup>th</sup>, 346<sup>th</sup> & 424<sup>th</sup> Companies, Royal Engineers)

58<sup>th</sup> (Middlesex) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers <sup>(10)</sup>  
(H.Q., 344<sup>th</sup>, 425<sup>th</sup> & 426<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Companies, Royal Engineers)

9<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) (60<sup>th</sup> Searchlight  
Regiment <sup>(11)</sup>  
(H.Q., 429<sup>th</sup>, 430<sup>th</sup> & 431<sup>st</sup> Companies)

10<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> City of London) Bn. The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment)  
(69<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment) <sup>(12)</sup>  
(H.Q., 456<sup>th</sup>, 457<sup>th</sup> & 458<sup>th</sup> Companies)

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

41<sup>st</sup> (London) Anti-Aircraft Brigade (13)

Headquarters, 41<sup>st</sup> (London) Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

32<sup>nd</sup> (7<sup>th</sup> City of London) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers (14)  
(H.Q., 328<sup>th</sup>, 329<sup>th</sup> & 330<sup>th</sup> Companies, Royal Engineers)

1<sup>st</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Essex Regiment (64<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment) (15)  
(H.Q., 441<sup>st</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup> & 443<sup>rd</sup> Companies)

2<sup>nd</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Essex Regiment (65<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment) (16)  
(H.Q., 444<sup>th</sup>, 445<sup>th</sup> & 446<sup>th</sup> Companies)

78<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> East Anglian) Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (17)  
(H.Q., 243<sup>rd</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Norfolk), 244<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Norfolk), 245<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> Norfolk) & 409<sup>th</sup> (Suffolk) Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

41<sup>st</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps

50<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Brigade (18)

Headquarters, 50<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

26<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (19)  
(H.Q., 114<sup>th</sup>, 115<sup>th</sup> & 116<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

Divisional Troops

2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Divisional Workshops, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

## NOTES:

1. This division was raised on 1 September 1936. Based at R.A.F. Hucknall in Nottinghamshire, the headquarters was formed by the conversion of the 46<sup>th</sup> (North Midland) Infantry Division, which was disbanded at the same time. The first commanding officer of the division was Major General M. F. GROVE-WHITE.
2. This brigade was raised on 1 November 1936 at Derby.
3. In 1936, the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters converted from an infantry battalion into an searchlight unit. The headquarters of the battalion was located in Nottingham, with the 366<sup>th</sup> Company based at Carlton, the 367<sup>th</sup> Company at Beeston, the 368<sup>th</sup> Company at Bulwell and the 369<sup>th</sup> Company at Sutton in Coldfield. In January 1940, the battalion was re-designated as the 42<sup>nd</sup> Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It served in the U.K. until August 1944, when it moved to Italy, remaining as a searchlight unit for the duration of the war.
4. This unit was formed in 1936 by the conversion of the 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Leicestershire Regiment. The Headquarters and all four companies were based in the City of Leicester. In January 1940, the Battalion was redesignated as the 44<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. In January 1942, it converted into the 121<sup>st</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. As such, it served with 2<sup>nd</sup> Army in N.W. Europe.
5. This unit was formed in 1937 by the conversion of the 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment. The Headquarters, 400<sup>th</sup> and 401<sup>st</sup> Companies were based in Northampton, the 402<sup>nd</sup> Company was based at Peterborough and the 403<sup>rd</sup> Company at Kettering. In January 1940, it was redesignated as the 50<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It remained in the U.K. until January 1945, when it converted to the 637<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery.
6. In 1936, as part of the programme of raising new anti-aircraft units, the 62<sup>nd</sup> (North Midland) Field Brigade converted to an anti-aircraft role. The Headquarters, 200<sup>th</sup> and 222<sup>nd</sup> Batteries were based in Derby. The 276<sup>th</sup> and 277<sup>th</sup> Batteries were based in Nottingham. The regiment left the U.K. in June 1941 bound for Egypt. It joined 8<sup>th</sup> Army in December 1941, and was reduced to cadre (probably due to casualties suffered) in June 1942. A new regiment was formed in June 1943 from the 10<sup>th</sup> H.A.A. Regiment, which went on to serve in the Middle East and Malta.
7. This brigade was raised on 28 September 1938, and was based at Duxford, Cambridgeshire. Brigadier (Temporary) O. W. NICHOLSON, T.A. commanded the brigade from 1 October 1938.
8. In 1935, the 19<sup>th</sup> Bn. The London Regiment converted to become the 33<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Battalion. The Headquarters, 332<sup>nd</sup> and 333<sup>rd</sup> companies were based in Albany Street, London NW1. The 334<sup>th</sup> Company was based in Barnet. In January 1940, it was redesignated as the 33<sup>rd</sup> Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It remained in the U.K. until being converted into the 632<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery in January 1945. It joined the 303<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade and served in Norway from June 1945 onwards.
9. This battalion was formed in 1936, with the Headquarters, 317<sup>th</sup> and 345<sup>th</sup> companies were based at Edgware, with the 346<sup>th</sup> Company based at Southall. The 424<sup>th</sup> Company was still forming. In January 1940, it was re-designated as the 36<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It remained in the U.K. until being converted into the 634<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery. It also joined the 303<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade and served in Norway.

