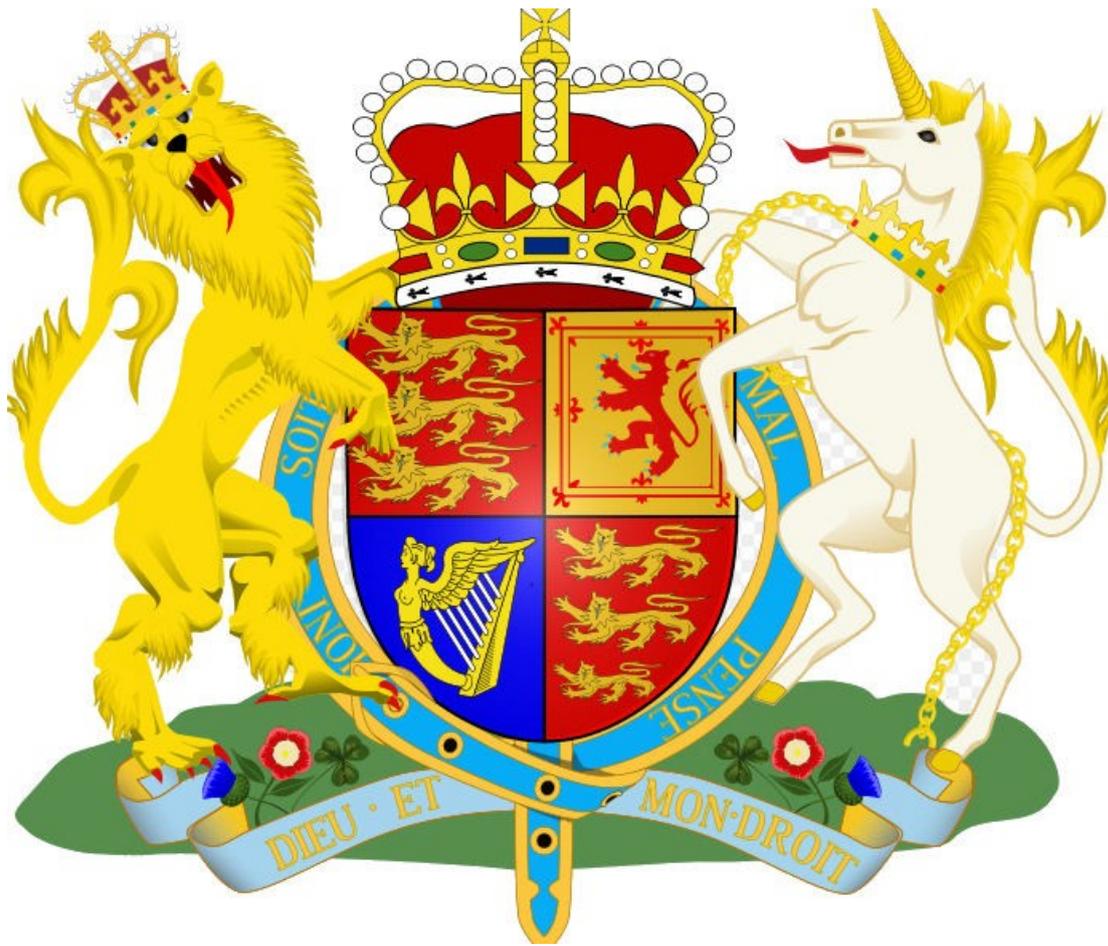


# FORT RECORD BOOK



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1941- 1944

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**old copy of Fort Record Book was destroyed on 26th June 1944**

SECRETKILROOT**BATTERY COMMANDER'S STANDING ORDERS****1. DESCRIPTION**

Belfast is a major port, being a naval anchorage for vessels operating in the North Western Approaches, a routing and convoy assemble port. The chief points of naval importance are:-

1. The Convoy Anchorage
2. The Examination Anchorage
3. The Shipbuilding Yards
4. The Degaussing Range

The probable form or attack is by one or more of the following:-

- (a) Armed Merchant Vessels, with gunfire, or minelaying in the approaches
- (b) Submarines with gunfire, minelaying or torpedoes fired at shipping in the convoy anchorage or approaches.
- (c) M.T.B's or Coastal Craft.
- (d) Blockships to close the dredged channel leading to the shipyards and docks.
- (e) Aircraft, minelaying, bombing or torpedo attack

**2. DEFENCE**

The Land Defence of Belfast Lough is controlled by the Fire Commander, Belfast Lough, and consists of:-

114 Permanent Land Service Battery at Kilroot.  
115 Naval (Examination) Battery at Orlock

Four 3.7 H.A.A Guns at Ballymacormick Point with a secondary role of Seawards defence.

