

History of Grey Point Fort

March 1907	The works were taken over from the Royal Engineers and Mounting of guns commenced
May 1907	First Test Rounds fired
May 1909	Fort Workshops, S.A.A. Store and M.G. Stores completed
January 1910	Dial Cables installed between Telephone Room and Guns
January 1911	Barbed wire entanglements around the Battery completed
October 1911	Cartridge and Shell Recesses deepened to 3 feet. The Royal Artillery Store. The doors or magazine and issue hatches Fireproofed.
August 1914-1918	Mobilization, First World War, Fort manned by the Antrim Royal Garrison Artillery (Special Reserve).
1915	Hutted camps built on the camping ground to accommodate 6 Officers and other ranks
March 1916	B.C. Post erected and an Officers Bunk provided
December 1926	Garrison reduced to Care and Maintenance. Machine guns and S.A.A. handed over to R.O.A.C on deposit.
1927	War hutments removed and sold.
March 1928	2. c.r.h. Ammunition returned to R.A.O.C.
May 1929	6. c.r.h. Ammunition received
April 1930	Survey of Datum Points carried out.
July 1930	Full and half charge calibration carried out.
June 1933	Switchboards etc. erected for break in transmission circuit system.
November 1934	Traversing Arcs on Guns and D.R.F. converted from Training to Bearings.
June 1936	Two Searchlights (Lamps H.C.D.) and emplacements with Directing Station erected. Fort illuminated by electricity. New Battery Observation Post erected.
August 1936	Two guns Sub-Calibre Q.F. 3 Pounder Nordenfelt replaced by Two Guns Sub-Calibre 3 pounder Q.F. Hotchkiss (722.762)
1937	188th (Antrim) Heavy Battery, Royal Artillery (TA), and the Antrim (Fortress) Company, Royal Engineers (TA) the first Territorial Army units in Northern Ireland, formed to man the defences of Belfast Lough.
1938	First Annual Camp of the new TA units took place under canvas in the Camping Ground "Munich Crisis" TA units embodied to man the defences of Belfast
January 1938	One gun Sub-Calibre Q.F. 3 pounder Hotchkiss No.762 returned to Woolwich for Special Examination and replaced by Gun Sub-Calibre Q.F. 3 pounder Hotchkiss No. 799.
June 1939	Apparatus Loudspeaking installed on Guns. Signal indicators Red and Green installed on guns. Shelter for Gun Detachments erected. 3 Barrack huts, 1 Officers Mess, 1 Sgt's Cookhouse and preparation room, 1 Men's Cookhouse and preparation room and store. Latrines (O.R's) erected outside the Fort.

- 1939 Huts erected on the Camping Ground.
- 1939 First camp of the Northern Ireland units of the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS)
- 1939 Second Annual Camp of the new TA units took place in the hutted camping ground
- 1939 Mobilization
- 1939 War stations manned
- 1939 Two days after the outbreak of war the steamship "E Hayward" of Liverpool failed to answer the recognition signals and a plugged round was fired across her bows, this was the first and only shot fired in anger from Grey Point Fort.
- June 1940 Calibration of A.1 and A.2 Guns carried out. New direction station erected. Gun Houses erected over Gun Emplacements, A third searchlight emplacement added
- Further batteries constructed at Orlock, Larne and Magilligan, 188th (Antrim) Heavy Battery expanded to become 525 (Antrim) Coast Regiment RA with responsibility for manning all coast defence installations in Northern Ireland
- Mines laid in Belfast Lough from Enemy Aircraft
- SS Troutpool struck a mine and sank of Grey Point.
- Antrim (Fortress) Company moved to Portaferry, Co. Down to convert to a Field Company.
- 1941 The Secretary of State for War, the Rt. Hon. Anthony Eden MP, visited Grey Point Fort.
- July 1942 Watkins Transmission replaced by Magslip Transmission.
- December 1943 Garrison returned to Care and Maintenance.
- July 1943 Full charge 6 c.r.h. Calibration carried out on A.1 and A.2 guns.
- 1943—1945 Grey Point Fort was a Naval Signal Station.
- 1945 525 (Antrim) Coast Regiment, RA, lapsed into suspended animation.
- 1945—1948 Hutted camp occupied by the Officer Cadet Company of the 28th Training Battalion based at Palace Barracks, Holywood
- 1946 Battery manned by newly formed 270 Independent Maintenance Battery Royal Artillery.
- 1947 The Territorial Army was reconstituted and 429 (Antrim) Coast Regiment, RA (TA) was formed to man the defences of Belfast Lough
- June 1950 "B1" Gun at Kilroot dismantled and re-erected on "A1" Mounting Grey Point Fort. A.1 Gun being returned to Woolwich
- December 1951 Half—Charge Calibration carried out.
- January 1952 Work commenced by Admiralty on a Sea-Wards Defence Head-Quarters within the Fort.
- March 1952 Full—Charge Calibration carried out.
- March 1953 Radar Platform and Ramp commenced inside Fort. Flagstaff moved to North side of Fort Road
- August 1953 Station Practice carried out.
- September 1953 Battery T.V. Room opened.

- January 1954 Equipment Radar A.A. No. 3 Mark 2/2 placed in position on its Platform and brought into Action.
- May 1954 Telephone communications between Radar and B.O.P. installed.
- 1956 Coast Artillery disbanded as it was considered that the sea borne threat could be countered more effectively by naval and air forces.
- 429 (Antrim) Coast Regiment RA (TA) was converted in to (Antrim Artillery) Field Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers (TA)
- Responsibility for guns and stores assumed by 270 Independent Maintenance Battery R.A.
- Headquarters 39 Independent Infantry Brigade occupied the hutted camp on return from Kenya.

Please see separate documents on this web site for;

Grey Point Fort Record Book

Colonel Owens' committee report on Home Ports

188th (Antrim) Heavy Battery RA, (TA) History

188th (Antrim) Heavy Battery RA (TA) War Diaries

270 Independent Maintenance Battery RA, Grey Point Fort Historical report

Antrim (Fortress) Company Royal Engineers (TA) War Diaries