

5th Anti-Aircraft Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 5th Anti-Aircraft Division

35th Anti-Aircraft Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 35th Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

56th (Cornwall) Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽³⁾

(H.Q., 165th (Cornwall), 201st (Cornwall), 202nd (Cornwall) & 203rd (Cornwall) Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

57th (Wessex) Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁴⁾

(H.Q., 213th (Portsmouth), 214th (Southsea), 215th (Gosport & Fareham) & 219th (Isle of Wight & Cosham) Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

72nd (Hampshire) Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁵⁾

(H.Q., 217th (Hampshire Carabineers), 218th (Hampshire Royal Horse Artillery) & 310th Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

48th (Hampshire) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers ⁽⁶⁾

(H.Q., 391st, 392nd, 393rd & 394th Anti-Aircraft Companies, Royal Engineers)

35th Anti-Aircraft Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps

45th Anti-Aircraft Brigade ⁽⁷⁾

Headquarters, 45th Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

77th (Welsh) Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁸⁾

(H.Q., 239th (Glamorgan), 240th (Glamorgan), 241st (Glamorgan) & 242nd (Glamorgan) Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

6th (Glamorgan) Bn. The Welch Regiment (67th Searchlight Regiment) ⁽⁹⁾

(H.Q., 450th, 451st & 452nd Companies)

1st (Rifle) Bn. The Monmouthshire Regiment (68th Searchlight Regiment) ⁽¹⁰⁾

(H.Q., 453rd, 454th & 455th Companies)

45th Anti-Aircraft Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps

46th Anti-Aircraft Brigade (11)

Headquarters, 46th Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

76th (Gloucestershire) Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (12)

(H.Q., 236th (Bristol), 237th (Bristol) & 238th (Bristol) Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

98th Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (13)

(H.Q., 300th & 301st Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

4th (City of Bristol) Bn. The Gloucestershire Regiment (66th Searchlight Regiment) (14)

(H.Q., 447th, 448th & 449th Companies)

46th Anti-Aircraft Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps

47th Anti-Aircraft Brigade (15)

Headquarters, 47th Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

80th (Berkshire) Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (16)

(H.Q., 249th (Berkshire Royal Horse Artillery), 250th (Reading), 251st (Buckinghamshire) and 252nd (City of Oxford) Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

30th (Surrey) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers (17)

(H.Q., 315th (Surrey), 316th (Surrey), 318th (Surrey) & 323rd (Surrey) Companies, Royal Engineers)

35th (First Surrey Rifles) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers (18)

(H.Q., 340th, 341st, 342nd & 343rd Companies, Royal Engineers)

4th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) (63rd Searchlight Regiment) (19)

(H.Q., 340th, 341st, 342nd & 343rd Companies)

72nd (Middlesex) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery (20)

(H.Q., 465th, 466th & 467th Searchlight Batteries, Royal Artillery)

47th Anti-Aircraft Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps

55th Light Anti-Aircraft Brigade (21)

Headquarters, 55th Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

23rd Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (22)

(H.Q., 73rd, 74th, 75th & 130th Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

24th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (23)

(H.Q., 76th, 77th, 78th, 86th, 87th & 88th Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

34th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (24)

(H.Q., 92nd Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery)

35th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (25)

(H.Q., 144th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery)

36th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (26)

(H.Q., 79th & 145th Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

55th Anti-Aircraft Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps

Divisional Troops

5th Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

5th Anti-Aircraft Divisional Workshops, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

NOTES:

