

APPLEDORE WARTIME FORTIFICATIONS

Taken from National Archives War Office documents WO 192/145
Transcribed by [David Carter](#) 2024

Implied letters in brackets added by the transcriber.

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Catalogue Reference:

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Transcribers notes:

This collection of documents consists of about 75 typewritten pages (transcribed below).
Also about 30 individual maps, diagrams, drawings and other technical illustrations.

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Abbreviations:

[The following abbreviations have been assumed. If anyone can explain the missing ones, I'd be pleased to hear].

2/Lt = Second Lieutenant
A.A. = Anti Aircraft
A.A.L.M.G. = Anti Aircraft Light machine gun
A.C.C. = Army Catering Corps
A.F. =
A.F.G. =
A.F.S. = Army Fire Service
A.F.V. = Armoured Fighting Vehicle
A/G = Anti-Gas
A.R.P. = Air Raid Precautions

B.C. = Battery Command[er]
B.C.A. = Battery Coastal Artillery
B.O.F. =
B.O.P. = Battery Observation Post
B.S.M. = Battery Section Manager ???
C.A. = Coastal Artillery
C.A.S.Ls = Coastal Artillery Search Lights
C.A.T. = Coast Artillery Training
C.C.A. =
C.C.C.A. =
C.C.R.A. =
C.M.P. = Chief Medical Practitioner
C.O. = Commanding Officer
C.P. = Common Pointed (type of shell)
C.R.H. = Calibre Radius Head
D/C =
D.C.M. =
D.C.R.E. = Devon County Royal Engineers
D.E.L. = Defence Electric Lights
D.R. = Detachment Radio
D.S. = Directing Staff
E.D.O. =
E/R =
Fire Picquet = A group of soldiers detailed for a specific duty.
F.A.P. = First Aid Post
F.O.P. = Forward Observation Point
G.P.O. = General Post Office
H.C.D. =
H.E. = High Explosive
H.G. = Home Guard
H.O.P. =
H.Q. = Headquarters
I.G. = Irish Guards or Instructor in Gunnery
I.O.O. = Inspecting Ordnance Officer
L.M.G. = Light machine gun
M.C. = Military Cross
Mk.F.Q.2. =
M.S.L. = Mean Sea Level
M.T. = Motor Transport
M.T.B. = Motor Torpedo Boat
M.V. = Muzzle Velocity
N.A.A.F.I. = Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes
N.O.B's = Normal Operating???
N.C.O.i/c = Non Commissioned Officer in command
N.O.I.C. = Naval Officer In Charge
O.C. = Officer Commanding
Os.C. = Officers Commanding

O.P. = Observation Post
O.R. = Other Ranks
P.A.D. = Passive Air Defence or Port Ammunition Detachment
P.C. = Police Constable
P.W.S.S. = Port War Signal Station
R.A. = Royal Artillery
R.A.F. = Royal Air Force
R.A.S.C. = Royal Army Service Corps
R.E. = Royal Engineers
R.H.Q. = Regimental Headquarters
RNC =
R.N.O. =
R/P Boats = River Patrol Boats
R/T = Radio Telegraphy
Q.E. = Quadrant Elevation
Q.F. = Quick fire
S.A.A. = Small Arms Ammunition
S.A.P. = Semi Armour-Piercing
S.I.P. = Self Igniting Phosphorous
S.M.O. = Support to Military Operations
S/L = Searchlight
T.D.R.A. = Temporary Duty Royal Artillery
T.S.M.G. =
U.D.C. = Urban District Council
V/T = Visual Telegraphy
W.O. = War Office or Warrant Officer?
W/T = Wireless Telegraphy

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Transcript:

Book cover:

Secret
W.O. 192/145
Closed until 1972
Fort Record Book
Army Book No.360

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[A pre-printed initial page, presumably as a guide to follow for local reports like this one for Appledore]

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FORT RECORD BOOK

Secret and Confidential.

PREFACE

The object of this volume, The Fort Record Book of the [crossed out: "379th"; inserted: "Appledore, Special"] Coast Battery, Royal Artillery, is to set out the purpose for which the

Battery exists, its role in the general scheme for the defence of the coast and the facilities available for carrying out the role.

