

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

Headquarters, 5<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division

### 27<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade <sup>(2)</sup>

Headquarters, 27<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

31<sup>st</sup> (City of London Rifles) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(3)</sup>

70<sup>th</sup> (Sussex) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(4)</sup>

### 35<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade <sup>(5)</sup>

Headquarters, 35<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

72<sup>nd</sup> (Hampshire) Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(6)</sup>

80<sup>th</sup> (Berkshire) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(7)</sup>

118<sup>th</sup> Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(8)</sup>

48<sup>th</sup> (Hampshire) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Engineers <sup>(9)</sup>

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

Headquarters, 47<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

27<sup>th</sup> (London Electrical Engineers) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(11)</sup>

30<sup>th</sup> (Surrey) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(12)</sup>

63<sup>rd</sup> (Queen's) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(13)</sup>

### 65<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade <sup>(14)</sup>

Headquarters, 65<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

57<sup>th</sup> (Wessex) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(15)</sup>

24<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(16)</sup>

43<sup>rd</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(17)</sup>

58<sup>th</sup> (*Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders*) *Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery* <sup>(18)</sup>

### Divisional Troops

5<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

## NOTES:

1. The division was raised on 1 September 1938, with its headquarters located at Reading. When it was first raised, it was responsible for the South of England, the South-West and South Midlands of England, and South Wales. With the reorganisation of Anti-Aircraft Command, the responsibility for South Wales and South Midlands transferred to the newly raised 9<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division, with the South-West of England becoming the responsibility of the 8<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division. This formation disbanded on 30 September 1942.
2. Raised on 15 December 1935, this headquarters of this brigade was based at Lingfield in Surrey. It started off as part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division, but transferred to the 5<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division when this formation was raised in September 1938. The brigade moved to Portsmouth in 1940 to assist in defending the Royal Navy Dockyard.
3. This battalion was formed in 1935 by the conversion of the 6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The London Regiment (City of London Rifles). The headquarters and all four companies were based at 57A, Farringdon Road, in London E.C.1. The unit was a searchlight battalion. It mobilised in late August 1939 as war approached, with the headquarters, 324<sup>th</sup> and 325<sup>th</sup> Companies moving to Sutton in Surrey. The 326<sup>th</sup> Company moved to Merton and the 327<sup>th</sup> Company moved to Carshalton. This allowed the battalion to cover the southern side of London against enemy air attack. In January 1940, the battalion was redesignated as the 31<sup>st</sup> Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. In February 1942, the regiment converted to become the 123<sup>rd</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery. As such, it came under command of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Army in March 1944, and served throughout the campaign in North West Europe with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Army.
4. The 70<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment was formed in 1938. The headquarters and all three batteries were based at Brighton. The regiment remained with Home Forces until September 1944 when it was disbanded.
5. 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.
6. This regiment was formed in 1938 by the conversion of the 95<sup>th</sup> (Hampshire) Field Brigade, Royal Artillery. The Headquarters and 218<sup>th</sup> Battery were based in Southampton, with the 217<sup>th</sup> Battery at Winchester and 310<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> Army in Italy, being placed in suspended animation in February 1945. It was reformed in 1947 as the 395<sup>th</sup> (Hampshire Carabineers Yeomanry) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, but was disbanded in March 1955.
7. This regiment was formed in 1938 by the expansion of the 264<sup>th</sup> (Berkshire) Field Battery of the 66<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Field Brigade, the rest of the regiment forming the 76<sup>th</sup> (Gloucestershire) Anti-Aircraft Regiment. The Headquarters Battery, 249<sup>th</sup> and 250<sup>th</sup> Batteries were all based in Reading. The 251<sup>st</sup> Battery was based at Slough with the 252<sup>nd</sup> Battery being based in Oxford. In 1940, this regiment transferred to the 35<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Army in Tunisia. It then went on to serve in Sicily and Italy with the 62<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade before being placed in suspended animation in December 1944.