**3. PRIORITY OF TARGETS**

The following order of priority will be observed:-

1. Enemy warships
2. Enemy transports and landing craft.
3. Enemy targets on or adjacent to Landing Beaches.
4. Anti minelaying barrage.

**4. ROLE OF KILROOT BATTERY**

- (a) To carry out Close Defence Action in co-operation with other Batteries in the Lough
- (b) To carry out duties of an Examination Battery when delegated by the Fire Commander.
- (c) To engage land targets if ordered.
- (d) To put up and Anti minelaying barrage.

**5. RESPONSIBILITY FOR OPENING FIRE**

- (a) By Day and Good Visibility

The F.C. will order fire to be opened on any War Vessel at a request from the P.W.S.S. or on orders from XDO.

- (c) On any obviously hostile vessel
- (d) On any submarine which has not been identified by flashing ship to shore letter and has not been identified

Should communication to the F.C. break down or should circumstances arise which necessitate the opening of fire immediately the B.C. is responsible for opening fire on his own initiative. He will at first opportunity report such action to the F.C.

Unless the vessel is obviously hostile or should there be any doubt in the mind of the B.C. as to whether the vessel is hostile the first round will be a "bring to" round. (All "bring to" rounds will be plugged shell, flat head or practice shot.)

(b) By Night or Low Visibility

The B.C. is responsible for opening fire on any vessel about which he has received no previous information unless she is showing the special signal or has identified herself by flashing the ship to shore letter. If there is any doubt as to whether the vessel is hostile, the B.C. may in the first instance fire a "bring to" round. He will at once report the action taken to the F.C.

## 6. DISTRIBUTION OF FIRE SCHEME—GUNS

The F.C. is at all times in tactical control.

The principle adopted is that the most dangerous target will be engaged by all guns until other targets appear, when he will be engaged in accordance with the distribution of fire scheme. It is the duty of the B.C. to ensure that no guns are idle during an attack if a target is within range. No distribution of fire scheme can lay down the occurrences for all types of attack, therefore, B.C.'s must be prepared to use their own initiative to ensure that no vessel reaches its objective.

### BY DAY

The F.C. will indicate the targets to all Batteries and the tactical control of the attack will be the F.C.'s responsibility. Should the attack become unmanageable or the F.C. be unable to identify targets, he will order the following distribution of Fire Scheme to be taken into force. This scheme will also be used in event of a breakdown in communications.

#### "Distribution of Fire Scheme (Day) Sequence System"

If the attack is in a line ahead or similar formation.

1. ORLOCK Bty. Will engage the leading two targets, No. 2 gun the leading target and No. 1 gun the second target.
2. As the targets approach within range of KILROOT Battery they will be engaged as follows:-
  - 1.Target. Both KILROOT and ORLOCK Battery will engage, fire being controlled by F.C. if necessary Or at the request of an O.O.W. concerned.
  - 2.Targets Leading target KILROOT, second target ORLOCK Bty. (when outside ORLOCK arc of fire, KILROOT will engage both targets)
  - 3.Targets Leading target KILROOT Bty, second and third targets by ORLOCK Bty. (when leading targets are outside ORLOCKS's are on fire, KILROOT will engage leading two targets.)
  - 4.Targets or more.
 

First and second targets will be engaged by Kilroot Battery, third and fourth by Orlock Battery
3. If any Battery divides its guns, i.e. one gun, one target, the normal method will be one gun controlled by Battery Control, the other gun at Section Control. If either the B.C.P. or Emergency O.P. are demolished, the gun concerned will be at gun control
4. BALLYMACORMICK Battery, having a dual role, with an Air Priority, will engage the leading sea target, if not otherwise employed unless they receive orders to the contrary from the Fire Commander.

- (a) Kilroot will engage the leading targets at the first available opportunity, firstly in order that ORLOCK may engage other targets and secondly in order that fire from ORLOCK Battery in a westerly direction may be kept to a minimum where ricochets may cause damage to the shipping in the Convoy anchorage
- (b) If the attack is in line abreast ORLOCK will engage the Southern target or targets. KILROOT will engage the Northern target or engage targets as ordered by the Fire Commander. No gun will be idle if there is a target in range, the most dangerous being engaged.
- (c) For other forms of attack the general principles in (a) and (b) above must be adopted to meet the occasion as it arises.
- (d) Should a gun or Battery be engaging a target and that target be sunk it will immediately engage the most dangerous target within its arc, this may or may not be the leading target.