1. The division was raised on 1 September 1938, with its headquarters located at Reading. The first General Officer Commanding was Major General Alan Gordon CUNNINGHAM, D.S.O., M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*. On 10 January 1940, he was replaced by Major General Robert Hall ALLEN, M.C. *p.s.c.*. With the reorganisation of Anti-Aircraft Command in November 1940, Major General ALLEN assumed command of the newly formed 8th Anti-Aircraft Division, therefore, Major General Robert Beverly PARGITER, *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.* was appointed to command of this division. This division was disbanded on 30 September 1942, when the Command reorganised into Groups.
2. This brigade was raised on 1 April 1938 at Fareham in Hampshire. It remained under command of this division until the formation disbanded in September 1942. In November 1940, it was responsible for the anti-aircraft defences of Portsmouth, a major Royal Navy dockyard and base. Brigadier (Temporary) Richard Brownlow PUREY-CUST commanded this brigade with effect from 16 May 1938 until circa 1941.
3. This regiment was formed in 1932 by the conversion of the 51st Medium Brigade. The headquarters based at Falmouth, having moved from St. Austell. The 201st Battery was based at Padstow, the 202nd Battery at Par, and the 203rd Battery at Penzance. These three batteries were the original medium batteries. The 165th Battery was based at Redruth, and was formerly part of the Cornwall Heavy Regiment. The regiment remained in the U.K. until December 1941 when it sailed for India with the 165th, 201st and 202nd Batteries. It was initially deployed to Madras and later served with XXXIII Indian Corps. In July 1944, it was converted to a medium regiment, becoming the 86th Medium Regiment. It continued to serve in India, with a period as a training regiment until the end of the war. After the war, it was reformed as the 456th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery, based at Redruth.
4. In 1932, the next batch of Anti-Aircraft Regiments was formed, and this unit was one of this group. The Headquarters and 213th Battery were based in Portsmouth, the 214th Battery in Southsea, the 215th Battery in Gosport and the 219th Battery in Newport on the Isle of Wight. The regiment left the United Kingdom on August 1942 to move to North Africa. It served with the 8th Army in Italy until the end of the war.
5. This regiment was formed in 1938 by the conversion of the 95th (Hampshire) Field Brigade, Royal Artillery. The Headquarters and 218th Battery were based in Southampton, with the 217th Battery at Winchester and 310th Battery (only formed in January 1939) in Parkstone, Dorset. It served in the United Kingdom until leaving for the Middle East in November 1942. It later served with the 8th Army in Italy, being placed in suspended animation in February 1945. It was reformed in 1947 as the 395th (Hampshire Carabineers Yeomanry) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, but was disbanded in March 1955.
6. This battalion was formed in 1937 by the conversion of the Hampshire Fortress Engineers. The Headquarters and 391st Company were based in Portsmouth, the 392nd Company in East Cowes in the Isle of Wight, the 393rd Company at Gosport, and the 394th Company at Southampton. The regiment became the 48th (Hampshire) Searchlight Regiment in August 1940. In January 1945, it was converted into the 636th (Hampshire) Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery. It came under command of the 306th Infantry Brigade, and served in North-West Europe until the end of the war.
7. This brigade was formed on 29 September 1938 at Newport. The Headquarters later moved to Cardiff.

8. In 1938, the 82nd (Welsh) Field Brigade was converted to an anti-aircraft role. The Headquarters, 239th & 240th Batteries were based in Cardiff, and the 241st and 242nd Batteries were based in the Rhondda. The Regiment left the United Kingdom in December 1941, travelling to Java to join the 16th Anti-Aircraft Brigade. It was captured there in March 1942.
9. In 1938, the 6th (Glamorgan) Bn. The Welch Regiment was converted into an anti-aircraft searchlight regiment. It did not become part of either the Royal Artillery or Royal Engineers at this time, technically remaining part of The Welch Regiment. The headquarters and three companies were all based at Maindy Barracks in Cardiff, which was also the Depot of The Welch Regiment. The unit was absorbed by the Royal Artillery in August 1940 and designated as the 67th (Welch) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It served with Home Forces in the U.K. until November 1944 when it was converted into the 67th Garrison Regiment. In February 1945, it was redesignated as the 608th Regiment, Royal Artillery (Welch). As such, it saw service in North West Europe from March 1945 onwards.
10. Likewise in 1938, the 1st (Rifle) Bn. The Monmouthshire Regiment (a Territorial Army regiment of the South Wales Borderers) was converted into a searchlight regiment. Again, it did not become part of either the Royal Artillery or Royal Engineers at this time. The headquarters and three companies were all based at Newport, Monmouthshire. In August 1940, the unit was absorbed by the Royal Artillery as the 68th (Monmouthshire Regiment) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It served Home Forces until November 1944, when it was converted into the 68th Garrison Regiment, Royal Artillery. In February 1945, it was again redesignated as the 609th Regiment, Royal Artillery (Monmouthshire Regiment) and as such, it served in North West Europe from March 1945 until the end of the war.
11. This brigade was formed on 27 September 1938, with its headquarters at Bristol. It provided the anti-aircraft artillery protection for the City of Bristol, including the Bristol Aircraft Factory at Filton, a key target. When the 8th Anti-Aircraft Division was formed in November 1940, this brigade transferred to the new division. Temporary Brigadier Robert Hall ALLEN, M.C., *p.s.c.* commanded this brigade from its formation until 9 January 1940, when he was promoted to command the 5th Anti-Aircraft Division.
12. With the expansion of anti-aircraft artillery in 1938 following the Munich Crisis, the 66th (South Midland) Field Brigade was one of several infantry and artillery units converted into the anti-aircraft role. The headquarters and three batteries were all based at Whiteladies Road, Clifton, Bristol. At the outbreak of the Second World War, the regiment deployed on and around Bristol to protect the city. In November 1942, the regiment left the U.K. to sail for North Africa where it served in Tunisia. In September 1943, it came under command of the 8th Army, serving in Sicily and Italy with the 62nd Anti-Aircraft Brigade until the end of the war.
13. This regiment was formed in April 1939. Its headquarters and the 300th Battery were based in Cheltenham, with the 301st Battery based at Moreton-in-Marsh in the Cotswolds. The regiment undertook a significant move in early 1940, transferring to the command of the 44th Anti-Aircraft Brigade covering the City of Manchester. This was to replace the 65th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, which had been sent to the Orkney and Shetland Defences. The regiment remained in the U.K. until June 1944, when it moved to France as part of the 2nd Army. It served in North West Europe with the 75th Anti-Aircraft Brigade and then 76th Anti-Aircraft Brigade until the end of the war.

