

THE ROSELAND PATROL DIARY Oct 1941 – Sept 1943

Cornwall Group 6 Patrols



Group 6 Commander: Capt. G.H. Sergeant Assistant: 2Lt J.F.W. Mewton
Both worked closely with the Roseland Patrol

How 22nd 1942
Shoot V St Keyne at St Keyne.
Roseland 326 Pts St Keyne 295 Pts.
How. 26th
Sgt T. Williams takes over
Leadership of Patrol.
28th Nov. Lt. Mewton & myself went to Porthuan
on W/E course.
3rd. Dec. Discussed items of interest with
patrol, on W/E course at Porthuan, also proposed
items for competition with Peylnt. & Headquarters,

This extract shows that Sgt. T. Williams became Patrol Leader on Nov 26th 1942

The ROSELAND (Liskeard) Patrol Operational Base was in Roseland Quarry
(their first OB was at Herodsfoot near Liskeard but abandoned after someone fell into it!)

A TRANSCRIPT OF THE PATROL LEADERS HAND WRITTEN DIARY ENTERED INTO A LISKEARD SCHOOL BOOK

Transcription, Illustrations, Photographs and Blue Text comments by Bill Ashby



ROSELAND PATROL TRAINING TARGETS

COLOUR KEY

ROSELAND OB

TARGETS

LOCAL PATROLS as named

Capt. DINGLEY IO HQ

PORTHEAN TRAINING
CAMP & SCOUTS

Radii: 5 & 10 MILE CIRCLES

1941

Oct 16th 1941

Mills Bombs, cleaning & instruction.
Discuss attack on Drill Hall Sat October 25th

Oct 19th 1941

Recon (*Reconnaissance*) for attack on Drill Hall
Constructing O.B. (*OB Operational Base*)

Oct 23rd Thursday

Mills Bombs cleaning and talk on explosives.
Final discussion and preparation for attack on Drill Hall

Oct 25th Saturday

Night attack on Drill Hall, Liskeard cancelled.

Oct 26th Sunday

Construction of OB.

Oct 30th Thursday

Mills Bomb cleaning
Thuggery

Nov 2nd Sunday

Recon for night attack on Home Guard Post, Menheniot.

Nov 6th Thursday

Mills Bomb cleaning, small arms cleaning and instruction.

Nov 8th & 9th Sat and Sunday

Night operation – attacked H G Post, Menheniot.

Sunday AM. – Unarmed defence. Dummy Grenade practice, demolitions, Revolver & T Gun practice.

Nov 13th Thursday

Mills Bomb cleaning, Booby Traps, Tommy Gun instruction.

Nov 16th Sunday

Clean small arms. Odd jobs in OB

Nov 20th Thursday

Bayonet fighting instruction. Arrange night attack on HG Post, Bindown.

Nov 23rd Sunday

AM Reconnaissance for night attack on Bindown

PM Demolitions, instructions by Cpl [W.R. Durstan](#) [*of Scout Section*]

Nov 27th Thursday

Instruction. Patrol work and fieldcraft.

Nov 28th Friday

Night attack Bindown.

Nov 30th Sunday

AM Rifle, revolver and Tommy Gun practice.

PM Recon Trethevey Stone & Trekeivi steps.

Dec 4th Thursday

Small arms inspection and cleaning. Hints for good revolver & rifle shooting. Bayonet fighting.

Dec 6th Saturday

Night operation – attack HG Post, Trethevey Stone.



Dec 7th Sunday

Odd jobs in OB

Dec 11th Thursday

Army Concert at Public Hall, Liskeard

Dec 13th Saturday

Attacked HG Post, Menheniot.

Dec 14th Sunday

Recon for night attack on HG Post Merrymeet

Dec 18th Thursday

Night firing practice, revolver and Tommy gun.

Dec 20th Saturday

Attack on HG Post Merrymeet

Dec 21st Sunday

Patrol competition at Roseland. Roseland v St Keynes.

Roseland 52 pts v St Keynes 32 pts. Efficiency race: Roseland 7¾ minutes v St Keynes 6¾ minutes.

Dec 28th Sunday

Rifle, revolver & Tommy Gun practice.

Dummy grenade practice

1942**Jan 1st Thursday**

Review of 1941

Night firing practice revolver & Tommy gun

Jan 4th Sunday

Work on OB etc.

