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**A CONCISE HISTORY OF:**

# **ANTI-AIRCRAFT COMMAND (HISTORY & PERSONNEL)**

A concise history of Anti-Aircraft Command, a higher level formation of the British Army in existence from 1939 until 1955. In addition, known details of the key appointments held between 1939 and 1950 are included.

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**A Concise History of Anti-Aircraft Command (History & Personnel)**

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## Anti-Aircraft Command

On 15 July 1938, Major General Alan Francis BROOKE, C.B., D.S.O. was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General and assumed command of the new Anti-Aircraft Corps. This corps assumed responsibility for the two existing anti-aircraft divisions within the Territorial Army. Unusually for an army formation, it was subservient to Air Defence Great Britain (A.D.G.B.), the armed forces organisation responsible for air defence in the United Kingdom, which was headed by the Aid Officer Commander-in-Chief of Fighter Command of the Royal Air Force.

The number of anti-aircraft units grew rapidly during 1938, 1939 and 1940 to meet the anticipated threat of air attack from the German Luftwaffe. Initially, several infantry units were converted into an anti-aircraft role, but by late 1939, new regiments were being raised. The 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Divisions were raised in September 1938.

With the expansion of the anti-aircraft forces in the British Isles, on 1 April 1939, Anti-Aircraft Corps was upgraded to that of a full command within the United Kingdom. When Anti-Aircraft Command was ordered to mobilise on 28 August 1939, on paper it comprised seven divisions. These were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division – Major General CROSSMAN – London Inner Artillery Zone
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division – Major General GROVE-WHITE – Hull, Humber estuary, Leeds, Nottingham and Sheffield (12 Group, R.A.F.);
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division – Major General L. A. HICKES – Forth, Clyde, Scapa Flow, Tyne and Tees rivers and Belfast (13 Group, R.A.F.);
- 4<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division – Major General H. G. MARTIN – Liverpool, Birmingham, Coventry, Manchester, Cardiff and Newport (9 Group, R.A.F.)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division – Major General A. G. CUNNINGHAM – Bristol, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Portland, Southampton (10 Group, R.A.F.)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division – Major General F. G. HYLAND – Thames and Medway (11 Group, R.A.F.);
- 7<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division – Major General PARGITER – To assume responsibility for the Tyne, Tees and Middlesbrough from 3<sup>rd</sup> A.A. Division and Yorkshire and Humber from 2<sup>nd</sup> A.A.Division (13 Group, R.A.F.).

These divisions commanded some thirty-four anti-aircraft brigades, some searchlight only, some gun only and some mixed. All the constituent regiments were of Territorial Army origin, as the few Regular Army regiments were designated for service overseas. In Northern Ireland, there were no Territorial Army units, so a Supplementary Reserve brigade of three anti-aircraft regiments was formed in 1939.

There was a serious shortage of equipment available for anti-aircraft defence when the United Kingdom declared war in September 1939. There were approximately seven-hundred heavy anti-aircraft guns available for deployment, but many of these were the old 3" guns dating from the First World War, and they lacked instruments to enable to fire on a predicted basis rather than just by sight.

The light anti-aircraft situation was even worse. The 1937 review of the Air Defence of Great Britain had estimated the requirement for one-thousand, two-hundred light anti-aircraft guns. After a competition, the Swedish 40mm Bofors gun was chosen. A problem arose as several countries were purchasing this gun, so deliveries were slow, and the United Kingdom government had trouble arranging for a licence to build them in the U.K. By the outbreak of war, Anti-Aircraft Command had received only about eighty Bofors guns. In consequence, some old 2 pounder guns were used, but this only made the numbers up to about two-hundred and twenty. The shortfall had to be made up by use of 0.303" machine guns on anti-aircraft mountings.

The heavy anti-aircraft guns were to be sited in semi-permanent gun pits, with four guns (one troop) in each gun position. These guns positions were controlled by Gun Operations Rooms (G.O.Rs), under Anti-Aircraft Defence Commanders (A.A.D.C.) responsible for each Gun Defended Area (G.D.A.). As regiments mobilised, they were allocated to a G.D.A. and deployed their troops to a designated location. Often, these gun positions turned out to be totally unprepared, literally just fields. Many troops had to dig and construct their own gun positions, plus their living accommodation, cooking and washing facilities. Sometimes, troops were able to lodge at nearby houses, but many had to live in tents. Some gun positions were very isolated, miles from any habitation. This exacerbated the feelings of neglect and increasingly poor morale amongst the troops within the Command.

The expectation of the U.K. government was that as soon as war was declared, massed ranks of German aircraft would start bombing the country. The potential effects of bombing raids on civilian populations had been seen during the Spanish Civil War, so Britain's fears were well grounded. In the event, this did not happen, which in light of the unpreparedness of A.D.G.B. was provident in the extreme. Although the scale of equipment steadily increased during this period, so did the demands on Anti-Aircraft Command. The first raids on the United Kingdom were directed at Royal Navy facilities at Scapa Flow and in the Firth of Forth. In consequence, the Royal Navy demanded more guns to protect their ships. As well as demands at home, Anti-Aircraft Command was required to train and equip no less than fourteen Territorial Army regiments for deployment in Norway and France.