8. Formed in December 1940, this regiment came under command of this brigade on being raised. It served with Anti-Aircraft Command until March 1944, when it transferred to the 21<sup>st</sup> Army Group in anticipation of the invasion of France. It served in North-West Europe until the end of the war.
9. This battalion was formed in 1937 by the conversion of the Hampshire Fortress Engineers. The Headquarters and 391<sup>st</sup> Company were based in Portsmouth, the 392<sup>nd</sup> Company in East Cowes in the Isle of Wight, the 393<sup>rd</sup> Company at Gosport, and the 394<sup>th</sup> Company at Southampton. The regiment became the 48<sup>th</sup> (Hampshire) Searchlight Regiment in August 1940. In January 1945, it was converted into the 636<sup>th</sup> (Hampshire) Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery. It came under command of the 306<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, and served in North West Europe until the end of the war.
10. 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 5<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division following the November 1940 reorganisation of the Command.
11. 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.
12. In 1935, the Headquarters Surrey Group Anti-Aircraft Searchlight Companies, Royal Engineers was reorganised into the 30<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers. The Headquarters, 316<sup>th</sup> and 323<sup>rd</sup> Companies were based at Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey. The 315<sup>th</sup> Company was based in Croyden and the 318<sup>th</sup> Company was based in Guildford. In January 1940, the battalion was redesignated as the 30<sup>th</sup> (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.
13. In 1938, an infantry battalion the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 47<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade in the 5<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division. In February 1942, the regiment converted into the 127<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. As such, the regiment left the U.K. in June 1944 to move to France as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Army. Initially under command of the 76<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade, it was stationed at Arronanches. It transferred to the 105<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade in mid-1944, serving with that brigade at Arronanches and on the Scheldt estuary. It served in North West Europe throughout the rest of the war.
14. This brigade was one of the group formed shortly after the outbreak of the Second World War. It was responsible for the air defences of the city of Southampton.
15. In 1932, the next batch of Anti-Aircraft Regiments was formed, and this unit was one of this group. The Headquarters and 213<sup>th</sup> Battery were based in Portsmouth, the 214<sup>th</sup> Battery in Southsea, the 215<sup>th</sup> Battery in Gosport and the 219<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> Army in Italy until the end of the war.

16. Also formed in December 1938, the headquarters of this regiment and four batteries (78<sup>th</sup>, 86<sup>th</sup>, 87<sup>th</sup> & 88<sup>th</sup>) were based in Southampton. The 76<sup>th</sup> Battery was based at Fawley, on the opposite side of Southampton Water, with the 77<sup>th</sup> Battery being based on the Channel Islands. The regiment transferred to the 65<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade in early 1940 to provide air defence for Southampton, with the 86<sup>th</sup>, 87<sup>th</sup> and 88<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Indian Anti-Aircraft Brigade which moved from India to Assam. In November 1942, it was redesignated as the 24<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft/Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery, with the 86<sup>th</sup> & 491<sup>st</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries and 205<sup>th</sup> & 284<sup>th</sup> Anti-Tank Batteries under command. At first, it came under command of the 39<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Division, but transferred to the 7<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> Anti-Tank Regiment.
17. This regiment was formed in November 1939 with a battery from the 16<sup>th</sup> L.A.A. Regiment. It served with Anti-Aircraft Command until December 1941 when it left the U.K. to sail to Ceylon. On arrival after a voyage of about ten weeks, the regiment came under command of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade. It transferred to the 24<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade on the island in September 1943. With the threat of Japanese attack receded by March 1945, the regiment disbanded on Ceylon.
18. This regiment was formed in June 1939 as a duplicate of the 54<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. Like its sister regiment, it was sent to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force in November 1939. Following its evacuation, the regiment was sent to the South-West to rest and refit. Part of the regiment was deployed within the 55<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade's area in Plymouth and part was deployed in the 65<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade's area at Southampton. In May 1941, the regiment came under command of the 11<sup>th</sup> Support Group; coming under direct command of the division in June 1942. It went on to serve with that division throughout the campaign in North-West Europe right through to the end of the war.

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