

1st Anti-Aircraft Division ⁽¹⁾

Headquarters, 1st Anti-Aircraft Division

26th (London) Anti-Aircraft Group ⁽²⁾

Headquarters, 26th (London) Anti-Aircraft Group & Signal Section

51st (London) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery ⁽³⁾

(H.Q., 151st (London), 152nd (London) & 153rd (London) Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

52nd (London) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery ⁽⁴⁾

(H.Q., 154th (London), 155th (London) & 156th (Barking) Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

53rd (City of London) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery ⁽⁵⁾

(H.Q., 157th (City of London), 158th (City of London) & 159th (Lloyd's) (City of London) Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

54th (City of London) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery ⁽⁶⁾

(H.Q., 160th (City of London), 161st (City of London) & 162nd (City of London) Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

26th (London) Anti-Aircraft Battalion (London Electrical Engineers), Royal Engineers ⁽⁷⁾

(H.Q., 301st, 302nd & 303rd Anti-Aircraft Companies, Royal Engineers)

27th (London) Anti-Aircraft Battalion (London Electrical Engineers), Royal Engineers ⁽⁸⁾

(H.Q., 304th, 305th & 306th Anti-Aircraft Companies, Royal Engineers)

27th (Home Counties) Anti-Aircraft Group ⁽⁹⁾

Headquarters, 26th (Home Counties) Anti-Aircraft Group & Signal Section

60th (City of London) Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery ⁽¹⁰⁾

(H.Q., 168th, 169th & 194th Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

30th (Surrey) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers ⁽¹¹⁾

(H.Q., 315th (Surrey), 316th (Surrey), 318th (Surrey) & 323rd (Surrey) Anti-Aircraft Companies, Royal Engineers)

31st (City of London Rifles) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers ⁽¹²⁾

(H.Q., 324th, 325th, 326th & 327th Anti-Aircraft Companies, Royal Engineers)

34th (The Queen's Own Royal West Kent) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers ⁽¹³⁾

(H.Q., 302nd, 336th, 337th & 338th Anti-Aircraft Companies, Royal Engineers)

35th (First Surrey Rifles) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers ⁽¹⁴⁾

(H.Q., 340th, 341st, 342nd & 343rd Anti-Aircraft Companies, Royal Engineers)

28th (Thames and Medway) Anti-Aircraft Group (15)

Headquarters, 28th (Thames and Medway) Anti-Aircraft Group & Signal Section

55th (Kent) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery (16)

(H.Q., 163rd (Kent), 166th (City of Rochester) & 205th (Chatham and Faverham) Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

58th (Kent) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery (17)

(H.Q., 206th (Erith), 207th (Erith) & 208th (Bromley) Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

61st (Finsbury Rifles) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery (18)

(H.Q., 170th, 171st, 195th & Anti-Aircraft Machine Gun Batteries, Royal Artillery)

29th (Kent) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers (19)

(H.Q., 313th (Kent), 314th (Kent) & 347th (Kent) Anti-Aircraft Companies, Royal Engineers)

32nd (7th City of London) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers (20)

(H.Q., 328th, 329th, 330th & 331st Anti-Aircraft Companies, Royal Engineers)

29th (East Anglian) Anti-Aircraft Group (21)

Headquarters, 29th (East Anglian) Anti-Aircraft Group & Signal Section

59th (the Essex Regiment) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery (22)

(H.Q., 164th, 167th & 193rd Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

28th Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers (23)

(H.Q., 309th (Essex), 310th (Essex), 311th (Essex) & 312th (Essex) Anti-Aircraft Companies, Royal Engineers)

33rd (St. Pancras) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers (24)

(H.Q., 332nd, 333rd & 334th Anti-Aircraft Companies, Royal Engineers)

36th (Middlesex) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers (25)

(H.Q., 317th, 345th & 346th Anti-Aircraft Companies, Royal Engineers)