BY NIGHT

ORLOCK and KILROOT will use the Fighting Lights System. Each gun will engage the targets in its own fighting light. If there is on target in its own Fighting Light, guns or Batteries will, if possible, engage targets in other fighting lights until a target appears in its own fighting light, when fire will be switched to that target. BALLYMACORMICK will engage the leading targets illuminated by either ORLOCK or KILROOT, but will not fire west of a line LUKE'S POINT-KILROOT, owing to danger to shipping in Convoy Anchorage.

7. STATES OF READINESS

Until "Stand To" is ordered by F.C.

DAY :	No.1 Gun	15 minutes
	No.2 Gun	40 minutes
NIGHT:	No.1 Gun	10 minutes
	No.2 Gun	15 minutes

The following code will be sent by F.C. in reducing or expanding times or readiness:-

A	-	1 gun immediate state of readiness
AA	-	2 guns immediate state of readiness
B	-	1 gun 5 min state of readiness
BB	-	2 guns 5 min state of readiness

**8. BARRAGE**

The barrage will be fired on orders from the F.C. in fog or an attack through a smoke screen. Should targets emerge from the screen they will immediately be engaged in accordance with the Distribution of Fire Scheme.

Rate of fire will be 2 r.p.g.p.m. unless otherwise ordered/

**Northern Barrage**

No.1 Gun 066	5300 yards
No.2 Gun 069	5300 yards

**Southern Barrage**

No.1 Gun 096	6400 yards
No.2 Gun 099	6500 yards

**Anti-Mine laying Barrage**

Procedure; G.O.R. will send a warning location message to the F.C. with a request for assistance. The F.C. will decide, when all factors has been considered, whether fire can be brought to bear. If in the affirmative he will order "Aircraft Alarm" to 114 Coast Battery, giving them the information passed to him by G.O.R. He will order the F.C. Exchange Operator to put G.O.R. through direct to 114 Coast Battery. The Duty Officer, 114Coast Battery. R.A. will then carry out the procedure as laid down in HQ letter OFD/S/70/44 dated 24th April 44. On the conclusion on oany action against A/C, the Duty Officer, 114 Coast Battery R.A. will report to the Fire Commander verbally on the action and number of round expended.

**9. COMMUNICATIONS**

On alarm all telephonic communication between the F.C. Post and the Battery and the No.17 R/T Set will be immediately manned. In addition communication will be established by visual (Lamp) where tactical situation permits. Telephonic communication to the F.C. Post will be treated hourly. The No.17 Set communication will at all times be tested at 0500, 1100, 1700 and 2300hours daily. The alarm system to the F.C. Post will be tested at Preparation for Action.

**10. SYNCHRONIZATION OF WATCHES**

The B.O.P. Clock will be set daily on receipt of the B.B.C. time signal at 0700hrs. In the event of national broadcasting being suspended or if the B.O.P. has no wireless receiver the clock will be synchronized by telephone with the F.C. Post at 0700hrs daily.

**11. DEFENCE AGAINST LOW FLYING AIRCRAFT**

- (a) Aircraft definitely identified as hostile at a height of less than 1000 feet or at a range less than 600 yards will be engaged with A.A Bren Guns and controlled small arms fire.

**12. STANDING ORDERS FOR OPENING FIRE**

- |    |                                   |  |
|----|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Method or Range finding.          | A/E will be normal<br>D.R.F for Case II  |
| 2. | Case of Laying                    | A/S will be normal<br>Case II will be ordered  |
| 3. | Ammunition                        | C.P.B.C. Fuse 480 Set "Non-Delay"<br>Charge Full   |
| 4. | Travel                            | Will be estimated. Where possible will be obtained from D.R.F.   |
| 5. | Method of Ranging                 | Gunfire will be normal—Abnormal will be ranging salvos, which will be ordered.   |
| 6. | Where corrections will Be applied | 1. Autosights. ALL corrections will be applied on the sights.<br>2. Case II ALL line corrections will be applied on the sights.<br>Range Ballistic corrections and B.C's travel corrections On the D.R.F.<br>Spotting corrections on Mechanical Dial.<br>Individual Gun corrections on Range Receiving Dial. |
| 7. | State of tide                     | By day will be obtained from hourly tide Gauge.<br>By night will be obtained from hourly tide table from GREY POINT.   |

13. **AMMUNITION**

Fifteen rounds of C.P.B.C shell fused 480 will be kept in each gun floor. Two flathead shots will be kept on the gun floor for "bring to" purposes.