The Battery was formed at West Blockhouse, Milford Haven and proceeded to Appledore, N.Devon on 31st July and 1st August 1940. Subsequent postings brought the total strength to 120 of all ranks, but before the end of 1940 this figure was reduced to 102, although the establishment allowed for 111 all ranks.

On the formation of the Battery, Captain Geoffrey Percival Clarke R.A. (personal number 40105) was in command. Captain Sidney F. Kneller R.A. (personal number 48778) joined the Battery on 3rd November 1940, and took over command on 3rd December 1940, following Captain Clarke's appointment to the post of Adjutant to the 20th Coast Artillery Group, R.A. of which the Battery now forms part.

The Group, a Class "B" Group, commanded by Major F.B.B. Spragge, O.B.E., M.C., R.A., comprised the Emergency Batteries at Appledore, Instow, Ilfracombe and Minehead. All Batteries were equipped with Naval Guns, those at Appledore being 4.7" and the remainder 4". Group Headquarters were situated at the Marine Hotel, Instow. Prior to the formation of the Group, the Battery was under "operational control" of C.F.D. Plymouth, and attached to 51st Heavy Regiment, R.A. for administration.

Since only Naval equipment was available, much of the Land Service Drill had to be modified to meet the conditions of this equipment. Batteries of this kind must of necessity be low-sited, with high velocity and flat trajectory, as against the normal practice of high sited Batteries with autosights.

One object of [~~crossed out: "emergency";~~ inserted: "Special Coast"] Batteries, being to guard approach channels to ports, this Battery is well placed at a point overlooking the mouth of the estuary of the rivers Taw and Torridge. The two guns are so mounted as to command Bideford Bar approximately 5,000 yards distant, and in this connection support could be obtained from the Battery at Instow, situated eastwards 6,000 yards from the Bar. Maps and diagrams in subsequent pages indicate the exact position of both Batteries and their place in the general defence scheme.

It must be noted that owing to the suitability of the estuary for use by seaplanes at certain states of the tide, preparedness to assist R/P Boats and Naval Defences in dealing with such targets is numbered among the duties of both the Appledore and the Instow Batteries. The distinct possibility of such a contingency occurring was stressed by the Army Commander when visiting the Appledore Battery in January 1940.

Battery roles in order of priority are:-

- 1) Engagement of hostile vessels approaching the coast, with a view to preventing their entering the estuary.
- 2) Engagement of beached vessels and the destruction of their contents.

3) Engagement of anchored hostile vessels with a view to preventing disembarkation from them. The possibility of an attempted landing at Greysands Heel (see maps) has not been overlooked.

4) Destruction of hostile small craft approaching ports, harbours and beaches before reaching their objectives.

5) The protection of shipping in the approaches to the Port.

6) Assistance of the Field Force in the defence of beaches so far as is practicable and compatible with the notes set out above.

7) To deal with air borne troops landing in the vicinity.

8) In addition the Battery carries out a modified Examination Service.

The [~~crossed out "normal"~~] state of readiness of the Battery is [~~crossed out: "immediately, i.e. not more than 30 secs"~~] By day, Nil; By night, 15 minutes [~~crossed out: "however, when visibility is not less than 40,000 yards the state of readiness of gun detachments is, at times thought proper, reduced to two minutes in order to allow for rest of training"~~]. Naturally there is no relaxation of the vigilance of the B.O.P. Staff. [~~crossed out: "Fifteen minutes before official Day and Night, the Battery 'Stand To; when guns, A.A.L.M.G. and rifle posts are manned"~~]. There is in existence a scheme for immediate local defence of the Battery position, in addition to the manning of two A.A.L.M.G g[un]s [~~crossed out: "as part of a wider scheme of local defence a Company of Infantry is stationed to the west, the nearest Platoon point being at the Old Gas Works"~~]; and the Home Guard have ten machine gun posts, mainly around Appledore village.

APPLEDORE has now been declared to be a "minor defended port" and the [~~crossed out: "R.N.O.";~~ inserted: "N.O.I.C.,"] APPLEDORE is in control. The [~~crossed out: "R.N.O.";~~ inserted: "N.O.I.C."] may also exercise certain operational control over APPLEDORE and INSTOW BATTERIES in that he may order fire to be opened or to cease. In certain circumstances, however, Battery Commanders may "open fire" on their own initiative.

ADDITIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO PREFACE:

LOCAL DEFENCE.

Early in 1941, the local Home Guard 5th BATTALION (BIDEFORD) HOME GUARD, took over the whole of the Infantry Defences of the district and the APPLEDORE PLATOON on "Stand To" have arranged to occupy strategic positions to the east, south and west of the Battery.

COMMAND.

20th COAST ARTILLERY GROUP, R.A. was changed to 558th COAST REGIMENT, R.A. on 1st June 1941.

R.N.O. APPLIEDORE.

The duties of the R.N.O. were extended in July 1941 and he assumed the title of NAVAL OFFICER IN CHARGE.

ESTABLISHMENT.

In March 1941 the establishment was reduced to 2 Officers [&] 72 Other Ranks owing to the supply of personnel for the formation of 234 Coast Battery, R.A., and a reduced scale of readiness was allowed.

In August 1941 the establishment was reinstated to 3 Officers and 108 Other Ranks, and a new state of readiness was imposed varying according to the state of the tide.

HIGHER COMMAND.

In June 1941, the C.C.R.A., 8th Corps took over from Fixed Defences, Southern Command, responsibility for training, personnel and equipment of all Coast Regiments and Batteries in the Corps area. Early in 1942 this special responsibility was taken over by the C.C.C.A. 8th Corps.

Prepared by: [signed] J Stocker 2/Lt

Checked by: [signed] ~illegible~, Capt.

Date: 1 May 1942

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PART I.

SECTION A. TOPOGRAPHY.

1. Area of Water for which the Fort is responsible.

The area of water for which the Fort is responsible comprises the approaches to Bideford Estuary immediately beyond Bideford Bar; the estuary of the rivers Taw and Torridge; and the Taw itself as far as Chivenor Aerodrome.

2. Tides, channels, shoals and landing places.

There is a rise in tide of between 15' and 18', and at low tide the Bar is impassable to all except small craft.

A Main Channell passes down the estuary to the rivers Taw and Torridge - see map.

The presence of Sandbanks and ridges necessitates the use of the main channel by all but very shallow draught vessels even at low tide.

Suitable landing places are:- Saunton Sands, Airy Point, Greysands Heel, Pebbleridge and Instow Sands.

Saunton Sands and Pebble Ridge cannot be fired on directly by this battery.

3. A 4" Naval Battery was situated on Instow Sands (Map Ref: 912536). This battery was disbanded in March 1943.

There are no F.O.P's for Appledore Battery.

4. For lay-out of Fort, see Map.

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SECTION B - ARMAMENT

1. Rangefinders; Nature, Arc, Dead Water

Rangefinder: 9ft. Barr & Stroud Mk.F.Q.2.

Bearing arc, 270 degrees through North to 060 degrees.

Dead Water - see map.

2. Guns; Nature, Arc of Fire, Dead water

Two Q.F. 4.7" Mark V on Naval Mountings. Area of fire:-

No.1 Gun 275 degrees through North to 050 degrees.

No.2 Gun 280 degrees through North to 070 degrees.

Dead water - see Map

3. C.A. Searchlights; Nature, Arc, Effective Ranges, Dead Water

Two 90 cm 3 degree H.C.D. Fortress Projectors Mk.V. Lamps Mk.III.

Arcs of Searchlights:-

No.1 L = 310 degrees. R = 112 degrees.

No.2 L = 233 degrees. R = 029 degrees.

Arcs of Normal Search:-

No.1 325 degrees - 360 degrees.

No.2 330 degrees - 305 degrees.

N.O.B.'s

No.1 325 degrees

No.2 330 degrees

Effective ranges both lights 3500x given good visibility.
Dead water - see Map.