Divisional Troops

1st Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals (26)

1st Anti-Aircraft Divisional Royal Army Service Corps (27)

NOTES:

General

Within the Royal Artillery, a unit comprising four batteries was known as a 'Brigade', not a Regiment as would have been expected. A Lieutenant Colonel commanded a Brigade. A brigade in terms of the Royal Artillery was known as a Group, with a Brigadier in command. In November 1938, this anomaly was corrected, with Royal Artillery Brigades now being designated as 'Regiments', and Royal Artillery Groups designated as 'Brigades'. The process commenced of splitting the four battery field regiments into two, two battery regiments, and additional anti-aircraft regiments were formed, often by taking a battery or cadre from an existing regiment. This meant that in the period under review, there were frequent changes to the order of battle.

Specific

1. The division was raised on 15 December 1935 in the London District, with its headquarters located at Hillington House, Uxbridge. It is believed the headquarters of the 2nd London Division was used to form the new anti-aircraft division. Major General Sir Frederick Alfred PILE, Bt., D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*, commanded the division from its formation until 27 July 1939, when he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General to assume command of the Anti-Aircraft Command. Major General Francis Lindisfarne Morley CROSSMAN, D.S.O., M.C., *g.* assumed command of the division on 28 July 1939, and remained in command until transferring to command the 2nd Anti-Aircraft Division on 11 November 1940. The division was disbanded in October 1942, being replaced by one of seven anti-aircraft groups.
2. This brigade was raised on 16 December 1935 at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London S.W.3. Temporary Brigadier Richard Sutton ROTHWELL, D.S.O., commanded the brigade from its raising until he retired on 18 January 1939.
3. The first Territorial Army anti-aircraft unit formed; this regiment had been raised in 1922. All four batteries were based in the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London S.W.3. The regiment was deployed to Norway in April and May 1940. Following its return to the U.K., it left again in January 1941, this time bound for Egypt. It moved to Palestine in December 1941, under 9th Army. It joined 8th Army in September 1942, and moved to Italy in September 1943, staying there until the end of the war.
4. This sister regiment was formed in 1923. The Headquarters, 154th and 155th Batteries were based in the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, but in 1938 moved to Artillery House, Horn Lane in Acton, London W.3. The 156th Battery was based in Empress Hall, Ripple Lane, Barking. The regiment left the U.K. in March 1942, bound for Ceylon. It moved from Ceylon to Burma in November 1944. It served with IV Corps, the 24th Anti-Aircraft Brigade, and the 3rd Indian Anti-Aircraft Brigade until the end of the war. On 1 January 1947, it was reformed as the 452nd Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, still based at Acton. It amalgamated with other regiments in 1955, and it ceased to exist as a regiment in its own right.