14. **PREPARATION FOR ACTION**

Will be carried out as laid down in Battery Orders. One gun will be prepared for action at a time. Normal look-out bearing and ranges are as follow:-

By Day and Good Visibility	By Night and Low Visibility
Bearing 100 degrees	Bearing 180 degrees
Range 5000 yards	Range 3000 yards

16. **ALARM SIGNALS**

Sea Attack.....	Alarm Bells
Land Attack.....	Klaxon
All Clear.....	Verbal
Gas Attack.....	Rattle
Gas Clear.....	Verbal
Fire.....	Gong

17. **MANNING DETAIL**

During Day Conditions the O.O.W. will be in the Fort Area and a look out will be posted in the B.O.P.

During Night Conditions the O.O.W. will be in the B.O.P. except when inspecting lookouts, and lookouts will be posted in the B.O.P. and on No. 1 Gun.

Duty Detachment No.1 Gun with the exception of the lookouts may sleep in the Watch Shelter—fully clothed

KILROOT FORT  
THOMcG/VSC

Captain R.A. Commanding 114 Coastal Battery R.A.

**Appendix "A" to Battery Commander's Standing Orders**

113th Coast Battery R.A.

The method of Rangefinding will be Auto-sights for short ranges and D.R.F. for long ranges

Auto-sights will be used unless "Case II" is ordered

The ammunition used, except for "Bring to" procedure, will be H.E. Mk.XX b fuse 45.

Travel will be estimated.

The method of fire will be gunfire, unless ranging salvoes is ordered.

Corrections will be applied as under:-

- (a) For line;        in clicks on sights
- (b) For range;
  - (i)        at auto-sights, in clicks, on the auto-sight
  - (ii)       at Case II—initial corrections on the D.R.F. spotting corrections on the Mechanical Dial.  
             Individual gun corrections on the range receiving dial

The state of tide will be obtained;

- (i)    By day—from the tide gauge
- (ii)   By night— by use of the tide graph

The look-out bearing will be 040 degrees

The look-out range will be 4000 yards

Tide levers will be set every hour on orders being given from the B.O.P.

Look-outs will be posed as follows;

By Day        There will always be one look-out in the B. O.P.

By Night      There will be on look-out in the B.O.P. and one on each gun—the gun look-outs will be on duty for one hour and will be posted by NO.1 of gun detachments. No.1 gun at the half hours and No.2 Gun at the hours—e.g. No.1 at 2130, 2230, etc. No2 Gun at 2100, 2200, etc.

"Bring To Procedure"

For Short Ranges—a modified case 1 method of laying will be used, the Range will be given over the loudspeaker and applied to the ring yards scale by the No.1. On the order "Bring To" round being fired the second duty gun detachment and the reserve detachments will take post.

"For long ranges"

Case IX "Bring To Procedure " will be used, when this range will be passed mechanically and a full-charge used.

Sentries

During the hours of daylight one stick sentry will be posted at the Fort Gate. From half an hour before official night begins, until half an hour after official night ends, a second sentry armed with a rifle and fixed bayonet will be posted. The rifle will be loaded with 5 rounds, UNDER the bolt, The other sentry will be applied with a torch.

Orders Nos. 1 - 7 will be read out on every Manning Parade.

Orders Nos.8 - 13 will be read out on every Saturday's Manning Parade.

**CHARGES**

H.E. Charge full will be used unless “Bring to” procedure is ordered when charge half will be used.

Ammunitions supply

15 rounds with safety caps on and the retaining pins removed will be kept on each gunfloor for use until the reserve watch man the recesses and magazine. 100 round and 100 cartridges full charge will be kept in the recesses; the lids of the cartridge cases being kept finger tight. The remainder of the ammunition will be kept in the magazine. All shells in the magazine will have grummets on.

The normal method of ammunition supply—after the reserve watch has taken post—will be magazine supply; recess supply being temporarily resorted to only to maintain the rate of fire should the magazine supply become slower than the rate of loading.

Engagement of Targets

The Fire Commander is responsible in daylight and good visibility that fire is opened on a war vessel attempting to enter the harbour which the S.H.O. informs him has not been identified by the P.W.S.S. as friendly. Fire must cease if the X.D.O. through the S.M.C. so requests.