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SECTION C - GARRISON

1. Artillery Manning Detail

i) Personnel

Captain	1
Subaltern	1
Total Officers	2
Battery Sergeant Major	1
Total Warrant Off.	1
Sergeant	1
Sergeant (for CASLs)	1
Total Sergeants	2
Tradesmen	5
Lance-Sergeant	1
Bombardiers	2
Lance Bombardiers	2
Gunners	16
Total Rank & file	26
Total Other Ranks	29
Total All Ranks	31

Attached:-

A.C.C. Privates	2
Total, A Special Coast Battery	
R.A. (Class "E") including attached	33

2. Engineer Manning Detail:- NIL

3. Infantry Manning Detail:- NIL

4. A.A. Troops stationed in Fort:- NIL

5. Other Troops station in Fort:-
Royal Corps Signals - Signalman 1

ii) Distribution of rank and file by trades & duties.

Tradesmen:-

Fitters (engine room) R.A. (C.A.) (includes 1 Bombardier)	2
Clerk (lance bombardier)	1
Artificer or fitter (gun) Lance Bombardier	1
Electrical fitter (Lance Bombardier)	1
Total Tradesmen	5

Non Tradesmen:-

Range-finding specialists	2
Telephonists (signallers)	2
Gun Numbers	8
Battery Commander's Assistant	1
Lamp Attendants	2
Switchman	1
Searchlight & gun storeman	1
Sanitary duties	1
Batmen	2
Drivers I.C.	1
Total Non-Tradesmen	21

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SECTION D - COMMUNICATIONS

1. Telephone

a) External

For external communications (private lines) through R.H.Q. see diagram.

A 10-line concentrator situated in the B.O.P. has private lines to the following:-

- 1) Battery Office
- 2) N.O.I.C. Appledore
- 3) M. 105.
- 4) R.H.Q.
- 5) H.G. Northam
- 6)
- 7)
- 8)
- 9) K. 170.
- 10) R.A.F. Northam

There is also a separate G.P.O. line situated in the B.O.P. with extension to Battery Office. See Diagram.

b) Internal

B.O.P is in communication with guns as follows:-

B.C.A. by phone to No.1 Gun and No.2 Gun.

B.C.A. by loudspeaker to No.1 Gun and No.2 Gun.

No.1 Gun & No.2 Gun by Signal Indicator to B.C.A.

Clock operator by phone to Sight Setters on No.1 & No.2 Gun.

These phones are fitted with Head & Breast and Hand Sets.

D.S. is in communication with both lights & Engine Room through a line concentrator.

S/L Emplacements phones are fitted with Head & Breast and Hand sets.

All cables are buried to a depth of 18".

c) Emergency O.P. situated in the Battery Office is in communication with Guns and Lights as follows:-

No.1 phone to Nos.1 & 2 Guns.

No.2 phone to Nos.1 & 2 S/L Emplacements & Engine Room.

2. W/T. and R/T. - NIL.

3. V/T. and Aldis Lamp, and a lamp daylight signalling is kept in the B.O.P. for communication with local Naval craft when required by N.O.I.C.

4. Alarm Circuits.

a) Guns

A generator in the B.O.P. rings local alarms in the following places:-

i) Nos.1 and 2 Gun floors.

ii) War Shelter.

iii) Camp - Sgts. Mess & No.4 Hut.

b) Searchlights.

A generator in the D.S. rings alarms in each S/L Emplacement.

An alarm bell is also situated in the Engine Room and is connected to the telephone generator of the 5 line concentrator.

5. Power Circuits. - NIL

6. (a) Roads

The main road past the camp leads in a westwardly direction, to Northam, Bideford and Westward Ho! in an easterly direction through Appledore Village to Northam and Bideford.

(b) Water

River patrol boats by arrangement with N.O.I.C.
Local ferry service Appledore Quay to Instow Quay.
The river Torridge is navigable as far as Bideford at high tide.
The river Taw is navigable as far as Barnstaple at high tide.

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[N.B. The following should be viewed in conjunction with the aerial photographs included in this document set].

[stamped] 379th Coast Bty. R.A.
-3 Jun 1941

SECRET

AERIAL SURVEY BY CAPT. C.F. WHITE, R.A.
1st JUNE 1941

Aeroplane - Beaufort
Pilot - Squadron Leader Anstey, R.A.F.
Time - 12.10 hours to 12.50 hours
Weather - Bright sun, slight cloud at 4000 feet in patches
Visibility - Good
State of Tide - One hour after high tide
Height of Survey - 100 feet up to 3700 feet
Direction of flight - Round 398 Battery area several times and directly over.

