

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division <sup>(1)</sup>

Headquarters, 2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division

### 30<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Anti-Aircraft Group <sup>(2)</sup>

Headquarters, 30<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Anti-Aircraft Group & Signal Section

62<sup>nd</sup> (North and East Riding) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery <sup>(3)</sup>

(H.Q., 172<sup>nd</sup> (1st East Riding), 173<sup>rd</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> East Riding), 174<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> North Riding) & 175<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> North Riding) Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

63<sup>rd</sup> (Durham) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery <sup>(4)</sup>

(H.Q., 176<sup>th</sup> (Durham), 177<sup>th</sup> (Durham) & 178<sup>th</sup> (Durham) Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

64<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery <sup>(5)</sup>

(H.Q., 179<sup>th</sup> (Tynemouth) & 180<sup>th</sup> (Tynemouth) Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

37<sup>th</sup> (Tyne) Anti-Aircraft Battalion (Tyne Electrical Engineers), Royal Engineers <sup>(6)</sup>

(H.Q., 307<sup>th</sup>, 308<sup>th</sup>, 348<sup>th</sup> & 349<sup>th</sup> Companies, Royal Engineers)

47<sup>th</sup> (The Durham Light Infantry) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers <sup>(7)</sup>

(H.Q., 386<sup>th</sup>, 387<sup>th</sup>, 388<sup>th</sup> & 389<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Companies, Royal Engineers)

### 31<sup>st</sup> (North Midland) Anti-Aircraft Group <sup>(8)</sup>

Headquarters, 31<sup>st</sup> (North Midland) Anti-Aircraft Group & Signal Section

66<sup>th</sup> (Leeds Rifles) (The West Yorkshire Regiment) Anti-Aircraft Brigade,  
Royal Artillery <sup>(9)</sup>

(H.Q., 184<sup>th</sup>, 185<sup>th</sup>, 186<sup>th</sup> & 197<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

67<sup>th</sup> (The York and Lancaster Regiment) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery <sup>(10)</sup>

(H.Q., 187<sup>th</sup>, 188<sup>th</sup>, 189<sup>th</sup> & 198<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

43<sup>rd</sup> (The Duke of Wellington's Regiment) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers <sup>(11)</sup>

(H.Q., 370<sup>th</sup>, 371<sup>st</sup>, 372<sup>nd</sup> & 373<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Companies, Royal Engineers)

46<sup>th</sup> (The Lincolnshire Regiment) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers <sup>(12)</sup>

(H.Q., 382<sup>nd</sup>, 383<sup>rd</sup>, 384<sup>th</sup> & 385<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Companies, Royal Engineers)

32<sup>nd</sup> (South Midland) Anti-Aircraft Group (13)

Headquarters, 32<sup>nd</sup> (South Midland) Anti-Aircraft Group & Signal Section

69<sup>th</sup> (The Royal Warwickshire Regiment) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery (14)  
(H.Q., 190<sup>th</sup>, 191<sup>st</sup>, 192<sup>nd</sup> & 199<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

40<sup>th</sup> (The Sherwood Foresters) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers (15)  
(H.Q., 358<sup>th</sup>, 359<sup>th</sup>, 360<sup>th</sup> & 361<sup>st</sup> Anti-Aircraft Companies, Royal Engineers)

42<sup>nd</sup> (The Robin Hoods, Sherwood Foresters) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers (16)  
(H.Q., 366<sup>th</sup>, 367<sup>th</sup>, 368<sup>th</sup> & 369<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Companies, Royal Engineers)

44<sup>th</sup> (The Leicestershire Regiment) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers (17)  
(H.Q., 374<sup>th</sup>, 375<sup>th</sup>, 376<sup>th</sup> & 377<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Companies, Royal Engineers)

45<sup>th</sup> (The Royal Warwickshire Regiment) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers (18)  
(H.Q., 378<sup>th</sup>, 379<sup>th</sup>, 380<sup>th</sup> & 381<sup>st</sup> Anti-Aircraft Companies, Royal Engineers)

33<sup>rd</sup> (Western) Anti-Aircraft Group (19)

