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A CONCISE HISTORY OF:

ANTI-AIRCRAFT COMMAND (HISTORY & PERSONNEL)

A concise history of Anti-Aircraft Command, a higher level formation of the British Army in existence from 1939 until 1955. In addition, known details of the key appointments held between 1939 and 1950 are included.

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A Concise History of Anti-Aircraft Command (History & Personnel)

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Anti-Aircraft Command

On the 15th July 1938, Major General Alan Francis BROOKE, C.B., D.S.O. was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General and assumed command of the new Anti-Aircraft Corps. This corps assumed responsibility for the two existing anti-aircraft divisions within the Territorial Army.

Unusually for an army formation, it was subservient to Air Defence Great Britain (A.D.G.B.), the armed forces organisation responsible for air defence in the United Kingdom, which was headed by the Aid Officer Commander-in-Chief of Fighter Command of the Royal Air Force.

The number of anti-aircraft units grew rapidly during 1938, 1939 and 1940 to meet the anticipated threat of air attack from the German Luftwaffe. Initially, several infantry units were converted into an anti-aircraft role, but by late 1939, new regiments were being raised. The 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Anti-Aircraft Divisions were raised in September 1938.

With the expansion of the anti-aircraft forces in the British Isles, on the 1st April 1939, Anti-Aircraft Corps was upgraded to that of a full command within the United Kingdom. When Anti-Aircraft Command was ordered to mobilise on the 28th August 1939, on paper it comprised seven divisions. These were:

- 1st Anti-Aircraft Division – Major General CROSSMAN – London Inner Artillery Zone
- 2nd Anti-Aircraft Division – Major General GROVE-WHITE – Hull, Humber estuary, Leeds, Nottingham and Sheffield (12 Group, R.A.F.);
- 3rd Anti-Aircraft Division – Major General L. A. HICKES – Forth, Clyde, Scapa Flow, Tyne and Tees rivers and Belfast (13 Group, R.A.F.);
- 4th Anti-Aircraft Division – Major General H. G. MARTIN – Liverpool, Birmingham, Coventry, Manchester, Cardiff and Newport (9 Group, R.A.F.)
- 5th Anti-Aircraft Division – Major General A. G. CUNNINGHAM – Bristol, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Portland, Southampton (10 Group, R.A.F.)
- 6th Anti-Aircraft Division – Major General F. G. HYLAND – Thames and Medway (11 Group, R.A.F.);

- 7th Anti-Aircraft Division – Major General PARGITER – To assume responsibility for the Tyne, Tees and Middlesbrough from 3rd A.A. Division and Yorkshire and Humber from 2nd A.A. Division (13 Group, R.A.F.).

These divisions commanded some thirty-four anti-aircraft brigades, some searchlight only, some gun only and some mixed. All the constituent regiments were of Territorial Army origin, as the few Regular Army regiments were designated for service overseas. In Northern Ireland, there were no Territorial Army units, so a Supplementary Reserve brigade of three anti-aircraft regiments was formed in 1939.

There was a serious shortage of equipment available for anti-aircraft defence when the United Kingdom declared war in September 1939. There were approximately seven-hundred heavy anti-aircraft guns available for deployment, but many of these were the old 3" guns dating from the First World War, and they lacked instruments to enable to fire on a predicted basis rather than just by sight.

The light anti-aircraft situation was even worse. The 1937 review of the Air Defence of Great Britain had estimated the requirement for one-thousand, two-hundred light anti-aircraft guns. After a competition, the Swedish 40mm Bofors gun was chosen. A problem arose as several countries were purchasing this gun, so deliveries were slow, and the United Kingdom government had trouble arranging for a licence to build them in the U.K. By the outbreak of war, Anti-Aircraft Command had received only about eighty Bofors guns. In consequence, some old 2 pounder guns were used, but this only made the numbers up to about two-hundred and twenty. The shortfall had to be made up by use of 0.303" machine guns on anti-aircraft mountings.

The heavy anti-aircraft guns were to be sited in semi-permanent gun pits, with four guns (one troop) in each gun position. These guns positions were controlled by Gun Operations Rooms (G.O.Rs), under Anti-Aircraft Defence Commanders (A.A.D.C.) responsible for each Gun Defended Area (G.D.A.). As regiments mobilised, they were allocated to a G.D.A. and deployed their troops to a designated location. Often, these gun positions turned out to be totally unprepared, literally just fields.

Many troops had to dig and construct their own gun positions, plus their living accommodation, cooking and washing facilities. Sometimes, troops were able to lodge at nearby houses, but many had to live in tents. Some gun positions were very isolated, miles from any habitation. This exacerbated the feelings of neglect and increasingly poor morale amongst the troops.

