

14th (West African) Anti-Aircraft Brigade (1)

Headquarters, 14th (West African) Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

1st (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, West African Artillery (2)

(H.Q., 1st (West African) & 2nd (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Batteries, West African Artillery, and 197th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery)

2nd (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, West African Artillery (3)

(H.Q., 5th (West African) & 6th (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Batteries, West African Artillery, and 308th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery)

3rd (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, West African Artillery (4)

(H.Q., 4th (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Batteries, West African Artillery, and 251st (Buckinghamshire) & 405th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery)

14th (West African) Anti-Aircraft Brigade Company, West African Army Service Corps (5)

NOTES:

1. This brigade was formed in West Africa by the Royal West African Frontier Force. Brigadier (Acting) Douglas Hugh Moffatt CARBERY, M.C., D.F.C.*, commanded the Brigade from 12 April 1943, and he was to remain in command of this Brigade throughout the rest of the Second World War. In September 1943, the Brigade arrived at Bombay in India, and this is the order of battle for the Brigade at this time.
2. This regiment was raised in West Africa, and it comprised the 1st and 2nd (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Batteries, West African Artillery. In May 1941, the 197th (Leeds Rifles) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery was posted to this regiment from the 66th (Leeds Rifles) H.A.A. Regiment, to become the third battery of the regiment. Lieutenant Colonel T. NETTLETON, M.B.E., T.D., commanded the regiment for a period, handing over to Lieutenant Colonel W. L. ABEL-SMITH. In turn, on a date unknown, Lieutenant Colonel W. S. CRANE assumed command of the regiment. This regiment remained with this Brigade throughout the Second World War, serving in India and at Imphal.
3. Also raised in West Africa, this regiment comprised the 5th and 6th (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Batteries, West African Artillery. The 308th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery was formerly part of the 55th H.A.A. Regiment, a Territorial Army unit based in Kent. It is presumed that the 308th H.A.A. Battery was detached from its parent regiment and sent to West Africa, where it was incorporated into the newly raised 2nd (W.A.) H.A.A. Regiment. Lieutenant Colonel J. S. WILSON commanded the regiment. It formed part of the 14th (West African) Anti-Aircraft Brigade throughout its period of deployment to India and Burma.
4. The third H.A.A. regiment raised in West Africa in 1941 was numbered, logically, the 3rd (W.A.) H.A.A. Regiment. It comprised the 4th (West African) and 251st (Buckinghamshire) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Batteries, with the third battery being the 405th H.A.A. Battery. The 251st Battery had originally been part of the 80th (Berkshire) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, which in September 1941, had transferred to the 131st H.A.A. Regiment. In the following month, it became an independent battery, and it was sent to West Africa. As with the other West African anti-aircraft units, it remained with this Brigade for the duration of the war. Lieutenant Colonel J. O. HORNE commanded this regiment until he was replaced by Lieutenant Colonel R. A. O'CONNOR in March 1945, after the 4th (W.A.) H.A.A. Regiment was disbanded.
5. Each anti-aircraft brigade in the Second World War was allocated a company from the Royal Army Service Corps to provide transport for supplies and ammunition. These companies were usually designated in line with the Brigade they served. The 14th (West African) Anti-Aircraft Brigade was no different, other than the company was provided by the West African Army Service Corps.

14th (West African) Anti-Aircraft Brigade (1)

Headquarters, 14th (West African) Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

1st (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, West African Artillery (2)

(H.Q., 1st (West African) & 2nd (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Batteries, West African Artillery, and 197th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery)

2nd (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, West African Artillery (3)

(H.Q., 5th (West African) & 6th (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Batteries, West African Artillery, and 308th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery)

3rd (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, West African Artillery (4)

(H.Q., 4th (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Batteries, West African Artillery, and 251st (Buckinghamshire) & 405th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery)

4th (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, West African Artillery (5)

(H.Q., 7th (West African) & 8th (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Batteries, West African Artillery, and 313th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery)

118th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (6)

(H.Q., 387th, 388th & 389th Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

2nd Indian Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Indian Artillery (7)

(H.Q., 7th, 8th & 9th Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Indian Artillery)

18th Indian Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Indian Artillery (8)

(H.Q., 42nd, 104th & 105th Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Indian Artillery)

14th (West African) Anti-Aircraft Brigade Company, West African Army Service Corps

NOTES:

1. This is the order of battle of this Brigade in March 1944, when it was deployed to Imphal in Manipur. Brigadier (Acting) Douglas Hugh Moffatt CARBERY, M.C., D.F.C.*, commanded the Brigade from its formation in West Africa throughout its deployment to India and Burma. He was promoted to the rank of Temporary Brigadier in October 1943.
2. See previous pages.
3. See previous pages.
4. See previous pages.
5. This regiment was formed after the first three West African anti-aircraft regiments, and it did not arrive in India until October 1943. Lieutenant Colonel R. A. O'CONNOR commanded the regiment throughout its existence. On its arrival in India, it joined the 14th (West African) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, and it served under the command of this brigade until the regiment was disbanded in March 1945.
6. This regiment was formed in the United Kingdom by the conversion of the 11th Bn. The Gloucestershire Regiment in February 1942. In May of that year, it came under command of the 49th Infantry Division, but in February 1943, it sailed for India. The regiment arrived at Bombay on 11 April 1943, and it then moved to Bangalore where it was equipped with fifty-four 40 mm Bofors guns. In June 1943, it came under command of the 9th Anti-Aircraft Brigade, but in December 1943, it moved to Assam to come under command of the 251st Line of Communication Sub-Area at Shillong. It is shown in the order of battle as being under command of this Brigade in March 1944, although it is also shown remaining under 251 L.o.C. Sub-Area. Lieutenant Colonel T. HAIGHTON commanded this regiment during its time in India. The regiment was disbanded, either on 31 August 1944 (FARNDALE) or February 1945 (BELLIS).
7. Raised on 1 October 1941, this regiment was under the command of Lieutenant Colonel E. C. KENSINGTON, and it comprised the 7th, 8th, and 9th L.A.A. Batteries. It was deployed to Bengal, initially coming under command of the 2nd Indian Anti-Aircraft Brigade. By March 1944, it had transferred to join the 14th (West African) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, in Assam, and it was serving in Assam by March 1943. Towards the end of 1944, it was re-equipped with self-propelled 40 mm Bofors guns, and it joined the 24th Anti-Aircraft Brigade. The regiment was deployed to Meiktila, and it moved down to Rangoon with the Brigade. In June 1945, it came under command of the 61st A.G.R.A. when the 24th A.A. Brigade was redesignated. On an unknown date, Lieutenant Colonel R. G. B. REED has assumed command of the regiment.
8. This regiment was raised on 1 June 1943 under the command of Lieutenant Colonel W. A. FEARNLEY-WHITTINGTALL. It comprised the 42nd (originally the 42nd/13th), 104th and 105th Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries. It came under command of this Brigade by March 1944, and it served with this formation until March 1945. On 2 August 1945, it was converted to become the 11th Indian Field Regiment, Indian Artillery.

14th (West African) Anti-Aircraft Brigade (1)

Headquarters, 14th (West African) Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

1st (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, West African Artillery (2)

(H.Q., 1st (West African) & 2nd (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Batteries, West African Artillery, and 197th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery)

2nd (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, West African Artillery (3)

(H.Q., 5th (West African) & 6th (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Batteries, West African Artillery, and 308th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery)

3rd (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, West African Artillery (4)

(H.Q., 4th (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Batteries, West African Artillery, and 251st (Buckinghamshire) & 405th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery)

4th (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, West African Artillery (5)

(H.Q., 7th (West African) & 8th (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Batteries, West African Artillery, and 313th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery)

69th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (6)

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

2nd Indian Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Indian Artillery (7)

(H.Q., 7th, 8th & 9th Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Indian Artillery)

4th Indian Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Indian Artillery (8)

(H.Q., 7th, 8th & 9th Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Indian Artillery)

18th Indian Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Indian Artillery (9)

(H.Q., 42nd, 104th & 105th Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Indian Artillery)

14th (West African) Anti-Aircraft Brigade Company, West African Army Service Corps

NOTES:

1. This is the order of battle of this Brigade in December 1944, when it was still covering the Imphal and Dimapur areas of Assam. Brigadier (Acting) Douglas Hugh Moffatt CARBERY, M.C., D.F.C.*, commanded the Brigade from its
2. See previous pages.
3. See previous pages.
4. See previous pages.
5. See previous pages.
6. This regiment was formed in the U.K. in December 1940. It served with Home Forces until March 1942, when it sailed for India. On its arrival at Bombay two months later, on 10 May 1942, it was posted to the Delhi Area. It was equipped with thirty-six 40 mm Bofors guns. In June 1942, it moved to Assam to come under command of IV Corps, and joined the 9th Anti-Aircraft Brigade in August 1942, remaining in Assam. In September 1943, the regiment had a revised establishment of fifty-four 40 mm Bofors guns, with three troops of eighteen guns each. In April 1944, it came under command of the 3rd Indian Anti-Aircraft Brigade, and then in July of that year, the regiment was Corps Troops under XXXIII Indian Corps. It then joined the 14th (W.A.) Anti-Aircraft Brigade in September 1944, and it remained with it until March 1945. In April 1945, the regiment came under command of 101 Line of Communication Area, based in Ranchi and covering the states of Bihar and Orissa. It became a training unit, but on 21 August 1945, it embarked at Madras to return to the U.K..
7. See previous pages.
8. This regiment was raised on 1 September 1942, and it originally comprised the 13th, 14th and 15th L.A.A. Batteries. The 13th and 14th Batteries became part of the 3rd Indian L.A.A. Regiment, so the 4th comprised the 15th, 16th and 17th L.A.A. Batteries. Lieutenant Colonel C. H. W. TAYLOR was the commanding officer of the regiment. It came under command of this Brigade by December 1944, and it was still serving under this Brigade in March 1945, when it was deployed to the Surma valley in eastern Bengal. In May 1945, it was under command of the 13th Anti-Aircraft Brigade.
9. See previous pages.

