

Extracts from the wartime diaries of Captain Cyril and Doris Wellington Northfield, Trelawney Road, Plympton, Devon

By Kind permission of their daughters Miss A Wellington and Mrs M Gardner.

Definite Auxiliary Unit info in red but some Home Guard (HG) references may also be Auxiliary Unit references. Explanatory additions in [] and some abbreviations have been expanded for clarity.

References to Elford'sleigh are Auxiliary Unit related. Boringdon House is possibly Home Guard. Slade is Auxiliary Unit training area along with Cleeve and Ivybridge.

Mrs Wellington continues to refer to her husband's activities as Home Guard. Cyril still calls his activities Home Guard though he seems to continue with the regular Home Guard at the same time as Auxiliary Units. Auxiliary Units first called by name in 1942.

1940

Monday 17th June 1940

France Capitulated, Cyril joined LDV

Tuesday 18th June

LDV practice

Thursday 20th June

Cyril LDV practice

Sunday 23rd June

Cyril LDV practice on moors.

Monday 24th June

LDV parade

Thursday 27th June

LDV parade

Friday 28th June

FIRST ALARM IN PLYMOUTH. Both slept didn't hear a sound.

Saturday 29th June

Cyril first LDV duty 12-4 am

Sunday 30th June

Lovely day, sat in garden, FIRST ALARM IN PLYMPTON 1.15 am ONLY LASTED 15 MINS. Did not dress

Monday 1st July

First raid scare at school [*Cyril is a teacher*] SECOND ALARM IN PLYMPTON 12.30 AM ONLY LASTED 20 MINS. Did not get up.

Wednesday 3rd July

FRENCH FLEET TAKEN IN HAND

Thursday 4th July

Started day with sirens in Plymouth 7.30 am, all clear 7.50. First serious use of school shelters Plymouth and Plympton sirens 10.30 am, all clear 11.00 am.

Plymouth sirens 12.45 am, all clear 1pm. Cyril LDV parade.

ALL SIRENS 11.30 pm to 12.15 first time dressed.

NO ANTI AIRCRAFT OR BOMBS.

Friday 5th July

Plymouth alarm 3.30pm all clear 3.55 pm. Plane over Devonport. BOMBS ! Plympton sirens 4.45 pm to 5.10pm. D & A [*family*] up at Ridgeway sheltered in Police Station .

Cyril LDV. Drew arms.

Saturday 6th July

Lovely summer day except for Air Raid warnings. ALARM longest yet 1 ¼ hours 11.30-1.15. Sat in shelter

High Explosive bomb Swilly [*area of Plymouth*] houses demolished people killed and injured. Dogfight. Another alarm middle of afternoon approx ½ hour. Sat in shelter.

LDV Marsh Mills 12-4. Quiet night.

Memoranda

Hitler and Mussolini mad about French Fleet, USA and Empire approve. Romania - Russia taken back Bessarabia Hungary. Bulgaria also layer.(?)

Sunday 7th July

A quiet night, no raid, turned in 5 am. Alarm 11.30 for 20 mins. Alarm 5.30 to 7.20 pm. Three engine bomber over head. Anti Aircraft fire etc. Bombs on Plymouth.

Monday 8th July

Alarm 7.20am to 7.50am. Bomb dropped in Devonport. LDV Parade, mustering, drew 5 rounds. Quiet night.

Tuesday 9th July

No raids or alarm. Quiet night till 6am.

Wednesday 10th July

Alarms 6am to 6.50, 9am to 10am

Bomb attack on Plymouth. Decided to convert garage pit to Air Raid shelter share with Eastmans [*neighbours*]. Started to clear garage of junk.

Thursday 11th July

11 barrage balloons burnt completely. Alarms 5 am to 5.45, 12am to 12.30pm. Thunderstorm mid -day. Cyril cleared pit, put planks down. Now habitable.

Did not go to LDV parade, busy in pit.

Friday 12th July

Alarms 11.50 pm Thursday to 1.20am, 6.25am to 7am, 9.20 am to 9.50 am. Everybody sleepy after broken rest.

Bombs dropped near Pedlar (Allma Road)

Work - hopeless in school. Working in shelter. Brin Eastman and Cyril knocked holes in garage for entry and exit.

Saturday 13th July

Up early, no alarms.

Cyril working on emergency exit for shelter. Afternoon LDV shooting at Crownhill used Ross rifle first time. Grenades.

LDV duty Marsh Mills. Quiet, very tired. D [*wife*] very nervous.

Memoranda

41 Bombs in this part of S.W in the last 14 days (Plymouth and Falmouth etc). 74 Nazi raiders lost in a week. Romania demobbing asking Germany to "protect" them

Sunday 14th July

Quiet night. Continued on work on emergency door. Alarm 5pm- 5.20pm. No action

Monday 15th July

Quiet night. Alarm 1.30pm-2pm Heavy Anti Aircraft fire and bombs. Dinner in pit. Cut LDV parade working on pit.

Cemented up doorways.

Tuesday 16th July

No alarms. Worked in pit shelter after tea.

