

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

Headquarters, 7<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division

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

Headquarters, 30<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

63<sup>rd</sup> (Northumbrian) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(3)</sup>

64<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(4)</sup>

37<sup>th</sup> (Tyne Electrical Engineers) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(5)</sup>

38<sup>th</sup> *Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery* <sup>(6)</sup>

43<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade <sup>(7)</sup>

Headquarters, 43<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

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

73<sup>rd</sup> Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(9)</sup>

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

72<sup>nd</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(11)</sup>

55<sup>th</sup> (Durham Light Infantry) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(12)</sup>

57<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade <sup>(13)</sup>

Headquarters, 57<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

47<sup>th</sup> (The Durham Light Infantry) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(14)</sup>

53<sup>rd</sup> (The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery <sup>(15)</sup>

Divisional Troops

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

## NOTES:

1. This division was formed in June 1939, with its headquarters based in Newcastle-on-Tyne. Its first General Officer Commanding was Major General T. G. G. HEYWOOD, who was appointed on 23 June 1939. He left on 9 May 1940 to move to India, to be replaced on a temporary basis by Major General (Acting) J. E. T. YOUNGER. After only nine days in command, Major General (Acting) Robert Beverly PARGITER assumed command. With the reorganisation of Anti-Aircraft Command in early November 1940, Major General PARGITER moved south to assume command of the 5<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division, so Major General (Acting) Eric Victor Howard FAIRTLOUGH, D.S.O., M.C. was appointed to command. The geographic areas of Yorkshire and Lincolnshire became the responsibility of the new 10<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division. FAIRTLOUGH fell ill in mid-1942, so on 19 June 1942, Major General (Acting) John Nuttall SLATER, C.M.G., *g.* assumed command on his return from the Middle East. The division disbanded on 30 September 1942, the air defences for this area, as well as Scotland, becoming the responsibility of the 7<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Group.
2. This brigade was raised on 1 November 1936, at Sunderland. It was responsible for the air defences of Newcastle, the Tyne River and Sunderland.
3. In 1936, the 55<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Medium Brigade was converted into an anti-aircraft brigade (regiment). The Headquarters, 176<sup>th</sup> and 178<sup>th</sup> Batteries were based at the Drill Hall, The Green, Sunderland, with 177<sup>th</sup> and 269<sup>th</sup> Batteries being based at Seaham Harbour. The Regiment left the U.K. in May 1942 to move to Ceylon. It arrived there in July, and stayed on the island until April 1944, firstly under command of 1<sup>st</sup> R.M. Anti-Aircraft Brigade and then from March 1943, 24<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade. In April 1944, it moved to Jubbulpore, where on 1 August, it was placed in suspended animation. Some personnel formed the 63<sup>rd</sup> Medium Battery, which joined the 87<sup>th</sup> Medium Regiment. As such it remained in India until disbanded in May 1945.
4. This regiment was formed in 1936 from batteries from the 51<sup>st</sup> and 54<sup>th</sup> Medium Brigades. The Headquarters and 179<sup>th</sup> Batteries were based in North Shields, 180<sup>th</sup> Battery was based in Seaton, and the 268<sup>th</sup> Battery at Consett. The Regiment left the U.K. in May 1943 to travel to North Africa. It served in Italy with 8<sup>th</sup> Army, transferring to N. W. Europe to serve with 2<sup>nd</sup> Army in February 1945 until the end of the war.
5. On 28 August 1939, the 37<sup>th</sup> (Tyne Electrical Engineers) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers formed a daughter unit as the 37<sup>th</sup> (Tyne Electrical Engineers) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery. The headquarters was based in Tynemouth, but by the outbreak of the Second World War, no batteries had been allocated to the unit. The regiment came under command of this brigade, and remained in the U.K. until April 1942, when it left bound for Palestine. It served in Palestine from June until November 1942, then moved to join the 8<sup>th</sup> Army in Tunisia. The regiment remained in North Africa until returning to the U.K. in February 1944. For some reason it was not allocated for further active operations, being placed in suspended animation in October 1944.
6. The headquarters of this regiment were based in the 10<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division's area, but some troops were based in this division's area.
7. The headquarters of this brigade was raised on 1 October 1938 at West Hartlepool., in County Durham.

8. This regiment was formed in January 1939 within the Supplementary Reserve. The headquarters, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Batteries were all based in Belfast. The 5<sup>th</sup> L.A.A. Battery was based at Newtonards. This last battery left the regiment shortly after the outbreak of the war. Mobilised in August 1939, it served in France between November 1939 and May 1940. After resting and refitting, the regiment was sent to India in May 1942. It served for the rest of the war in India and Burma, mainly with the XV Indian Corps in the Arakan.
9. This regiment was formed in 1938, with batteries from the 63<sup>rd</sup> and 64<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigades. The Regimental Headquarters was formed at Middlesbrough, where the 174<sup>th</sup> and 175<sup>th</sup> Batteries were based, having transferred from the 64<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade. The 220<sup>th</sup> Battery, which transferred from the 63<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade, was based at West Hartlepool. This regiment was sent to join the British Expeditionary Force in France in November 1939. Having been evacuated in May 1940, it served with Home Forces until leaving for North Africa in June 1943. It then served in Italy from September 1943 until disbanded in October 1944.
10. The 50<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment was raised in July 1940, with a battery from the 19<sup>th</sup> L.A.A. Regiment in addition to drafts of new recruits. The regiment served with Anti-Aircraft Command until it disbanded in March 1944.
11. The 72<sup>nd</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment was raised in January 1941. It served in Anti-Aircraft Command until June 1943, when it moved to Tunisia. From there it went on to serve in Italy under command of the 8<sup>th</sup> Army, but was disbanded in October 1944.
12. The 2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Durham Light Infantry was based in West Hartlepool, and formed the 55<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment. Like its sister regiment, it was incorporated into the Royal Artillery in August 1940. It served in the United Kingdom until January 1942, when it converted into the 113<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery. It remained in the U.K., joining 2<sup>nd</sup> Army in March 1944. It served with 2<sup>nd</sup> Army throughout the campaign in North West Europe.
13. This brigade was raised on 25 August 1939, i.e., just before the outbreak of the Second World War. Its headquarters were based in Newcastle-on-Tyne.
14. The headquarters of this battalion, together with the 386<sup>th</sup>, 387<sup>th</sup> and 388<sup>th</sup> Companies were all based at Sunderland. The 389<sup>th</sup> Company was based in South Shields. This unit was formed in 1936 by the conversion of the 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Durham Light Infantry into a searchlight battalion of the Royal Engineers. In August 1940, it became the 47<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery, when all searchlight units were consolidated into the Royal Artillery. In January 1942, this regiment was converted to become the 112<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery. As such, it served with Home Forces until March 1944, when it came under command of 2<sup>nd</sup> Army. It landed in Normandy in June 1944, serving throughout the campaign in North West Europe.
15. The infantry unit was converted into an anti-aircraft role in 1938. In August 1940, it was absorbed into the Royal Artillery as the 53<sup>rd</sup> (Royal Northumberland Fusiliers) Searchlight Regiment. It remained in the U.K. until January 1945, when it converted back to an infantry unit as the 638<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery. It served with the 304<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade in the U.K. and Norway.

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