5. This unit was formed in 1922 as an anti-aircraft brigade within the Territorial Army. The headquarters and three batteries were based at the Drill Hall, Lytton Grove, Putney, London S.W. 15, but by the outbreak of war, they had moved to the War Office Department at White City Road, London W.12. The regiment was deployed to France as part of the B.E.F. in November 1939. Following evacuation from Dunkirk, it remained in the U.K. until March 1942 when it sailed for India. It served with the 1st Indian Anti-Aircraft Brigade until March 1943, then with the 2nd Indian Anti-Aircraft Brigade from March 1943 to May 1944, and latterly with the 9th Anti-Aircraft Brigade until July 1944, when it was converted into the 85th (City of London) Medium Regiment. It continued to serve in India for the rest of the war.
6. This regiment was raised in 1923 as an anti-aircraft brigade in the Territorial Army, and one of the four units formed in the early 1920's. All five batteries were based at the Drill Hall, Lytton Grove, Putney, London S.W.15. In May 1943, the regiment moved to North Africa, where it came under command of Middle East Forces. It was placed in suspended animation in February 1945. On 1 January 1947, it was reconstituted in the T.A. as the 454th (City of London) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, still based at Putney..
7. Formed as one of the original five searchlight battalions formed in 1925, in 1936 the 26th (London) Searchlight Battalion was redesignated as the 26th (London) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers. The headquarters and three companies were based at the Duke of York's Barracks at Chelsea. In January 1940, the battalion was redesignated as the 26th Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It remained as a searchlight unit based in the U.K. until the end of the war.
8. A sister unit to the 26th Searchlight Battalion, this unit was again formed in 1925. The headquarters of the battalion was located in Mitcham Lane, but the four companies were all based in Rochester Row, London SW1. It was also redesignated in January 1940, becoming the 27th Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It left the U.K. in May 1941 to move to Egypt. It came under command of Middle East Forces in November 1941, remaining in North Africa until placed in suspended animation in June 1945.
9. This anti-aircraft group was formed on 15 December 1935, being based at Kenley Aerodrome, Whyteleafe, Surrey. Temporary Brigadier Arthur Bertram OGLE, O.B.E., R.E., commanded the brigade from the date of its raising until late 1939 or early 1940.
10. This brigade was formed in 1932 by the conversion of the 4th Bn. The London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers). All four batteries were based at Artillery House, Bromley Road, Catford, London S.E.6. The regiment was deployed to France with the B.E.F. in November 1939. On its return to the U.K., it remained there until moving to Normandy in June 1944 with 2nd Army. It served throughout the campaign in N.W. Europe, being reformed on 1 April 1947 at Catford as the 460th H.A.A. Regiment, merging in 1955 with the 454th H.A.A. Regiment (see above), until disbanding in February 1961.
11. This battalion was formed in 1935 from the Headquarters, Surrey Group Anti-Aircraft Searchlight Companies. The Headquarters and 316th Companies were based in Kingston, Surrey, with the 315th Company based at Croydon, the 318th Company based at Guildford, and the 323rd Company at Ewell. It was redesignated as the 30th Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery in January 1940.
12. In 1935, the 6th Bn. The London Regiment (City of London Rifles) was converted into a searchlight unit, designated as the 31st (City of London Rifles) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers. The headquarters and all companies were based at 57A, Farringdon Road, London E.C.1. In January 1940, it became titled as the 31st Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery.