The expectation of the U.K. government was that as soon as war was declared, massed ranks of German aircraft would start bombing the country. The potential effects of bombing raids on civilian populations had been seen during the Spanish Civil War, so Britain's fears were well grounded. In the event, this did not happen, which in light of the unpreparedness of A.D.G.B. was provident in the extreme.

Although the scale of equipment steadily increased during this period, so did the demands on Anti-Aircraft Command. The first raids on the United Kingdom were directed at Royal Navy facilities at Scapa Flow and in the Firth of Forth. In consequence, the Royal Navy demanded more guns to protect their ships. As well as demands at home, Anti-Aircraft Command was required to train and equip no less than fourteen Territorial Army regiments for deployment in Norway and France.

The manpower problem was one to afflict Anti-Aircraft Command throughout the war. As gaps were filled, new ones were created. A list of Vulnerable Points (V.Ps.) was drawn up, which demanded the creation of another two-hundred light anti-aircraft troops in October 1939 alone. Another sixty-five were to be formed in November 1939 to follow on with the increase in establishment required.

The War Office released eleven-thousand men to Anti-Aircraft Command, but these were of low category and without any previous anti-aircraft experience. The first Militia intakes passed to the command also had their problems. Of the one-thousand men sent to the 31st Anti-Aircraft Brigade for duty, fifty had to be discharged immediately for health reasons, twenty were deemed to be mentally deficient and eighteen were unable to do any manual labour such as handling ammunition. The feeling arose amongst senior officers of the command that it was being used as the dumping ground for personnel not wanted elsewhere.

The first air-raid on the United Kingdom during the Second World war took place on the 16th October 1939 over the Firth of Forth. Other occasional raids took place during the rest of 1939 and into early 1940. A more significant raid was directed on Scapa Flow on the 16th March 1940, where the anti-aircraft guns performed poorly. The early period from September 1939 until June 1940 was relatively quiet for the men of anti-Aircraft Command, which proved fortunate indeed.

By May 1940, Anti-Aircraft Command had sent fourteen Territorial Army anti-aircraft regiments abroad to either France or Norway. All had to be brought up to strength in terms of men and equipment, only for many men and practically all equipment to be lost in the subsequent retreats and evacuations.

Until August 1940, an anomaly existed of having some searchlight units as part of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, whilst others were part of the Corps of Royal Engineers and some were still technically infantry units. In that month, all searchlight units were consolidated into the Royal Artillery.

The air offensive by the German Air Force (the Luftwaffe) began with isolated, small-scale raids on convoys and channel ports. In June 1940, the focus switched to night-time raids, but then in July, the Luftwaffe reverted to day-time raids. From mid-August, the attention of the Luftwaffe switched to raids on R.A.F. airfields in South-East England, and the air battle now termed the Battle of Britain commenced. Several of these air raids involved over one-hundred enemy planes, with sometime multiple raids taking place at the same time.

The most intense period of enemy air attacks was between the 24th August and 15th September 1940. Again, the main area affected was around London and the South East of England. However, other cities in the U.K. were attacked, with Liverpool, Birmingham and Bristol included in the targets.

Then, in September, the focus of activity changed to night time raids on industrial cities and towns, with London being the main target. This led to the redeployment of additional anti-aircraft resources to the 1st and 6th Anti-Aircraft Divisions. This night blitz was to continue for just over eight months, including now, targets in South Wales, the Midlands and the North-East of England.

The night blitz continued unabated through October 1940. London was attacked on every night except two during the month. A major raid against Coventry on the 14th October reduced the city centre to rubble and ash, destroying the cathedral.

Anti-Aircraft Command continued to expand in reaction to the demands for air defences against German bombing attacks. In November 1940, five new anti-aircraft divisions were formed, namely:

- 8th Anti-Aircraft Division – Major General R. H. ALLEN – covering the South West of England;
- 9th Anti-Aircraft Division – Major General D. PAIGE – covering the South Midlands and South Wales;
- 10th Anti-Aircraft Division – Major General L. BROWNING – covering the Humber estuary and Yorkshire;
- 11th Anti-Aircraft Division – Major General S. M. C. ARCHIBALD – covering the West Midlands and Staffordshire;
- 12th Anti-Aircraft Division – Major General G. A. RICKARDS – covering West of Scotland and Northern Ireland.

In light of the increased number of anti-aircraft divisions, it was decided to establish three corps headquarters at the same time.