Rifle practice & Grenade practice

Jan 8th Thursday

Night firing practice Tommy Gun

Jan 10th Saturday

Rifle practice & Grenade practice

Jan 11th Sunday

Patrol competition at Mabe

Jan 15th Thursday

General discussion

Jan 17th Saturday

Attacked HG Post at Trethevey

Jan 18th Sunday

Odd jobs and preparing for attack on Menheniot Village

Jan 22nd Thursday

St Keyne Patrol at Roseland – discussed Plan of attack on Menheniot and Drill Hall Liskeard.

Jan 25th Sunday

Recon Menheniot village

Jan 29th Thursday

Final preparations for attack on Menheniot

Jan 30th Friday

Attacked Menheniot Village

Jan 31st Saturday

St Keynes and Roseland Patrol social evening at the Fountain Hotel.

Feb 5th Thursday

Visited St Keyne – discussed attack on Drill Hall

Feb 7th Saturday

Attacked Drill Hall, [Barass Cross](#), Liskeard.



Feb 8th Sunday

AM Odd jobs.

PM Recon Draynes Farm

Feb 12th Thursday

Small arms instruction – stripping Tommy Gun

Feb 14th Saturday

Attacked Draynes Farm

Feb 15th Sunday

PM Sgt Robertson at Roseland to sign index cards etc. *[his appointment unknown HQ, Scouts or HG?]*

Feb 19th Thursday

Arranged programme for weekend occupation of OB and odd jobs.

Feb 21st Saturday

Occupied OB – night operation OB defended 4 sentries

Feb 22nd Sunday

Live grenade practice. Unarmed defence etc.

Feb 26th Thursday

Stalking sentry practice.

Mar 1st Sunday

Shoot v St Keyne at Roseland

Roseland 326pts

St Keyne 251pts (one man short)

Mar 5th Thursday

J. Bowen left patrol

General discussion

Mar 8th Sunday

AM General clean up.
PM Recon PeyInt

March 12th Thursday

Unarmed combat etc.

March 14th Saturday

Night operation PeyInt.

March 15th Sunday

AM Odd jobs
PM .22 practice.

March 19th Thursday

Unarmed defence

March 21st Saturday

Attacked cars at Moorswater defended by Scouts

March 22nd Sunday

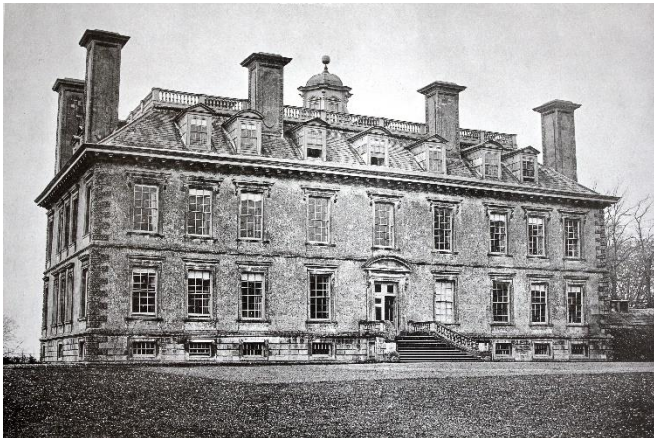
Revolver, rifle and grenade practice

March 26th Thursday

Unarmed combat.

March 29th

Tom & CO to Coleshill



Coleshill House
Auxiliary Units GHQ and Training Camp

Training and Refresher Courses for 30 ran every weekend.
Attended by Auxiliars, Scouts and Officers from all over the
Country.

April 2nd Thursday

Talk by T. Williams

April 5th Sunday

Easter Sunday

April 9th Thursday

General discussion

April 12th Sunday

Shoot v St Keynes at St Keynes
Roseland 335 pts
St Keynes 255 pts

April 16th Thursday

Odd jobs. Test telephone

April 18th Sat & 19th Sunday

SAT Occupation of OB, Night operation attack cars in quarry.

SUN AM – Grenade practice and explosions

PM - .22 Practice and unarmed defence.

April 23rd Thursday

Lay phone wires on range. Alterations to get-a-way

April 26th Sunday

Alterations to get-away and OB

April 30th Thursday

Making targets and general repairs

May 3 Sunday

AM General work targets etc.

PM T. Gun practice from hip, .303 rifle practice kneeling & left shoulder. Grenade practice.

Met Col. Bates at 5pm St Keynes

May 7th Thursday

T. Gun from hip 40yds, grenade practice. Discussed night operation for Saturday May 9th Plymouth invasion exercise.

May 9th Saturday

Proceeded to d bridge, Plymouth Invasion exercise.

May 10th Sunday

Shoot v St Keynes at Roseland. Roseland 242 pts, St Keynes 241 pts.

May 14th Thursday

Small Arms inspection and General repairs.