14th (West African) Anti-Aircraft Brigade (1)

Headquarters, 14th (West African) Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

1st (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, West African Artillery (2)

(H.Q., 1st (West African) & 2nd (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Batteries, West African Artillery, and 197th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery)

2nd (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, West African Artillery (3)

(H.Q., 5th (West African) & 6th (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Batteries, West African Artillery, and 308th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery)

3rd (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, West African Artillery (4)

(H.Q., 4th (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Batteries, West African Artillery, and 251st (Buckinghamshire) & 405th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery)

4th (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, West African Artillery (5)

(H.Q., 7th (West African) & 8th (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Batteries, West African Artillery, and 313th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery)

69th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (6)

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

4th Indian Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Indian Artillery (7)

(H.Q., 7th, 8th & 9th Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Indian Artillery)

18th Indian Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Indian Artillery (8)

(H.Q., 42nd, 104th & 105th Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Indian Artillery)

14th (West African) Anti-Aircraft Brigade Company, West African Army Service Corps

NOTES:

1. This brigade was formed in West Africa by the Royal West African Frontier Force. Brigadier (Temporary) Douglas Hugh Moffatt CARBERY, M.C., D.F.C.*, throughout the Second World War. In September 1943, the Brigade arrived at Bombay in India, and it was deployed to North-East India and Burma. This is the order of battle for March 1945, when it was still deployed around Dimapur and Imphal. The 4th (West African) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment was disbanded in this month. With the end of hostilities in Burma, the non-West African units were posted away. The Brigade was then deployed on internal security duties until transport could be arranged in 1946 for the troops to be repatriated to their homes in West Africa.
2. See previous pages.
3. See previous pages.
4. See previous pages.
5. See previous pages.
6. See previous pages.
7. Raised on 1 October 1941, this regiment was under the command of Lieutenant Colonel E. C. KENSINGTON, and it comprised the 7th, 8th, and 9th L.A.A. Batteries. It was deployed to Bengal, initially coming under command of the 2nd Indian Anti-Aircraft Brigade. By March 1944, it had transferred to join the 14th (West African) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, in Assam, and it was serving in Assam by March 1943. Towards the end of 1944, it was re-equipped with self-propelled 40 mm Bofors guns, and it joined the 24th Anti-Aircraft Brigade. The regiment was deployed to Meiktila, and it moved down to Rangoon with the Brigade. In June 1945, it came under command of the 61st A.G.R.A. when the 24th A.A. Brigade was redesignated. On an unknown date, Lieutenant Colonel R. G. B. REED has assumed command of the regiment.
8. See previous pages.

SOURCES:

Primary Sources

The National Archives (TNA), Kew – War Diaries

WO 172/2145	14 Anti-Aircraft Brigade HQ August 1943
WO 172/4073	14 Anti-Aircraft Brigade HQ 1 June – 31 December 1943
WO 172/6638	14 Anti-Aircraft Brigade HQ 1944
WO 172/4081	1 Regiment (HAA Regt), West African Artillery 1943
WO 172/4082	2 Regiment (HAA Regt), West African Artillery 1943
WO/172/4083	3 Regiment (HAA Regt), West African Artillery 1943
WO/172/4084	4 Regiment (HAA Regt), West African Artillery 1943
WO/172/4085	1 Battery (HAA Bty), West African Artillery 1943
WO/172/4086	2 Battery (HAA Bty), West African Artillery 1943
WO 172/4087	4 Battery (HAA Bty), West African Artillery 1943
WO/172/4088	5 Battery (HAA Bty), West African Artillery 1943
WO 172/4089	6 Battery (HAA Bty), West African Artillery 1943
WO 172/4090	197 Battery (HAA Bty), West African Artillery 1943
WO 172/4091	251 Battery (HAA Bty), West African Artillery 1943
WO 172/4092	308 Battery (HAA Bty), West African Artillery 1943
WO 172/4093	405 Battery (HAA Bty), West African Artillery 1943
WO/172/4094	90 Anti-Aircraft Operations Room (AAOR), West African Artillery 1943

Secondary Sources

FARNDALE, General Sir Martin	<i>The History of the Royal Regiment of Artillery – The Far East Theatre 1941 – 46</i> (London, Brassey's, Revised Edition 2002) [ISBN 1 85753 331 3]
LADD, James	<i>By Sea, By Land – The Authorised History of the Royal Marines Commandos</i> (London, HarperCollins Publishers, 1998) [ISBN 0-7106-0011-9]
ROUTLEDGE, Brigadier N. W.	<i>The History of the Royal Regiment of Artillery – Anti-Aircraft Artillery 1914 – 55</i> (London, Brassey's, 1994) [ISBN 1 85753 099 3]

Other Sources

Please see: <https://www.librarything.com/catalog/RobPALMER>