- I Anti-Aircraft Corps – H.Q. London;
 - 1st Anti-Aircraft Division;
 - 5th Anti-Aircraft Division;
 - 6th Anti-Aircraft Division;
 - 8th Anti-Aircraft Division;
 - 9th Anti-Aircraft Division;
- II Anti-Aircraft Corps – H.Q. Hucknall;
 - 2nd Anti-Aircraft Division;
 - 4th Anti-Aircraft Division;
 - 10th Anti-Aircraft Division;
 - 11th Anti-Aircraft Division;
- III Anti-Aircraft Corps;
 - 3rd Anti-Aircraft Division;
 - 7th Anti-Aircraft Division;
 - 12th Anti-Aircraft Division.

The ability of British industry to provide the necessary weapons and ammunition for the demands of Anti-Aircraft Command were frustratingly limited. In July 1940, it was assessed that the command required 3,744 heavy anti-aircraft guns, 4,410 light anti-aircraft guns, 8,000 rocket launchers and 8,500 searchlights. By February 1941, only 1,486 heavy anti-aircraft guns (a shortfall of 60%), 929 light anti-aircraft guns (a shortfall of 78%), 6,369 rocket launchers and 4,519 searchlights had been delivered to the command. The majority of heavy anti-aircraft guns were on static mountings, and due to the shortage of the 40 mm Bofors guns, over three-thousand light machine guns were in use with the light anti-aircraft regiments.

The issue with manpower was equally difficult. In December 1940, Anti-Aircraft Command was short of one-thousand, one-hundred and fourteen officers and seventeen-thousand, nine-hundred and sixty-five other ranks. This was out of a command strength of about one-hundred and forty thousand men. The establishment ceiling at this time was set at three-hundred and thirty thousand soldiers, meaning the command was at about one-third strength.

On the positive side, technological advances were being made, in particular with the use of radar and radio control of the guns. A dedicated Anti-Aircraft Radar School was established at Petersham to train the soldiers in its use. In addition, tactical developments in the deployment and control of guns progressed, based upon the experiences of the command to date in the campaign.

In the middle of 1941, the night blitz on the United Kingdom faded away as the focus of the German war effort turned east towards the Soviet Union. By now, there was a steady flow of new guns from the factories to the command. Most of the old 3" guns were scrapped, with the light anti-aircraft regiments now receiving the 40 mm Bofors guns in some quantity. New radars were being delivered, increasing the effectiveness of the anti-aircraft defences.

One of the ground breaking initiatives that Anti-Aircraft Command was responsible for was the introduction of women into mixed units in the British Army. This was a product of necessity, but General PILE had the foresight to realise the valuable contribution women could make in the armed forces beyond their traditional roles of nursing, welfare and auxiliary duties.

The establishment for Anti-Aircraft Command was cut in July 1942 from two-hundred and eighty thousand men to two-hundred and sixty-four thousand, with the warning of more to come. General PILE had been proposing the integration of women into anti-aircraft units for about twelve months, but he faced significant opposition, not least from the senior officers of the Auxiliary Territorial Service in which women served in the British Army. The first mixed battery (465th (Mixed) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery) was deployed in London in August 1941. The women worked the instruments, radars and command posts, but men still loaded and fired the guns.

This initiative proved successful, leading to the raising of several mixed sex anti-aircraft regiments in 1941 and 1942. Women were recruited and posted to searchlight units in 1942; with the first mainly female regiment, the 93rd Searchlight Regiment, ready for operational service in July of that year. Only a few male officers were posted to this regiment.

The recruitment of women started to drop off in 1943, as the number of volunteers began to decline. This led to the next initiative to use men of the Home Guard in anti-aircraft batteries and regiments. The so called 'Z' Batteries comprised volunteers, but as the men were allowed to be on duty for no more than forty-eight hours at a time, shift patterns were devised to provide continuous cover. By July 1943, some one-hundred and thirty-six thousand and fifty men of the Home Guard had been recruited, allowing their wider use in heavy and light anti-aircraft units.

Meanwhile, the Luftwaffe had changed tactics to the use of fighter-bombers on 'tip and run' attacks on coastal towns and cities. The first such raid was on Torquay in Devon on the 27th March 1942, when four Me 109's attacked the town. In the following two months, there were forty-one attacks on targets as dispersed as Eastbourne in Sussex and Salcombe in Devon. These attacks required a reaction from Anti-Aircraft Command, leading to the deployment of more light anti-aircraft guns to protect these locations. The problem was that many of these raids came in at low level, under that provided by radar cover, meaning there was often little or no warning of an impending attack.