The manpower problem was one to afflict Anti-Aircraft Command throughout the war. As gaps were filled, new ones were created. A list of Vulnerable Points (V.Ps.) was drawn up, which demanded the creation of another two-hundred light anti-aircraft troops in October 1939 alone. Another sixty-five were to be formed in November 1939 to follow on with the increase in establishment required.

The War Office released eleven-thousand men to Anti-Aircraft Command, but these were of low category and without any previous anti-aircraft experience. The first Militia intakes passed to the command also had their problems. Of the one-thousand men sent to the 31<sup>st</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade for duty, fifty had to be discharged immediately for health reasons, twenty were deemed to be mentally deficient and eighteen were unable to do any manual labour such as handling ammunition. The feeling arose amongst senior officers of the command that it was being used as the dumping ground for personnel not wanted elsewhere.

The first air-raid on the United Kingdom during the Second World war took place on 16 October 1939 over the Firth of Forth. Other occasional raids took place during the rest of 1939 and into early 1940. A more significant raid was directed on Scapa Flow on 16 March 1940, where the anti-aircraft guns performed poorly. The early period from September 1939 until June 1940 was relatively quiet for the men of anti-Aircraft Command, which proved fortunate indeed. By May 1940, Anti-Aircraft Command had sent fourteen Territorial Army anti-aircraft regiments abroad to either France or Norway. All had to be brought up to strength in terms of men and equipment, only for many men and practically all equipment to be lost in the subsequent evacuations.

Until August 1940, an anomaly existed of having some searchlight units as part of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, whilst others were part of the Corps of Royal Engineers and some were still technically infantry units. In that month, all searchlight units were consolidated into the Royal Artillery.

The air offensive by the German Air Force (the Luftwaffe) began with isolated, small-scale raids on convoys and channel ports. In June 1940, the focus switched to night-time raids, but then in July, the Luftwaffe reverted to day-time raids. From mid-August, the attention of the Luftwaffe switched to raids on R.A.F. airfields in South-East England, and the air battle now termed the Battle of Britain commenced. Several of these air raids involved over one-hundred enemy planes, with sometime multiple raids taking place at the same time. The most intense period of enemy air attacks was between 24 August and 15 September 1940. Again, the main area affected was around London and the South East of England. However, other cities in the U.K. were attacked, with Liverpool, Birmingham and Bristol included in the targets. Then, in September, the focus of activity changed to night time raids on industrial cities and towns, with London being the main target. This led to the redeployment of additional anti-aircraft resources to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Divisions. This night blitz was to continue for just over eight months, including now, targets in South Wales, the Midlands and the North-East of England.

The night blitz continued unabated through October 1940. London was attacked on every night except two during the month. A major raid against Coventry on 14 October reduced the city centre to rubble and ash, including the destruction of the cathedral. Anti-Aircraft Command continued to expand in reaction to the demands for air defences against German bombing attacks.

In November 1940, five new anti-aircraft divisions were formed:

- 8<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division – Major General R. H. ALLEN – South West of England;
- 9<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division – Major General D. PAIGE – South Midlands and South Wales;
- 10<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division – Major General L. BROWNING – Humber estuary and Yorkshire;
- 11<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division – Major General S. M. C. ARCHIBALD – West Midlands and Staffordshire;
- 12<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division – Major General G. A. RICKARDS – West of Scotland and Northern Ireland.

In light of the increased number of anti-aircraft divisions, it was decided to establish three corps headquarters at the same time.

- I Anti-Aircraft Corps – H.Q. London;
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division;
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division;
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division;
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division;
  - 9<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division;
- II Anti-Aircraft Corps – H.Q. Hucknall;
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division;
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division;
  - 10<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division;
  - 11<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division;
- III Anti-Aircraft Corps;
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division;
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division;
  - 12<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division.

The ability of British industry to provide the necessary weapons and ammunition for the demands of Anti-Aircraft Command were frustratingly limited. In July 1940, it was assessed that the command required 3,744 heavy anti-aircraft guns, 4,410 light anti-aircraft guns, 8,000 rocket launchers and 8,500 searchlights. By February 1941, only 1,486 heavy anti-aircraft guns (a shortfall of 60%), 929 light anti-aircraft guns (a shortfall of 78%), 6,369 rocket launchers and 4,519 searchlights had been delivered to the command. The majority of heavy anti-aircraft guns were on static mountings, and due to the shortage of the 40 mm Bofors guns, over three-thousand light machine guns were in use with the light anti-aircraft regiments.

The issue with manpower was equally difficult. In December 1940, Anti-Aircraft Command was short of one-thousand, one-hundred and fourteen officers and seventeen-thousand, nine-hundred and sixty-five other ranks. This was out of a command strength of about one-hundred and forty thousand men. The establishment ceiling at this time was set at three-hundred and thirty thousand soldiers, meaning the command was at about one-third strength.