Headquarters, 33<sup>rd</sup> (Western) Anti-Aircraft Group & Signal Section

65<sup>th</sup> (The Manchester Regiment) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery (20)  
(H.Q., 181<sup>st</sup>, 182<sup>nd</sup>, 183<sup>rd</sup> & 196<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

38<sup>th</sup> (The King's Regiment) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers (21)  
(H.Q., 350<sup>th</sup>, 351<sup>st</sup>, 352<sup>nd</sup> & 353<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Companies, Royal Engineers)

39<sup>th</sup> (The Lancashire Fusiliers) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers (22)  
(H.Q., 354<sup>th</sup>, 355<sup>th</sup>, 356<sup>th</sup> & 357<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Companies, Royal Engineers)

41<sup>st</sup> (The North Staffordshire Regiment) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers (23)  
(H.Q., 362<sup>nd</sup>, 363<sup>rd</sup>, 364<sup>th</sup> & 365<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Companies, Royal Engineers)

Divisional Troops (24)

2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals (26)

2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Divisional Royal Army Service Corps (27)

## NOTES:

1. In December 1935, the 46<sup>th</sup> (North Midland) Division was disbanded, and the headquarters were converted into the headquarters for the new anti-aircraft division. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division was formed to control the newly raised or converted anti-aircraft units in Great Britain, except for the London area which was covered by the 1<sup>st</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division. The headquarters of the new 2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division were located at Normanton House, Derby.
2. This Anti-Aircraft Group was raised on 1 November 1936 at Sunderland. The headquarters of the group were based at 15, Humbledown View, Tunstall Road, Sunderland. The group was redesignated as the 30<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Anti-Aircraft Brigade in 1938 and transferred to the newly formed 7<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division in 1939.
3. Reformed in 1921 as the 73<sup>rd</sup> (Northumbrian) Brigade, R.F.A., this regiment was based at Hull. The H.Q., 289<sup>th</sup> and 290<sup>th</sup> Batteries were based at Wenlock Barracks, Hull, with the 291<sup>st</sup> Battery based at Uppang Lane, Whitby, and the 292<sup>nd</sup> Battery based at the Artillery Barracks, Lytton Street, Middlesbrough. On 10 December 1936, the regiment converted to an anti-aircraft role. The 289<sup>th</sup> and 290<sup>th</sup> Batteries were redesignated as the 172<sup>nd</sup> and 173<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Batteries, still based in Hull. The 291<sup>st</sup> Battery moved to Middlesbrough to join the 292<sup>nd</sup> Battery, the two batteries being redesignated as the 174<sup>th</sup> and 175<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Batteries. In 1938, the regiment duplicated to form the 85<sup>th</sup> (Tees) Anti-Aircraft Regiment. The 174<sup>th</sup> and 175<sup>th</sup> Batteries transferred across to the new unit. An additional battery, the 266<sup>th</sup> Battery, was formed in Hull to join the 62<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Regiment. In September 1939, the 62<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Regiment (as it was now titled) transferred to the newly formed 39<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade. The 62<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Regiment served in North Africa and with the 8<sup>th</sup> Army in Italy, as did the 85<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Regiment, which had also served in France in 1940.
4. The 55<sup>th</sup> Medium Brigade was reformed in 1920. The headquarters was based at the Drill Hall, The Green, Sunderland. The 217<sup>th</sup> Battery was also based in Sunderland alongside the headquarters. The 218<sup>th</sup> and 220<sup>th</sup> Batteries were based at the Drill Hall, Seaham Harbour, and the 219<sup>th</sup> Battery at the Armoury, West Hartlepool. In 1936, the brigade converted into an anti-aircraft role, being titled as the 63<sup>rd</sup> (Durham) Anti-Aircraft Brigade. The Headquarters, 176<sup>th</sup> and 178<sup>th</sup> Batteries were based in Sunderland at the Drill Hall, The Green, and the 177<sup>th</sup> Battery at the Drill Hall, Seaham Harbour. It joined the 30<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Anti-Aircraft Group, and it was still with this group (by now redesignated as a brigade) at the outbreak of war. The regiment later served in Ceylon, arriving there on 29 July 1942. By this date, the regiment had adopted the title of 'Northumbrian' instead of 'Durham', but the date of this change is not known. In October 1944, it was converted to a medium battery (the 63<sup>rd</sup>), which then combined with the 70<sup>th</sup> Medium Battery (formed by converting the 70<sup>th</sup> Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment), to form the 87<sup>th</sup> Medium Regiment. The new medium regiment continued to serve in India until it was disbanded in May 1945.
5. This regiment was formed in 1936. The two batteries were converted from the 150<sup>th</sup> and 152<sup>nd</sup> Heavy Batteries of the Tynemouth Heavy Brigade. The Headquarters and 179<sup>th</sup> Batteries were based at Military Road, North Shields, and the 180<sup>th</sup> Battery at Seaton Delaval. In 1939, the two batteries were joined by the 268<sup>th</sup> (Durham) Anti-Aircraft Battery, based at Consett, which brought the regiment up to strength. The regiment came under command of the 30<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Anti-Aircraft Group (later re-titled as a brigade), and it was still under command at the outbreak of war.