Then came the 'Baedeker' raids, the first one being on Exeter on the 24th April 1942. These night time raids targeted town and cities of limited military value, being in the main the tourist destinations in the U.K., hence the use of the name Baedeker from the well-known tourist guide of the U.K..

The towns and cities attacked had no anti-aircraft defences, so were vulnerable. Parliament demanded action be taken, so new Gun Defence Areas (G.D.As) were established around settlements including Exeter, Taunton, Bath, Salisbury, Winchester, Guildford, Brighton and Canterbury. These were extended to include locations in the Midlands and East Coast, including York and Lincoln.

In September 1942, General PILE decided to restructure Anti-Aircraft Command. As it worked so closely with the Royal Air Force, it was decided to reorganise the brigades into groups, with each group aligned with an R.A.F. Group. The reorganisation took effect from the 1st October 1942, when the seven groups formed. These seven formations were the:

- 1st Anti-Aircraft Group – covering London with H.Q. in London;
- 2nd Anti-Aircraft Group – covering the South, South East and East Anglia, with its H.Q. in London;
- 3rd Anti-Aircraft Group – covering the South West and South Wales, with H.Q. in Bristol;
- 4th Anti-Aircraft Group – covering the North West and North Wales, with H.Q. in Preston;
- 5th Anti-Aircraft Group – covering the East Midlands, Yorkshire and North East, with its H.Q. in Nottingham;
- 6th Anti-Aircraft Group – covering Scotland with its H.Q. based in Edinburgh;
- 7th Anti-Aircraft Group – covering Northern Ireland with its H.Q. based in Belfast.

In addition, the Orkney and Shetland Defences remained a separate command. The size and responsibilities for each of the groups varied. The largest in terms of number of permanent Gun Defence Areas (G.D.As.) was the 3rd A.A. Group, with four-hundred and sixty-six. It had responsibility as well for one-hundred and twelve airfields and fifty-two Baedeker towns. The smallest group was the 7th, which had just ninety-six G.D.As.

In 1942, the U.K. became aware of the German programme to develop pilotless bombs, otherwise known as the 'flying bombs'. Intelligence commenced identifying the potential scale of the threat, with Anti-Aircraft Command beginning to assess the possible responses.

The first V1 flying bomb flew into England on the 13th June 1944, just after D-Day. Four crossed the coast that day, one exploding in Gravesend in Kent and another in London; the other two crashing harmlessly. The intensity of the attacks increased overnight the 15th to 16th June, with one-hundred and twenty-two missiles reported as crossing the English coast. Of these, seventy-three reached London, but eleven were shot down by the guns of Anti-Aircraft Command.

At the same time as the threat from the V1 emerged, Anti-Aircraft Command was giving up several anti-aircraft regiments to the 21st Army Group for the forthcoming invasion of France. No less than a third of Anti-Aircraft Command was transferred to the 21st Army Group in March 1944, some fifty-thousand men. In addition, some twenty-two searchlight batteries were closed down at this time to provide a pool of trained men for a variety of tasks required by Anti-Aircraft Command.

Due to the increased commitments in the south of England in connection with the forthcoming invasion of France, the Headquarters 6th Anti-Aircraft Group and some anti-aircraft regiments were moved from Scotland to the cover the Solent and Portsmouth Area. A new group, the 8th Anti-Aircraft Group was formed to cover Scotland and the north of England.

The response to the V1 flying bombs was given the name of the 'Diver' defences. These 'Diver' belts of defences were concentrated around London and Bristol, although the threat to Bristol did not materialise. Many regiments were required to move, which included moving static 3.7" and 4.5" guns. As transport was limited, about two-hundred and fifty vehicles were requisitioned to move about twenty-three thousand men and women and thirty-thousand tons of stores.

The first and most severe phase of the V1 attacks was over by September 1944, as the Allied armies advanced into Belgium and the Netherlands. The anti-aircraft defences had shot down about 9% of the total number of missiles that reached England at the beginning. This rose steadily to 17% and eventually to 41%.

In November 1944, a new 9th Anti-Aircraft Group was formed to provide the Diver Defences for East Anglia and the eastern approaches to London. This allowed the 1st Anti-Aircraft Group to concentrate on the Thames, Medway and Dover areas. At about the same time, the 3rd, 4th and 7th Anti-Aircraft Groups were disbanded, with the areas covered by the 2nd and 5th Anti-Aircraft Groups extended.