On the positive side, technological advances were being made, in particular with the use of radar and radio control of the guns. A dedicated Anti-Aircraft Radar School was established at Petersham to train the soldiers in its use. In addition, tactical developments in the deployment and control of guns progressed, based upon the experiences of the command to date in the campaign. In the middle of 1941, the night blitz on the United Kingdom faded away as the focus of the German war effort turned east towards the Soviet Union. By now, there was a steady flow of new guns from the factories to the command. Most of the old 3" guns were scrapped, with the light anti-aircraft regiments now receiving the 40 mm Bofors guns in some quantity. New radars were being delivered, increasing the effectiveness of the anti-aircraft defences.

One of the ground breaking initiatives that Anti-Aircraft Command was responsible for was the introduction of women into mixed units in the British Army. This was a product of necessity, but General PILE had the foresight to realise the valuable contribution women could make in the armed forces beyond their traditional roles of nursing, welfare and auxiliary duties. The establishment for Anti-Aircraft Command was cut in July 1942 from two-hundred and eighty thousand men to two-hundred and sixty-four thousand, with the warning of more to come. General PILE had been proposing the integration of women into anti-aircraft units for about twelve months, but he faced significant opposition, not least from the senior officers of the Auxiliary Territorial Service in which women served in the British Army. The first mixed battery (465<sup>th</sup> (Mixed) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery) was deployed in London in August 1941. The women worked the instruments, radars and command posts, but men still loaded and fired the guns. This initiative proved successful, leading to the raising of several mixed sex anti-aircraft regiments in 1941 and 1942. Women were recruited and posted to searchlight units in 1942; with the first mainly female regiment, the 93<sup>rd</sup> Searchlight Regiment, ready for operational service in July of that year. Only a few male officers were posted to this regiment.

The recruitment of women started to drop off in 1943, as the number of volunteers began to decline. This led to the next initiative to use men of the Home Guard in anti-aircraft batteries and regiments. The so called 'Z' Batteries comprised volunteers, but as the men were allowed to be on duty for no more than forty-eight hours at a time, shift patterns were devised to provide continuous cover. By July 1943, some one-hundred and thirty-six thousand and fifty men of the Home Guard had been recruited, allowing their wider use in heavy and light anti-aircraft units.

Meanwhile, the Luftwaffe had changed tactics to the use of fighter-bombers on 'tip and run' attacks on coastal towns and cities. The first such raid was on Torquay in Devon on 27 March 1942, when four Me 109's attacked the town. In the following two months, there were forty-one attacks on targets as dispersed as Eastbourne in Sussex and Salcombe in Devon. These attacks required a reaction from Anti-Aircraft Command, leading to the deployment of more light anti-aircraft guns to protect these locations. The problem was that many of these raids came in at low level, under that provided by radar cover, meaning there was often little or no warning of an impending attack.

Then came the 'Baedeker' raids, the first one being on Exeter on 24 April 1942. These night time raids targeted town and cities of limited military value, being in the main the tourist destinations in the U.K., hence the use of the name Baedeker from the well-known tourist guide of the U.K.. The towns and cities attacked had no anti-aircraft defences, so were vulnerable. Parliament demanded action be taken, so new Gun Defence Areas (G.D.As) were established around settlements including Exeter, Taunton, Bath, Salisbury, Winchester, Guildford, Brighton and Canterbury. These were extended to include locations in the Midlands and East Coast, including York and Lincoln.

In September 1942, General PILE decided to restructure Anti-Aircraft Command. As it worked so closely with the Royal Air Force, it was decided to reorganise the brigades into groups, with each group aligned with an R.A.F. Group. The reorganisation took effect from 1 October 1942, when the seven groups formed. These seven formations were the:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Anti-Aircraft Group – London: H.Q. in London;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Group – South and East England & East Anglia: H.Q. in London;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Group – South West England and South Wales: H.Q. in Bristol;
- 4<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Group – North West England and North Wales: H.Q. in Preston;
- 5<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Group – East Midlands, Yorkshire and North East England: H.Q. in Nottingham;
- 6<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Group – Scotland: H.Q. based in Edinburgh;
- 7<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Group – Northern Ireland: H.Q. based in Belfast.

In addition, the Orkney and Shetland Defences remained a separate command. The size and responsibilities for each of the groups varied. The largest in terms of number of permanent Gun Defence Areas (G.D.As.) was the 3<sup>rd</sup> A.A. Group, with four-hundred and sixty-six. It had responsibility as well for one-hundred and twelve airfields and fifty-two Baedeker towns. The smallest group was the 7<sup>th</sup>, which had just ninety-six G.D.As.