May 16th Saturday & May 17th Sunday

Babbage, Bice, Tucker, Williams and Mewton to Porthpean

Porthpean House**County Training Centre**

Training was run by Captain Robin Williams who is remembered as a tall, dark, thin man, full of life and enthusiasm. There were weekend training courses for setting explosives and grenade throwing. The Scout Section, a small training squad of regular soldiers lead by a lieutenant were based here.



May 21st Thursday

General work & repairs.

May 24th Sunday

AM Demolitions
PM .303 rifle, T Gun practice. Grenade practice

May 28th Thursday

Repairs etc.

May 31st Sunday

AM Repairs
PM .22 practice, Grenade practice
N.C.O.'s meeting at Porthpean

June 4th Thursday

Odd jobs and general discussion
Private Thomas Welsey Williams promoted to the rank of Corporal.

June 7th Sunday

AM Demolitions
PM Shoot v Menheniot Homeguard
Roseland: Rifle 241 pts Bombs 37pts
Menheniot HG: Rifle 229 pts Bombs 25pts

June 11th Thursday

Odd jobs & repairs etc.

June 14th Sunday

AM Odd jobs & repairs etc.
PM Demolitions, T. Gun practice, Rifle practice 10 rounds rapid, 45 Secs 5 rds. application. Grenade practice. Capt. Dingley present.

June 18th Thursday

General repairs etc.

June 21st Sunday

Shoot v St Keyne & PeyInt at St Keyne
Roseland: 235pts
PeyInt: 233pts
St Keyne: 213pts

June 25th Thursday

Repairing targets & odds jobs.

June 27th & 28th Sat & Sun

Occupation of OB. Sat night operation – attacked cars in quarry.
Sunday AM. Demolitions TRU's* & Incendiaries [* TRU poss. = Type, recognition, uses]
PM. T. Gun practice. Revolver practice 6rds. 5 Rds. 30 yds., 3rds 40 yds. Rifle practice "mad minute"
twice 50 rds. Bomb throwing practice.

July 2nd Thursday

Rifle practice 5 rds. Grenade practice

July 5th Sunday

AM Grenade practice
PM Shoot at PeyInt
PeyInt: 322pts
Roseland: 277pts

July 9th Thursday

Arranged shoot with Menheniot Homeguard.

July 12th Sunday

AM preparing targets
PM shoot v Menheniot
Roseland: 494pts Menheniot HG 184pts

July 16th Thursday

Bomb practice, preparing targets

July 19th Sunday

AM Demolitions and preparing for shoot v St Keynes
PM Shoot v St Keynes
Roseland 413pts St Keynes 316pts

July 23rd Thursday

Rifle practice, Grenade practice

July 26th Sunday

Roseland v Pelynt shoot
Roseland: 750pts PeyInt 701pts

July 30th Thursday

Demolitions

August 2nd Sunday

Holiday

August 6th Thursday

Recon for Operation in Coldrenick Woods

August 9th Sunday

AM Preparing for Operation in Coldrenick Woods
PM Operation Coldrenick Woods.

August 13th Thursday

Demolitions etc.

August 16th Sunday

AM Odd jobs
PM Rifle & Bomb practice

August 17th Monday

From HQ – One .22 Rifle Winchester Automatic

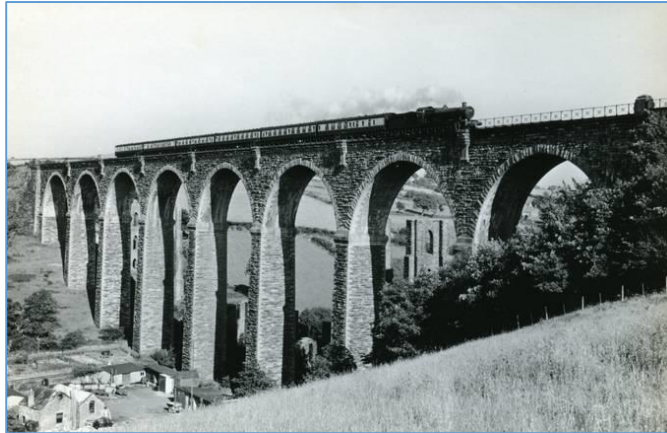


August 20th Thursday

.22 Practice, bomb practice under arm throwing. Arrange night operation at Moorswater Viaduct Sat
Aug 22nd St Keynes and Roseland Patrols.

August 22nd Saturday

St Keynes & Roseland Patrols Night operation Moorswater Viaduct.



August 23rd Sunday

PM Rifle and grenade practice

August 27th Thursday

.22 Practice and Revolver practice. Captain Dingley present.