10. In 1938, the 58<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Battalion was formed by the duplication of the 36<sup>th</sup> A-A Battalion. The H.Q., 344<sup>th</sup> and 426<sup>th</sup> Companies were based in Harrow, with the 425<sup>th</sup> Company being based in South Harrow. In January 1940, it was re-designated as the 58<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment. In November 1944, it was re-designated as the 58<sup>th</sup> Garrison Regiment, Royal Artillery and again re-designated in February 1945 to become the 611<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery. As such, it served in N.W. Europe.
11. The 9<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Middlesex Regiment was a Territorial Army infantry battalion, that was converted into a searchlight unit in 1938. At first, the unit remained with the regiment rather than becoming a unit within the Royal Artillery or Royal Engineers. The headquarters and three companies were based at Willesden, in North-West London. In August 1940, this unit was absorbed into the Royal Artillery. By November 1940, the regiment was under command of the 41<sup>st</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade. In February 1942, the regiment converted into the 126<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. As such, it joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> Army in March 1944, serving with that higher formation throughout the campaign in North-West Europe.
12. Another infantry Territorial Army battalion converted into a searchlight regiment in 1938 was the 10<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> City of London) Bn. The London Regiment. The headquarters and three companies were based at Harrow Road, London W.2. The unit was absorbed by the Royal Artillery in August 1940, becoming the 69<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> City of London) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. As such, the regiment served in the United Kingdom throughout the Second World War.
13. This brigade was raised on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 1938, based in South-West London.
14. In 1935, the 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The London Regiment (Post Office Rifles) was converted into a searchlight unit of the Royal Engineers. The headquarters and 328<sup>th</sup> Company were based at Finsbury Square in London E.C.2, with the 329<sup>th</sup> and 330<sup>th</sup> Companies being based at Grove Park, in London S.E.12. In January 1940, the battalion was absorbed into the Royal Artillery and retitled as the 32<sup>nd</sup> (7<sup>th</sup> City of London) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It served during the war, being placed in suspended animation in May 1945.
15. The 6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Essex Regiment was a Territorial Army battalion, which was converted into a searchlight unit in 1938. Initially, it remained part of the regiment until it was absorbed by the Royal Artillery in August 1940, when it was retitled as the 64<sup>th</sup> (Essex Regiment) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. The headquarters were based at The Cedars, West Ham, London E.15, as were the 441<sup>st</sup> and 442<sup>nd</sup> Companies. The 443<sup>rd</sup> Company was based at Chingford. The regiment served in the 41<sup>st</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade, but had transferred to the 40<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade by November 1940. It continued to serve with Anti-Aircraft Command until January 1945, when it was converted into the 639<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery. As such, it served in North West Europe with the 305<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade.
16. When the 6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Essex Regiment was required to form a searchlight unit, it duplicated to form the 2<sup>nd</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Bn. as the 65<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment. The headquarters of this unit, together with the 44<sup>th</sup> Company were based at Prittlewell, Southend-on-Sea. The 445<sup>th</sup> Company was based at East Ham in London, with the 446<sup>th</sup> Company based at Grays in Essex. The regiment was absorbed into the Royal Artillery in August 1940, becoming the 65<sup>th</sup> (Essex Regiment) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It served in Home Forces until February 1945, when it converted into the 607<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery.

17. The 78<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Regiment was formed in 1938 by the conversion of the 84<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> East Anglian) Field Brigade, Royal Artillery. The headquarters, 243<sup>rd</sup> and 244<sup>th</sup> Batteries were based in Norwich, with the 245<sup>th</sup> Battery based at Great Yarmouth and the 409<sup>th</sup> Battery being based at Lowestoft. Initially under command of the 41<sup>st</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade, by November 1940 it had transferred to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade. The regiment served with Home Forces until October 1942, when it was deployed overseas. It travelled to Palestine to come under command of the 9<sup>th</sup> Army. In November 1943, it moved to Egypt, and from January 1944, the regiment served in Italy. It was placed in suspended animation in December 1944.
18. This brigade was raised on 24 August 1939, being based at Hucknall in Nottinghamshire.
19. Only raised in August 1939, the headquarters and all three batteries of this regiment were based in Derby. The regiment was designated as a mobile reserve. It travelled to Palestine, arriving in December 1941 to come under command of 9<sup>th</sup> Army. In July 1943, it came under command of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade for one month, then the 8<sup>th</sup> Indian Division until November 1944. As such, it served with the division in Italy. It left the division in November 1944 to come under command of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade, with which it served out the rest of the war in Italy.