Wednesday 17th July

Quiet night. Cyril and Brin working pit. Clear moon lite night. Troops everywhere. Emplacements on main roads. Shelter ready

Hitler threatens invasion to start Friday.

Thursday 18th July

First at home in pit. Alarm 12.25 am to 1.25am, 11.00am to 11.30am.

LDV parade

Friday 19th July

Quiet night. Alarm 11.20am to 11.35am. Alarm 4.45pm to 5.00pm

Saturday 20th July

Alarm 12 midnight to 2.10 am. Better weather. Finished construction of shelter except sandbagging. Tired – ready for night duty.

Sunday 21st July

Alarms 12 Midnight to 2.10 am, 2.30- 3.20 am, 9 am - 9.20 am, 5pm - 5.20pm

Very much disturbed very tired.

Alarms 11.45pm to 1.45 am

Monday 22nd July

LDV parade

Tuesday 23rd July

Alarm 11.20 pm [*Monday*] to 1.50 am. Awful tired. Small attendance at school. Quiet night

Thursday 25th July

Quiet night no LDV parade. Sand arrived at 5.30 busy filling bags.

Friday 26th July

Quiet night. Got more sandbags. Alarm 1.30pm to 2pm finished dinner in pit.

Saturday 27th July

Quiet night. *Cyril to Elfordleigh evening*. Alarm 11 pm to 1.30 am. Cyril did not go on LDV duty till "all clear"

Sunday 28th July

Cyril home 4.45am half an hour before alarm. 5.15am to 5.45am and 6.45am to 7.15am. Saw Anti-Aircraft fire all around Gerry- been mine laying.

Had about an hours sleep. Dog tired. All worn out.

Cyril to Elfordleigh LDV Special Duty

Monday 29th July

Quiet night Alarm 10.55pm to 11.45pm "A" [*daughter*] slept.

Tuesday 30th July

Alarm 1.05 to 1,30 am. Did not go down. Alarm 7.55am to 8.15am. Drew LDV uniform unpicked collar for attachment.

Alarm 10.55 to 11 pm and 11.30pm to 12.30am

Wednesday 31st July

Mrs Eastman altered uniform collar.

Thursday 1st August

LDV paraded in uniform first time. Demonstrated Bren gun and made A.W Bombs

Quiet night leaflets dropped elsewhere.

Saturday 3rd August

Cyril on duty. Quiet night

Memoranda

German plane over in afternoon. Machine gunned Cornhill Barracks. No alarm sounded.

Tuesday 6th August

Searchlight 11pm. Jerry overhead.

Wednesday 7th August

LDV Elfordleigh 6.30pm

Cortex fitted to Cyril's gas mask. Searchlight, planes over, no alarm.

Thursday 8th August

Cortex fitted to D & A 's [*wife and daughter*] masks, Ann a larger size.

Cyril LDV Parade Elfordleigh.

Alarm 10.45pm to 11.45pm approx. No action. Searchlight.

Saturday 10th August

Cyril duty LDV 11pm. D [*wife*] watched searchlights. Alarm 11.25pm to 12.30pm. Down to shelter. No bombs.

Memoranda

Jerry making desperate efforts to make straits of Dover impassable to our convoys. Air and Motor Torpedo Boat attack.

Wed 7th Terrific air battle. 60 German planes shot down (16 of ours)

Italy advancing into Br Somaliland.

Sunday 11th August

Alarm 11.45am for ¾ hour. 66 German planes shot down. Channel air battle. (19 of ours)

Monday 12th August

Alarm 8am to 8.30am. One mine dropped *Cyril LDV Inspection Elfordleigh*. Alarm went 10.50pm to 12.10 am no bombs.

Tuesday 13th August

Alarm 1am to 1.35am. Did not get up. Bombs dropped Stonehouse and Keyham 4 killed. Big air battle in Channel each day.

Wednesday 14th August

Searchlights throughout the night. Air activity.

Thursday 15th August

"DER TAG" Hitler in London? LDV Parade. Another good haul of Gerry aircraft. Alarm 11.25pm to 11.35pm waited ¾ after.

Friday 16th August

Closed school 1939-40 variety concert. Italian - Greek crisis. Alarm 10.30pm – 11.40pm. Magnetic mines dropped on land.

Saturday 17th August

Alarm 10.40pm to 12.20pm. Over again 2am? Mines. Cyril LDV practice evening. 4 of us on duty

Memoranda

205 German planes definitely brought down in 3 days. 491 planes down in six days, 555 since first mass raid on 8th Aug RAF give Hitler something to think about. He promised us a weekend of terror.

Sunday 18th August

Jerry still losing lot of planes

Monday 19th August

LDV 6.30pm Elford'sleigh. 7.30 Parade. **Marines have left no instructors.** Quiet night.

Tuesday 20th August

Jerry bombed Newton Abbot railway. 9 killed many injured.

Wednesday 21st August

5.30pm LDV police station for shoot at Ivybridge, very good shoot. Home 8.15pm. No alarm.

Thursday 22nd August

Cyril to LDV Parade. Issued with blanket and Home Guard armband. German tried shelling the Dover area from across the Channel.