August 30th Sunday

AM Prepare for shoot.
PM Shoot v St Keynes
Roseland 332pts
St Keyne 306pts

September 3rd Thursday

Demolitions

September 6th Sunday

AM Constructing bomb range
PM T. G. Race practice & Bomb practice

September 10th Thursday

T. G. Race practice & Bomb practice & Demolitions

September 12th & 13th

Patrol competition at Porthpean
Points scored 176 Possible Pts 225

September 17th Thursday

R. Babbage broke arm
Grenade practice. Discussion on future operations and training

September 20th Sunday

Shoot v St Keynes 14.00hrs
Roseland 161 pts St Keynes 99pts

September 24th Thursday

Demolitions, Tommy Gun Race practice

September 26th Saturday

Night exercise as for competition. Cartuther Rookery

September 27th Sunday

Observation practice. Grenade practice. Tommy Gun race. .300 Rifle practice
Cinema Show "Night Shift and Street Fighting".

"Night Shift"



"Street Fighting"

October 1st Thursday

Grenade practice and demolitions

October 3rd & 4th SAT/SUN

In occupation:

Saturday: 19.30 assemble. 20.00 Pistol practice 3rds night firing. 20.30hrs Tommy Gun practice 5 rds night firing. 21.30hrs left for Night Operation Cartuther Rookery. 0.00 Supper

Sunday:

Threw leaky S.T. Grenade. "Blind" disposed of same with Plastic & Cordtex.

Tommy Gun run as for competition. Demonstration land mine as for competition. 12.30 hrs Dinner. 13.30 hrs .303 Rifle practice. 15.00 hrs Grenade Practice. 16.00 hrs Disperse.



S.T. Grenade – Anti-Tank Grenade No.74
"Sticky Bomb"

October 8th Thursday

Sabotage telephone wire. Preparing .22 range

October 11th Sunday

AM Preparing for PM shoot.

PM Shoot v St Keynes Observation Test for St Keynes. 9 spotted

Roseland 223 pts St Keynes 182 pts

October 15th Thursday

Instruction making up the Unit Charge. General discussion.

October 17th Saturday

Homeguard and Civil Defence exercises Liskeard. Patrol defended Moorswater Viaduct against Nazi saboteurs. One trapped.

October 18th Sunday

Rifle .303 15 rounds rapid. Revolver 3 rounds 10 yds. T. Gun run and bombing practice.

October 22nd Thursday

Demolition as for competition.

October 24th & 25th Sat Sun

Final Patrol competition at Porthpean.

1st Newlyn 122 pts. 2nd Roseland 116 pts. 3rd St Dennis 114 pts

October 29th Thursday

General discussion – Changed meeting night to Friday *[only lasted 2 weeks]*

November 1st Sunday

Stock taking. .300 Rifle Practice, grouping 25yds. Grenade practice.

November 6th Friday

Sten Gun instruction. Small Arms Inspection.

November 8th Sunday

AM Repairs

PM Demolitions, Sten Gun practice, Bomb practice.

November 13th Friday

Cleaning Mills Bombs. Arranged for attack on Menheniot Home Guard Post.

November 15th Sunday

Shoot v PeyInt Roseland 334pts PeyInt 334pts

November 19th Thursday

Attacked Menheniot Home Guard Post.

November 22nd Sunday

Shoot v St Keynes at St Keynes

Roseland 326 pts St Keynes 293 pts

November 26th Thursday

Sgt Thomas Williams takes over leadership of Patrol.

November 28th Sunday

Lt Mewton & myself went to Porthpean on w/e course

December 3rd Thursday

Discussed items of interest with Patrol on w/e course at Porthpean, also proposed items for competition with PeyInt and Headquarters. Lt Mewton interviewed new man for Patrol.

December 6th Sunday

Prepared targets for shoot on the 16th. Sighted & tested .303 SMLE. Practiced bomb throwing 30yds standing, 25 underhand, 20yds kneeling & 12 yds laying. Got all targets ready for competition.

December 10th Thursday

Talk on explosives, possible questions that would arise from same, (re "Bee" Competition).

Examined food boxes, found same okay.

December 13th Sunday

Shoot v PeyInt at Roseland. Roseland 447pts PeyInt 399 pts

First visit of new member Stuart Wing.

December 17th Thursday

General discussion of victory over PeyInt. Also talk on coming "Bee Competition". Various questions etc.

December 20th Sunday

Shoot with Headquarters at Roseland. Roseland 871pts Headquarters 911 pts

December 24th Xmas Eve

Patrol met at Webbs for social evening.



