5th Anti-Aircraft Division (1)

Headquarters, 5th Anti-Aircraft Division

27th Anti-Aircraft Brigade (2)

Headquarters, 27th Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

31st (City of London Rifles) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery (3)
70th (Sussex) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery (4)

35th Anti-Aircraft Brigade (5)

Headquarters, 35th Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

72nd (Hampshire) Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (6)
80th (Berkshire) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (7)
118th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (8)

48th (Hampshire) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Engineers (9)

47th Anti-Aircraft Brigade (10)

Headquarters, 47th Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

27th (London Electrical Engineers) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery (11)
30th (Surrey) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery (12)
63rd (Queen’s) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery (13)

65th Anti-Aircraft Brigade (14)

Headquarters, 65th Anti-Aircraft Brigade & Signal Section

57th (Wessex) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (15)

24th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (16)
43rd Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (17)
58th (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (18)

Divisional Troops

5th Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals
NOTES:

1. The division was raised on 1 September 1938, with its headquarters located at Reading. When it was first raised, it was responsible for the South of England, the South-West and South Midlands of England, and South Wales. With the reorganisation of Anti-Aircraft Command, the responsibility for South Wales and South Midlands transferred to the newly raised 9th Anti-Aircraft Division, with the South-West of England becoming the responsibility of the 8th Anti-Aircraft Division. This formation disbanded on 30 September 1942.

2. Raised on 15 December 1935, this headquarters of this brigade was based at Lingfield in Surrey. It started off as part of the 1st Anti-Aircraft Division, but transferred to the 5th Anti-Aircraft Division when this formation was raised in September 1938. The brigade moved to Portsmouth in 1940 to assist in defending the Royal Navy Dockyard.

3. This battalion was formed in 1935 by the conversion of the 6th Bn. The London Regiment (City of London Rifles). The headquarters and all four companies were based at 57A, Farringdon Road, in London E.C.1. The unit was a searchlight battalion. It mobilised in late August 1939 as war approached, with the headquarters, 324th and 325th Companies moving to Sutton in Surrey. The 326th Company moved to Merton and the 327th Company moved to Carshalton. This allowed the battalion to cover the southern side of London against enemy air attack. In January 1940, the battalion was redesignated as the 31st Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. In February 1942, the regiment converted to become the 123rd Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery. As such, it came under command of the 2nd Army in March 1944, and served throughout the campaign in North West Europe with the 2nd Army.

4. The 70th Searchlight Regiment was formed in 1938. The headquarters and all three batteries were based at Brighton. The regiment remained with Home Forces until September 1944 when it was disbanded.

5. This brigade was raised on 1 April 1938 at Fareham in Hampshire. It remained under command of this division until the formation disbanded in September 1942. In November 1940, it was responsible for the anti-aircraft defences of Portsmouth, a major Royal Navy dockyard and base.

6. This regiment was formed in 1938 by the conversion of the 95th (Hampshire) Field Brigade, Royal Artillery. The Headquarters and 218th Battery were based in Southampton, with the 217th Battery at Winchester and 310th Battery (only formed in January 1939) in Parkstone, Dorset. It served in the United Kingdom until leaving for the Middle East in November 1942. It later served with the 8th Army in Italy, being placed in suspended animation in February 1945. It was reformed in 1947 as the 395th (Hampshire Carabineers Yeomanry) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, but was disbanded in March 1955.

7. This regiment was formed in 1938 by the expansion of the 264th (Berkshire) Field Battery of the 66th (South Midland) Field Brigade, the rest of the regiment forming the 76th (Gloucestershire) Anti-Aircraft Regiment. The Headquarters Battery, 249th and 250th Batteries were all based in Reading. The 251st Battery was based at Slough with the 252nd Battery being based in Oxford. In 1940, this regiment transferred to the 35th Anti-Aircraft Brigade, being deployed in and around Portsmouth. In November 1942, this regiment left the U.K. to sail to North Africa, where it served under 1st Army in Tunisia. It then went on to serve in Sicily and Italy with the 62nd Anti-Aircraft Brigade before being placed in suspended animation in December 1944.
8. Formed in December 1940, this regiment came under command of this brigade on being raised. It served with Anti-Aircraft Command until March 1944, when it transferred to the 21st Army Group in anticipation of the invasion of France. It served in North-West Europe until the end of the war.

9. This battalion was formed in 1937 by the conversion of the Hampshire Fortress Engineers. The Headquarters and 391st Company were based in Portsmouth, the 392nd Company in East Cowes in the Isle of Wight, the 393rd Company at Gosport, and the 394th Company at Southampton. The regiment became the 48th (Hampshire) Searchlight Regiment in August 1940. In January 1945, it was converted into the 636th (Hampshire) Infantry Regiment, Royal Artillery. It came under command of the 306th Infantry Brigade, and served in North West Europe until the end of the war.

10. This brigade was formed on 29 September 1938, with its headquarters at R.A.F. Kenley in Surrey. In 1940, the brigade moved to Southampton, remaining under command of the 5th Anti-Aircraft Division following the November 1940 reorganisation of the Command.

11. A sister unit to the 26th Searchlight Battalion, this unit was again formed in 1936. 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.

12. In 1935, the Headquarters Surrey Group Anti-Aircraft Searchlight Companies, Royal Engineers was reorganised into the 30th Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers. The Headquarters, 316th and 323rd Companies were based at Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey. The 315th Company was based in Croyden and the 318th Company was based in Guildford. In January 1940, the battalion was redesignated as the 30th (Surrey) Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. The regiment moved to Portsmouth with the brigade in 1940. In November 1942, the regiment moved to Tunisia, moving onto Italy in September 1943. It was placed in suspended animation on December 1943.