After a pause in December 1944, the V1 flying bombs appeared again, this time targeted on Manchester. They flew in over the east coast and across the Pennines to reach their target. September 1944 marked the arrival of the first V2 rockets, against which there was little or no defence available. Before the end of the war, it is believed that one-thousand, four-hundred and three V2 rockets were fired against the U.K., of which two-hundred and eighty-eight failed during or immediately after launch, sixty-one fell into the sea with over one-thousand landing in England. Over five hundred hit London indiscriminately, killing some two-thousand, seven-hundred and fifty-four people.

The end of hostilities in Europe led to a drastic reduction in the size of Anti-Aircraft Command as demobilisation took effect. With the reconstitution of the Territorial Army in 1947, an ambitious order of battle was created for Anti-Aircraft Command, with a small nucleus of the Regular Army and a large number of regiments and brigades within the Territorial Army. This large order of battle proved to be impossible to fulfil, with post-war recruitment into the Territorial Army patchy. By 1950, there was a series of mergers of regiments, with a continued decline through the early 1950's. Anti-Aircraft Command disbanded on the 15th May 1955.

General Officer Commanding, Anti-Aircraft Corps

15th July 1938 – 30th March 1939

Lieutenant General Alan Francis BROOKE, C.B., D.S.O., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Anti-Aircraft Command

1st April 1939 – 28th July 1939

Lieutenant General Alan Francis BROOKE, C.B., D.S.O., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

12th October 1939 – April 1945

Lieutenant General Frederick Alfred PILE, Baronet, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*¹

15th April 1945 – 30th April 1946

Lieutenant General Sir William Wyndham GREEN, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C*, *p.s.c.*

1st May 1946 – May 1948

Lieutenant General (Acting) Otto Marling LUND, C.B., D.S.O., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

May 1948 – 27th May 1950

Lieutenant General Sir Gwilym Ivor THOMAS, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C*, *p.s.c.*, Col
Comd't Royal Artillery

28th May 1950 – 16th April 1953

Lieutenant General Charles Falkland LOEWEN, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., *p.s.c.*

17th April 1953 – 15th May 1955

Lieutenant General Sir Maurice Somerville CHILTON, K.B.E., C.B.

Major General, General Staff

8th May 1939 – 31st December 1941

Major General T. C. NEWTON. C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E.

1st January 1942 – 21st February 1944

Major General (Temporary) Robert Frederick Edward WHITTAKER, O.B.E., T.D., T.A.

22nd February 1944 – 22nd May 1944

Major General (Acting) Frank St. David Benwell LEJEUNE, *p.s.c.*

19th June 1944 – 24th June 1945

Major General (Acting) Stephen LAMPLUGH, C.B.E., *p.s.c.*

¹ Knighted as K.C.B. on 1st July 1941, promoted General on the 25th December 1941, and raised to G.C.B. on 1st January 1945.

General Staff Officers, 1st Grade1st January 1939 – 1940Colonel W. J. ELDRIDGE, D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*, *g.*5th June 1939 – 1940 (Temporary)

Colonel D. J. R. RICHARDS, D.S.O., M.C.

Brigadier General Staff – (B.G.S.)1st October 1942 – 1943Brigadier (Acting) B. P. HUGHES, R.A., *p.s.c.*25th June 1945 – 30th July 1946Brigadier (Temporary) Stephen LAMPLUGH, C.B.E., *p.s.c.*1st July 1946 – 31st December 1946Brigadier (Temporary) G. S. THOMPSON, D.S.O., M.B.E., R.A., *p.s.c.***Chief of Staff**1st January 1947 – April 1948Brigadier (Temporary) G. S. THOMPSON, D.S.O., M.B.E., R.A., *p.s.c.***Brigadier General Staff, Operations, Intelligence and Staff Duties**1st January 1944 – 1944Brigadier (Acting) H. C. BOYCE, R.A., *p.s.c.*29th March 1944 – 1945

Brigadier (Acting) H. C. PUGH, R.A., (T.A.)

Brigadier General Staff, Staff Duties and Training1st October 1942 – 6th December 1942Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) E. R. BENSON, R.A., *p.s.c.*7th December 1942 – 14th July 1943Brigadier (Temporary) Cecil Arthur Harrop CHADWICK, C.B.E., R. Signals, *p.s.c.***Brigadier General Staff, Training and Technical**12th August 1943 – 8th December 1944²

Brigadier (Acting) Gordon Walter Francis STEWART, O.B.E., R.A.

² Post abolished on 8th December 1944 with departure of incumbent.

