

8th Anti-Aircraft Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 8th Anti-Aircraft Division

46th Anti-Aircraft Brigade ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 46th Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

76th (Gloucestershire) Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽³⁾

23rd Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁴⁾

66th (The Gloucestershire Regiment) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁵⁾

68th (The Monmouthshire Regiment) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁶⁾

55th Anti-Aircraft Brigade ⁽⁷⁾

Headquarters, 55th Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

56th (Cornwall) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁸⁾

118th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽⁹⁾

58th (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽¹⁰⁾

81st Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽¹¹⁾

82nd Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽¹²⁾

60th Anti-Aircraft Brigade ⁽¹³⁾

Headquarters, 60th Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

104th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽¹⁴⁾

44th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽¹⁵⁾

66th (*The Gloucestershire Regiment*) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽¹⁶⁾

64th Anti-Aircraft Brigade (17)

Headquarters, 64th Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

35th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (18)

2nd Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery (19)

3rd (Ulster) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery (20)

76th Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery (21)

85th Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery (22)

Divisional Troops

8th Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

NOTES:

1. This division was one of the five new divisions raised on 1 November 1940. It came under command of I Anti-Aircraft Corps. The divisional commander was Major General R. H. ALLEN. He was responsible for the anti-aircraft defences across Bristol, Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall. This included the major city of Bristol, which had a major aircraft factory and airfield located at Filton; plus the major Royal Navy dockyards at Portland and Devonport (Plymouth).
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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. The regiment was formerly part of the 45th Anti-Aircraft Brigade, but moved to come under command of the 46th Anti-Aircraft Brigade in 1940. 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.

7. 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. Brigadier (Temporary) Robin Seely LEACH, commanded this brigade from 10 January 1940 until his retirement in 1943.
8. 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.
9. The 118th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment was raised in December 1940. It came under command of this brigade on its formation. It remained serving with Anti-Aircraft Command until march 1944, when it came under command of the 21st Army Group in preparation for the forthcoming invasion of France. It served in North-West Europe until the end of the war.
10. This regiment was formed in June 1939 as a duplicate of the 54th 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 at Plymouth and another element was deployed at Southampton under command of the 65th Anti-Aircraft Brigade. In May 1941, the regiment came under command of the 11th 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.
11. Formed in November 1940, this regiment served with Anti-Aircraft Command until March 1942, when it was converted and redesignated as the 131st Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery. As such, it continued to serve with Anti-Aircraft Command until the end of the war.
12. In a similar manner to the 81st Searchlight Regiment, the 82nd Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery was raised in November 1940. It was destined to serve with Anti-Aircraft Command until it disbanded in September 1944.
13. This brigade was raised immediately following the outbreak of the Second World War. It was based in Exeter and was responsible for the air defences of Exeter, Yeovil and the naval base at Portland near Weymouth.
14. Formed in August 1940, the 104th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment came under command of this brigade on formation. It remained in the U.K. until July 1943, when it travelled overseas to Egypt. It went forward to serve with the 8th Army in Sicily and later in Italy. In August 1944, the regiment returned to the U.K. where it served until the end of the war.

15. Raised in November 1939 with batteries from the 23rd and 24th L.A.A. Regiments, this regiment served in the U.K. until May 1942. In that month, it left the U.K. bound for India. On arrival two months later, at first it came under command of the Delhi Area. It then spent three months with the 1st Indian Anti-Aircraft Brigade in India before moving to join the 14th Indian Infantry Division in India. It participated in the First Arakan Campaign in early 1943, then moving to come under command of XV Indian Corps. Between September 1943 and October 1944, it served with the 2nd Anti-Aircraft Brigade in India. Then it served with XXXIII Indian Corps in Burma and finally IV Corps from June 1945 onwards.
16. Part of this regiment served in this brigade (see 5 above).
17. Also formed shortly after the outbreak of the Second World War, this brigade assumed responsibility for the air defences of the airfields in the South-West. In addition, it was responsible for the searchlight provision within the divisional area.
18. 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.
19. In 1937, a second anti-aircraft battalion of the Royal Engineers was formed within the Regular Army. In May 1938, it was retitled as the 2nd Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It had served with the British Expeditionary Force between November 1939 and May 1940. Following its evacuation from France, the regiment was sent to the South-West to rest and refit. It remained in the U.K. until February 1945, when it moved to join the 2nd Army in North-West Europe for the last few months of the war.
20. A regiment in the Supplementary Reserve, this regiment was formed in September 1939. This unit had its headquarters based in Belfast. The 10th and 11th Batteries were also based in Belfast, with the 9th Battery based at Clonaver in Strandtown in Belfast, (now the home of 69th Signal Squadron Troop, T.A.), with the 12th Battery based in Lurgan. The unit mobilised with the outbreak of the Second World War, being sent to France with the B.E.F. in November 1939. It returned to the U.K. in May 1940. In January 1942, the regiment reorganised as the 4th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery. It continued to serve with Home Forces until joining 2nd Army in March 1944. As such, it served throughout the campaign in North West Europe.
21. Formed in July 1940, this regiment served with Anti-Aircraft Command until it disbanded in September 1944.
22. The 85th Searchlight Regiment was raised in January 1941. It served with Anti-Aircraft Command until March 1942 when it was converted and redesignated as the 132nd Light anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery. The regiment continued to serve with Anti-Aircraft Command until March 1945 when it disbanded.

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