

# 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 Elfordleigh 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 17<sup>th</sup> June 1940**

France Capitulated, Cyril joined LDV

#### **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June**

LDV practice

#### **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June**

Cyril LDV practice

#### **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**

Cyril LDV practice on moors.

#### **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June**

LDV parade

#### **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June**

LDV parade

#### **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June**

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

#### **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June**

Cyril first LDV duty 12-4 am

#### **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June**

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

#### **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> July**

FRENCH FLEET TAKEN IN HAND

#### **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> July**

Lovely summer day except for Air Raid warnings. ALARM longest yet 1 ¾ 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> July**

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

### **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July**

No raids or alarm. Quiet night till 6am.

### **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> July**

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

### **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> July**

No alarms. Worked in pit shelter after tea.

### **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> July**

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

LDV parade

### **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July**

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

### **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July**

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

### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> July**

LDV parade

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July**

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

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July**

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

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July**

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

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> July**

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

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> July**

Mrs Eastman altered uniform collar.

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August**

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

Quiet night leaflets dropped elsewhere.

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August**

Cyril on duty. Quiet night

**Memoranda**

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

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August**

Searchlight 11pm. Jerry overhead.

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August**

LDV Elfordleigh 6.30pm

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

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> Terrific air battle. 60 German planes shot down (16 of ours)

Italy advancing into Br Somaliland.

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August**

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

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August**

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

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> August**

Searchlights throughout the night. Air activity.

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August**

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

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August**

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

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> August**

Jerry still losing lot of planes

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August**

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

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August**

Jerry bombed Newton Abbot railway. 9 killed many injured.

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August**

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

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August**

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

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August**

Railway bombed at Exeter.

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> August**

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

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> August**

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

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> September**

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

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**

Cyril out, Home Guard Parade photo.

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September**

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

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September**

Cyril Home Guard parade

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

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September**

RAF plastering Germany with bombs.

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> September**

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

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> September**

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

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> September**

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

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September**

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

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September**

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

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September**

Terrific air raids on London continue.

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September**

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

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September**

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

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> September**

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

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> September**

Cyril HG Parade. Drill Hall. New Patrol Duties.

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September**

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

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> September**

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

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October**

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

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**

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

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October**

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

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

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

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> October**

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

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> October**

Tea at Boringdon House. Enjoyed it.

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

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October**

Alarm 12.10am to 12.25am

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October**

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

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October**

Cyril to lecture at Drill Hall. Machine gun.

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October**

Alarm 3.20pm to 3.40pm

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> October**

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

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

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> October**

Alarm 12.15pm to 12.30pm.

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October**

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

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

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

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October**

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

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October**

Alarm 7.05pm to 8.23pm

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October**

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

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October**

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

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup>**

Alarm 2.15pm to 2.25 pm.

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October**

Alarm 10.15am to 10.30am

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

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

Alarm 2.25pm to 2.40pm.

**Memorana**

28<sup>th</sup> Italy declared war on Greece in the early hours of the morning.

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**

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

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

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November**

Alarm 6.50pm to 7.10pm

Cyril to Home guard meeting home 10.10pm

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November**

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

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> November**

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

Cyril to Mr Hickman's back again 11pm

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November**

Alarm 2.30 to 2.50 pm 7.05 to 8.14 pm.

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> November**

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

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November**

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

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November**

Alarm 7.20pm to 7.40pm

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

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



**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November**

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

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> November**

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

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

Home guard dance. Great success.

**Memoranda**

Greeks driving Italians back.

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November**

Alarm 7.00pm to 8.00pm

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November**

Home Guard Committee meeting.

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> November**

Alarm 2.45pm to 3.10pm

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

Alarm in afternoon.

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

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

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

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

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

Alarm 6.30pm to 7.00pm

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> December**

Alarm

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

Cyril Home Guard.

**Memoranda**

20,000 Italian prisoners British and Greeks doing splendidly.

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

2 Alarms

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

Health visitor brought baby gas mask.

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

Cyril out Home Guard

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> December**

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

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> December**

Cyril to Mrs Doney, altered battledress.

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December**

Cyril to Home Guard dance.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> December**

Heavy raid in London.