In 1942, the U.K. became aware of the German programme to develop pilotless bombs, otherwise known as the 'flying bombs'. Intelligence commenced identifying the potential scale of the threat, with Anti-Aircraft Command beginning to assess the possible responses. The first V1 flying bomb flew into England on 13 June 1944, just after D-Day. Four crossed the coast that day, one exploding in Gravesend in Kent and another in London; the other two crashing harmlessly. The intensity of the attacks increased overnight 15 to 16 June, with one-hundred and twenty-two missiles reported as crossing the English coast. Of these, seventy-three reached London, but eleven were shot down by the guns of Anti-Aircraft Command.

At the same time as the threat from the V1 emerged, Anti-Aircraft Command was giving up several anti-aircraft regiments to the 21<sup>st</sup> Army Group for the forthcoming invasion of France. A third of Anti-Aircraft Command was transferred to the 21<sup>st</sup> Army Group in March 1944, some fifty-thousand men. In addition, some twenty-two searchlight batteries were closed down at this time to provide a pool of trained men for a variety of tasks required by Anti-Aircraft Command.

Due to the increased commitments in the south of England in connection with the forthcoming invasion of France, the Headquarters 6<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Group and some anti-aircraft regiments were moved from Scotland to the cover the Solent and Portsmouth Area. A new group, the 8<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Group was formed to cover Scotland and the north of England. The response to the V1 flying bombs was given the name of the 'Diver' defences. These 'Diver' belts of defences were concentrated around London and Bristol, although the threat to Bristol did not materialise. Many regiments were required to move, which included moving static 3.7" and 4.5" guns. As transport was limited, about two-hundred and fifty vehicles were requisitioned to move about twenty-three thousand men and women and thirty-thousand tons of stores.

The first and most severe phase of the V1 attacks was over by September 1944, as the Allied armies advanced into Belgium and the Netherlands. The anti-aircraft defences had shot down about 9% of the total number of missiles that reached England at the beginning. This rose steadily to 17% and eventually to 41%. In November 1944, a new 9<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Group was formed to provide the Diver Defences for East Anglia and the eastern approaches to London. This allowed the 1<sup>st</sup> Anti-Aircraft Group to concentrate on the Thames, Medway and Dover areas. At about the same time, the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Groups were disbanded, with the areas covered by the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Groups extended. After a pause in December 1944, the V1 flying bombs appeared again, this time targeted on Manchester. They flew in over the east coast and across the Pennines to reach their target. September 1944 marked the arrival of the first V2 rockets, against which there was little or no defence available. Before the end of the war, it is believed that one-thousand, four-hundred and three V2 rockets were fired against the U.K., of which two-hundred and eighty-eight failed during or immediately after launch, sixty-one fell into the sea with over one-thousand landing in England. Over five hundred hit London indiscriminately, killing some two-thousand, seven-hundred and fifty-four people.

The end of hostilities in Europe led to a drastic reduction in the size of Anti-Aircraft Command as demobilisation took effect. With the reconstitution of the Territorial Army in 1947, an ambitious order of battle was created for Anti-Aircraft Command, with a small nucleus of the Regular Army and a large number of regiments and brigades within the Territorial Army. This large order of battle proved to be impossible to fulfil, with post-war recruitment into the Territorial Army patchy. By 1950, there was a series of mergers of regiments, with a continued decline through the early 1950's. Anti-Aircraft Command was disbanded on 15 May 1955.

**General Officer Commanding, Anti-Aircraft Corps**

15 July 1938 – 30 March 1939

Lieutenant General Alan Francis BROOKE, C.B., D.S.O., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

**General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Anti-Aircraft Command**

1 April 1939 – 28 July 1939

Lieutenant General Alan Francis BROOKE, C.B., D.S.O., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

12 October 1939 – April 1945

Lieutenant General Frederick Alfred PILE, Baronet, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*<sup>1</sup>

15 April 1945 – 30 April 1946

Lieutenant General Sir William Wyndham GREEN, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C\*, *p.s.c.*

1 May 1946 – May 1948

Lieutenant General (Acting) Otto Marling LUND, C.B., D.S.O., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

May 1948 – 27 May 1950

Lieutenant General Sir Gwilym Ivor THOMAS, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C.\* , *p.s.c.*, Col Comd't Royal Artillery

28 May 1950 – 16 April 1953

Lieutenant General Charles Falkland LOEWEN, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., *p.s.c.*

17 April 1953 – 15 May 1955

Lieutenant General Sir Maurice Somerville CHILTON, K.B.E., C.B.

**Major General, General Staff**

8 May 1939 – 31 December 1941

[Major General Thomas Cochrane NEWTON, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E.](#)

1 January 1942 – 21 February 1944

Major General (Temporary) Robert Frederick Edward WHITTAKER, O.B.E., T.D., T.A.

22 February 1944 – 22 May 1944

Major General (Acting) Frank St. David Benwell LEJEUNE, *p.s.c.*

19 June 1944 – 24 June 1945

Major General (Acting) Stephen LAMPLUGH, C.B.E., *p.s.c.*

<sup>1</sup> Knighted as K.C.B. on 1 July 1941, promoted General on 25 December 1941, and raised to G.C.B. on 1 January 1945.