GUNS - Could not be identified
BILLETS - Nissen Huts, obviously military encampment from 3700 feet
B.O.P. - Looked like cow-shed. Not obviously military

Instow. 2/6/41.
(Sg) C.F. White, Captain, R.A.
Commanding 398 Coast Battery, R.A.

Copies to:-
O.C. 20th Coast Artillery Group, R.A.
O.C. 379th Coast Battery, R.A.
Sn.Comd. Fixed Defences Camouflage Officer.

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SECTION E - OPERATIONS.

3. Detailed Scheme for Fighting the Fort.

a) Opening fire by day.

Whenever possible the B.C. will consult the N.O.I.C. before opening fire.

The B.C. will open fire on :-

- i) Any vessel at which the N.O.I.C. requests him to fire.
- ii) Any obviously hostile vessel.
- iii) Any submarine which has not been notified.
- iv) Any M.T.B. which has not been identified by the Ship to Shore letter or has not been notified.
- v) The N.O.I.C. may order fire to cease.

When possible a Bring To round will be fired across the bows of an unidentified vessel, but owing to the danger of vessels running aground with the tide, the N.O.I.C. should if possible be consulted, before vessel is stopped.

b) Opening fire by night, or in low visibility.

If fire is opening by night a Bring To round will not be fired, the B.C. will open fire on:-

- i) Any vessel at which the N.O.I.C. requests him to fire.
- ii) Any obviously hostile vessel.
- iii) Any vessel about which he has received no previous inclination unless it has been identified by the Ship to Shore letter or the Special Signal.

The N.O.I.C. may order Fire to Cease.

c) Priority of Targets

The B.C. is responsible for deciding which are the most important targets. The general considerations are that the most important enemy War Vessels are those attempting to enter the Port, or if their actions are likely to neutralise the fire of the Battery, either directly by accurate gunfire or indirectly by smoke. Otherwise troop carrying vessels especially those carrying A.FVs. will have priority.

The degree of priority to be given to enemy seaplanes or troop planes landing on the estuary or beaches must be decided by the B.C. in the light of the situation existing at the time.

d) Distribution of Fire Scheme.

i) By Day - Vessels in line ahead moving right, i.e. approaching Airy Point.

No.1 Gun will engage the leading target at Battery Control.

No.2 Gun will engage the second target at Gun Control.

ii) Vessels in line ahead moving left, i.e. approaching Grey Sands Heel.

No.2 Gun will engage the leading target at Battery Control.

No.1 Gun will engage the second target at Gun Control.

iii) If the leading vessel is not the most dangerous target, this will be engaged at Battery Control and the next most dangerous target will be engaged at Gun Control. Cross fire should be avoided when opening fire, but guns should not change targets as long as effective fire is being maintained.

iv) No gun must be idle during an attack.

v) Fire must not be continued on a disabled vessel, if there is a disengaged target in the area.

vi) By Night - No.1 Gun will engage target in No.1 Beam.

No.2 Gun will engage target in No.2 Beam.

Should it be necessary for Searchlight beams to change targets and effective fire is being maintained the guns will remain on their original targets.

e) Normal Opening Range.

Fire should be opened as early as is compatible with the probability of scoring direct hits with the opening rounds. This will not usually be at a greater range than 3600x The B.C. should not hesitate to engage targets at greater ranges if it is deemed necessary in view of the tactical situation.

f) Barrage.

In bad visibility when targets are likely to enter the harbour the N.O.I.C. may request the Battery Bearing 325 degrees. Range 2300x. Q.E. 1 degree, 10 minutes.

Rate of fire 4 rounds per gun per minute for 3 minutes.

g) Coast Artillery Searchlights.

i) C.A.S.Ls. will be exposed on the order of the N.O.I.C. or if the B.C. suspects the presence of a hostile vessel or low flying aircraft in the vicinity.

ii) When exposed S/Ls. will NOT illuminate beaches or friendly vessels.

iii) The general policy for searching the harbour is for both lights to expose just short of Airy Point.