Friday 23rd August

Railway bombed at Exeter.

Saturday 24th August

LDV - lift both ways for first time. Fine. Jerry up over 11pm, searchlights no alarm.

Memoranda

A quiet week down this way. German Air Force just starting some more big stuff towards end of week on South and South East.

Sunday 25th August

Alarm 10.50am to 11.50 am. 9.30pm to 9.37pm. 11.25pm to 11.45 pm.

Monday 26th August

Return to school. Alarm 3am to 3.21. 10.15am to 10.25am. LDV parade, heard about subsistence allowance Longest raid yet 9.30pm to 4.15am. What a time.

Tuesday 27th August

Criminal to open school at 9am. Very few children at school. Alarm 10.40am to 11.50am and 12.50pm to 1.10 pm.

Wednesday 28th August

Raid just before leaving school. Alarm 12 noon to 12.20 pm. 10.00pm to 10.55pm and midnight to 1.45am.

Thursday 29th August

RAF bombing Berlin as well as blasting the Fhur. Alarm 9.10pm to 10.25pm. 11.15pm to 11.45pm. LDV Dowlings last parade. *[HG from now on]*

Friday 30th August

Alarm 12.30am to 1am. Later bombs, no warning, all clear later. Alarm 2.40pm to 2.55pm. D & A *[wife and daughter]* in town shelter at Portland Square.

Alarms 10.05pm to 10.25 pm. Bombs dropped before sirens. Alarm 10.40pm to 12.20am

Saturday 31st August

Alarm 9.40pm to 10.15pm. Heavy bomb. LDV duty Marsh Mills, lit fire.

Memoranda

Axis forced Romania to give Hungary nearly 2/3rds of Transilvania.

Sunday 1st September

Cyril out 10am-4pm. HG Alarm 9.40pm to 10.15 pm . Alarm 11pm to 11.15 pm

Monday 2nd September

Cyril out, Home Guard Parade photo.

Wednesday 4th September

Jerry over mid-day no sirens. Alarm 9.45pm to 9.55 pm

Thursday 5th September

Cyril Home Guard parade

Alarm 9.30am to 10.05am and 10.30am to 1055 am

Friday 6th September

RAF plastering Germany with bombs.

Saturday 7th September

Cyril on duty as usual at 11.20 GENERAL ALARM all services and HG called out. Stand to. Had to continue at post till 6.45am. No incident. Terrific air raids in London.

Memoranda

50 destroyers in exchange for Naval Bases USA.

Jerry begun terrific air raids in London said to be reprisals for RAF attacks on Berlin costing him dearly.

King Carol of Romania abdicated left country.

Sunday 8th September

End of our first "state of Alarm" at 7 am. Thick rain at dawn. " D" [wife] very worried as did not know where I was.

Very heavy raids in London.

Monday 9th September

Home Guard Parade. Warned - HG – Alert. London being bombed again.

Wednesday 11th September

Major B to see us at Yelverton 1pm

Alarm at 9.30am to 10.15am and 10.30am to 10.55am. Two bombs at Stonehouse before second warning. Approx 14 killed. Churchill spoke 6pm.

Thursday 12th September

Major B delivered Winchesters rounds etc to Herb [patrol Sergeant and bother Herb Wellington]

Alarm 9.50pm to 10.35pm. One plane machine gunned barrage balloon. Cyril to HG parade.

High winds no risk of invasion.

Friday 13th September

Buckingham Palace bombed. Rifles to Jones. [Patrol member George Jones] Wind rising again, welcome as lessen invasion risk.

Saturday 14th September

Alarm 8.30am to 8. 50am. Alarm 8.30pm to 8.45pm. Cyril on duty and did not sleep too well.

Memoranda

Vital period for invasion risk. Churchill spoke Wed 6pm. London had week of heavy bombing attacks. Great German prep for invasion. RAF hitting Jerry hard. King Carol fleeing to Portugal.

Sunday 15th September

Cyril out Crownhill morning - ? afternoon HQ. Company scheme inspection.

Monday 16th September

Alarm 1.15am to 1.35am. Evening Cyril on parade.

Tuesday 17th September

Cyril to Ivybridge shooting. First time with Winchester 300. Alarm 9.15pm to 9.30pm.

Wednesday 18th September

Terrific air raids on London continue.

Thursday 19th September

Alarm 11.30am to 11.45am and 2.40pm to 2.45pm. Shrapnel holed roof in Trelawny Road. Home Guard Parade.

Friday 20th September

Alarms 4.25pm to 4.35pm. 2 Planes overhead heavy gunfire and shrapnel.

Saturday 21st September

Alarm 3pm to 3.10pm. Cyril late, on duty. No bombs or AA

Memoranda

Terrible indiscriminate bombing of London continues. RAF and A A fire. Jerrys raid down here uneventful.

Sunday 22nd September

Alarm 2am to 2.15am. Home Guard warning "Ready" mid day. Duty again at night.

Monday 23rd September

Alarm 10.45am to 11.10am plane brought down. King Broadcast. Cyril at HQ at Boringdon House.

