

WAR DIARIES 188<sup>th</sup> (ANTRIM) HEAVY BATTERY (LATE ANTRIM (FORTRESS) COMPANY ROYAL ARTILLERY

Date	Location	Time	Incident
24 August 1939		16:00:00	Telegram from War Office ordering all Coast Defences to be manned at war routines as soon as possible
24 August 1939	Grey Point	22:40:00	Grey Point Battery fully manned by 188th (Antrim) Heavy Battery R.A. (TA)
24 August 1939	Grey Point		Infantry platoon from Battalion at Holywood Barracks arrive at Grey Point for local defence of port
24 August 1939	Kilroot		Infantry platoon from Battalion at Victoria Barracks, Belfast arrive at Kilroot Battery for local defence of port
25 August 1939	Grey Point	09:30:00	Kilroot Battery fully manned by 188th (Antrim) Heavy Battery R.A. (TA)
25 August 1939	Grey Point	18:35:00	Communications established with Orlock Hill
25 August 1939	Grey Point	18:36:00	Communications established with Kilroot Battery
25 August 1939	Grey Point	19:00:00	One D.E.L. from Drill Hall installed at Kilroot Battery and ready to expose at dusk
26 August 1939	Grey Point		Admiralty have requested Battery's to commence War Watching duties
27 August 1939	Grey Point		All communications now established except with Naval Officer in charge
30 August 1939	Grey Point		Two Petty Officers (recognition personnel) arrive for duty from Portsmouth
30 August 1939	Grey Point		Three Royal Navy Signallers arrive as Examination Service Signallers
30 August 1939	-		Lieutenant Colonel Graham Fixed Defences, Belfast Lough, transmits the war diaries on 7th Sept 1939 from Grey Point Battery.
1 September 1939	Grey Point		Major L. Sragg, M.C. R.O.R.O. joined for duty as Staff Officer to Command Fixed Defences
2 September 1939	Grey Point		Lieutenant Commander H. Watts, Royal Navy joined for duty as Naval Liaison Officer, Belfast
2 September 1939	Kilroot		National Defence Corps Detachment relieves Infantry Platoon
2 September 1939	Grey Point	18:25:00	Examination Service to be put into force forthwith
2 September 1939	Grey Point	20:55:00	Examination Service in force
3 September 1939	Grey Point	12:00:00	Mr W. B. Fegan, Customs Liaison Officer reported
3 September 1939	Grey Point	13:40:00	Telegram from War Office "War has broken out with Germany"
4 September 1939	Grey Point		National Defence Corps Detachment relieves Infantry Platoon
5 September 1939	Grey Point	08:15:00	Steamer "E Hayward" brought to by firing plugged shell across her bows, The first "bring to" round to be fired from Grey Point was when a vessel "E Hayward" passed by the examination vessel and would not obey two orders given by Major Spragg via the naval signaller The plugged round splashed in front of the vessel and ricochets on the water eventually ending up just beyond the Beltoy Road in Carrickfergus demolishing the walled enclosure of a nunnery.
6 September 1939	Kilroot		Passive Air Defence Scheme completed

