

4th Anti-Aircraft Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 4th Anti-Aircraft Division

33rd (Western) Anti-Aircraft Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 33rd (Western) Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

70th (3rd West Lancashire) Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽³⁾
(H.Q., 211th (13th West Lancashire), 212th (27th West Lancashire), 216th (14th West Lancashire) & 309th Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

81st Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁴⁾
(H.Q., 253rd (Cheshire), 254th (Cheshire) & 255th (Cheshire) Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

93rd Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁵⁾
(H.Q., 267th (Wirral), 288th, 289th & 290th Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

38th (The King's Regiment) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers ⁽⁶⁾
(H.Q., 350th, 351st, 352nd & 353rd Anti-Aircraft Companies, Royal Engineers)

4th Bn. The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) (62nd Searchlight Regiment) ⁽⁷⁾
(H.Q., 435th, 436th & 437th Searchlight Batteries)

33rd Anti-Aircraft Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps

34th (South Midland) Anti-Aircraft Brigade ⁽⁸⁾

Headquarters, 34th (South Midland) Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

69th (Royal Warwickshire Regiment) Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁹⁾
(H.Q., 190th, 191st, 192nd & 199th Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

73rd Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽¹⁰⁾
(H.Q., 209th (Wolverhampton), 210th (West Bromwich) & 311th Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

95th Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽¹¹⁾
(H.Q., 204th (Warwickshire) & 293rd Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

34th Anti-Aircraft Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps

44th Anti-Aircraft Brigade (12)

Headquarters, 44th Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

65th (The Manchester Regiment) Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (13)

(H.Q., 181st, 182nd, 183rd & 196th Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

39th (The Lancashire Fusiliers) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers (14)

(H.Q., 354th, 355th, 356th & 357th Companies, Royal Engineers)

71st (East Lancashire) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery (15)

(H.Q., 462nd, 463rd & 464th Searchlight Batteries, Royal Artillery)

44th Anti-Aircraft Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps

53rd Light Anti-Aircraft Brigade (16)

Headquarters, 53rd Light Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

15th (Isle of Man) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (17)

(H.Q., 41st, 42nd & 129th Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

21st Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (18)

(H.Q., 67th, 68th, 69th, 80th & 136th Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

25th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (19)

(H.Q., 225th (27th West Lancashire), 81st & 82nd Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

33rd Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (20)

(H.Q., 132nd Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery)

53rd Anti-Aircraft Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps

54th Anti-Aircraft Brigade (21)

Headquarters, 54th Light Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

41st (5th North Staffordshire Regiment) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers (22)

(H.Q., 362nd, 363rd, 364th & 365th Companies)

45th (The Royal Warwickshire Regiment) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers (23)

(H.Q., 378th, 379th, 380th & 381st Companies)

59th (Warwickshire) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery (24)

(H.Q., 399th, 427th & 428th Searchlight Batteries, Royal Artillery)

61st (South Lancashire Regiment) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery (25)

(H.Q., 432nd, 433rd & 434th Searchlight Companies, Royal Artillery)

54th Anti-Aircraft Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps

Divisional Troops

4th Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

4th Anti-Aircraft Divisional Workshop, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

NOTES:

1. This division was raised on 1 September 1938 in Western Command, with its headquarters also in Chester. The General Officer Commanding was Major General C. A. E. CADELL, until he was promoted to the command of I Anti-Aircraft Corps.
2. This brigade was raised on 1 November 1936 at Liverpool. It was responsible for the air defence of Liverpool and West Lancashire.
3. This regiment was formed in 1937 by the conversion of the 89th (3rd West Lancashire) Field Brigade, Royal Artillery. The headquarters of the regiment was located in Igburth, Liverpool, together with 211th, 212th & 216th Batteries. The 309th Battery was based in Bootle, Liverpool. The regiment left the U.K. in May 1942 to serve in India. It remained in India under various formations until the end of the war. The regiment was reformed in the T.A. in 1947 as the 470th (3rd West Lancashire) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, R.A. based in Liverpool.
4. This unit was formed in 1938 from the 60th (6th Cheshire & Shropshire) Medium Brigade, Royal Artillery. The Headquarters, 253rd and 254th Batteries were based in Stockport, with the 255th Battery being based in Stalybridge. By November 1940, this regiment had made the long journey north to come under command of the Orkney and Shetland Defences (OSDEF). The regiment remained in the United Kingdom until August 1942 when it sailed for the Middle East. It was placed in suspended animation in August 1944.
5. This unit was formed in April 1939. The Headquarters, 288th and 289th Batteries were based in Birkenhead, with the 267th Battery in West Birkenhead and the 290th Battery in Chester. The regiment left the United Kingdom in March 1943 to transfer to the Middle East, where it was disbanded in August 1944.
6. This unit was converted from the 6th Bn. The King's Regiment (Liverpool) in 1936. The Headquarters and all four companies were based in Liverpool. In August 1940, it became the 38th (The King's Regiment) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It remained based in the United Kingdom. In January 1945, it was converted to an infantry role and became the 635th Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery. It came under command of the 303rd Infantry Brigade, and was deployed to Norway in June 1945.
7. In 1938, the 4th Bn. The Loyal Regiment was converted into a searchlight regiment. The headquarters and the three batteries were all based in Preston. The regiment became part of the Royal Artillery in August 1940 and remained with Home Forces. In May 1943, it was converted into the 150th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery. It then came under command of the 9th Armoured Division and then the 55th Infantry Division, moving to join the 2nd Army in N.W. Europe in March 1945.
8. This brigade was formed on 1 April 1938 at Coventry. Temporary Brigadier Sidney Charles Manley ARCHIBALD, M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*, assumed command of the new brigade on 27 April 1938. A Regular Officer in the Royal Artillery, he was posted to Eastern Command on 25 October 1939 as the Brigadier Royal Artillery. Later in 1940, he was promoted to command the 11th Anti-Aircraft Division.
9. This regiment was formed in 1936 by the conversion of the 6th Bn. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment. The H.Q., 190th & 191st Batteries were based in Central Birmingham, with the 192nd & 199th Batteries being based in King's Norton to the south of the City. After service with Home Forces, the regiment moved to Malta in June 1941. It stayed there only two months, moving onto Egypt. It continued to serve with the 8th Army in North Africa and Italy until being disbanded in January 1945. The regiment was reformed after the war as the 469th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment.

