2nd Anti-Aircraft Division

Headquarters, 2nd Anti-Aircraft Division

32nd (Midland) Anti-Aircraft Brigade

Headquarters, 32nd (Midland) Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

42nd (The Robins Hoods, Sherwood Foresters) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers

44th (The Leicestershire Regiment) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers

50th (The Northamptonshire Regiment) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers

68th (North Midland) Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery

32nd Anti-Aircraft Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps

40th Anti-Aircraft Brigade

Headquarters, 40th Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

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

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

58th (Middlesex) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers

9th Bn. The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge’s Own) 60th Searchlight Regiment

10th (3rd City of London) Bn. The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment)

40th Anti-Aircraft Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps
41st (London) Anti-Aircraft Brigade (13)

Headquarters, 41st (London) Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

32nd (7th City of London) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers (14)
   (H.Q., 328th, 329th & 330th Companies, Royal Engineers)

1st/6th Bn. The Essex Regiment (64th Searchlight Regiment) (15)
   (H.Q., 441st, 442nd & 443rd Companies)

2nd/6th Bn. The Essex Regiment (65th Searchlight Regiment) (16)
   (H.Q., 444th, 445th & 446th Companies)

78th (1st East Anglian) Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (17)
   (H.Q., 243rd (2nd Norfolk), 244th (3rd Norfolk), 245th (1st Norfolk) & 409th (Suffolk) Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

41st Anti-Aircraft Brigade Company, Royal Army Service Corps

50th Light Anti-Aircraft Brigade (18)

Headquarters, 50th Light Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

26th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (19)
   (H.Q., 114th, 115th & 116th Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Royal Artillery)

Divisional Troops

2nd Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals

2nd Anti-Aircraft Divisional Workshops, Royal Army Ordnance Corps
NOTES:

1. This division was raised on 1 September 1936. Based at R.A.F. Hucknall in Nottinghamshire, the headquarters was formed by the conversion of the 46th (North Midland) Infantry Division, which was disbanded at the same time. The first commanding officer of the division was Major General M. F. GROVE-WHITE.

2. This brigade was raised on 1 November 1936 at Derby.

3. In 1936, the 7th Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters converted from an infantry battalion into a searchlight unit. The headquarters of the battalion was located in Nottingham, with the 366th Company based at Carlton, the 367th Company at Beeston, the 368th Company at Bulwell and the 369th Company at Sutton in Coldfield. In January 1940, the battalion was re-designated as the 42nd Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It served in the U.K. until August 1944, when it moved to Italy, remaining as a searchlight unit for the duration of the war.

4. This unit was formed in 1936 by the conversion of the 4th Bn. The Leicestershire Regiment. The Headquarters and all four companies were based in the City of Leicester. In January 1940, the Battalion was redesignated as the 44th Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. In January 1942, it converted into the 121st Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. As such, it served with 2nd Army in N.W. Europe.

5. This unit was formed in 1937 by the conversion of the 4th Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment. The Headquarters, 400th and 401st Companies were based in Northampton, the 402nd Company was based at Peterborough and the 403rd Company at Kettering. In January 1940, it was redesignated as the 50th Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It remained in the U.K. until January 1945, when it converted to the 637th Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery.

6. In 1936, as part of the programme of raising new anti-aircraft units, the 62nd (North Midland) Field Brigade converted to an anti-aircraft role. The Headquarters, 200th and 222nd Batteries were based in Derby. The 276th and 277th Batteries were based in Nottingham. The regiment left the U.K. in June 1941 bound for Egypt. It joined 8th Army in December 1941, and was reduced to cadre (probably due to casualties suffered) in June 1942. A new regiment was formed in June 1943 from the 10th H.A.A. Regiment, which went on to serve in the Middle East and Malta.

7. This brigade was raised on 28 September 1938, and was based at Duxford, Cambridgeshire. Brigadier (Temporary) O. W. NICHOLSON, T.A. commanded the brigade from 1 October 1938.

8. In 1935, the 19th Bn. The London Regiment converted to become the 33rd Anti-Aircraft Battalion. The Headquarters, 332nd and 333rd companies were based in Albany Street, London NW1. The 334th Company was based in Barnet. In January 1940, it was redesignated as the 33rd Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It remained in the U.K. until being converted into the 632nd Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery in January 1945. It joined the 303rd Infantry Brigade and served in Norway from June 1945 onwards.