WAR DIARIES 188<sup>th</sup> (ANTRIM) HEAVY BATTERY (LATE ANTRIM (FORTRESS) COMPANY ROYAL ARTILLERY

6 September 1939	Grey Point		Passive Air Defence Scheme completed
3 October 1939	Grey Point		1 Petty Officer joined for duty with the Examination Service
6 October 1939	Grey Point		1 Chief Petty Officer joined for duty with the Examination Service
9 October 1939	Grey Point	10:00:00	Kilroot Battery acting as Examination Battery in place of Grey Point Battery
11 October 1939	Kilroot		1 Chief Petty Officer joined for duty with the Examination Service
20 November 1939	Kilroot	14:00:00	Naval Examination Service transferred to Grey Point Battery
29 December 1939	Grey Point	02:00:00	Two Naval ratings joined Examination Service as Signallers Major W.J. Gilpin, M.C., Royal Artillery joined for duty as Deputy Fire Commander
<b>Grey Point and Kilroot Batteries, during the period 1st January 1940 to 1st February 1940 the strength of the batteries dropped from 227 to 214 due to postings or admission to hospital, discharges, etc.</b>			
1 March 1940	Grey Point		188th (Antrim) Heavy Battery R.A. (TA) reorganised into the Antrim Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery (TA) consisting of RHQ, and 188th and 200th Heavy Batteries (RHQ at Helens Bay, Grey Point, Co. Down.
25 May 1940	Grey Point		5 new defence posts constructed around and within the perimeter of the camp for use against air or ground attack these were completed and ready for occupation on 27th May 1940.
26 May 1940	Kilroot		3 new defence posts constructed around and within the perimeter of the camp for use against air and ground attack completed and ready for occupation on 27th May 1940.
6 June 1940	Larne		One 12 pdr mounted and in action, manned by detachments of 1 Officer and 13 other ranks from Kilroot Battery
26 June 1940	Larne		12 pdr replaced by 4.7" gun
29 June 1940	Larne		6 inch gun added for Battery at Larne, the Detachment increased to 1 Officer and 31 other ranks
1 July 1940	Grey Point	07:30:00	Two Officers and 39 Other ranks proceed to Magilligan Point to man 2 x 6 inch MkVII guns (Naval Mountings
4 July 1940	Kilroot		Two new searchlights at Kilroot in action
5 July 1940	Magilligan		Two 6 inch guns in action at Magilligan Point, searchlights previously at Kilroot taken to Magilligan for erection
9 July 1940	Magilligan		Searchlights at Magilligan in action
13 July 1940	Grey Point	07:30:00	Nine other ranks proceeded to Eglington Barracks, Londonderry to man a 12 pdr gun
17 July 1940	Grey Point		Change of designates. Antrim Heavy Battery Royal Artillery (TA) assumed the designation 525th (Antrim) Coast Regiment with effect from 14th July 1940 (War Office letter No.20/Arty/5707.(A.G.6.A.) of 14th July 1940)
19 July 1940	Grey Point	01:10:00	Aeroplane flew over Belfast Lough and four or five parachutes were observed to drop into the Lough.
20 July 1940	Grey Point	13:52:00	S.S. Troutpool struck am mine while adjusting compasses in the outer harbour and sank 5650 yards at 067 degrees from Grey Point Battery
20 July 1940	Londonderry		12 pdr gun now in action at Londonderry

WAR DIARIES 188<sup>th</sup> (ANTRIM) HEAVY BATTERY (LATE ANTRIM (FORTRESS) COMPANY ROYAL ARTILLERY

23 July 1940	Grey Point		Anti-Aircraft shields for 6 inch Mark VII guns at Grey Point completed
23 July 1940	Magilligan		"D" Coast Battery, Royal Artillery re-designated 380 Coast Battery Royal Artillery. Auth; War Office urgent Postal Telegram No. 20/Arty/5685/A.G.6.a) of 28 July 1940
23 July 1940	Larne		"C" Coast Battery, Royal Artillery., re-designated 381 Coast Battery, Royal Artillery. Auth; as for Magilligan re-designation
23 July 1940	Kilroot		Anti-Aircraft shields for 6 inch Mark VII guns at Grey Point completed
24 July 1940	Grey Point	12:30:00	Visit by Chief Commander A.T.S. (Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan)
24 July 1940	Grey Point	18:00:00	Visit by Secretary of State for War (The Rt. Hon. Anthony Edan. M.P.)
24 July 1940	Grey Point	02:20:00	An aeroplane flew over Belfast Lough and three parachutes were reported to have dropped in the Lough
24 July 1940	Grey Point		Batteries assumed new designates as under with effect from 24th July 1940 Late 188th Heavy Battery - "A" Coast Battery, Royal Artillery Late 200th Heavy Battery - "B" Coast Battery, Royal Artillery Larne Battery - "C" Coast Battery , Royal Artillery Magilligan Battery - "D" Coast Battery, Royal Artillery Londonderry Battery - "Z" Section, Royal Artillery
25 July 1940	Larne		6 inch Mark VII gun mounted in lieu of 4.7 inch gun now in action
28 July 1940	Grey Point	11:40:00	A mine was exploded by a skid towed by H.M.S. Souvenir
30 July 1940	Grey Point	15:31:00	H.M.S. Burlington destroyed a mine 2850 yards at 303 degrees from Grey Point.
4 August 1940	Grey Point		Anti-Aircraft gun in action
6 August 1940	Kilroot		Anti-Aircraft gun in action
7 August 1940	Grey Point	16:00:00	H.M.S. Burlington explodes one mine at a bearing of 340 degrees and 3400 yards from Grey Point
8 August 1940	Grey Point	16:00:00	H.M.S. Burlington explodes one mine at a bearing of 342 degrees and 3175 yards from Grey Point
12 August 1940	Grey Point	00:30:00	Very loud and bright explosions occurred in the air at 350 degrees and 4000 yards from Grey Point. (Aircraft heard in the same area at this time)
15 August 1940	Orlock		One gun in action (6 inch naval mounting), 21 men posted from "A "Coast Battery to Orlock
23 August 1940	Grey Point		Lieutenant Commander J. McClelland, R.N.V.S.R. assumed appointment as Naval Liaison Officer from Lt.Cmd. Watts
28 August 1940	Grey Point		H.M. Trawler "Sulla" exploded a mine at a bearing of 32 degrees from Grey Point and 63 degrees from Kilroot
5 September 1940	Grey Point	12:20:00	H.M. Trawler "Sulla" exploded a mine
10 September 1940	Grey Point	11:25:00	H.M. Trawler "Sulla" exploded a mine
13 September	Grey Point	07:28:00	A hostile Aircraft flew over the Lough and dropped a small number of incendiary bombs over the town of Bangor.