#### SOURCES:

1. PILE, General Sir Frederick  
*Ack – Ack Britain’s Defence Against Air-Attack during the Second World War*  
(London, George G. HARRAP, 1949)
2. BELLIS, Malcolm A.  
*Regiments of the British Army 1939 – 1945 (Artillery)*  
(England, Military Press International 1995)  
[ISBN 0 85420 110 6]
3. COLLIER, Basil  
*History of the Second World War – The Defence of the United Kingdom*  
(London, His Majesty’s Stationery Office, 1957)
4. DOBINSON, Colin  
*AA Command – Britain’s Anti-Aircraft Defences of the Second World War*  
(London, Methuen Publishing Ltd., 2001)  
[ISBN 0 413 76540 7]
5. ERWOOD, Peter  
*The War Diary of the 75<sup>th</sup> (Cinque Ports) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (Territorial Army), Dover 1939-40 (including the Battle of Britain)*  
(Lincolnshire, Arcturus Press, 1999)  
[ISBN 0 907322 72 7]
6. FARNDAL General Sir Martin, K.C.B.  
*The History of the Royal Regiment of Artillery – The Forgotten Fronts and the Home Base 1914-18*  
(England, The Royal Artillery Institution 1988)  
[ISBN 1 870114 05 1]
7. FARNDAL, General Sir Martin, K.C.B.  
*The History of the Royal Regiment of Artillery – The Years of Defeat Europe and North Africa 1939 – 1941*  
(London, Brassey’s, 1996)  
[ISBN 1 85753 080 2]
8. FARNDAL, General Sir Martin, K.C.B.  
*The History of the Royal Regiment of Artillery – The Far East Theatre 1941 – 46*  
(London, Brassey’s, Revised Edition 2002)  
[ISBN 1 85753 331 3]
9. HUGHES, Major General B. P., C.B., C.B.E.  
*The History of the Royal Regiment of Artillery – Between the Wars 1919-39*  
(England, The Royal Artillery Institution 1992)  
[ISBN 0 08 040984 9]

10. PENNY, John  
*The Air Defence of the Bristol Area 1937-44*  
(Bristol, Bristol Branch of the Historical Association, 1997)  
[ISBN 0 901388 79 3]
11. PENNY, John  
*Luftwaffe Operations over Bristol 1940/44*  
(Bristol, Bristol Branch of the Historical Association, 1997)  
[ISBN 1362 7759]
12. PRICE, Dr. Alfred – Illustrated PAVLOVIC Darko  
*Britain's Air Defences 1939-45*  
(London, Osprey Publishing Ltd., 2004)  
[ISBN 1 84176 710 7]
13. ROUTLEDGE, Brigadier N. W., O.B.E., T.D.  
*The History of the Royal Regiment of Artillery – Anti-Aircraft Artillery 1914 – 55*  
(London, Brassey's, 1994)  
[ISBN 1 85753 099 3]
14. Various Authors  
*The Blitz Then and Now – Volume 1*  
(U.K., The Battle of Britain Prints International Limited, 1987)  
[ISBN 0 9000913 45 2]
15. Various Authors  
*The Blitz Then and Now – Volume 2*  
(U.K., The Battle of Britain Prints International Limited, 1988)  
[ISBN 0 9000913 54 1]
16. Various Authors  
*The Blitz Then and Now – Volume 3*  
(U.K., The Battle of Britain Prints International Limited, 1990)  
[ISBN 0 9000913 54 8]
17. WALKER, Patrick  
*6<sup>th</sup> Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery – the extraordinary untold story of this unlucky regiment from the Midlands and Penn Common.*  
(Gloucester, The Choir Press, 2011)  
[ISBN 978-0-9562190-4-6]

#### Internet & Websites

18. *Anti-Aircraft Command, TA on 3 September 1939*  
Was at: <http://home.adelphia.net/~dryan67/orders.aa.html>  
[Accessed 10<sup>th</sup> September 2013]  
Now at: <http://www.patriotfiles.com/index.php?name=Sections&req=viewarticle&artid=6697&page=1>  
[Accessed 25<sup>th</sup> May 2011]
19. *Supplement to the London Gazette of Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 1947 – The Anti-Aircraft Defence of the United Kingdom from 28<sup>th</sup> July 1939 to 15<sup>th</sup> April 1945 submitted by General Sir Frederick A. PILE, Bt., G.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Anti-Aircraft Command.*  
Available at: <http://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/UN/UK/LondonGazette/38149.pdf>  
[Accessed 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013]
20. *The Royal Artillery 1939 – 45*  
Available on-line at: <http://www.ra39-45.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/>  
[Accessed 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013]