Heard with horror of sinking of children's liner in mid Atlantic. 83 lost.

Wednesday 25th September

Alarm 9am to 9.15am, 12.20pm to 1.20pm, 2.50pm to 3.10pm, 4.25pm to 5.10pm, heaviest yet 20 to 30 planes over 9.30pm to 9.50 pm.

Cyril not home, Cyril out all evening at Boringdon

Alarm 10.40pm to 11.05pm

Thursday 26th September

Cyril HG Parade. Drill Hall. New Patrol Duties.

Friday 27th September

Alarm 8.20am to 8.32am and 8.50pm to 10.05pm

Saturday 28th September

Alarm 10.20pm to 10.50 pm. Had a busy day. On guard 12-4 walked down. Jerry about again, no sirens. Heavy Anti Aircraft fire. Herb [*brother*] on duty at Sparkwell OP. The last night. First US destroyers arrived. Germany, Italy and Japan new alliance.

Sunday 29th September

Home 4.20am not much sleep. Alarm 7 am to 7.20 no gunfire. Dinner time terrific gunfire no sirens. Shrapnel fell outside kitchen window and Eastman's lawn. Alarm 10.20 to 11.35 pm.

Monday 30th September

Alarm 1.30pm to 1.40pm and 9.50pm to 10.10pm. Cyril to Boringdon House, late back.

Tuesday 1st October

Alarm 9.10am to 9.30am and 11.30pm to 12.15am

Thursday 3rd October

Cyril to Boringdon House. Chamberlain retired from public duty - health.

Saturday 5th October

HG Marsh Mills 12 [*midnight Saturday*] – 6am [*Sunday*]. Six men. Herbert on with us. Quiet night.

Sunday 6th October

Home 6.45am. To Boringdon House tea with Captain and Mrs Jones. [*crossed out*] Weather prevented.

Monday 7th October

To Boringdon House Home Guard met with Hickman [*Aux*] and six others. [*HG or Aux ?*]

Alarm 10.00pm to 10.30 pm . Anti Aircraft fire and searchlight. Jerry overhead again later

Tuesday 8th October

Alarm 4.45pm to 5.20pm. Anti Aircraft guns. Cyril to Ivybridge shooting, good, Browning Automatic rifle.

Wednesday 9th October

Alarm 2.30pm to 2.40pm and 3.20pm to 3.55pm. Cyril Home Guard Parade 9/-

Alarm 8.15pm to 8.45pm. Bombs

Thursday 10th October

Tea at Boringdon House. Enjoyed it.

Alarm 7.55pm to 8.35pm and 8.47pm to 9.20pm approx. Bombs at Peverall

Friday 11th October

Alarm 12.10am to 12.25am

Saturday 12th October

Alarm 12am to 12.15am and 3.30pm to 4pm. Cyril Home Guard duty.

Sunday 13th October

Cyril to lecture at Drill Hall. Machine gun.

Monday 14th October

Alarm 3.20pm to 3.40pm

Tuesday 15th October

Alarm 3.40pm to 4.05pm. Alarm 9.10pm to 9.35pm

Cyril to Ivybridge shooting. Automatic rifle. Single aimed shots. Very good.

Alarm 10.20pm to 10.40pm.

Wednesday 16th October

Alarm 8.25pm to 8.50pm and 9.20pm to 10.20pm. 10 bombs at Peverall.

Cyril's last parade [*wife's writing*]

[*Cyril's writing*] Battalion Scouts attached to HQ off 8th reg platoon.

No more Home Guard.

Thursday 17th October

Alarm 4.20pm to 4.40pm and 4.50pm to 5.30pm.

Evening Cyril to Boringdon "Detonators" one taken up in roof.

Saturday 19th October

Alarm 8.25am to 8.30am, 11.15am to 11.30am, 12.40pm to 12.55pm, 7.50pm to 8.15 pm, 8.30pm to 9.25pm and 10.05pm to 11pm

Memoranda

Germany has got Romania, Burma Road reopened.

Sunday 20th October

Home guard church parade, Drill hall 10.15am . Our special squad invited to join in . Cyril went.

Alarm 12.30pm to 12.55pm, 7.05pm to 7.30 pm, 7.55pm to 8.15pm, 9.20pm to 9.50pm, and 11.10pm to 11.25pm

Monday 21st October

Alarm 11.30am to 12am, 10.00pm to 10.05 pm, 10 .21pm to 10.55pm heavy gunfire shrapnel outside and 11.10pm to 11.25 pm

Tuesday 22nd October

Alarm 2.05am to 2.15 am, 4.20pm to 4.40pm , 5.05pm to 5.35pm. Bombed St Budeaux 7.55pm to 8.10pm and 10.55pm to 11.15pm. Terrific explosion - plane blew up.

Wednesday 23rd October

Alarm 12.15pm to 12.30pm.

Thursday 24th October

Alarm 9.40pm to 10.20pm and 11pm to 11.35 pm

Friday 25th October

Alarm 4.45pm to 5.20pm, 9.50pm to 9.57pm and 11.05pm to 11.25 pm.