Brigadier i/c Administration

26th August 1939 – 1940

Brigadier (Temporary) D. McA. HOGG, M.C., *p.s.c.*

26th November 1940 – 19th February 1941

Brigadier (Temporary) Richard Lawrence BOND, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

Major General i/c Administration

20th February 1941 – 7th May 1941

Major General (Acting) Richard Lawrence BOND, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

8th May 1941 – 7th June 1942

Major General (Acting) L. A. HAWES, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*

8th June 1942 – 18th March 1944

Major General (Temporary) Hugh Tennent MacMULLEN, C.B., C.B.E, M.C.

19th March 1944 – 25th February 1945

Major General (Acting) J. M. BENOY, C.B.E., *p.s.c.*

26th February 1945 – 1945

Brigadier (Temporary) W. R. BEDDINGTON, C.B.E., *p.s.c.*

Brigadier A/Q

1st November 1945 – 1946

Brigadier (Temporary) V. C. RUSSELL, D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*

Assistant Adjutant-General

15th November 1946 – 1947

Brigadier (Temporary) Thomas Strelley RENNIE, O.B.E., R.A.

1st January 1948 – 1948

Lieutenant Colonel (War Substantive) G. P. GREGSON, D.S.O., M.C., (*s.c.*)

Engineer Adviser

14th January 1942 – 1944

Colonel R. L. WITHINGTON, M.C.

18th October 1944 – 1945

Colonel (Acting) A. E. ARMSTRONG, O.B.E., M.C., R.E.

Chief Signal Officer – (C.S.O.)

15th February 1939 – 1941

Colonel C. H. H. VULLAMY, D.S.O., *p.s.c.*

25th February 1941 – 1944

Brigadier (Acting) G. C. WICKINS, C.B.E., T.D., R. Signals (T.A.).

2nd February 1945 – 1945

Brigadier (Acting) T. T. J. SHEFFIELD, T.D., R. Signals.

8th March 1946 – 1948

Colonel (Temporary) F. P. L. GRAY, D.S.O., O.B.E., R. Signals³

Assistant Director of Supplies and Transport

6th December 1939 – 1940

Lieutenant Colonel R. J. SLAUGHTER, C.M.G., D.S.O., retired pay.

Deputy Director of Supplies and Transport – (D.D.S.T.)

23rd May 1941 – 31st December 1942

Brigadier (Temporary) P. L. SPAFFORD, O.B.E.

1st January 1943 – 1943

Brigadier (Temporary) C. B. COCKBURN, O.B.E., M.I.Mech.E., R.A.S.C.

21st January 1944 – 1945

Colonel (Temporary) Sir Francis W. C. FETHERSTON-GODLEY, O.B.E., Reserve of Officers

1946

Post Vacant.

27th February 1947 – 1948

Colonel (Temporary) L. W. WALSH, O.B.E., R.A.S.C.

Deputy Director Medical Services – (D.D.M.S.)

4th April 1941 – 1942

Brigadier (Temporary) P. H. MITCHINER, C.B.E., T.D., M.D., M.S., F.C.R.S., T.A., K.H.S.

15th April 1942 – 1942 (Killed in Air Crash)

Brigadier (Acting) D. S. MIDDLETON, M.B., F.R.C.S., T.A.

24th November 1942 – 1945

Brigadier (Acting) W. LESLIE, M.C., T.D., M.B.

³ Promoted Acting Brigadier in post on the 1st January 1917.

Assistant Director of Ordnance ServicesAugust 1939 – 1941

Colonel J. H. HOWELL-JONES, C.I.E., D.S.O., retired pay

Deputy Director Ordnance Services – (D.D.O.S.)20th February 1941 – 1942

Brigadier (Acting) K. J. GABBETT, Indian Army

15th December 1941 – 1942

Brigadier (Acting) E. R. ASH, A.M.I.Mech.E., R.A.O.C.

19th October 1942 – 1944

Brigadier (Temporary) D. BROWN, R.A.O.C.

10th July 1944 – 1945

Brigadier (Temporary) C. F. T. HAIGH, M.C.

30th August 1946 – 1948

Brigadier (Temporary) Barnard Alfred GOLDSTEIN, O.B.E.

Chief Ordnance Mechanical EngineerAugust 1939 – 1942

Honorary Brigadier E. J. J. BRITTON, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.I.Mech.E., retired pay (Reserve of Officers)

Assistant Director Mechanical Engineering11th May 1942 – 11th October 1942

Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary) J. A. E. BURLS, O.B.E., A.M.I.Mech.E., R.E.M.E.(T.A.)

Deputy Director Mechanical Engineering12th October 1942 – 1945/6

Brigadier (Acting) J. A. E. BURLS, O.B.E., A.M.I.Mech.E., R.E.M.E.(T.A.)