Webb's Hotel

December 27th Sunday

Morning: Preparation of targets and bomb practice.
Afternoon: Competition with St Keynes at Roseland.
Results: Roseland 547pts St Keynes 354pts

December 31st Thursday

Individual positions discussed on competition with Headquarters, also competition with St Keynes.
Discussion on items of importance in "Calendar" in connection with coming "Bee" competition.

1943

January 3rd Sunday

Tested 4 Sten carbines, good shooting but all failed to fire single shots. Each member with Sten received 100 rounds ammunition to take with him (Operational).
Went further into "Bee" questions agreed to meet at Stuart's [*Stuart Wing?*] on Tuesday evening to prepare still further for Thursday evening first completion at St Germans.

January 5th Thursday

Met at Stuarts house and discussed "Calendar" etc., in view of competition on Thursday evening.

January 7th Saturday

Went to St Germans OB for "Bee" Competition. Result: Roseland 18pts St Germans 8 pts

January 8th Sunday

Jack Bice, George Knight & I went to Trussel Farm to hear and learn on competition between St Keynes & PeyInt Patrols.

January 10th Tuesday

AM Cleaned OB. Collected all empty cases from practice shoots. Lit fire in OB to dry out same.
PM Further discussion on "Calendar" and automatic weapons in preparation for competition with Morval on Thursday night.

January 13th

I went to St Germans OB with Lt Mewton as marker in competition.

January 14th Thursday

Went to Sgt Julian's House at Morval to compete in round of "Bee" with Morval patrol.
Result: Roseland 15½ pts Morval 12 pts

January 17th Sunday

AM Morning off
PM Patrol met at OB talk on next Thursday friendly "Bee" with Peylnt to take place at Council School.
Went through "Calendar" H.E. speeds and automatic weapons.

January 21st Thursday.

Roseland met Peylnt in friendly "Bee" at Council School
Result: Roseland 28 Peylnt 22

January 24th Sunday

AM Lit fire in OB and cleaned weapons
PM Watched armourer examine weapons and then went on with "Calendar" & automatic weapons in preparation for "Bee" with HQ.

January 28th Thursday.

Competition with HQ. at Council School.
Result: Roseland 30pts H.Q. 34pts

January 31st Sunday

Went and heard "Bee Comp" Semi Final between Pelynt and Padstow. Pelynt won
Albert Reeves signed Official Secrets Act and became a member of Aux Units.

February 4th Thursday

Talk by Captain Sergeant on his January visit to Highworth and general discussion.

February 7th Sunday

AM Cleaned OB in preparation for Sgt Rogers on Thursday. Put away recent issue of goods in operation and practice bins.
PM Tested .300 Rifle and miniature rifle practice (application).

February 11th Thursday

Sgt Rogers unable to attend to give lesson on map reading. Lt Mewton gave talk and lesson on prismatic compass.

February 14th Sunday

AM Overhauling targets. Setting up trip wires for operation in afternoon.
PM Attack car over course 30yds with 6 live trip wires and 4 duds. Patrol operated with night glasses on. Only one trip wire fouled.
Evening: Miniature .22 shoot with Peylnt at Looe. First time shooting in artificial light.
Result: Peylnt 117 & 145 Roseland 95 & 126

February 18th Thursday

Put Patrol in pairs & gave grid references to attack on map, plotted their course by compass.
Four different routes given.

February 21st Sunday

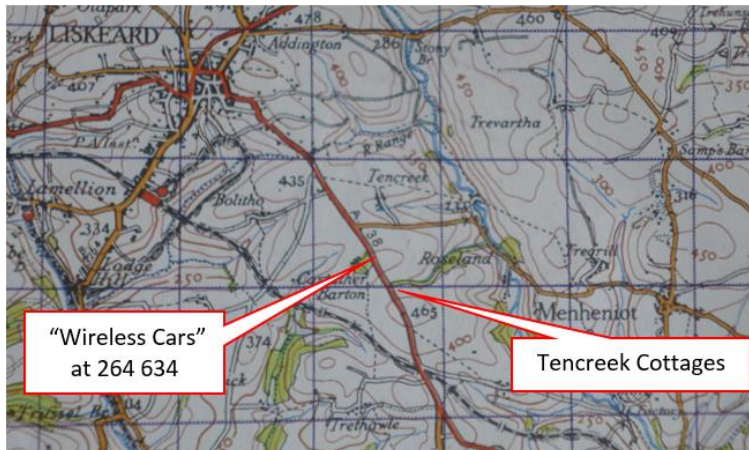
AM Repairing and setting targets for shoot with cadets.
PM Shoot with cadets. Result: Roseland 616 pts Cadets 393 pts