The regiment served with Home Forces until May 1943, when it moved to North Africa. It later served in Italy until February 1945, moving to North-West Europe to see out the rest of the war.

6. This battalion was formed in 1936 by the expansion of the 307<sup>th</sup> (Tyne) Anti-Aircraft Searchlight Company, Tyne Electrical Engineers. The Headquarters, 307<sup>th</sup> and 308<sup>th</sup> Companies were based at Station Road, Tynemouth, with the 348<sup>th</sup> and 349<sup>th</sup> Companies based at Heaton, Newcastle-on-Tyne. The battalion joined the 30<sup>th</sup> (Northumbrian) Anti-Aircraft Group on formation. It was still with this group (brigade) at the outbreak of war. In August 1940, the battalion was redesignated as the 37<sup>th</sup> (Tyne) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. The regiment served with Home Forces throughout the war.
7. This battalion was formed in 1936 by the conversion of the 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Durham Light Infantry. The headquarters and all four companies were based at the Drill Hall, Livingstone Road, Sunderland. The battalion was redesignated as a searchlight regiment in the Royal Artillery in January 1940. It served with Home Forces until January 1942, when it was converted into the 112<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery. As such, it served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Army in North-West Europe.
8. The headquarters of this anti-aircraft group were based at 9, Cannon Square, Retford, Nottinghamshire. It had been raised on 1 November 1936. In November 1938, it was redesignated as the 31<sup>st</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade, transferring to the newly raised 7<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division when that was formed in the same month.
9. In 1936, the 7<sup>th</sup> (Leeds Rifles) Bn. The West Yorkshire Regiment was converted into an anti-aircraft brigade. The headquarters and all four batteries were based at Carlton Barracks, Leeds. The regiment (as the brigades were redesignated in 1938) served with Home Forces until March 1942, when it sailed for India. It served in India and Burma until placed in suspended animation in April 1945.
10. The 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The York and Lancaster Regiment was based at the Drill Hall, Rotherham. In 1936, it was one of the infantry battalions that were converted into an anti-aircraft role. It left the U.K. in September 1941 to move to the Middle East, where after just one month it moved on to India. The regiment served for the rest of the war in India and Burma, reverting to an infantry role between October 1944 and January 1945.
11. This battalion was formed in 1936 by the conversion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. The headquarters and all four companies were based at the Drill Hall, Huddersfield. In January 1940, the battalion was redesignated as the 43<sup>rd</sup> Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. The regiment remained in the U.K. until converted into the 43<sup>rd</sup> Garrison Regiment, Royal Artillery in October 1944.
12. This battalion was formed in 1936 by the conversion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Lincolnshire Regiment. The headquarters and all four companies were based at the Drill Hall, Doughty Road, Grimsby. The battalion was redesignated in January 1940 as the 46<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It remained with Home Forces until November 1944 when it converted into the 46<sup>th</sup> Garrison Regiment, Royal Artillery.
13. This anti-aircraft group was formed on 1 November 1936, with its headquarters at Normanton House, Derby. It remained with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division with the expansion of the anti-aircraft formations in November 1938.
14. The 6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment was converted into an anti-aircraft role in 1936. The headquarters and all four batteries were based at 'Rockingham', Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham. The regiment came under command of Home Forces until June 1941 when it sailed for Malta. It spent two months on the island before moving on to Egypt. It later served in Italy with the 8<sup>th</sup> Army where it placed in suspended animation in January 1945.