9. This battalion was formed in 1936, with the Headquarters, 317th and 345th companies were based at Edgware, with the 346th Company based at Southall. The 424th Company was still forming. In January 1940, it was re-designated as the 36th Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It remained in the U.K. until being converted into the 634th Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery. It also joined the 303rd Infantry Brigade and served in Norway.
10. In 1938, the 58th Anti-Aircraft Battalion was formed by the duplication of the 36th A-A Battalion. The H.Q., 344th and 426th Companies were based in Harrow, with the 425th Company being based in South Harrow. In January 1940, it was re-designated as the 58th Searchlight Regiment. In November 1944, it was re-designated as the 58th Garrison Regiment, Royal Artillery and again re-designated in February 1945 to become the 611th Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery. As such, it served in N.W. Europe.

11. The 9th Bn. The Middlesex Regiment was a Territorial Army infantry battalion, that was converted into a searchlight unit in 1938. At first, the unit remained with the regiment rather than becoming a unit within the Royal Artillery or Royal Engineers. The headquarters and three companies were based at Willesden, in North-West London. In August 1940, this unit was absorbed into the Royal Artillery. By November 1940, the regiment was under command of the 41st Anti-Aircraft Brigade. In February 1942, the regiment converted into the 126th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. As such, it joined the 2nd Army in March 1944, serving with that higher formation throughout the campaign in N.W. Europe.

12. Another infantry Territorial Army battalion converted into a searchlight regiment in 1938 was the 10th (3rd City of London) Bn. The London Regiment. The headquarters and three companies were based at Harrow Road, London W.2. The unit was absorbed by the Royal Artillery in August 1940, becoming the 69th (3rd City of London) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. As such, the regiment served in the United Kingdom throughout the Second World War.

13. This brigade was raised on the 29th September 1938, based in South-West London.

14. In 1935, the 7th Bn. The London Regiment (Post Office Rifles) was converted into a searchlight unit of the Royal Engineers. The headquarters and 328th Company were based at Finsbury Square in London E.C.2, with the 329th and 330th Companies being based at Grove Park, in London S.E.12. In January 1940, the battalion was absorbed into the Royal Artillery and retitled as the 32nd (7th City of London) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It served during the war, being placed in suspended animation in May 1945.

15. The 6th Bn. The Essex Regiment was a Territorial Army battalion, which was converted into a searchlight unit in 1938. Initially, it remained part of the regiment until it was absorbed by the Royal Artillery in August 1940, when it was retitled as the 64th (Essex Regiment) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. The headquarters were based at The Cedars, West Ham, London E.15, as were the 441st and 442nd Companies. The 443rd Company was based at Chingford. The regiment served in the 41st Anti-Aircraft Brigade, but had transferred to the 40th Anti-Aircraft Brigade by November 1940. It continued to serve with Anti-Aircraft Command until January 1945, when it was converted into the 639th Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery. As such, it served in North West Europe with the 305th Infantry Brigade.

16. When the 6th Bn. The Essex Regiment was required to form a searchlight unit, it duplicated to form the 2nd/6th Bn. as the 65th Searchlight Regiment. The headquarters of this unit, together with the 44th Company were based at Prittlewell, Southend-on-Sea. The 445th Company was based at East Ham in London, with the 446th Company based at Grays in Essex. The regiment was absorbed into the Royal Artillery in August 1940, becoming the 65th (Essex Regiment) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. It served in Home Forces until February 1945, when it converted into the 607th Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery.
17. The 78th Anti-Aircraft Regiment was formed in 1938 by the conversion of the 84th (1st East Anglian) Field Brigade, Royal Artillery. The headquarters, 243rd and 244th Batteries were based in Norwich, with the 245th Battery based at Great Yarmouth and the 409th Battery being based at Lowestoft. Initially under command of the 41st Anti-Aircraft Brigade, by November 1940 it had transferred to the 32nd Anti-Aircraft Brigade. The regiment served with Home Forces until October 1942, when it was deployed overseas. It travelled to Palestine to come under command of the 9th Army. In November 1943, it moved to Egypt, and from January 1944, the regiment served in Italy. It was placed in suspended animation in December 1944.