February 25th Thursday

Afternoon: Lieut Mewton, A. Reeves & myself made preparations to meet **Col. Atkins**. Set charges to two trees on main patch. Also one trip wire. 4.0pm Col arrived and spent one hour in OB. Capt. Dingley present. The Col seemed impressed with our work and the OB. He confirmed **A. Reeves was released from the Homeguard to join us.**

February 28th Sunday

Daylight attack on wireless car situated at? *[un-named]*? Roseland attacking from Tencreek Cottages
[OS GRID REFERENCE: SX26357 63437 OS GRID COORDINATES: 226357, 63437]
St Keynes also operating in same attack but both patrols operating from near their own bases.



March 4th Thursday

Talk on attack (night) to be made on 4 dimmed lights. Inter patrol work. 3 sentries to remain within 50 yds. of lights & patrol of 4 to attack.

March 6th Saturday

Night Attack – Roseland starting from Highwood to attack Map Ref. 668863 (Moorswater Viaduct). Attack to start at 21.00hrs and end 24.00hrs. Moorswater was the starting point of St Keynes patrol to attack our lights at High wood. Myself **Sgt Tom Williams**, Jack **Bice**, Reg **Babbage** & Stuart **Wing** acted as patrol. Staff **Tucker**, George **Knight**, and Albert **Reeves** as sentries at Highwood.

Although no moon, bright starlight. My compass bearing to 205° Back 25°

March 11th Thursday

Post Mortem by Lt Mewton on daylight attack 28th Feb and also on night 6th March 1943. General discussion on future night attacks.

March 14th Sunday

AM inspection of arms. Talk on the “Sten”, firing Sten over 30yds. Dummy bomb throwing PM “Bee” questions. 6 questions given from each member of the patrol. Also 8 questions put to each man by Lt Mewton

March 18th Thursday

Talk on map reading, various signs and quotations. General discussion arising on “Bee” questions. Talks on HE and how it detonates.

March 21st Sunday

AM & PM Repairs to OB. Fitting new shelves, an extra upright to help take weight of roof. Starting to make a new get away door.

March 25th Thursday

Recon for night attack on Cartuther Rookery on 27th. Lansallos Patrol visited Roseland and had a discussion on OB construction and method of attack on Cartuther.

March 27th / 28th Sat/Sun

SAT 22.00 to 01.00 hrs Night attack on Cartuther, Roseland, PeyInt, Morval, Lansallos, St Germans attacking with St Keynes defending. No moon, good starlight. Out of only six getting in and out Roseland provided three.

SUN PM Talk on previous nights attack. Checking & putting away new material which arrived same day and previous Thursday. Working on cupboard and door of get-away.

April 2nd Thursday

Working on cupboard and door of get-away. Clearing Air-Vents in OB

April 4th Sunday

AM Preparing targets etc.

PM Practice shoot with Cartuther Searchlight Battery and Dummy grenade practice.

Result: Roseland 358 pts Searchlight Batt. 313 pts

April 9th Friday

A Reeves equipment arrived . Issued the same to him via Capt Sergeant. Colt revolver No. ? Working on get-away door. Talk on daylight operation for Sunday found by Grid Ref sent to me by Lieut. Mewton that objective will be situated at "Puckator". Read to Patrol orders received by me this week from H.Q.

April 11th Sunday

PM Daylight role. Recon of car on "Puckator" started from Barnicutt's Blacksmith Shop worked as a whole patrol to quarry (St Cleer) until target was visible, then split singly.

5 out of 7 got in & out. Sleep & Knight being spotted by Lt Mewton who acted as sentry.

Roseland 30 pts.



April 15th Thursday

Greased tops of all AW Bottles (ed.note: The Grenade, Hand, Anti-Tank No. 74, commonly known as the S.T. Grenade or sticky bomb, the grenade consisted of a glass sphere containing an explosive made of nitro-glycerine covered in a powerful adhesive, and surrounded by a sheet-metal casing. Fitted doors, shelves to get-away cupboard and general repairs and cleaning up of O.B.

April 18th Sunday

AM Working on get-away

PM Recon of Coldrenrick Woods & House. Possible headquarters for Germans in case of invasion. Made landmarks for best way to attack. House grounds ideal for tanks & lorries. Good hard roads covered by trees.

April 22nd Thursday

Ten minute lecturette from each member of patrol on items of interest noticed on Sunday recon. Various tracks, land marks etc. Also general discussion on future methods of getting to know country.