**General Staff Officers, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade**

1 January 1939 – 1940

Colonel W. J. ELDRIDGE, D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*, *g.*

5 June 1939 – 21 April 1940 (Temporary)

Colonel Darcy [John Rigby RICHARDS](#), D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*

**Brigadier General Staff – (B.G.S.)**

1 October 1942 – 1943

Brigadier (Acting) B. P. HUGHES, R.A., *p.s.c.*

12 January 1944 – 24 June 1945

Brigadier (Acting) Humphrey KING-LEWIS, R.A.

25 June 1945 – 30 July 1946

Brigadier (Temporary) Stephen LAMPLUGH, C.B.E., *p.s.c.*

1 July 1946 – 31 December 1946

Brigadier (Temporary) [Geoffrey Stuart THOMPSON](#), D.S.O., M.B.E., R.A., *p.s.c.*

**Chief of Staff**

1 January 1947 – 14 November 1948

Brigadier (Temporary) [Geoffrey Stuart THOMPSON](#), D.S.O., M.B.E., R.A., *p.s.c.*

15 November 1948 – 1949/50

Brigadier (Temporary) S. N. SHOOSMITH, D.S.O., O.B.E., *p.s.c.*

**Brigadier General Staff, Operations, Intelligence and Staff Duties**

1 January 1944 – 1944

Brigadier (Acting) H. C. BOYCE, R.A., *p.s.c.*

29 March 1944 – 1945

Brigadier (Acting) H. C. PUGH, R.A., (T.A.)

**Brigadier General Staff, Staff Duties and Training**

26 February 1942 – 14 July 1943

Brigadier (Acting) [Cecil Arthur Harrop CHADWICK](#), C.B.E., R. Signals, *p.s.c.*

1 October 1942 – 6 December 1942

Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) E. R. BENSON, R.A., *p.s.c.*

**Brigadier General Staff, Training and Technical**

12 August 1943 – 8 December 1944<sup>2</sup>

Brigadier (Acting) Gordon Walter Francis STEWART, O.B.E., R.A.

1 November 1948 – 1949/50

Colonel (Temporary) J. M. F. CARTWRIGHT, C.B.E., R.A., *y, p.s.c.*

**Brigadier i/c Administration**

26 August 1939 – 21 April 1940

Brigadier (Temporary) Douglas McArthur HOGG, M.C., *p.s.c.*

22 April 1940 – 9 November 1940

Brigadier (Acting) R. V. G. HORN, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., retired pay (Reserve of Officers), *p.s.c.*

10 November 1940 – 23 November 1940

Brigadier (Temporary) Douglas McArthur HOGG, M.C., *p.s.c.*

26 November 1940 – 19 February 1941

Brigadier (Temporary) Richard Lawrence BOND, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., *i.d.c., p.s.c.*

**Major General i/c Administration**

20 February 1941 – 7 May 1941

Major General (Acting) Richard Lawrence BOND, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., *i.d.c., p.s.c.*

8 May 1941 – 7 June 1942

Major General (Acting) L. A. HAWES, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*

8 June 1942 – 18 March 1944

Major General (Temporary) Hugh Tennent MacMULLEN, C.B., C.B.E, M.C.

19 March 1944 – 25 February 1945

Major General (Acting) J. M. BENOY, C.B.E., *p.s.c.*

26 February 1945 – 1945

Brigadier (Temporary) W. R. BEDDINGTON, C.B.E., *p.s.c.*

**Brigadier A/Q**

1 November 1945 – 1946

Brigadier (Temporary) V. C. RUSSELL, D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*

3 September 1948 – 1949/50

Brigadier (Temporary) A. G. V. PALEY, D.S.O., O.B.E., *p.s.c.*

**Assistant Adjutant-General**

15 November 1946 – 1947

Brigadier (Temporary) Thomas Strelley RENNIE, O.B.E., R.A.

1 January 1948 – 1948

Lieutenant Colonel (War Substantive) G. P. GREGSON, D.S.O., M.C., (*s.c.*)

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<sup>2</sup> Post abolished on 8 December 1944 with departure of incumbent.

**Assistant Quarter-Master-General**

21 August 1947 – 1949/50

Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) A. J. C. BLOCK, D.S.O., R.A., *p.s.c.*

**Chief Engineer**

10 February 1940 – 1942

Colonel B. L. EDDIS, D.S.O., B.A., retired pay (Reserve of Officers), *p.s.c.*

**Engineer Adviser**

14 January 1942 – 28 June 1944

Colonel Richard Leigh WITHINGTON, M.C.

29 June 1944 – 5 October 1944

Colonel (Temporary) Arthur Bertie Duncan EDWARDS, O.B.E., R.E.

18 October 1944 – 1945

Colonel (Acting) A. E. ARMSTRONG, O.B.E., M.C., R.E.

**Chief Signal Officer – (C.S.O.)**

15 February 1939 – 24 April 1940

Colonel C. H. H. VULLAMY, D.S.O., *p.s.c.*

25 April 1940 – 24 February 1941

Colonel (Acting) George Cradock WICKINS, C.B.E., T.D., R. Signals (T.A.)