Saturday 26th October

Alarm 7.05am to 7.25am and 7.35pm to 8.50 pm.

Sunday 27th October

Alarm 7.05pm to 8.23pm

Monday 28th October

Alarm 4.10 pm to 4.40pm, 7.10pm to 8.25pm, 9.20pm to 9.35 pm

Tuesday 29th October

Alarm 7.15pm to 7.55pm and 9.40pm to 9.50pm.

Wednesday 30th

Alarm 2.15pm to 2.25 pm.

Thursday 31st October

Alarm 10.15am to 10.30am

Cyril to Gwendra [*brother Herbert's House*]

Friday 1st November

Alarm 6.10am to 6.40 am, 2.30pm to 3 pm, 6.50pm to 7.55pm, heaviest yet, Anti Aircraft fire. 10.15pm to 10.40pm and 11.00pm to 11.05 pm

Saturday 2nd November

Alarm 2.25pm to 2.40pm.

Memorana

28th Italy declared war on Greece in the early hours of the morning.

Sunday 3rd November

HG hide out etc. [*Cyril's writing*]

Cyril home 7 pm from Pamflete [*wife's writing*], [*this is Holbeton Patrol*]

Monday 4th November

Alarm 6.50pm to 7.10pm

Cyril to Home guard meeting home 10.10pm

Tuesday 5th November

Alarm 2.40am to 3am, 6.20am to 7.05am, 2.25pm to 2.40pm, 10.35pm to 10.50pm

Wednesday 6th November

Alarm 6.35am to 7.05am, 6.35pm to 6.50pm, 7.10pm to 7.55 pm, 8.35pm to 9.15pm, 10.50pm to 11.05pm and finally 11.35pm to 12.10 am.

Thursday 7th November

Alarm 10.55am to 11.15am, 8.05pm to 9.05 pm

Cyril to Mr Hickman's back again 11pm

Friday 8th November

Alarm 2.30 to 2.50 pm 7.05 to 8.14 pm.

Saturday 9th November

[*Written at side*] Neville Chamberlain died.

Alarm 10.05am to 10.22am, 11.50am to 12pm, 7.10pm to 7.50pm and 11.15pm to 11.27pm.

Memoranda

RAF bombed Munich hitting hard, Greeks fighting back strongly, RAF and land forces helping, Roosevelt returned for third term.

Sunday 10th November

Remembrance Sunday. Jerry about off and on all night.

Alarm 1.45am to 2 am, 3.25am to 3.40am, 2.25pm to 2.55pm, 7.55pm to 8.25 pm

Home Guard 1.45pm from Drill Hall to Cenotaph & St Mary's Church.

Tuesday 12th November

Alarm 3.05pm to 3.25pm, 3.40pm to 3.50pm

Wednesday 13th November

Alarm 5.25am to 5.45am, 9.25am to 9.45am

Thursday 14th November

Alarm 7.20pm to 7.40pm

Monday 18th November

Alarm 3am to 3.30am. Bomb Alexandra Road. 9am to 9.30am, 2.15pm to 2.35pm

Tuesday 19th November

Alarm 9.05am to 9.20am, 12.05pm to 12.40pm, 3.20pm to 3.45pm, 7.00pm to 7.10pm

Wednesday 20th November

7/6 sub allowance Home Guard. Cyril to meeting Home Guard. Alarm 10.25am to 10.45am and 7.20pm to 8.20pm

Thursday 21st November

Alarm 4.50am to 5.00am. Stormy night Home Guard instruction, did not go.

Friday 22nd November

Home guard dance. Great success.

Memoranda

Greeks driving Italians back.

Sunday 24th November

Alarm 7.00pm to 8.00pm

Monday 25th November

Home Guard Committee meeting.

Wednesday 27th November

Alarm 3.50pm to 4.15pm and 6.30pm to 2.30am slept on dining room floor. Worst raid [*in memoranda part*]. Worst raid yet. Several incendiaries in Plympton some near here. Oil tanks at Hooe set ablaze. Terrible damage at Hooe.

Thursday 28th November

Alarm 11.10am to 11.35am, 12.10pm to 12.40 pm, 9.20pm to 1.30am , 2.40am to 3.10 am

Friday 29th November

Alarm 2.45pm to 3.10pm

Saturday 30th November

Alarm in afternoon.

Sunday 1st December

Cyril out shooting [*family expecting baby any day*]

Tuesday 3rd December

Alarm 6.30pm to 7pm. Baby arrived 6.40 pm [*middle of air raid!*]

Wednesday 4th December

Alarm 6.30pm to 7.00pm

Thursday 5th December

Alarm 2.10pm to 2.30pm and 2.55pm to 3.05pm

Memoranda

A shortage of milk supplies reduced 10% & more in many cases.

Sunday 8th December

Alarm

Thursday 12th December

Cyril Home Guard.

Memoranda

20,000 Italian prisoners British and Greeks doing splendidly.

Sunday 15th December

2 Alarms

Monday 16th December

Health visitor brought baby gas mask.