18. This brigade was raised on 24 August 1939, being based at Hucknall in Nottinghamshire.

19. Only raised in August 1939, the headquarters and all three batteries of this regiment were based in Derby. The regiment was designated as a mobile reserve. It travelled to Palestine, arriving in December 1941 to come under command of 9th Army. In July 1943, it came under command of the 20th Anti-Aircraft Brigade for one month, then the 8th Indian Division until November 1944. As such, it served with the division in Italy. It left the division in November 1944 to come under command of the 2nd Anti-Aircraft Brigade, with which it served out the rest of the war in Italy.

SOURCES:

1. PILE, General Sir Frederick
   *Ack – Ack Britain’s Defence Against Air-Attack during the Second World War*
   (London, George G. Harrap, 1949)

2. BELLIS, Malcolm A.
   *Regiments of the British Army 1939 – 1945 (Artillery)*

3. COLLIER, Basil
   *History of the Second World War – The Defence of the United Kingdom*
   (London, His Majesty’s Stationery Office, 1957)

4. DOBINSON, Colin
   *AA Command – Britain’s Anti-Aircraft Defences of the Second World War*
   (London, Methuen Publishing Ltd., 2001) [ISBN 0 413 76540 7]

5. ERWOOD, Peter
   *The War Diary of the 75th (Cinque Ports) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (Territorial Army), Dover 1939-40 (including the Battle of Britain)*
   (Lincolnshire, Arcturus Press, 1999)

6. FARNDALE, General Sir Martin, K.C.B.
   *The History of the Royal Regiment of Artillery – The Forgotten Fronts and the Home Base 1914-18*
   (England, The Royal Artillery Institution 1988) [ISBN 1 870114 05 1]

7. FARNDALE, General Sir Martin, K.C.B.
   *The History of the Royal Regiment of Artillery – The Years of Defeat Europe and North Africa 1939 – 1941*
   (London, Brassey’s, 1996) [ISBN 1 85753 080 2]

8. FARNDALE, General Sir Martin, K.C.B.
   *The History of the Royal Regiment of Artillery – The Far East Theatre 1941 – 46*
   (London, Brassey’s, Revised Edition 2002) [ISBN 1 85753 331 3]

9. HUGHES, Major General B. P., C.B., C.B.E.
   *The History of the Royal Regiment of Artillery – Between the Wars 1919-39*
10. PENNY, John
*The Air Defence of the Bristol Area 1937-44*
(Bristol, Bristol Branch of the Historical Association, 1997) [ISBN 0 901388 79 3]

11. PENNY, John
*Luftwaffe Operations over Bristol 1940/44*
(Bristol, Bristol Branch of the Historical Association, 1997) [ISBN 1362 7759]

12. PRICE, Dr. Alfred – Illustrated PAVLOVIC Darko
*Britain’s Air Defences 1939-45*
(London, Osprey Publishing Ltd., 2004) [ISBN 1 84176 710 7]

13. ROUTLEDGE, Brigadier N. W., O.B.E., T.D.
*The History of the Royal Regiment of Artillery – Anti-Aircraft Artillery 1914 – 55*
(London, Brassey’s, 1994) [ISBN 1 85753 099 3]

14. Various Authors
*The Blitz Then and Now – Volume 1*

15. Various Authors
*The Blitz Then and Now – Volume 2*
(U.K., The Battle of Britain Prints International Limited, 1988) [ISBN 0 9000913 54 1]

16. Various Authors
*The Blitz Then and Now – Volume 3*

17. WALKER, Patrick
*6th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery – the extraordinary untold story of this unlucky regiment from the Midlands and Penn Common.*

**Internet & Websites**

18. *Anti-Aircraft Command, TA on 3 September 1939*
Was at: [http://home.adelphia.net/~dryan67/orders.aa.html](http://home.adelphia.net/~dryan67/orders.aa.html) [Accessed 10th September 2013]


20. *The Royal Artillery 1939 – 45*