25 February 1941 – 1 February 1945

Brigadier (Acting) George Cradock WICKINS, C.B.E., T.D., R. Signals (T.A.).

2 February 1945 – 1945

Brigadier (Acting) T. T. J. SHEFFIELD, T.D., R. Signals.

8 March 1946 – 1948

Colonel (Temporary) F. P. L. GRAY, D.S.O., O.B.E., R. Signals<sup>3</sup>

29 July 1948 – 1949/50

Brigadier W. H. G. ROGERS, C.B.E., M.I.E.E., *p.a.c.*

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<sup>3</sup> Promoted Acting Brigadier in post on 1 January 1917.

**Assistant Director of Supplies and Transport**6 December 1939 – 1940

Lieutenant Colonel R. J. SLAUGHTER, C.M.G., D.S.O., retired pay.

**Deputy Director of Supplies and Transport – (D.D.S.T.)**23 May 1941 – 31 December 1942

Brigadier (Temporary) P. L. SPAFFORD, O.B.E.

1 January 1943 – 1943

Brigadier (Temporary) C. B. COCKBURN, O.B.E., M.I.Mech.E., R.A.S.C.

21 January 1944 – 1945Colonel (Temporary) Sir Francis William Crewe FETHERSTON-GODLEY, O.B.E., Reserve of Officers  
1946*Post Vacant.*27 February 1947 – 1948

Colonel (Temporary) L. W. WALSH, O.B.E., R.A.S.C.

11 May 1948 – 1949/50Colonel (Temporary) A. F. J. ELMSLIE, A.M.I.Mech.E., R.A.S.C., *p.s.c.***Deputy Director Medical Services – (D.D.M.S.)**4 April 1941 – 1942

Brigadier (Temporary) P. H. MITCHINER, C.B.E., T.D., M.D., M.S., F.C.R.S., T.A., K.H.S.

15 April 1942 – 30 October 1942 (Killed in Air Crash)

Brigadier (Acting) Donald Stewart MIDDLETON, M.B., F.R.C.S., T.A.

24 November 1942 – 1945

Brigadier (Acting) W. LESLIE, M.C., T.D., M.B.

Reduced to Deputy Assistant Director of Medical Services (Major)

**Assistant Director of Ordnance Services**August 1939 – 1941

Colonel J. H. HOWELL-JONES, C.I.E., D.S.O., retired pay

**Deputy Director Ordnance Services – (D.D.O.S.)**20 February 1941 – 1942Brigadier (Acting) Kenneth Joseph GABBETT, Indian Army, *o.*15 December 1941 – 1942

Brigadier (Acting) E. R. ASH, A.M.I.Mech.E., R.A.O.C.

19 October 1942 – 1944

Brigadier (Temporary) D. BROWN, R.A.O.C.

10 July 1944 – 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1945

Brigadier (Temporary) C. F. T. HAIGH, M.C.

23 April 1945 – 29 August 1946

Brigadier (Acting) St. John Cutler HOOLEY, R.A.O.C.

30 August 1946 – 1949/50

Brigadier (Temporary) Barnard Alfred GOLDSTEIN, O.B.E.

**Chief Ordnance Mechanical Engineer**August 1939 – 1942

Honorary Brigadier E. J. J. BRITTON, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.I.Mech.E., retired pay (Reserve of Officers)

1942 – 1942

Brigadier ASH

**Assistant Director Mechanical Engineering**11<sup>th</sup> May 1942 – 11<sup>th</sup> October 1942

Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) John Arthur Edward BURLS, O.B.E., A.M.I.Mech.E., R.E.M.E.(T.A.)

**Deputy Director Mechanical Engineering**12<sup>th</sup> October 1942 – 5<sup>th</sup> May 1946

Brigadier (Acting) John Arthur Edward BURLS, O.B.E., A.M.I.Mech.E., R.E.M.E.(T.A.)

6<sup>th</sup> May 1946 – 1948

Brigadier (Acting) L. G. SMITH, O.B.E., M.I.Mech.E., R.E.M.E.

26<sup>th</sup> May 1948 – 1949/50

Brigadier (Temporary) L. H. HOWARD-JONES, C.B.E., R.E.M.E.

**Assistant Director of Labour** post gone by April 1945

18<sup>th</sup> October 1943 – 1944

Lieutenant Colonel (Acting) F. B. CORNWELL, P. Corps

**Command Welfare Officer**

11<sup>th</sup> March 1941 – 1945

Colonel H. P. MITCHELL, M.A., M.P., D.L., J.P., General List

**Command Education Officer**

20<sup>th</sup> November 1941 – 1945/6

Colonel (Acting) K. N. COLVILE, M.A., A.E.C.

24<sup>th</sup> September 1946 – 1948

Colonel (Acting) P. S. CANNON, M.A., R.A.E.C.