14. Another of the infantry regiments converted into searchlight regiments in 1938, this headquarters of this unit and all three companies were based at Horfield Barracks in Bristol (the site of the current T.A. Centre). This unit remained part of the regiment until it was absorbed into the Royal Artillery in August 1940, being redesignated as the 66th Searchlight Regiment. The regiment remained under command of the 44th Anti-Aircraft Brigade, although part of the regiment came under the command of the 60th Anti-Aircraft Brigade when that was formed in 1940 covering Exeter, Yeovil and Portland. The regiment remained in the U.K. for the duration of the war until it disbanded in May 1945.
15. This brigade was formed on 29 September 1938, with its headquarters at R.A.F. Kenley in Surrey. In 1940, the brigade moved to Southampton, remaining under command of the 5th Anti-Aircraft Division following the November 1940 reorganisation of the Command.
16. This regiment was formed in 1938 by the expansion of the 264th (Berkshire) Field Battery of the 66th (South Midland) Field Brigade, the rest of the regiment forming the 76th (Gloucestershire) Anti-Aircraft Regiment. The Headquarters Battery, 249th and 250th Batteries were all based in Reading. The 251st Battery was based at Slough with the 252nd Battery being based in Oxford. In 1940, this regiment transferred to the 35th Anti-Aircraft Brigade, being deployed in and around Portsmouth. In November 1942, this regiment left the U.K. to sail to North Africa, where it served under 1st Army in Tunisia. It then went on to serve in Sicily and Italy with the 62nd Anti-Aircraft Brigade before being placed in suspended animation in December 1944.
17. In 1935, the Headquarters Surrey Group Anti-Aircraft Searchlight Companies, Royal Engineers was reorganised into the 30th Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers. The Headquarters, 316th and 323rd Companies were based at Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey. The 315th Company was based in Croyden and the 318th Company was based in Guildford. In January 1940, the battalion was redesignated as the 30th (Surrey) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. The regiment moved to Portsmouth with the brigade in 1940. In November 1942, the regiment moved to Tunisia, moving onto Italy in September 1943. It was placed in suspended animation on December 1943.
18. The 35th Searchlight Battalion was formed in 1935 by the conversion of the 21st Bn. The London Regiment (First Surrey Rifles). The headquarters and four companies were all based at Camberwell in south-east London. In January 1940, the regiment was redesignated as the 35th Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. In 1940, its transferred to the 38th Anti-Aircraft Brigade stationed in London. In March 1942, the regiment converted to become the 129th (First Surrey Rifles) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery. The regiment remained stationed in the United Kingdom for the rest of the war.
19. In 1938, an infantry battalion the 4th Bn. The Queen's Own Royal Regiment (West Surrey) was converted into a searchlight regiment. It remained part of the regiment until absorbed into the Royal Artillery in August 1940. The headquarters and three companies were all based in Croyden, in south London. In 1940, this regiment moved to Southampton to come under command of the 47th Anti-Aircraft Brigade in the 5th Anti-Aircraft Division. In February 1942, the regiment converted into the 127th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. As such, the regiment left the U.K. in June 1944 to move to France as part of the 2nd Army. Initially under command of the 76th Anti-Aircraft Brigade, it was stationed at Arromanches. It transferred to the 105th Anti-Aircraft Brigade in mid-1944, serving with that brigade at Arromanches and on the Scheldt estuary. It served in North West Europe throughout the rest of the war.