10. In 1937, this regiment was raised from batteries from the 62nd Field Brigade and 51st Medium Brigade. The Headquarters and 209th Battery were based in Wolverhampton, the 210th Battery in West Bromwich and the 311th Battery in Brierley Hill. The regiment was deployed to France in November 1939 to join the B.E.F., and on return to the U.K. stayed until leaving for the Middle East in April 1942. It then served with the 8th Army in North Africa and Italy until disbandment in March 1945.
11. This regiment was raised in April 1939. The H.Q. and 293rd Battery were located at Washwood Heath, Birmingham, with the 204th Battery based at Saltley, Birmingham. The regiment left the U.K. in January 1942 to travel to India. There it came under command of the 1st Indian Anti-Aircraft Brigade, being disbanded in March 1944.
12. This brigade was raised on 29 September 1938 in Manchester. The first commanding officer of the brigade was Temporary Brigadier Gerald Arthur RICKARDS, D.S.O., M.C., who was appointed on 22 October 1938. He remained in command until 14 November 1940 when he was promoted to command of the 12th Anti-Aircraft Division. Brigadier (Acting) Erroll Arthur Edwin TREMLETT, (Major retired pay) (Reserve of Officers), *g.* replaced RICKARDS with effect from 15 November 1940 with his promotion from command of the 21st Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment.
13. Raised in 1936 by the conversion of the 6th/7th Bn. The Manchester Regiment, the H.Q. and all four batteries were based in Hulme, Manchester. After serving with Home Forces until March 1943, the regiment spend a period in the Middle East, returning to the U.K. in August 1944, where it served until the end of the war. After the war, it was reformed as the 465th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment.
14. In 1936, the 7th Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers was converted into a searchlight battalion of the Royal Engineers. The headquarters and all four companies were based in Salford. In August 1940, it became the 39th Searchlight Regiment. In May 1943, it was converted back to an infantry battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers.
15. This regiment was raised in 1938. The H.Q. and three batteries were all based in Manchester. It served in the U.K. until being disbanded in March 1944.
16. This brigade was raised on 24 August 1939 at Chester. It remained with the 4th Anti-Aircraft Division following the reorganisation of Anti-Aircraft Command in November 1940. It was responsible for the air defences and searchlight provision for the North-West of England, with four searchlight regiments under command.
17. This regiment was formed on the Isle of Man in August 1938. The H.Q. and all three batteries were based in Douglas. The regiment left the U.K. in November 1940 and was sent to the Middle East. It served with various formations before joining the 7th Armoured Division in August 1942. It served with that division for the rest of the war. After the war, it was reformed as the 515th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment.
18. Raised in December 1938, the H.Q. of this regiment was based in Liverpool. The 67th Battery was based at Bromborough, the 68th Battery at Ellesmere Port, the 69th Battery at Northwich, the 80th Battery in Kearsley, Manchester and the 136th Battery in Shropshire and Crewe. The regiment left the U.K. in December 1941, being deployed to Java. Comprising the 48th, 69th and 79th L.A.A. Batteries, it was captured in Java in March 1942.