**Deputy Director A.T.S.**

12<sup>th</sup> May 1942 – 1942

Controller (Acting) V. P. FARROW, A.T.S.

15<sup>th</sup> October 1942 – 1943

Controller (Temporary) The Honourable, Lady M. LAWRENCE, O.B.E., A.T.S.

28<sup>th</sup> June 1943 – 1944/5

Senior Controller (Acting) C. H. FRASER-TYTLER, C.B.E., A.T.S.

I Anti-Aircraft Corps11<sup>th</sup> November 1940 – 14<sup>th</sup> February 1942Lieutenant General (Acting) Sydney Rigby WASON, M.C.\*\* , *p.s.c.*14<sup>th</sup> February 1942 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 1942Lieutenant General (Acting) Charles Alexander Elliott CADELL, C.B.E., M.C., *g.*II Anti-Aircraft Corps11<sup>th</sup> November 1940 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 1942Lieutenant General (Acting) Maurice Fitzgibbon GROVE-WHITE, D.S.O., O.B.E., *p.s.c.*III Anti-Aircraft Corps11<sup>th</sup> November 1940 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 1942Lieutenant General (Acting) Hugh Gray MARTIN, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

**1<sup>st</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division**

Uxbridge, London.

**General Officer Commanding**

15<sup>th</sup> December 1935 – 26<sup>th</sup> November 1937

Major General R. H. D. THOMPSON, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., *p.s.c.*, *g.*

27<sup>th</sup> November 1937 – 27<sup>th</sup> July 1939

Major General Sir Frederick Alfred PILE, Baronet, D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*<sup>4</sup>

28<sup>th</sup> July 1939 – 11<sup>th</sup> November 1940

Major General Francis Lindisfarne Morley CROSSMAN, D.S.O., M.C., *g.*

12<sup>th</sup> November 1940 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 1941

Major General (Acting) Robert Frederick Edward WHITTAKER, O.B.E., T.D., T.A.

1<sup>st</sup> January 1942 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 1942

Major General (Acting) Darcy John Rigby RICHARDS, D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division**

Hucknall, Nottinghamshire

**General Officer Commanding**

1<sup>st</sup> September 1936 – 29<sup>th</sup> May 1939

Major General James Murray Robert HARRISON, D.S.O., *p.s.c.*

30<sup>th</sup> May 1939 – 10<sup>th</sup> November 1940

Major General Maurice Fitzgibbon GROVE-WHITE, D.S.O., O.B.E., *p.s.c.*

12<sup>th</sup> November 1940 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 1942

Major General Francis Lindisfarne Morley CROSSMAN, D.S.O., M.C., *g.*

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<sup>4</sup> Awarded the C.B. on 1 January 1938.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division**

Edinburgh, Scotland

**General Officer Commanding**

1<sup>st</sup> September 1938 – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1939

Major General Lancelot Daryl HICKES,

24<sup>th</sup> September 1939 – 13<sup>th</sup> August 1940

Major General L. R. HILL

14<sup>th</sup> August 1940 – 10<sup>th</sup> November 1940

Major General Hugh Gray MARTIN, D.S.O., O.B.E., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

15<sup>th</sup> November 1940 – 6<sup>th</sup> January 1942

Major General (Acting) John Edward Talbot YOUNGER, *g.*

7<sup>th</sup> January 1942 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 1942

Major General William Wyndham GREEN, D.S.O., M.C.\*, *g.*

**4<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division****General Officer Commanding**

1<sup>st</sup> September 1939 – 9<sup>th</sup> January 1940

Major General Hugh Gray MARTIN, D.S.O., O.B.E., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

10<sup>th</sup> January 1940 – 27<sup>th</sup> May 1940

Major General (Acting) Robert Beverly PARGITER, *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

28<sup>th</sup> May 1940 – 13<sup>th</sup> February 1942

Major General (Acting) Charles Alexander Elliott CADELL, M.C., *g.*

14<sup>th</sup> February 1942 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 1942

Major General (Acting) Osmund Townley FRITH, *g.*

**5<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division****General Officer Commanding**

1<sup>st</sup> September 1939 – 9<sup>th</sup> January 1940

Major General A. G. CUNNINGHAM

10<sup>th</sup> January 1940 – 10<sup>th</sup> November 1940

Major General Robert Hall ALLEN, M.C., *p.s.c.*

11<sup>th</sup> November 1940 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 1942

Major General (Acting) Robert Beverly PARGITER, *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

**6<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division****General Officer Commanding**

30<sup>th</sup> May 1939 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 1942

Major General Frederick Gordon HYLAND, M.C.

**7<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division****General Officer Commanding**

23<sup>rd</sup> June 1939 – 9<sup>th</sup> May 1940

Major General Thomas George Gordon HEYWOOD, O.B.E.,

10<sup>th</sup> May 1940 – 19<sup>th</sup> May 1940

Major General (Acting) John Edward Talbot YOUNGER, *g.*

3<sup>rd</sup> July 1940 – 11<sup>th</sup> November 1940

Major General (Acting) Robert Beverly PARGITER, *i.d.c., p.s.c.*

12<sup>th</sup> November 1940 – 18<sup>th</sup> June 1942

Major General (Acting) Eric Victor Howard FAIRTLOUGH, D.S.O., M.C.