20. This regiment was formed in 1938. The headquarters and three companies were all based at Twickenham in south-west London. In 1940, the regiment transferred to the 40th Anti-Aircraft Brigade, covering the airfields of the East Midlands. It remained in the U.K. until it was placed in suspended animation in September 1944.
21. Only raised in September 1939, the first location for the headquarters of this brigade was Exeter in Devon. In early 1940, the brigade headquarters moved to Plymouth in order to provide air defence for the city and Royal Navy Dockyard. When the 8th Anti-Aircraft Division was formed in November 1940, this brigade transferred to that new formation.
22. This regiment was formed in December 1938. The headquarters, 73rd and 74th Batteries were located in Bristol. The 75th Battery was based at Poole, with the 130th Battery being located at Corsham in Wiltshire. In early 1940, this regiment transferred to the 46th Anti-Aircraft Brigade to cover Bristol. It left the U.K. in May 1942 to move to Ceylon. It served on the island of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) until March 1944, when it moved to India to join the 44th Indian Airborne Division. It was redesignated as the 23rd Light Anti-Aircraft/Anti-Tank Regiment in February 1945.
23. Also formed in December 1938, the headquarters of this regiment and four batteries (78th, 86th, 87th & 88th) were based in Southampton. The 76th Battery was based at Fawley, on the opposite side of Southampton Water, with the 77th Battery being based on the Channel Islands. The regiment transferred to the 65th Anti-Aircraft Brigade in early 1940 to provide air defence for Southampton, with the 86th, 87th and 88th L.A.A. Batteries under command. The regiment left the U.K. in January 1942 to sail for India. Arriving two months later, initially it joined the 1st Indian Anti-Aircraft Brigade which moved from India to Assam. In November 1942, it was redesignated as the 24th Light Anti-Aircraft/Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery, with the 86th & 491st Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries and 205th & 284th Anti-Tank Batteries under command. At first, it came under command of the 39th Indian Infantry Division, but transferred to the 7th Indian Infantry Division in August 1943. It served with that division for the rest of the war, playing a central role in the Battle of the Admin Box in February 1944. In September 1944, it was redesignated as the 24th Anti-Tank Regiment.
24. Only raised in August 1939, this regiment was still forming when the Second World War broke out. The headquarters and battery were based in Swansea, with troops deployed to R.A.F. St. Athan, Bridgend Royal Ordnance Factory and R.A.F. Llandow. In early 1940, the regiment transferred to the 64th Anti-Aircraft Brigade, located at Swansea. In August 1942, the regiment left the U.K. to sail for Egypt, where on arrival it joined the 50th Infantry Division. It left that formation only a month later, but continued to serve in the Middle East. Under command of the 8th Army, the regiment served in Italy until it was placed in suspended animation in February 1945.
25. Also raised in August 1939, the headquarters of this regiment were based in Oxford. The battery provided troops for the R.A.F. airfields at Brize Norton, Abingdon and Benson. The regiment came under the command of the 64th Anti-Aircraft Brigade when that formation was raised in early 1940, its role to protect South-West airfields. In November 1941, the regiment left the U.K. to sail for Singapore, with the 78th, 89th and 144th Batteries under command. The 78th Battery had transferred in from the 24th L.A.A. Regiment, the 89th Battery was previously independent but based in Oxfordshire. The regiment arrived on the 13th January 1942 equipped with 40 mm Bofors guns, to be captured with the fall of Singapore on the 15th February 1942. The 78th Battery and two troops from the 89th Battery were diverted to Sumatra. All were captured, condemning their soldiers to three and half year's captivity with the Japanese.

26. Raised in August 1939, this regiment was still forming when the Second World War broke out. The headquarters of the regiment were based in Chertsey, Surrey. The 79th Battery had troops stationed at Slough and Walton-on-Thames. The 145th Battery had troops stationed at Luton, Hatfield and Radlett in Hertfordshire. In June 1942, now with the 97th, 128th and 266th Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries under command, the regiment sailed for India. On arrival, it was sent to Poona, but in November 1942, it came under command of XV Indian Corps. It was to serve with this formation for the rest of the war, serving in the Arakan Campaign.

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