6th May 1946 – 1948

Brigadier (Acting) L. G. SMITH, O.B.E., M.I.Mech.E., R.E.M.E.

Assistant Director of Labour post gone by April 194518th October 1943 – 1944

Lieutenant Colonel (Acting) F. B. CORNWELL, P. Corps

Command Welfare Officer11th March 1941 – 1945

Colonel H. P. MITCHELL, M.A., M.P., D.L., J.P., General List

Command Education Officer20th November 1941 – 1945/6

Colonel (Acting) K. N. COLVILE, M.A., A.E.C.

24th September 1946 – 1948

Colonel (Acting) P. S. CANNON, M.A., R.A.E.C.

Deputy Director A.T.S.12th May 1942 – 1942

Controller (Acting) V. P. FARROW, A.T.S.

15th October 1942 – 1943

Controller (Temporary) The Honourable, Lady M. LAWRENCE, O.B.E., A.T.S.

28th June 1943 – 1944/5

Senior Controller (Acting) C. H. FRASER-TYTLER, C.B.E., A.T.S.

I Anti-Aircraft Corps

11th November 1940 – 14th February 1942

Lieutenant General (Acting) Sydney Rigby WASON, M.C.**, *p.s.c.*

14th February 1942 – 30th September 1942

Lieutenant General (Acting) Charles Alexander Elliott CADELL, C.B.E., M.C., *g.*

II Anti-Aircraft Corps

11th November 1940 – 30th September 1942

Lieutenant General (Acting) Maurice Fitzgibbon GROVE-WHITE, D.S.O., O.B.E., *p.s.c.*

III Anti-Aircraft Corps

11th November 1940 – 30th September 1942

Lieutenant General (Acting) Hugh Gray MARTIN, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

1st Anti-Aircraft Division

Uxbridge, London.

General Officer Commanding

15th December 1935 – 26th November 1937

Major General R. H. D. THOMPSON, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., *p.s.c.*, *g.*

27th November 1937 – 27th July 1939

Major General Sir Frederick Alfred PILE, Baronet, D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*⁴

28th July 1939 – 11th November 1940

Major General Francis Lindisfarne Morley CROSSMAN, D.S.O., M.C., *g.*

12th November 1940 – 31st December 1941

Major General (Acting) Robert Frederick Edward WHITTAKER, O.B.E., T.D., T.A.

1st January 1942 – 30th September 1942

Major General (Acting) Darcy John Rigby RICHARDS, D.S.O., M.C., *p.s.c.*

2nd Anti-Aircraft Division

Hucknall, Nottinghamshire

General Officer Commanding

1st September 1936 – 29th May 1939

Major General James Murray Robert HARRISON, D.S.O., *p.s.c.*

30th May 1939 – 10th November 1940

Major General Maurice Fitzgibbon GROVE-WHITE, D.S.O., O.B.E., *p.s.c.*

12th November 1940 – 30th September 1942

Major General Francis Lindisfarne Morley CROSSMAN, D.S.O., M.C., *g.*

⁴ Awarded the C.B. on 1st January 1938.

3rd Anti-Aircraft Division

Edinburgh, Scotland

General Officer Commanding

1st September 1938 – 23rd September 1939

Major General Lancelot Daryl HICKES,

24th September 1939 – 13th August 1940

Major General L. R. HILL

14th August 1940 – 10th November 1940

Major General Hugh Gray MARTIN, D.S.O., O.B.E., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

15th November 1940 – 6th January 1942

Major General (Acting) John Edward Talbot YOUNGER, *g.*

7th January 1942 – 30th September 1942

Major General William Wyndham GREEN, D.S.O., M.C.*, *g.*

4th Anti-Aircraft Division

General Officer Commanding

1st September 1939 – 9th January 1940

Major General Hugh Gray MARTIN, D.S.O., O.B.E., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

10th January 1940 – 27th May 1940

Major General (Acting) Robert Beverly PARGITER, *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

28th May 1940 – 13th February 1942

Major General (Acting) Charles Alexander Elliott CADELL, M.C, *g.*

14th February 1942 – 30th September 1942

Major General (Acting) Osmund Townley FRITH, *g.*

5th Anti-Aircraft Division

General Officer Commanding

1st September 1939 – 9th January 1940

Major General A. G. CUNNINGHAM

10th January 1940 – 10th November 1940

Major General Robert Hall ALLEN, M.C., *p.s.c.*

11th November 1940 – 30th September 1942

Major General (Acting) Robert Beverly PARGITER, *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

6th Anti-Aircraft Division

General Officer Commanding

30th May 1939 – 30th September 1942

Major General Frederick Gordon HYLAND, M.C.

