

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

Headquarters, 6<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division

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

Headquarters, 6<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

12<sup>th</sup> (Finsbury Rifles) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(3)</sup>

49<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(4)</sup>

32<sup>nd</sup> (7<sup>th</sup> City of London) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(5)</sup>

33<sup>rd</sup> (St. Pancras) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(6)</sup>

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

Headquarters, 28<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

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

58<sup>th</sup> (Kent) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(9)</sup>

90<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(10)</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(11)</sup>

29<sup>th</sup> (East Anglian) Anti-Aircraft Brigade <sup>(12)</sup>

Headquarters, 29<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

48<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(13)</sup>

28<sup>th</sup> (Essex) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(14)</sup>

74<sup>th</sup> (Essex Fortress) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers <sup>(15)</sup>

37<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade <sup>(16)</sup>

Headquarters, 37<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

59<sup>th</sup> (The Essex Regiment) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(17)</sup>

61<sup>st</sup> (Middlesex) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(18)</sup>

17<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(19)</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery <sup>(20)</sup>

56<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade (21)

Headquarters, 56<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

16<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (22)

29<sup>th</sup> (Kent) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery (23)

73<sup>rd</sup> (Kent Fortress) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery (24)

Divisional Troops

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

## NOTES:

1. This division was formed in 1939 to take responsibility for the air defence of the Thames estuary, Essex and north Kent. The headquarters of the division was located at Uxbridge, with the General Officer Commanding being Major General F. G. HYLAND who was appointed on 30 May 1939. In November 1940, with the formation of the three anti-aircraft corps, this division came under command of I Anti-Aircraft Corps. The division disbanded in October 1942 when seven new anti-aircraft groups replaced the divisions and corps structure in the United Kingdom.
2. This brigade was formed sometime in late 1939. It was responsible for the air defences of the R.A.F. airfields in Essex.
3. The 12<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery, was formed in April 1939 by the expansion of a battery from the 61<sup>st</sup> Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment. The headquarters and four batteries were based at Pentonville in London N.1. The regiment was posted to Persia and Iraq in March 1942, taking two months to get there by sea. On arrival, it came under command of 10<sup>th</sup> Army. Transferring to command of PaiForce in September 1942, the regiment left Iraq in May 1943 to move to Egypt. It joined the 8<sup>th</sup> Army, serving in Tunisia, moving onto Italy with the 66<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade until the end of the war.
4. The 49<sup>th</sup> L.A.A. Regiment was formed in July 1940. It served with Home Forces until July 1942 when it came under command of the 78<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. It left the U.K. with the division in November 1942 bound for North Africa. It then served in Tunisia, moving onto Sicily with the division in July 1943. The division went on to serve in Italy until July 1944, when the division moved to Egypt to rest and refit. It returned to Italy in September 1944, but the regiment disbanded in January 1945.
5. 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 initially in the 41<sup>st</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division, transferring to this brigade by November 1940. The regiment continued to serve with Anti-Aircraft Command during the war, being placed in suspended animation in May 1945.
6. 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. In September 1939, it was under the command of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division, but transferred to this formation in late 1939/early 1940. 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.
7. One of the original Territorial Army brigades formed on 15 December 1935, this formation had its headquarters based at Kitchener Barracks, Chatham. It was responsible for the air defences of the southern side of the Thames estuary, Chatham (including the Royal Navy dockyard) and Dover.

8. This regiment was formed in 1925 as an anti-aircraft brigade in the Royal Artillery. The Headquarters and 166<sup>th</sup> Batteries were based at Fort Clarence in Rochester, Kent. The 163<sup>rd</sup> Battery was based at Albion Road, Tunbridge Wells, and the 205<sup>th</sup> Battery was based at Chatham. By September 1939, the 163<sup>rd</sup> Battery had moved to Chatham, and a new 307<sup>th</sup> Battery was formed at Tunbridge Wells. The 205<sup>th</sup> Battery was by now based at Sittingborne in Kent, and part of the 89<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Regiment. This regiment left the United Kingdom in September 1942 to travel by sea to Iraq via Cape Town. It left Iraq in April 1943 to move to North Africa; from which it went on to serve in Sicily and Italy until the end of the war.
9. Originally formed as a Medium Regiment in 1922 as the 52<sup>nd</sup> (Kent) Medium Brigade, Royal Artillery, this unit was converted to an anti-aircraft brigade in 1935. The Headquarters, 206<sup>th</sup> and 207<sup>th</sup> Batteries were all based at Bexley Road, Erith in Kent. The 208<sup>th</sup> Battery was based at Drill Hall, Parish Lane in Penge in Kent. The 264<sup>th</sup> Battery was a new battery and was based at Dartford. The regiment stayed in the United Kingdom until November 1942, when it joined 1<sup>st</sup> Army and was transferred to North Africa (Tunisia and Algeria). It then served with the 8<sup>th</sup> Army throughout the campaign in Italy until the end of the war.
10. The 90<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Regiment was formed in April 1939. The Headquarters and three other batteries were all based in Southgate, London. Originally under command of the 37<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade, it transferred to this brigade by November 1940. This regiment remained in the U.K. right through until June 1944, when it joined 2<sup>nd</sup> Army in Normandy. It was still in North West Europe at the end of the war.
11. This regiment was formed post September 1939 as part of the Supplementary Reserve. It served with Anti-Aircraft Command until March 1944, when it came under command of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Army in anticipation of the forthcoming invasion of France. The regiment served throughout the campaign in North-West Europe.
12. This brigade was raised on 8 January 1936 at Chelsea. The headquarters then moved to South Kensington. The brigade was under command of the 1<sup>st</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division, but transferred to this division when it was formed in May 1939. It remained with this division with the reorganisation of Anti-Aircraft Command in November 1940, being responsible for the air defences of Kent.
13. This regiment was raised in November 1940 with batteries from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> L.A.A. Regiments. It came under command of this brigade on formation. The regiment suffered the unfortunate fate of being posted overseas as part of the 16<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade. The brigade was destined for Singapore, but elements (including the 48<sup>th</sup> L.A.A. Regiment) were diverted to Java. The regiment was captured with the fall of Java in March 1942.
14. Formed in 1935 from the Headquarters Essex Group Anti-Aircraft Companies, Royal Engineers, the headquarters of this unit were based at Brentwood in Essex. The 311<sup>th</sup> Company was also based in Brentwood, with the 309<sup>th</sup> Company based at Harlow and the 312<sup>th</sup> based at Upminster. In January 1940, the regiment was absorbed by the Royal Artillery; being retitled as the 28<sup>th</sup> (Essex) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. The regiment served in Home Forces until January 1945, when it was converted into the 630<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery. As such, it joined the 304<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade stationed in the U.K., moving to Norway to disarm the German forces there with their surrender in June 1945.