19<sup>th</sup> June 1942 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 1942

Major General (Acting) John Nuttall SLATER, C.M.G., *g.*

**8<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division****General Officer Commanding**

11<sup>th</sup> November 1940 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 1942

Major General Robert Hall ALLEN, M.C., *p.s.c.*

**9<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division****General Officer Commanding**

16<sup>th</sup> November 1940 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 1942

Major General (Acting) Douglas PAIGE, M.C., *g.*

**10<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division****General Officer Commanding**

14<sup>th</sup> November 1940 – 13<sup>th</sup> February 1942

Major General (Temporary) Langley BROWNING, O.B.E., M.C., *p.s.c.*

14<sup>th</sup> February 1942 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 1942

Major General (Acting) Erroll Arthur Edwin TREMLETT, (Major, retired pay) (Reserve of Officers) *g.*

**11<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division****General Officer Commanding**

11<sup>th</sup> November 1940 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 1942

Major General (Acting) Sidney Charles Manley ARCHIBALD, M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

**12<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division****General Officer Commanding**

15<sup>th</sup> November 1940 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 1942

Major General (Acting) Gerald Arthur RICKARDS, D.S.O., M.C.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Anti-Aircraft Group

Old 1<sup>st</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division area – London I.A.Z.

#### **General Officer Commanding**

1<sup>st</sup> October 1942 – 30<sup>th</sup> October 1944

Major General (Acting) Erroll Arthur Edwin TREMLETT, (Major, retired pay) (Reserve of Officers), *g.*

1<sup>st</sup> November 1944 – 1945

Major General REYNOLDS

1<sup>st</sup> March 1946 – 1947

Major General (Acting) William Revell REVELL-SMITH, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.M.

1<sup>st</sup> December 1947 – 26<sup>th</sup> October 1949

Major General (Temporary) Gerard William Gerard HEATH, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Group

Old 2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division area, corresponding with 11<sup>th</sup> Group, R.A.F. surrounding London.

#### **General Officer Commanding**

Major General WHITTAKER

Major General HORNBY

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Group

South West and South Wales 10 Group R.A.F.

#### **General Officer Commanding**

1<sup>st</sup> October 1942 – February 1943

Major General (Temporary) Robert Beverly PARGITER, C.B., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

1943 – November 1944

Major General REYNOLDS

Disbanded November 1944

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Group

North West and North Wales 9 Group R.A.F.

##### **General Officer Commanding**

1<sup>st</sup> October 1942 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 1942

Major General (Acting) John Nuttall SLATER, C.B.E., M.C., *g*.

1<sup>st</sup> January 1944 – circa November 1944

Major General (Temporary) Clifford Thomason BECKETT, C.B.E., M.C., *g*.

Disbanded circa November 1944

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Group

Lincolnshire and Yorkshire. 12 Group R.A.F.

##### **General Officer Commanding**

1<sup>st</sup> October 1942 – 7<sup>th</sup> March 1945

Major General William Wyndham GREEN, D.S.O., M.C.\*,

1945 – 1946

Major General (Temporary) Clifford Thomason BECKETT, C.B.E., M.C., *g*.

10<sup>th</sup> October 1947 – 1948/9

Major General L. K. LOCKHART

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Group

Scotland – moved to Portsmouth/Southampton area for D-Day. Then disbanded. 14 Group R.A.F.

15<sup>th</sup> July 1943 – 25<sup>th</sup> February 1944 (23<sup>rd</sup> May 1944)

Major General (Acting) Alexander Maurice CAMERON, M.C., *g*.

23<sup>rd</sup> May 1944 – 31<sup>st</sup> January 1945

Major General (Acting) Francis St. David Benwell LEJUNE,

**7<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Group**

North East, South West Scotland and Northern Ireland 13 Group R.A.F.  
Northern Ireland

REYNOLDS

Disbanded November 1944

**8<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Group**

Formed in Scotland March 1944

**9<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Group**

Flying Bomb Deployment

1 November 1944 – May 1945

Major General (Acting) Erroll Arthur Edwin TREMLETT, C.B. (Major, retired pay) (Reserve of Officers), *g*.

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<http://www.archive.org/details/armylistjul21940grea>

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Available on-line at: <http://www.archive.org/stream/armylistoct1940grea>

[Accessed 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2011]

### *The Half Yearly Army List for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 1940*

Available on-line at: <http://www.archive.org/details/armylisthalfjan1941grea>

[Accessed 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2011]

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[Accessed 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2011]

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[Accessed 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2011]

### *The Quarterly Army List October 1941*

Available on-line at: <http://www.archive.org/details/armylistoct1941gre>

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[Accessed 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2011]

### *The Half Yearly Army List for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 1941*

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