15. In 1936, the 6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Sherwood Foresters was converted into an anti-aircraft battalion of the Royal Engineers. The headquarters and all four companies were based at the Drill Hall, Chesterfield. In January 1940, the battalion was redesignated as the 40<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It was part of Home Forces until June 1943, when it was converted into the 149<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery. As such, it joined the 55<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and later served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Army in North-West Europe during 1944 and 1945.
16. In 1936, the 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Sherwood Foresters was also converted into an anti-aircraft battalion of the Royal Engineers. The headquarters and all four companies were based at the Drill Hall, Derby Road, Nottingham. In January 1940, the battalion was redesignated as the 42<sup>nd</sup> Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. The regiment stayed in the U.K. under Home Forces until August 1944, when it moved to Italy to join the 8<sup>th</sup> Army for the rest of the war.
17. The 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Leicestershire Regiment was converted into an anti-aircraft battalion of the Royal Engineers in 1936. The headquarters and all four companies were based at The Magazine, Leicester. In January 1940, the battalion was redesignated as the 44<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It was part of Home Forces until January 1942, when it was converted into the 121<sup>st</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery. As such it served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Army in North-West Europe in 1944 and 1945.
18. The 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment was another infantry battalion that was converted into an anti-aircraft battalion of the Royal Engineers in 1936. The headquarters and all four companies were based at the Drill Hall, Thorp Street, Birmingham 5. The battalion was redesignated as the 45<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery in January 1940. The regiment was part of Home Forces until February 1942 when it was converted into the 122<sup>nd</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery. As such the regiment travelled to India, serving with the 36<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Division in Burma during the 1944 and 1945 campaign.
19. The 33<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Group had its headquarters at the Drill Hall, Chester. It transferred to the 4<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division in November 1936 when that formation was raised, being redesignated as the 33<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade at the same time.
20. In 1936, the 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Manchester Regiment was converted into an anti-aircraft brigade. The headquarters and all four batteries were based at 3, Stretford Road, Hulme, Manchester 15. The brigade was redesignated as a regiment in 1938, and served with Home Forces until March 1943, when it moved to the Middle East. It returned to the United Kingdom in August 1944, where it saw out the rest of the war.
21. The 6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The King's Regiment (Liverpool) was a Territorial Army infantry unit that was based at the Princes Park Barracks, Upper Warwick Street, Liverpool 8. In 1936, the battalion was converted into a searchlight unit of the Royal Engineers. In January 1940, the unit was redesignated as the 38<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. The regiment remained with Home Forces until January 1945 when it converted into the 635<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery.
22. The 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers was another Territorial Army unit that was converted into a searchlight unit of the Royal Engineers in 1936. The headquarters and all four companies were based at the Drill Hall, Cross Lane, Salford. The battalion was redesignated as the 39<sup>th</sup> Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery in January 1940. The regiment was under command of Home Forces until being converted back into an infantry unit as the 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers.

23. In 1936, the 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. The North Staffordshire Regiment also converted into an anti-aircraft battalion of the Royal Engineers. A Territorial Army unit, the headquarters and all four companies were based at the Drill Hall, Booth Street, Stoke-on-Trent. The battalion was redesignated as the 41<sup>st</sup> Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery in January 1940. It remained a searchlight unit throughout the war, transferring to the 8<sup>th</sup> Army in Italy from Home Forces in October 1944.
24. The division appears not to have any divisional troops in 1937. This is unlikely, but it may be the due to the recent formation of the division.

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Despatch

## War Office

*Supplement to the London Gazette of Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 1947 – The Anti-Aircraft Defence of the United Kingdom from 28<sup>th</sup> July 1939 to 15<sup>th</sup> 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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