15. Like the 73<sup>rd</sup> A.A. Battalion, the 74<sup>th</sup> (Essex Fortress) Anti-Aircraft Battalion was formed in April 1939. The headquarters of the unit was located at Tottenham in East London. The 310<sup>th</sup> Company was based at Epping, with the 469<sup>th</sup> Company being located at Chelmsford. In January 1940, it was redesignated as the 74<sup>th</sup> (Essex Fortress) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. The regiment served in Home Forces until it was converted into the 74<sup>th</sup> Garrison Regiment in November 1944. In February 1945, it was retitled as the 613<sup>th</sup> (Essex Fortress) Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery. In April 1945, it travelled to Italy to come under command of 8<sup>th</sup> Army.
16. This brigade was raised on 1 May 1938, with its headquarters at Edmonton, in North-West London. It was responsible for the air defences of the northern side of the Thames estuary.
17. Formed in 1935 by the conversion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Essex Regiment, the Headquarters, 164<sup>th</sup> and 167<sup>th</sup> Batteries were based at the Drill Hall, Church Hill, Walthamstow in East London. The third battery, the 193<sup>rd</sup> transferred to the new raised 82<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Regiment, requiring the raising of the new 265<sup>th</sup> Battery, which was based at Whipp's Cross. The regiment left the U.K. in November 1942 to sail for Tunisia. It served in North Africa before joining 8<sup>th</sup> Army, with which it served throughout the Italian campaign.
18. This regiment was formed in 1935 by the conversion of the 11<sup>th</sup> Bn. The London Regiment (Finsbury Rifles). The original two batteries were the 171<sup>st</sup>, which was based alongside the Regimental Headquarters at no. 17 Penton Street, Pentonville, London, N1, and the 170<sup>th</sup> Battery, which was based at Finchley in London NW11. A new battery was formed prior to April 1938, this being the 195<sup>th</sup> Battery, which was also based in Finchley. It left the U.K. in April 1942 to sail for Egypt. It continued to serve in the Middle East for the rest of the war, moving to Italy in November 1943 as part of the 8<sup>th</sup> Army.
19. The 17<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment was raised in August 1938. The headquarters of the new regiment was based at Chelsea, collocated with 48<sup>th</sup> Battery. The 49<sup>th</sup> Battery was based at Purfleet in Essex, with the 50<sup>th</sup> Battery located at the oil refinery at Shellhaven in Essex. The regiment left the U.K. in November 1942 to travel to Tunisia under the command of 1<sup>st</sup> Army. It served in Tunisia and later in Italy, remaining there until the end of the war.
20. This regiment was part of the first contingents of the Canadian Army sent to the United Kingdom in early 1940.
21. This brigade was raised on 30 September 1939 at Chelmsford in Essex, with elements raised at Rochester in Kent. The headquarters of the brigade then moved to Uxbridge in Middlesex. It had responsibility for the airfields in the South-East of England.
22. Formed in December 1938, this regiment had its headquarters and 46<sup>th</sup> Battery based at Sittingbourne in Kent. The 45<sup>th</sup> Battery was based at Maidstone in Kent, with the 47<sup>th</sup> Battery based at Crayford in Kent and the 83<sup>rd</sup> Battery at Sevenoaks. The regiment served with Anti-Aircraft Command until February 1942, when it was posted to the Middle East. It came under command of 8<sup>th</sup> Army, but was disbanded in June 1943.

23. Also formed in 1935, this unit was formed from the Headquarters, Kent and Middlesex Anti-Aircraft Searchlight Companies, Royal Engineers. The headquarters of this unit and the 313<sup>th</sup> Company were based at Chatham in Kent. The 314<sup>th</sup> Company was based in Tonbridge, Kent; and the 468<sup>th</sup> Company was based at Dover. In January 1940, this unit was redesignated as the 29<sup>th</sup> (Kent) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It served in the U.K. as a searchlight regiment until January 1945, when it converted into the 631<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery. It came under command of the 307<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, which moved to North-West Europe in April 1945. The regiment came under the direct command of H.Q. S.H.A.E.F. in May 1945.
24. The 73<sup>rd</sup> (Kent Fortress) Anti-Aircraft Battalion was formed in April 1939. The headquarters of the unit was based at Bexleyheath in Kent. The 331<sup>st</sup> Company was also based at Bexleyheath, with the 322<sup>nd</sup> Company based at Horns Cross, Greenhithe and the 347<sup>th</sup> Company Sidcup in Kent. In January 1940, it was redesignated as the 73<sup>rd</sup> Searchlight Regiment. It served in Home Forces until it was disbanded in September 1944.

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