WAR DIARIES 188<sup>th</sup> (ANTRIM) HEAVY BATTERY (LATE ANTRIM (FORTRESS) COMPANY ROYAL ARTILLERY

1940

13 September

1940

Arrival of 130 Trainees - 60 to Grey Point Battery and 70 to Kilroot Battery

25 September

1940

Grey Point

00:50:00

Aircraft passed over Lough. Flash and loud explosion reported in the air at 010 degrees

26 September

1940

Grey Point

14:55:00

Mine exploded by H.M. Trawler "Sulla"

27 September

1940

Grey Point

01:00:00

Enemy aircraft over Belfast Lough, engaged by 3 inch Anti-Aircraft guns

27 September

1940

Londonderry

12 pdr gun and detachment moved from Londonderry to Magilligan.

5 November 1940

Grey Point

3 inch Anti-Aircraft guns at Grey Point taken over by Anti-Aircraft defences

5 November 1940

Kilroot

3 inch Anti-Aircraft guns at Kilroot taken over by Anti-Aircraft defences

5 November 1940

Orlock

Second 6 inch gun mounted and in action

7 November 1940

Magilligan

Second D.E.L. in action

18 November 1940

Grey Point

Trainees posted to Larne, Magilligan and Orlock (40 other ranks each Battery)

25 November 1940

Magilligan

No. 2 6 inch gun at Magilligan move to new position and in action

29 November 1940

Magilligan

Additional establishment received for 12 pdr gun at Magilligan

6 December 1940

Grey Point

Major E.R.Frow assumed command 381 Coast Battery, Royal Artillery Larne.

27 January 1941

Orlock

19:00:00

Two 3 degrees H.C.D. D.E.L's tested and in action

31 January 1941

Orlock

12:00:00

Orlock Battery took over duties of Examination Battery, Belfast Lough (previously carried out by Grey Point Battery

1 February 1941

Nil

1 March 1941

Nil

1 April 1941

Grey Point

A,B, & C Coast Batteries, 525 (Antrim) Coast Regiment, Royal Artillery re-designated 113th, 114th & 115th Coast Batteries Royal Artillery respectively.

8 April 1941

Grey Point

00:01:00

Air Raid on Belfast - 0001 - 0400hrs Incendiary and High Explosive bombs dropped

15 April 1941

Grey Point

Air Raid on Northern Ireland - mainly Belfast - 2245hrs 15th to 0445hrs 16th. Large number of High Explosive and Incendiary bombs dropped, incendiary and High Explosive dropped near 115th Battery, Orlock. Flares etc. over 113th Battery and HQ Fixed Defences.

5 May 1941

Grey Point

Air Raid on Belfast - 0030hrs - 0400hrs High Explosive and Incendiary bombs dropped

6 May 1941

Grey Point

Air Raid on Belfast - 0200hrs - 0300hrs High Explosive and Incendiary bombs dropped

WAR DIARIES 188<sup>th</sup> (ANTRIM) HEAVY BATTERY (LATE ANTRIM (FORTRESS) COMPANY ROYAL ARTILLERY

28 June 1941	Grey Point	10:00:00	New gun installed and in action - old gun returned to Ordnance
30 June 1941	Kilroot	10:00:00	New gun installed and in action - old gun returned to Ordnance
2 July 1941	Kilroot	12:00:00	New gun installed and in action - old gun returned to Ordnance
7 July 1941	Grey Point		Captain J. A. Nelson. Royal Artillery posted to 525th Coast Regiment Royal Artillery to command 481st Coast Battery R.A.
7 July 1941	Grey Point		2nd Lieutenant A.R. Broxup. Royal Artillery posted to Fixed Defences as Staff Officer.
7 July 1941	Grey Point		War Diaries August to December 1941 are all posting to and from the units O.C. unchanged - HQ Fixed defences the same

No diaries yet forthcoming for January 1942 to October 1942