Thursday 19th December

Cyril out Home Guard

Friday 20th December

Cyril out to meeting Home Guard Committee. Dance.

Memoranda

Greeks still doing well in Albania. Italians on the run in Libya.
Scarcity of sweets and chocs.

Tuesday 24th December

Cyril to sing to Troops with Herbert [*Baritone and Bass*]

Thursday 26th December

Cyril to Mrs Doney, altered battledress.

Friday 27th December

Cyril to Home Guard dance.

Saturday 28th December

Evening terrible raid worst yet. Under stairs and down in shelter 1 ½ hours
Aunt [*removed*] bombed out. "Blitz" of Plymouth tremendous lot of damage Mutley Plain, Cattedown, Coburg Street.
Lost count of raids, nearly 250.

Sunday 29th December

Heavy raid in London.

Monday 30th December

Home Guard 11am to 4 pm. Major B to OB. Recon with Hickman, Herb and Cyril. Showery, heavy going.

Tuesday 31st December

Eggs dear and scarce. Orselves lucky – some every week.

Memoranda

At the end of a most eventful year. Still safe and sound.
Food position serious but we are not feeling the pinch. Butter and meat are precious, meat at times difficult to get sufficient, otherwise sufficient.
Eggs dear and scarce ourselves lucky - some every week.
Milk supply slightly curtailed but we manage.

1941**Memoranda**

The coming six months appear to be the vital period in the war.
Expert opinion believes that Hitler must make an attempt at invasion. The Italians are still doing badly.
The food problem is as bad as it ever was in the last war. - but the public do not seem to realise how serious the position is.
Rapidly increasing aid from America is expected of both sides of the Atlantic.
The night bomber and the U boat must be countered .
All our people are united and in good heart.

Thursday 2nd January.

Home Guard to Hickman's House

Friday 3rd January

Cyril to Damerall then onto Boringdon back over fields.
Cyril Home Guard Committee. "Post Office"

Memoranda

Terrific RAF raids on Breman three nights running this week 20,000 incendiaries dropped first with High Explosive following.
Excellent progress in Libya
Aussies penetrated Bardia defences.

Sunday 5th January

Cyril out Home Guard reconnaissance

Thursday 9th January

Home Guard Scouting Patrol on Moors 7pm. Very successful, lovely night cold but clear.

Sunday 12th January

Home Guard reconnaissance.

Monday 13th January

"BLITZ" on Plymouth 10.000 incendiaries terrible raid many High Explosives also. Casualties not very heavy considering damage
Down in shelter.

Tuesday 14th January

No gas, no electric.

Wednesday 15th January

Still no gas or electric.
Still 50 unexploded time bombs from Mondays "Blitz"

Thursday 16th January

Frozen. Still no gas. Electric supply restored in evening. No Home Guard wash out (ice).

Friday 17th January

Many planes passing "fire watching" over barrage. Home Guard committee meeting 7.30pm went late after raid.

Saturday 18th January

Cyril to Messom re Home Guard. *[Harry, a photographer, not on nominal roll when written but mentioned with Patrol.]*

Memoranda

Many "alerts" sometimes three times.

Sunday 19th January

2 time bombs exploded. Home Guard cancelled.

Monday 20th January

No gas yet. Cyril out all evening.

Thursday 23rd January

Cyril Home Guard all evening.

Friday 24th January

Cyril and Herb off to Swindon for Home Guard course. Left 11 am arrived Coleshill 5.20 pm

Saturday 25th January

Home Guard course at Coleshill Wiltshire. Awful Day, heavy rain. Bitter wind. Full day. Tired but not much sleep.

Sunday 26th January

End of course (HG) rotten weather. Left for home after 2 arrived 7.20pm.

Monday 27th February

Gas mains exploded in Plymouth. No gas for considerable time.

Tuesday 28th Jan

Home Guard committee meeting re [?] smoker (Feb 15th)

Memoranda

Wendwell Wilkie in England from USA seeing for himself.
Jerry been very quiet in the air
Italians still on the run in Africa.

Sunday 2nd February.

Snow freezing hard. Home Guard reconnaissance (called off) but Hickman and I went, heavy going. Bath at Hickman's.

Monday 3rd February

Icy roads, gas may be restored this month. Electric - many short break downs.

Thursday 6th February

Home Guard first aid . Very good.

Sunday 9th February

Home Guard. H *[Herbert]* Hick *[Hickman]* Messom and I

Monday 10th February

Took car to get back early for Home Guard. Home Guard at Slade 5.30pm. Glorious evening

Tuesday 11th February

Home Guard committee meeting.

Thursday 13th February

RAIDS Early morning. Heard bombs coming down. Home Guard. Major B met us ? reorganisation.

Friday 14th February

Home Guard rehearsal 7.15 for concert. Good.

Saturday 15th February

Home Guard concert good evening.

Sunday 16th February

Home Guard, Messom, Hickman and I after tea. OB

Thursday 20th February

Snow. Home Guard first aid. Returning equipment. Captain Jones resigned. [HG rather than Aux] Home Guard Committee meeting.