April 25th Sunday

AM Revolver practice & Demolitions. Lt Mewton present
PM Daylight recon of approach to Coldrenick House from the S, SE & SW. Started from Round House Hill (Lower Lodge) went through Tresulgan, Trebrowne Valley, followed valley on through Trehurst & Treniddick then took to high ground to reach Padderbury Top for observation. Took the same way back so as to know ground for any attack on Coldrenick House to be made from the South side. [\[see separate training page\]](#).

April 27th Tuesday

PM Recon of Downderry Radio Location Station for possible attack on Friday night.

April 29th Thursday

Talk previous to attack on Downderry. Capt. Sergeant & Lt Mewton explained what was expected of us to do. Planned method etc.



Downderry Early Warning Site
©English Heritage

Protected from the sea by steel scaffolding and barbed wire

April 30th Friday

14.00 to 16.30 further recon by Capt. Sergeant, myself and Reeves.
22.00 Left Liskeard with Patrol. 23.00 Attack started. 8 got in grounds 01.00 (May 1st) left Downderry again 02.30.

May 1st Saturday

Left Liskeard 19.30 to go to Cartuther Rookery to lay trip wires etc. 23.00 started to defend the same (Inter Patrol Competition). Operation ended 02.00

May 2nd Sunday

Rest day following two night operations.

May 6th Thursday

Capt. Sergeant & Lt Mewton gave views of Station Defence Officer of our attack on Downderry RLS.

May 8th Saturday

Attack on Cartuther Rookery started at 23.00

May 9th Sunday

Ended 02.00. PeyInt defending Roseland 15 pts
PM Sten Gun practice

May 13th Thursday

Small arms inspection by Capt. Sergeant. Re-winding used trip wire etc.

May 16th Sunday

AM Painting inside of OB get-away, renovations etc.

PM Points on laying mechanical switches, actual laying of trip wires etc.

May 20th Thursday

Started to make a door for OB as requested by HQ.

May 23rd Sunday

AM Check on operational equipment by RQMS.

PM Finished door to OB. Hung same painted etc. Check over of operational equipment Kept in OB.

May 27th Thursday

Recon for Cartuther Rookery – camouflage to be more green.

May 29th Saturday

Night attack on Cartuther. St Germans defending. Inter patrol competition

May 30th Sunday

Talk on discipline by Capt. Sergeant.

J. Bice left Patrol (Possible to become Patrol Sergeant nearby see Hancock)

June 3rd Thursday

Demolitions, linking 4 charges with Cortex. Getting gone some old **B G** (Blasting Gelignite)

June 6th Sunday

.300 practice, .22 practice. Putting away stores brought by Capt. Sergeant also collection of arms to go to HQ.

June 10th Thursday

Started to make new rifle shooting butt

June 13th Sunday

Rifle shooting. A general tune up in hold of rifle, sighting, with corrector etc.

PM Went to see with Lieut. Mewton a prospective new man for Patrol.

June 17th Thursday

Giving details of new patrol comp. Making new rifle shooting butt.

June 20th Sunday

.300 Rifle practice (grouping) .22 Rifle practice (grouping)

Foot Drill, Lt Mewton present

June 24th Thursday

Finished new rifle butts. Questions on explosives

25th Friday

Helping Capt. Sergeant & Lt Mewton on targets for all patrol shoot.

June 26th Saturday

Attack on Cartuther Barton from 24.00 hrs Saturday to 03.00 Sunday

Morval Defending

June 27th Sunday

PM .22 Rifle practice in Gas Mask .300 Snap practice

Pte Richard Warne attended first time as new member.

July 1st Thursday

Making and fitting new targets in preparation for inter patrol shoot to be held at Roseland.

July 4th Sunday

Inter patrol shoot at Roseland. Practice on .300 application, group and snap. .22 Grouping

July 7th Thursday

Explosives Capt. Sergeant & Lt Mewton present.

July 11th Sunday

Explosives as for competition

July 15th Thursday

Explosives as for competition

July 18th Sunday

Daylight role. Observation recon at 'Puckator'.

July 22nd Thursday

Mills grenade throwing as for competition

July 25th Sunday

.22 Grouping. Mills grenade throwing & efficiency race as for competition

July 29th Thursday

Grenade throwing, efficiency race, .22 Grouping as for competition.

July 31st Sat/Aug 1st Sun

Night Operation at Cartuther Rookery. Lansallos defending Sun. Grenade throwing, efficiency race, Squad drill as for competition.

Aug 5th Thursday

Making up unit charges as for competition

Aug 8th Sunday

Demolitions, felling a tree, making up of land mine as for competition. Squad drill, Revolver.

Aug 12th Thursday

Efficiency race, .22 grouping as for comp.