7th Anti-Aircraft Division

General Officer Commanding

23rd June 1939 – 9th May 1940

Major General Thomas George Gordon HEYWOOD, O.B.E.,

10th May 1940 – 19th May 1940

Major General (Acting) John Edward Talbot YOUNGER, *g*.

3rd July 1940 – 11th November 1940

Major General (Acting) Robert Beverly PARGITER, *i.d.c., p.s.c.*

12th November 1940 – 18th June 1942

Major General (Acting) Eric Victor Howard FAIRTLOUGH, D.S.O., M.C.

19th June 1942 – 30th September 1942

Major General (Acting) John Nuttall SLATER, C.M.G., *g*

8th Anti-Aircraft Division

General Officer Commanding

11th November 1940 – 30th September 1942

Major General Robert Hall ALLEN, M.C., *p.s.c.*

9th Anti-Aircraft Division

General Officer Commanding

16th November 1940 – 30th September 1942

Major General (Acting) Douglas PAIGE, M.C., *g*.

10th Anti-Aircraft Division

General Officer Commanding

14th November 1940 – 13th February 1942

Major General (Temporary) Langley BROWNING, O.B.E., M.C., *p.s.c.*

14th February 1942 – 30th September 1942

Major General (Acting) Erroll Arthur Edwin TREMLETT, (Major, retired pay) (Reserve of Officers) *g.*

11th Anti-Aircraft Division

General Officer Commanding

11th November 1940 – 30th September 1942

Major General (Acting) Sidney Charles Manley ARCHIBALD, M.C., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

12th Anti-Aircraft Division

General Officer Commanding

15th November 1940 – 30th September 1942

Major General (Acting) Gerald Arthur RICKARDS, D.S.O., M.C.

1st Anti-Aircraft Group

Old 1st Anti-Aircraft Division area – London I.A.Z.

General Officer Commanding

1st October 1942 – 30th October 1944

Major General (Acting) Erroll Arthur Edwin TREMLETT, (Major, retired pay) (Reserve of Officers), *g.*

1st November 1944 – 1945

Major General REYNOLDS

1946 – 1947

Major General REVELL-SMITH

2nd Anti-Aircraft Group

Old 2nd Anti-Aircraft Division area, corresponding with 11th Group, R.A.F. surrounding London.

General Officer Commanding

Major General WHITTAKER

Major General HORNBY

3rd Anti-Aircraft Group

South West and South Wales 10 Group R.A.F.

General Officer Commanding

1st October 1942 – February 1943

Major General (Temporary) Robert Beverly PARGITER, C.B., *i.d.c.*, *p.s.c.*

1943 – November 1944

Major General REYNOLDS

Disbanded November 1944

4th Anti-Aircraft Group

North West and North Wales 9 Group R.A.F.

General Officer Commanding

1st October 1942 – 31st December 1942

Major General (Acting) John Nuttall SLATER, C.B.E., M.C., *g*.

1st January 1944 – circa November 1944

Major General (Temporary) Clifford Thomason BECKETT, C.B.E., M.C., *g*.

Disbanded circa November 1944

5th Anti-Aircraft Group

Lincolnshire and Yorkshire. 12 Group R.A.F.

General Officer Commanding

1st October 1942 – 7th March 1945

Major General William Wyndham GREEN, D.S.O., M.C.*,

1945 – 1946

Major General (Temporary) Clifford Thomason BECKETT, C.B.E., M.C., *g*.

6th Anti-Aircraft Group

Scotland – moved to Portsmouth/Southampton area for D-Day. Then disbanded. 14 Group R.A.F.

15th July 1943 – 25th February 1944 (23rd May 1944)

Major General (Acting) Alexander Maurice CAMERON, M.C., *g*.

23rd May 1944 – 31st January 1945

Major General (Acting) Francis St. David Benwell LEJUNE,

8th March 1945 – 15th April 1945

Major General William Wyndham GREEN

7th Anti-Aircraft Group

North East, South West Scotland and Northern Ireland 13 Group R.A.F.
Northern Ireland

REYNOLDS

Disbanded November 1944

8th Anti-Aircraft Group

Formed in Scotland March 1944

9th Anti-Aircraft Group

Flying Bomb Deployment

1st November 1944 – May 1945

Major General (Acting) Erroll Arthur Edwin TREMLETT, C.B. (Major, retired pay)
(Reserve of Officers), *g*.

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