Tuesday 25th February

Home Guard met Intelligence Officer Captain Edmundson re OB 5pm.

Wednesday 26th February

Wild night. Home Guard. Wet. Hick, Messom, H & C (Hickman, Messom, Herbert and Cyril) Mill to Slade Box and back. Heavy going.

Thursday 27th February

Home Guard first aid Bates [not on nominal roll] resigned.

H & C [Herbert & Cyril] tossed up Re: course for appointment for Patrol Leader.

Saturday 1st March

Practice mobilization of Home Guard Patrol (wash out)

Bulgaria joins Axis.

Saturday 12th April

One of our bombers crashed at Saltram returning from raid on Brest.

Sunday 13th April

Walked to see crashed bomber at Saltram.

Saturday 19th April

Lieutenant Palliser [Scout Section] called for me to see OB re bunks etc

Monday 21st April

BLITZ ! Heavy raid. Incendiaries in York Street [Cyril's school]

Tuesday 22nd April

York Street School. Salvage. Clearing debris. A handful of children here. BLITZ Worst raid ever. Devonport suffered terribly

Wednesday 23rd April

Devonport in a dreadful mess. School gutted. Only hall and room 8 left. At York Street till 2.30pm BLITZ Devonport again. Oil tanks ablaze at Torpoint.

Memoranda

Greeks breaking. Empire forces withdrawing.

Monday 28th April

BLITZ

1942

Memoranda

Churchill in America. War situation - Russia pushing Germans back. Our forces making good progress in Libya . Japanese situation serious. USA, Dutch, China and ourselves get together but Japs have initial advantage. Very few enemy air raids here - none heavy. RAF hitting hard at Germany and occupied territory. Sufficient food - fair rationing - only feel shortage of eggs.

Thursday 1st January.

News of second combined raid on Lofoten islands [Norway]

Cyril to Grammar School field Aux Units [*first time Aux unit named as such*] training in morning. Cyril writing etc Aux Units.

Friday 2nd January

Aux Units notes to Davy Manila in hands of Japs

Sunday 4th January

Cyril early dinner to Oakhampton [Aux Units] County Final Patrol Competition - Lost. Captain Falcon brought "D" [wife] a pheasant. Cyril returned from Oakhampton 10.30 pm, tired.

Monday 5th January

Cyril cleaning and oiling rifle and revolver all evening.

Tuesday 6th January

Roosevelt announced US plans to produce planes etc.

Wednesday 7th January

Letter to HQ Aux Units.

Thursday 8th January

Enlistment notice arrived. To join R .A .O.C at Lincoln next Thursday. Wrote to HQ and phoned

Friday 9th January

Aux Units 7.30pm to OB. Phoned Falcon [*Group Captain*] re call up.

Rommel on the move in Libya, may get away. RAF battery Brest night after night.

Sunday 11th January

No Duty Aux Units

Wednesday 14th January

Cyril home preparing to leave for army. Busy evening preparing Cyril kit. He left 10.30 pm - broke my heart. [*Cyril's writing*]. Long cold journey to Lincoln to join R.A.O.C no 7 I.T.C

Thursday 15th January

Feeling absolutely wretched without Cyril.

No news from Cyril

Friday 16th January

No news from Cyril am. Feeling very blue, afraid he won't get off.

6.50 pm HURRAH !! News at last returning home.

Saturday 17th January

Cyril returning.

Sunday 18th January

Cyril arrived home 3 am. Walked home from Laira in the pouring rain. Downstairs until 4 am. Absolutely grand to have him home.

Friday 23rd January

Cyril - sketch of OB district for Aux Units record. Posted to Captain F [*Falcon*] Sunday.

Saturday 24th January

Sewed on Cyril's stripes etc.

Sunday 25th January

Aux Units .22 shot at Elfordleigh.

Friday 30th January

Aux Units Patrol meeting Windrush [*Hickman's house*]
Cyril Home Guard [*wife's writing*]

Sunday 1st February

Captain Falcon called at house

Monday 2nd February

Cyril ages of Patrol. Called G.J [*George Jones Aux*]. Cleaned .22 rifle.

Wednesday 4th February

Writing Aux Units

Saturday 7th February

Cyril out 6pm all night
[*Cyril's writing*] Aux Units occupied OB.

Sunday 8th February

Cyril home 4.20pm

Monday 9th February

Cyril HG Welfare Comm meeting. Japs landed on Singapore Island.

Tuesday 10th February

Cyril writing Aux Units

Friday 13th February

Cyril out Home Guard, back 10 pm. Aux Units night recon

Saturday 14th February

Cyril cleaned equipment for tomorrow.

Sunday 15th February

Aux Units at Slade afternoon. Churchill spoke, Singapore gone.

Wednesday 18th February

Aux Units at Windrush [*Hickman's house*]

Thursday 19th February

Cyril heard to transfer to Stuart Road [*school*]

Saturday 21st February

Cyril preparing for Mock Invasion
[*Cyril writing*] Large Scale Exercise "Drake" to OB.

Sunday 22nd February

Cold but sunny, heavy day Aux Units. Cyril home 6.30 pm wore out.