In daylight or good visibility the Battery Commander will open fire on any submarine or motor torpedo boat in or attempting the enter the harbour, the arrival of which has not been notified, and on any obviously hostile vessel.

At night and in low visibility, the Battery Commander will fire on any war vessel attempting to enter the harbour about which he has not received previous information. He must however be prepared to stop firing at the request of the X.D.O.

Owing to the number of warships and fleet auxiliaries moving in or near Belfast lough the Battery Commander must use his own discretion before engaging a vessel under the above orders - remembering that, while no hostile or suspicious vessel must be allowed further west in the lough than possible, a “Bring To” round may prevent the sinking of a friendly vessel and the loss of life that it would involve. The extreme range at which the Battery Commander will open fire on a vessel will be 8000 yards unless express orders to the contrary are received from the Fire Commander.

Distribution of Fire Schemes

By Day; The sequence system will be used, the south side of the lough being the “Named Flank” the guns will be lettered as under;-

- No.2 at Grey Point.....A
- No.1 at Grey Point.....B
- No.1 at Kilroot.....C
- No2 at Kilroot.....D

In the event of an attack by more than on vessel all guns will engage the leading vessel until their own target comes within range or sight. No gun will be idle during an attack.

Appropriate targets will be engaged in preference to all other targets except another vessel appears to threaten the impregnability or the Port.

By Night; The fighting light system will be used by night, fighting lights are allotted to guns as follows:-

- No.1 Gun—Grey Point.....No.1 Light Grey Point.
- No.2 Gun—Grey Point.....No.2 Light Grey Point.
- No.1 Gun—Kilroot..... No.1 Light Kilroot
- No.2 Gun—Kilroot.....No.2 Light Kilroot.

Each gun will engage any vessel illuminated by its own light, if no vessel appears in that beam the gun engages vessels in other beams. If a gun has been engaging a vessel in its own beam and the vessel is passed on the next beam, the gun continues to engage it—but directly another vessel appears in its own beam, the gun is at once switched on to it.

In this system action lookouts watch the water illuminated by their own beam, The Battery Commander must at any time be prepared to depart from the distribution of fire schemes either by day or night if he sees that a vessel is likely to effect its object and is not under fire.

No.2 D.E.L. at Grey Point wit No.1 at Kilroot has a combined role of an observation and fighting light. It will be controlled tactically by the Battery Commander who will use it in its observation role under the orders of the F.C. Its role as a fighting light it will be controlled entirely by the Battery Commander. When used as an observation light it will be a sentry beam on a bearing of 005 degrees.

The normal opening bearing of both lights will be 005degrees. The S.I.G. .detailed for duty in daily Battery orders will be responsible to the Battery Commander that the Defence Electric Lights are manned by the times stated above— by manned is meant ready for action. Each Emplacement will be manned by two men—one of whom may be given per mission to leave for a short period by the Battery Commander on duty. One man will always be awake. The Directing Station will be manned by four men (1 N.C.O. i/c D.S., 1 Telephonist and two Switchmen0 two of whom will be in the B.O.P. and two in reserve.

The Engine room will be manned by four men, two of whom will be awake and in the Engine Room and two in reserve.

State of readiness will be:-

No.1 Light— 30 seconds

No.2 Light— 1 minute.

In the event of a target being picked up by No.1 Light it will be handed over to No.2 light as soon as possible and No.1 Light will then immediately resume normal search.

#### Communications:

The Battery Commander is indirect communication with the F.C. and the X.D.C. and through the F.C.'s concentrator with the Battery Commander at Orlock and Kilroot. An Administrative line goes to Grey Point exchange through which can be obtained Regimental Headquarters at Grey Point, Naval Base and Victoria Barracks.

In the event of telephone communications breaking down, contact can be made with Kilroot by lamp and through the latter with Orlock and the F.C.

Alarm Bells are fitted in the B.O.P. being controlled by the F.C. The Battery Alarm is sounded by turning the generator in the B.O.P. b y which means bells are rung in each gun shelter, each lower shelter and the Barrack but at the south side of the Fort.

The B.O.P. is equipped with an apparatus Loudspeaking No.1Mark II by which orders are transmitted to the guns.

Both guns are connected with the B.O.P. by telephone.

Should both the above systems of communications between the B.O.P. and either gun break down orders will be passed to the guns by shouting and acknowledgement by the No1 will be given by raising the arm nearest the B.O.P.

Signal lights are fitted on each gun and in the B.O.P.

GREY POINT  
20th Oct.1941

CAPT R.A.  
Commanding 113 Coast Bty. R.A.