13. The 20th Bn. The London Regiment was converted in 1935 into a searchlight unit of the Royal Engineers. The unit was affiliated to the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. The headquarters, 336th, 337th and 338th Companies were all based at Holly Hedge House, Blackheath, London S.E.10, with the 302nd Company based at Randall Place, Greenwich, London S.E.10.. In January 1940, it was redesignated as the 34th Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery and continued to serve in the U.K.. In January 1945, it was converted into the 633rd Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery.
14. The 21st Bn. The London Regiment was also converted into a searchlight unit of the Royal Engineers in 1935. It was affiliated to the East Surrey Regiment. The headquarters and all the companies were based at 4, Flodden Road, Camberwell, London S.E.5.. In January 1940, it was redesignated as the 35th Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. In March 1942, it was converted into the 129th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery. The regiment served in the U.K. throughout the war.
15. Formed on 15 December 1935, the headquarters of this Group were located at Kitchener Barracks, Chatham. Temporary Brigadier Leslie Rowley HILL, O.B.E., *p.s.c.*, commanded this Group until 20 July 1938, when he was promoted to the rank of Major General and was posted to the War Office. Temporary Brigadier Christian West BAYNE-JARDINE, D.S.O., M.C., *g.*, assumed command of the Group (Brigade) on 20 July 1938, and remained in command during the early years of the Second World War.
16. In 1925, the raising of the fifth Territorial Army anti-aircraft brigade was authorised. This became the 55th (Kent) Anti-Aircraft Brigade. The headquarters and 166th Battery were based at Fort Clarence, Rochester; the 163rd Battery was based at Albion Road, Tunbridge Wells; with the 295th Battery based at the Drill Hall, Chatham. The regiment remained in the U.K. until leaving for Iraq in November 1942. It later served in North Africa, Sicily and Italy.
17. This brigade was formed in 1935 by the conversion of the 52nd (Kent) Medium Brigade, Royal Artillery. The headquarters, 206th and 207th Batteries were based at Bexley Road, Erith, with the 208th Battery based at the Drill Hal, Parish Lane, Penge. This regiment left the U.K. in November 1942 to serve with the 1st Army in Tunisia. It later served with the 8th Army in Italy until the end of the war.
18. In 1935, the 11th Bn. The London Regiment (Finsbury Rifles) was converted from an infantry battalion into an anti-aircraft brigade. The headquarters of the unit and four batteries were all based at 17, Penton Street, Pentonville, London N.1. The regiment remained in the U.K. until June 1942, when it moved to the Middle East. It later moved to Italy in November 1943 and was based there at the end of the war.
19. This battalion was formed in 1935 from the Kent and Middlesex Group Anti-Aircraft Searchlight Companies. The headquarters and 313th Company were based at the Marine School, Chatham; the 314th Company was based at the Drill Hall, Avebury Avenue, Tonbridge; and the 347th Company was based at Lamorbey House, Sidcup. In January 1940, it was redesignated as the 29th Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It served with Home Forces until being converted into the 631st Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery in January 1945.
20. In 1935, the 7th Bn. The London Regiment (Post Office Rifles) was converted into an anti-aircraft battalion of the Royal Engineers. It was affiliated to the Middlesex Regiment. The headquarters and 328th Company were based at 24, Sun Street, Finsbury Square, London E.C.2; the 329th and 330th Companies were based at Grove Park; with the 331st Company based at Bexleyheath. In January 1940, the battalion was redesignated as the 32nd Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It remained with Home Forces in the U.K. until May 1945 when it was placed in suspended animation.

21. This group was formed in January 1936, with its headquarters located at North Weald Aerodrome, North Weald, Epping, Essex.
22. This brigade was formed in 1935 by the conversion of the 5th Bn. The Essex Regiment. The headquarters and 164th Battery were based at the Drill Hall, Church Hill, Walthamstow, London E.17; the 167th Battery was based at the Drill Hall, Church Road, Leyton, London, E.10; and the 193rd Battery was based at Leigh-on-Sea. The regiment stayed in the U.K. until November 1942 when it moved to Tunisia, later serving with the 8th Army in Italy.
23. The 28th Anti-Aircraft Company was formed in 1935 from the Essex Group Anti-Aircraft Companies, Royal Engineers. The headquarters and 311th Company were based at Brentwood, the 309th Company was based at Harlow, the 310th Company at Epping and the 312th Company at Upminster. In January 1940, the battalion was redesignated as the 28th Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. The regiment was stationed in the U.K. until January 1945 when it was converted to become the 630th Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery.
24. This battalion was formed in 1935 by the conversion of the 19th Bn. The London Regiment. The headquarters and all the companies were based at 76, High Street, Camden Town, London N.W.1.. In January 1940, it was redesignated as the 33rd Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It served with Home Forces until January 1945 when it was converted into the 632nd Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery.
25. This battalion was raised in 1936. The headquarters and all the companies were based at Hendon, London N.W.4. In January 1940, it was redesignated as the 36th Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It served with Home Forces until January 1945 when it was converted into the 634th Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery.
26. The divisional signals were based at 56, Regency Street, London S.W.1.
27. The divisional R.A.S.C. was based at Crescent Road, Plumstead, London S.E.18.

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Despatch

War Office

Supplement to the London Gazette of Tuesday 16th December 1947 – The Anti-Aircraft Defence of the United Kingdom from 28th July 1939 to 15th April 1945 submitted by General Sir Frederick A. PILE, Bt., G.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Anti-Aircraft Command.

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