Monday 23rd February

Home Guard Welfare Committee meeting.

Tuesday 24th February

Aux Units notify Patrol re Arms inspection.

Wednesday 25th February

Aux Units arms inspection here in evening.

Wednesday 4th March

Cyril to Yelverton. Aux Units recon at Yelverton (??). Then to Luscombes [friend to rehearse for Lee Moor concert on Thurs 5th

Thursday 5th March

Home Guard

Saturday 7th March

[wife] Patrol here blacking. Very funny. Cyril out on Home Guard at Yelverton home 2 am

[Cyril] Aux Units night attack Yelverton. All walked together lovely day but cold wind. Patrol met here. No pleasure motoring this summer. Basic rationing of petrol after June.

Thursday 12th March

Cyril busy Home Guard

Friday 13th March

Cyril to Hickman's, Patrol Meeting.

Herbert absent, unfit. Aux Units at Windrush 7.30pm

Sunday 15th March

Aux Units off.

Tuesday 17th March

MacArthur in Australia. Cut in clothing coupons. Petrol to be rationed.

Post ? to HQ. Try to go down Thursday with Herbert.

Thursday 19th March

Cyril to Stoke Climbesland [*home town of Cornwall Intelligence Officer Jack Dingley*] home 8pm.

Friday 20th March

Cyril out Home Guard

Thursday 26th March

Cyril out Home Guard indoors at Windrush.

Saturday 28th March

Cyril off on Home Guard to Cornwall. Cyril home Sunday 2.30 very groggy.

[Cyril writing] Aux Units major attack on Polhesea House [*home of Cornwall Intelligence Officer*]

Tuesday 31st March.

Herb called up

Wednesday 1st April.

Cyril out Home Guard Windrush [Herbert's home]

Letter to Education Office from HQ re mustering of Home Guard "A's"

Friday 10th April

Cyril out Home Guard

Sunday 12th April

Cyril out Home Guard morning. One of our bombers crashed at Saltram returning from raid on Brest.

Thursday 16th April

Cyril out Home Guard business for a while.

Friday 17th April

Cyril out on Home Guard.

Monday 21st April

Blitz. Heavy raid. Incendiaries in York St [Cyril's school].

Wednesday 22nd April

HG Welfare Comm meeting.

Thursday 23rd April

Aux Unit OB. Heavy blitz.

Friday 24th April

Prepare targets for Sunday shoot

Sunday 26th April

3 Patrol Shoot Cyril out to shoot at Elfordleigh.

Thursday 30th April

Cyril to OB with Captain Edmundson [*Intelligence Officer*] met him along Cornwood Road. All walked home together.

Sunday 3rd May
Bad bombing of Exeter.

Tuesday 5th May
HG bombing practice.

Wednesday 6th May
Cyril, Home Guard bombing practice.

Thursday 7th May
Mother into town [*Plymouth*] to see King and Queen.

Friday 8th May
Cyril given leave of absence from school. Cyril off 11 am hectic time getting him ready.
Weekend course Highworth by truck. Lovely day, good men, busy time.

Saturday 9th May
Long tiring day, glorious weather, Patrol showed up well, except in night exercise - too light.

Sunday 10th May
Cyril coming back today. Home 7.45pm. Sunshine, hot dinner, happy, tired. Cleaned revolver.

Friday 15th May
Cyril out Home Guard

Sunday 17th May
Cyril out all day at Thorverton [*Scout section training*]

Friday 29th May
Cyril out Home Guard

Saturday 30th May
1,000 bombers over Germany.

Sunday 31st May
Cyril out Home Guard.

Thursday 18th June
Cyril Home Guard

Friday 19th June
Cyril, Herbert, Eva and myself [Doris] and kiddies out on moors [Herb must have been returned from call up as Cyril was]

Saturday 27th June
Aux Units, Patrol meet Northfield [*Cyril's house*] evening.

Friday 3rd July
Cyril out Home Guard

Wednesday 23rd September
Home Guard Meeting

Friday 25th September
Patrol Meeting.

Saturday 26th September
Home Guard Social Evening

Sunday 27th September
Lovely day. Home Guard Patrol Competition. Plympton Won.

Monday 12th October
Bill Bell joined Patrol

Wednesday 14th October
Bill up for evening Home Guard

Friday 16th October
Cyril out Home Guard

Saturday 17th October

Cyril out on exercises Home Guard.

Sunday 18th October

Cyril out Home Guard all morning.

After Cyril, B. Bell, "D, A and M" [*wife and children*] to HQ then to Slade for tea [*Captain Falcon's house*] all enjoyed ourselves.

Saturday 24th October

2.30 off to Thorverton for Semi Finals !!

Tuesday 17th November

Yealmpton Aux Units.

Wednesday 18th November

Tamerton Aux Units with Bennetto [*Auxilier*] by car.

Friday 20th November

Plympton Patrol night exercise

Saturday 21st November

Tamerton Patrol 2.30pm to 4pm

Wednesday 25th November

Tamerton ?

Sunday 29th November

Aux Units to Cleeve

END