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> December**

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

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> January.**

Home Guard to Hickman's House

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> January**

Cyril out Home Guard reconnaissance

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January**

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

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January**

Home Guard reconnaissance.

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January**

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

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January**

No gas, no electric.

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January**

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

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January**

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

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January**

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

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> January**

2 time bombs exploded. Home Guard cancelled.

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January**

No gas yet. Cyril out all evening.

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January**

Cyril Home Guard all evening.

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January**

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

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January**

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

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January**

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

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February**

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

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> February.**

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

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

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

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February**

Home Guard first aid . Very good.

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February**

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

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February**

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

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February**

Home Guard committee meeting.

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February**

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

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February**

Home Guard rehearsal 7.15 for concert. Good.

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February**

Home Guard concert good evening.

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February**

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

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February**

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

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February**

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

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February**

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

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> April**

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

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

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

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> January**

Aux Units notes to Davy Manila in hands of Japs

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> January**

Cyril cleaning and oiling rifle and revolver all evening.

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

Roosevelt announced US plans to produce planes etc.

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January**

Letter to HQ Aux Units.

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January**

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

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> January**

No Duty Aux Units

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> January**

Feeling absolutely wretched without Cyril.

No news from Cyril

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> January**

Cyril returning.

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> January**

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

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January**

Sewed on Cyril's stripes etc.

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January**

Aux Units .22 shot at Elfordleigh.

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January**

Aux Units Patrol meeting Windrush [*Hickman's house*]

Cyril Home Guard [*wife's writing*]

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February**

Captain Falcon called at house

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

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

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February**

Writing Aux Units

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February**

Cyril out 6pm all night

[*Cyril's writing*] Aux Units occupied OB.

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February**

Cyril home 4.20pm

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February**

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

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February**

Cyril writing Aux Units

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February**

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

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February**

Cyril cleaned equipment for tomorrow.

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February**

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

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February**

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

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February**

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

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February**

Cyril preparing for Mock Invasion

[*Cyril writing*] Large Scale Exercise "Drake" to OB.

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

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

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

Home Guard Welfare Committee meeting.

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February**

Aux Units notify Patrol re Arms inspection.

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February**

Aux Units arms inspection here in evening.

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March**

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

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

Home Guard

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> March**

Cyril busy Home Guard

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March**

Cyril to Hickman's, Patrol Meeting.

Herbert absent, unfit. Aux Units at Windrush 7.30pm

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March**

Aux Units off.

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March**

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

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

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

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

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March**

Cyril out Home Guard

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March**

Cyril out Home Guard indoors at Windrush.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> April**

Cyril out Home Guard

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April**

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

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April**

Cyril out Home Guard business for a while.

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April**

Cyril out on Home Guard.

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April**

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

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

HG Welfare Comm meeting.

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**

Aux Unit OB. Heavy blitz.

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April**

Prepare targets for Sunday shoot

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April**

3 Patrol Shoot Cyril out to shoot at Elfordleigh.

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> May**  
HG bombing practice.

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May**  
Cyril, Home Guard bombing practice.

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

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> May**  
Long tiring day, glorious weather, Patrol showed up well, except in night exercise - too light.

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

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May**  
Cyril out Home Guard

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

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May**  
Cyril out Home Guard

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May**  
1,000 bombers over Germany.

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May**  
Cyril out Home Guard.

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June**  
Cyril Home Guard

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

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

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July**  
Cyril out Home Guard

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**  
Home Guard Meeting

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September**  
Patrol Meeting.

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September**  
Home Guard Social Evening

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September**  
Lovely day. Home Guard Patrol Competition. Plympton Won.

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October**  
Bill Bell joined Patrol

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October**  
Bill up for evening Home Guard

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October**  
Cyril out Home Guard

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October**

Cyril out on exercises Home Guard.

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> October**

2.30 off to Thorverton for Semi Finals !!

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November**

Yealmpton Aux Units.

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

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

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November**

Plympton Patrol night exercise

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November**

Tamerton Patrol 2.30pm to 4pm

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November**

Tamerton ?

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November**

Aux Units to Cleeve

**END**