Aug 15th Thursday

Efficiency race, Dummy grenade throwing, Squad drill as for competition.

Aug 19th Thursday

Efficiency race practice. Explosives.

Aug 22nd Sunday

.22 Grouping, explosives

Aug 26th Thursday

Foot Drill, Talk on final points of explosives as for comp.



Aug 29th Sunday

.22 Grouping practice. Efficiency race. Foot drill.

Sept. 2nd Thursday

Explosives, using plastic in place of CE primer. General talk on competition to come.

Sept 4th Saturday

So Roseland to get final stages of comp set Getting explosives etc. ready.

Sept 5th Sunday All Day

The 1943 AUX UNIT COMPETITION

Results of Roseland:

Explosives	140 marks	Possible 150
Bombs	26	60
Observation/Recon	33	
.22 Grouping	13	
Efficiency Race	5 time	
Squad Drill	36	40

Final position of Roseland 2nd with 42 points St Ive 1st with 45 points

Actual marks Roseland 248 pts St Ive 241

[Note: Clarification needed as sum of points = 253 (not 248) also "Actual Marks" state St Ive scored 241 but came 1st.]

Sept 9th Thursday

Putting away of 8 new dumps. General talk of how we done in Annual Competition

Sept 12th Sunday

AM [Stuart Tucker](#), [Robert Sleep](#), [Reg Babbage](#), attended lecture given by Capt. Talent. PM Myself ([T Williams](#)) measured up timber for replacement in floor of O.B. Checked practice explosives etc.

Sept 16th Thursday

Took out rotted floor boards in O.B. General tidy up.

Sept 19th Sunday

Sten Gun practice. 25yds standing, 40yds lying. Single shot and automatic & .300 grouping.

Sept 23rd Thursday

Cleaning & Oiling Mills grenades, sorting out all fuses, putting same in new tins purchased from kitty. Removing two dumps from one store and placing away two new dumps.

Sept 26th Sunday

LAST ENTRY

Making a fresh store for two new dumps, placing same, fitted lock etc. Started fitting new floor boards in OB. Checked up practice & operational ammunition.

END OF TRANSCRIPT

Bill Ashby

ROSELAND (MENHENIOT) PATROL PATROL MEMBERS

Liskeard - OB in Roseland Quarry

(their first OB was at Herodsfoot near Liskeard but abandoned after someone fell into it!)

GROUP 6 COMMANDERS

Capt. George H Sergeant a school master of Barkston, Old Road, Liskeard

2Lt. William J. F. Mewton*- (school caretaker) Trained with Patrol



PATROL MEMBERS (Mentioned in Diary):

Sgt Tom Williams Senior. Menheniot Lorry Driver - Promoted to Cpl 4th June 1942. Became Patrol Commander Nov 26th 1942.

Stafford Tucker Owner and Manager of Roseland quarry where OB was.

Stuart W Wing joined 13th Dec 1942 discharged to HM Forces 7th Feb 1943

Albert H Reeves A Slaughter man. Joined 31st Jan 1943.

Robert S Sleep of 11 Pound Street Liskeard, a salesman in an ironmongers.

Reg Babbage a Quarry worker. Polpinka, Menheniot. He broke his arm Sept 17th

George Knight a lorry driver of 2 Ivy Cottage, Pound St Liskeard

Jack P Bice an agent for Watkins and Rosevearne Motors & Cornish All-in wrestling champion.

Left May 30th 1943 possibly to become a Patrol Leader of another Patrol nearby.

Raymond E. Bowen left Patrol Mar 5th 1942

Richard Warne a farmer and market gardener. Joined 27th June 1943

Williams Junior Not named in Nominal Roll – Perhaps a relative of T. Williams allowed to shoot.

On Nominal Roll not named in diary:

H Body Nom.Roll address Looe Mills, Liskeard.

OBSERVATIONS/COMMENTS

Period covered – 16 Oct 1941 to 26 Sept 1943 – 710 days. During this period there were 240 days training in addition to their normal employment.

Trained two or three days every week. Regular shooting and competitions against nearby Patrols which kept the patrol very active and efficient.

Inter patrol competitions held by visiting each other's OB's and ranges. Roseland patrol generally won these competitions.

Aux Patrols normally beat the Homeguard Units.

Some Targets appear to be quite a distance from Roseland - Trekeive Steps and Dowlerry Radio Location Station for example were 9 miles. I assume that travel to targets was on foot.

Having said that the patrol did go to Porthpean Training Centre which was 23 miles from Roseland OB so transport would have been available. Likewise for those who went to GHQ Coleshill.

Bill Ashley