13. In 1938, an infantry battalion the 4th Bn. The Queen’s Own Royal Regiment (West Surrey) was converted into a searchlight regiment. It remained part of the regiment until absorbed into the Royal Artillery in August 1940. The headquarters and three companies were all based in Croyden, in south London. In 1940, this regiment moved to Southampton to come under command of the 47th Anti-Aircraft Brigade in the 5th Anti-Aircraft Division. In February 1942, the regiment converted into the 127th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. As such, the regiment left the U.K. in June 1944 to move to France as part of the 2nd Army. Initially under command of the 76th Anti-Aircraft Brigade, it was stationed at Arromanches. It transferred to the 105th Anti-Aircraft Brigade in mid-1944, serving with that brigade at Arromanches and on the Scheldt estuary. It served in North West Europe throughout the rest of the war.

14. This brigade was one of the group formed shortly after the outbreak of the Second World War. It was responsible for the air defences of the city of Southampton.

15. In 1932, the next batch of Anti-Aircraft Regiments was formed, and this unit was one of this group. The Headquarters and 213th Battery were based in Portsmouth, the 214th Battery in Southsea, the 215th Battery in Gosport and the 219th Battery in Newport on the Isle of Wight. The regiment left the United Kingdom on August 1942 to move to North Africa. It served with the 8th Army in Italy until the end of the war.
16. Also formed in December 1938, the headquarters of this regiment and four batteries (78th, 86th, 87th & 88th) were based in Southampton. The 76th Battery was based at Fawley, on the opposite side of Southampton Water, with the 77th Battery being based on the Channel Islands. The regiment transferred to the 65th Anti-Aircraft Brigade in early 1940 to provide air defence for Southampton, with the 86th, 87th and 88th L.A.A. Batteries under command. The regiment left the U.K. in January 1942 to sail for India. Arriving two months later, initially it joined the 1st Indian Anti-Aircraft Brigade which moved from India to Assam. In November 1942, it was redesignated as the 24th Light Anti-Aircraft/Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery, with the 86th & 491st Light Anti-Aircraft Batteries and 205th & 284th Anti-Tank Batteries under command. At first, it came under command of the 39th Indian Infantry Division, but transferred to the 7th Indian Infantry Division in August 1943. It served with that division for the rest of the war, playing a central role in the Battle of the Admin Box in February 1944. In September 1944, it was redesignated as the 24th Anti-Tank Regiment.

17. This regiment was formed in November 1939 with a battery from the 16th L.A.A. Regiment. It served with Anti-Aircraft Command until December 1941 when it left the U.K. to sail to Ceylon. On arrival after a voyage of about ten weeks, the regiment came under command of the 23rd Anti-Aircraft Brigade. It transferred to the 24th Anti-Aircraft Brigade on the island in September 1943. With the threat of Japanese attack receded by March 1945, the regiment disbanded on Ceylon.

18. This regiment was formed in June 1939 as a duplicate of the 54th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. Like its sister regiment, it was sent to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force in November 1939. Following its evacuation, the regiment was sent to the South-West to rest and refit. Part of the regiment was deployed within the 55th Anti-Aircraft Brigade’s area in Plymouth and part was deployed in the 65th Anti-Aircraft Brigade’s area at Southampton. In May 1941, the regiment came under command of the 11th Support Group; coming under direct command of the division in June 1942. It went on to serve with that division throughout the campaign in North-West Europe right through to the end of the war.

SOURCES:

1. BELLIS, Malcolm A. 
   Regiments of the British Army 1939 – 1945 (Artillery) 
   [ISBN 0 85420 110 6]

2. CLARK, Wallace 
   Five Years on Full Alert – WWII A.A. Gunner Memoirs 
   (County Londonderry, Wallace Clark Booksales, n.d.)  
   [ISBN 978-0-9509042-8-3]

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)  
   [ISBN 0 907322 72 7]
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
   [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
   [ISBN 0 08 040984 9]

10. HUGHES, Major General B. P.
    Honour Titles of the Royal Artillery
    (Dorchester, Henry Ling Ltd., 1988)  
    [ISBN 1 870114 10 8]

11. PENNY, John
    The Air Defence of the Bristol Area 1937-44
    (Bristol, Bristol Branch of the Historical Association, 1997)  
    [ISBN 0 901388 79 3]

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

13. PILE, General Sir Frederick
    Ack – Ack Britain’s Defence Against Air-Attack during the Second World War
    (London, George G. HARRAP, 1949)  
    [ISBN 1 84176 710 7]

14. PRICE, Dr. Alfred – Illustrated PAVLOVIC Darko
    Britain’s Air Defences 1939-45
    (London, Osprey Publishing Ltd., 2004)  

15. 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]

16. SAINSBURY, J.D.
    (Welwyn, U.K., Hart Books for the Hertfordshire Yeomanry and Artillery Historical Trust, 2003)  

17. TYLER, Gerald (ed.)
    Leeds to Rangoon and Back – With the 66th Leeds Rifles Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment (TA) and 5th Indian Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment.
    (North Yorkshire, TYLER, 2008)  

18. Various Authors
    The Blitz Then and Now – Volume 1
    (U.K., The Battle of Britain Prints International Limited, 1987)  
    [ISBN 0 900913 45 2]

19. Various Authors
    The Blitz Then and Now – Volume 2
    (U.K., The Battle of Britain Prints International Limited, 1988)  
    [ISBN 0 900913 54 1]
20. Various Authors
   *The Blitz Then and Now – Volume 3*

21. 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

22. Anti-Aircraft Command, TA on 3 September 1939

23. War Office

24. British Artillery in World War Two
   At: [http://nigelef.tripod.com/regtsumm.htm](http://nigelef.tripod.com/regtsumm.htm) [Accessed 15 October 2018]