

23rd Anti-Aircraft Brigade (1)

Headquarters, 23rd Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

52nd (London) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (2)

(H.Q., 155th (London), 159th (Lloyds) (City of London) & 271st Heavy Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

65th (The Manchester Regiment) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (3)

(H.Q., 181st, 183rd & 196th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

2nd Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Ceylon Garrison Artillery (4)

(H.Q., 5th, 6th & 8th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Ceylon Garrison Artillery)

23rd Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (5)

(H.Q., 73rd, 74th & 130th Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

43rd Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (6)

(H.Q., 147th, 148th & 264th Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

315th Searchlight Battery, Royal Artillery

23rd Anti-Aircraft Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps

23rd Anti-Aircraft Brigade Workshops, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers

NOTES:

1. This brigade was formed between January and December 1942 to assume command of the anti-aircraft units stationed in the Colombo area on the island of Ceylon. Its commanding officer was Brigadier (Acting) G. V. HUNT (not identified). This is the order of battle for the Brigade in November 1942, and it was the same in October 1943, other than the 7th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, C.G.A., and 9th Searchlight Battery, C.G.A., were now under command.
2. This regiment was formed in 1923 as an Anti-Aircraft Brigade in the Territorial Army, which was based in London. It originally comprised the H.Q., 154th (London), 155th (London) & 156th (Barking) Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery, but by May 1942, the 156th Battery had transferred to another regiment. The regiment served in Home Force until March 1942, when it sailed for India. It arrived in Colombo on 28 May 1942, and at this time, the 154th H.A.A. Battery transferred to the 56th H.A.A. Regiment, and in return, this regiment received the 159th (Lloyds) (City of London) H.A.A. Battery from the 53rd H.A.A. Regiment. The regiment came under Ceylon Command until November 1942, when the 23rd Anti-Aircraft Brigade was formed. It then came under command of this Brigade. In November 1944, the regiment left Ceylon and moved to Chittagong, from where it moved to Kalembo to join the 14th Army. The regiment was equipped with twenty-four 3.7" anti-aircraft guns. In April 1945, the regiment came under command of IV Corps, having taken over possession of two 7.2" howitzers from the 67th H.A.A. Regiment at Shwebo on 31 January 1945. In May 1945, the regiment came under command of the 24th Anti-Aircraft Brigade, and then the 3rd Indian Anti-Aircraft Brigade in June, by which time it was stationed in Rangoon. The three known commanding officers of the regiment were Lieutenant Colonel F. HEVEY, followed by Lieutenant Colonel J. H. GALE, and finally Lieutenant Colonel L. A. HOPE.
3. Formed in 1936 by the conversion of the 6th/7th Bn. The Manchester Regiment, this regiment was part of Home Forces until January 1942. It sailed to Ceylon, where it arrived on 15 March 1942, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel W. A. MacLELLAN. Initially under Ceylon Command, this regiment came under the 23rd Anti-Aircraft Brigade when it was formed, as it was station in and around Colombo. It left for the Middle East on 4 May 1943, and from August 1944, it was serving back in the U.K..
4. The Ceylon Garrison Artillery (C.G.A.) was formed in 1918 by the amalgamation of the Ceylon Artillery Volunteers and the Town Guard Artillery. The post-First World War function of the C.G.A was to man coastal artillery batteries at Colombo and Trincomalee. With the outbreak of the Second World War in the Far East in December 1941, the C.G.A. was mobilised and expanded. The 1st Coast Regiment comprised one field and four coast batteries around Colombo. The 2nd H.A.A. Regiment was formed at Trincomalee, and it was equipped with the 3.7" anti-aircraft guns. It was under the command of the 23rd Anti-Aircraft Brigade until the 24th Anti-Aircraft Brigade was formed at Trincomalee.
5. This regiment was formed in December 1938 in the Territorial Army in the U.K.. It arrived in Colombo from the U.K. on 1 July 1942, and it was deployed in and around Colombo under command of the 23rd Anti-Aircraft Brigade. On 31 March 1944, it moved to Secunderabad, and it came under command of the 44th Indian Airborne Division. It remained in India for the rest of the war, with that division, which was never deployed operationally. Lieutenant Colonel G. D. HOLMES commanded the regiment, until he was promoted to command the newly raised 24th Anti-Aircraft Brigade. Lieutenant Colonel T. W. R. HILL replaced him, and he in turn was replaced by Lieutenant Colonel, The Honourable, V. H. O. HERBERT. Finally, Lieutenant Colonel V. E. Le MARCHANT commanded the regiment until the end of hostilities.

6. This regiment was formed in November 1939 with a battery from the 16th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. It was based in the U.K. until it left for the Far East in December 1941. The regiment arrived at Colombo on 4 March 1942, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel W. BALDWIN-FLETCHER, and it joined the 23rd Anti-Aircraft Brigade. In September 1943, it transferred to the 24th Anti-Aircraft Brigade at Trincomalee. The 264th L.A.A. Battery was detached to join the 13th Anti-Aircraft Brigade at Chittagong. The regiment disbanded in Ceylon in January 1945.

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52nd (London) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (2)

(H.Q., 155th (London), 159th (Lloyds) (City of London) & 271st Heavy Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

13th Indian Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Indian Artillery (3)

(H.Q., 37th, 38th & 39th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Indian Artillery)

76th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (4)

(H.Q., 226th, 227th & 228th Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

3rd Searchlight/Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Ceylon Garrison Artillery (5)

315th Searchlight Battery, Royal Artillery

9th Searchlight Battery, Ceylon Garrison Artillery

NOTES:

1. This is the order of battle for the Brigade in June 1944. By this date, the Japanese threat to Ceylon was diminished, and the British armed forces on the island were being scaled down. This Brigade was disbanded prior to August 1945, in Ceylon.
2. See previous pages.
3. This regiment was formed in India on 1 June 1943. It arrived in Ceylon in October 1944, and it appears to have remained here until the end of the war.
4. Formed in February 1941, this regiment served in Home Forces in the U.K. until March 1942. It arrived on the island of Ceylon on 28 May 1942, and it was deployed in the Colombo area. Between October 1942 and March 1943, this regiment was under the command of the 1st Royal Marine Anti-Aircraft Brigade. In March 1943, it transferred to the command of the 24th Anti-Aircraft Brigade, and then in September 1943, it transferred to the 23rd Anti-Aircraft Brigade. It was disbanded on Ceylon in January 1945. Lieutenant Colonel D. E. JONES commanded the regiment in 1942, to be followed by Lieutenant Colonel R. J. COCKWELL. The last commanding officer was Major E. V. PROFFITT, as the regiment was run down and disbanded.
5. Little is known of this regiment.