19. This regiment was raised in June 1939, so was not fully trained nor equipped by the outbreak of the Second World War. The headquarters and three batteries were all based in Liverpool. The regiment served with this brigade until January 1941, when it went overseas to Egypt. It served with 8th Army between October 1941 and March 1942. Unusually, the regiment returned to the United Kingdom in May 1942. In December 1944, it moved to North West Europe to join the 53rd (Welsh) Infantry Division. It served with this division until the end of the war.
20. Just two months after the 25th L.A.A. Regiment was formed in Liverpool, a second L.A.A. Regiment was formed in Liverpool. The 33rd Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment only comprised one battery at this time, covering industrial sites in the Liverpool area. In March 1942 (now comprising the 67th and 68th L.A.A. Batteries from the 21st L.A.A. Regiment, plus the original 132nd L.A.A. Battery), it sailed for India, where on arrival at Bombay on 20 May 1942, it joined the 13th Anti-Aircraft Brigade at Madras. On 6 August 1943, it was reorganised into a Light Anti-Aircraft/Anti-Tank Regiment. On 1 September 1944, it reorganised again into an anti-tank regiment with the 78th, 274th and 275th Anti-Tank Batteries. It then joined the 19th Indian Infantry Division, equipped with thirty-six, 6 pounder anti-tank guns and thirty-six, 3" mortars. It served with the 19th Indian Division during the campaign in Burma. On 5 October 1945, the regiment left India to return to the United Kingdom to disband.
21. This brigade was raised on 1 September 1939, with its headquarters based at Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire. In November 1940, the brigade assumed responsibility for the searchlight provision for the Gun Defence Areas of the West Midlands, covered by the 11th Anti-Aircraft Division.
22. In 1936, the 5th Bn. The North Staffordshire Regiment was converted into the 51st (5th North Staffordshire Regiment) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers. The headquarters and four companies were all based in Stoke-on-Trent. The battalion headquarters were located at the Drill Hall, College Road, Hanley. In January 1940, it was redesignated as the 41st (5th North Staffordshire Regiment) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It transferred to the 53rd Anti-Aircraft Brigade some time before November 1940. In October 1944, the regiment was posted overseas to Italy, where it served as a searchlight unit until the end of the war.
23. At the same time that the 5th Bn. The North Staffordshire Regiment was converted into a searchlight unit, the 5th Bn. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment suffered the same fate. The headquarters were based at the Drill Hall, Thorp Street, in central Birmingham. All four companies were also based in Birmingham. In January 1940, the regiment was redesignated as the 45th (Royal Warwickshire Regiment) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It served with this brigade until February 1942, when it converted into the 122nd Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery, with the 400th, 401st and 402nd L.A.A. Batteries under command. Posted overseas, it arrived at Bombay on 10 June 1943. There it reorganised as the 122nd Light Anti-Aircraft/Anti-Tank Regiment, retaining the 400th and 402nd Batteries, and gaining the 168th and 321st Anti-Tank Batteries from the 100th (Gordon Highlanders) Anti-Tank Regiment. It came under command of the 36th Indian Infantry Division, deploying with that division to the Arakan in March 1944. In May 1944, it reorganised again as an anti-tank regiment, with thirty-six, 6 pounders anti-tank guns and thirty-six, 3" mortars. It continued to serve with the 36th Infantry Division (as it was now designated) in Burma and India until the end of the war.

24. The 59th (Warwickshire) Searchlight Regiment was raised in 1938 by the transfer and expansion of the 399th Anti-Aircraft Company, Royal Engineers. The headquarters and three batteries were all based in Birmingham. By November 1940, the regiment had been transferred north to come under command of the Orkney and Shetland Defences. In April 1943, it was converted into the 148th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery. The regiment remained serving in the U.K. joining the 61st Infantry Division (a training formation) in March 1944. It was still serving with that formation at the end of the war.
25. This regiment was formed by the conversion of the 5th Bn. The South Lancashire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Volunteers) in 1938. The headquarters and three batteries were all based in St. Helens, Lancashire. This regiment transferred to the 1st Anti-Aircraft Brigade by November 1940 when that brigade assumed responsibility for Staffordshire, Cheshire and South Lancashire. It remained in the U.K. through to November 1944, when it converted into the 61st Garrison Regiment. It was redesignated as the 612th (South Lancashire Regiment) Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery in February 1945. As such, it served in North West Europe from March to May 1945, then it joined the 306th Infantry Brigade.

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 75th (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
6th 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 10th September 2013]
Now at: <http://www.patriotfiles.com/index.php?name=Sections&req=viewarticle&artid=6697&page=1>
[Accessed 25th May 2011]
19. *Supplement to the London Gazette of Tuesday 16th December 1947 – The Anti-Aircraft Defence of the United Kingdom from 28th July 1939 to 15th 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 2nd October 2013]
20. *The Royal Artillery 1939 – 45*
Available on-line at: <http://www.ra39-45.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/>
[Accessed 2nd October 2013]