No.1 Light will then make a quick search of the inner water as far as Crow Point and back to Airy Point.

No.2 Light will then remain as a sentry beam until the inner water is clear.

No.1 will then take over sentry beam while No.2 searches the outer water between Airy Point and Grey Sands Heel.

If No.2 picks up a target between 305 degrees and 320 degrees No.1 will then search the entrance to the harbour for further targets.

If No.2 picks up a target between 320 degrees and 330 degrees No.1 will take over target and No.2 will search the entrance.

iv) If a target is suspected or can be seen on a definite bearing the B.C. will order either one or both lights to expose on that bearing.

h) Examination Service.

i) Appledore Battery will act as an examination battery when requested by the N.O.I.C.

ii) No.2 Gun will be the examination gun.

iii) The throw off sight on the left of the gun shield will be used by the No.1 of the gun to give the necessary throw off to bring to round.

i) Casualty Procedure.

If the B.O.P. is put out of action the Battery will be fought from the Section O.P. in the Battery Office.

No.2 Light will be at flank control and No.1 will be controlled by the C.A.S.L. 'phone in the Section O.P.

If C.A.S.Ls. are put out of action Ryder Flares will be used to illuminate targets within their range. i.e. 1500x to 2000x.

4. 5. Battery Commanders Standing Orders.

For Standing Operation Orders see Appendix VIII.

1) Method of Rangefinding.

By 9 ft. Barr & Stroud if time permits, otherwise by estimation.

If "Gun Control" has been ordered the ranges used will be those painted on the front of the Gun Houses.

2) Case of Laying.

Will be Case 1. i.e. the ranges will be applied to the range dials on the tangent sights.

3) Ammunition.

[crossed out: "C.P."] [crossed out: "S.A.P."] H.E. will be normal.

4) Travel.

Will be estimated and applied to the Dumaresque.
[Dumaresq. See <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dumaresq>]

5) Method of Ranging.

"Ranging Salvoes" for ranges of over [crossed out: "4000"; inserted "2000"] yards.
"Gun Fire" will be ordered for ranges (opening) of [crossed out: "4000"; inserted "2000"] yards and under.

6) Where Corrections are to be Applied.

- a) for line - on the deflection scales.
- b) for range - on the range clock.

7) Lookout bearing.

320 degrees.

8) Lookout Range.

Day - 5,000 yards; Night - 3,000 yards.

9) Displacement.

Setter No. 1 Gun will apply "plus 25 yards to all ranges transmitted from B.O.P. when firing on the normal bearings 310 degrees to 335 degrees.

10) Ranges from B.O.P.

Will be given to the Guns after deducting 200 yards to allow for displacement when firing on the normal bearings 310 degrees to 335 degrees.

[The next items: 11 and 12, are crossed through]

11) Barrage to Main Channel.

Bearing 325 degrees.

Range 2,300 yards.

Q.E. 1 degree, 10 minutes

12) Chivenor Aerodrome.

Bearing 045 degrees.

Range 5,400 yards.

Q.E. 5 degrees, 15 minutes.

Searchlights

Normal Opening Bearing

No.1 Light - 325 degrees

No.2 Light - 330 degrees

Normal Search

No.1 Light - 325 degrees to 310 degrees

No.2 Light - 330 degrees to 305 degrees

Orders for A.A. Defence.

1) A.A.L.M.Gs. will be stationed as follows:-

- a) Twin Solothurns on Motley Mounting in front of the B.O.P. This mounting will always be manned during the hours of daylight and on A.A. alert at night.
- b) One Bren L.M.G. in emplacement in Battery position. This will be manned in A.A. alert.
- c) One Bren L.M.G. will be kept at the B.O.P. and manned by reserve B.O.P. personnel.

2) All guns will be cleaned and made ready for action at Official day:

Solothurn belts will be loaded and fitted ready for firing.

Bren L.M.Gs. will be stored in chests with magazines off, ejector opening covers closed, gas regulators set at largest port, and sights down.

Each Bren will have 6 of its 13 magazines loaded in the proportion of one tracer to seven Mk.VII.

Every Saturday magazines will be changed round to ease the strain on the springs.

3) Action on Air Raid Warning.

In addition to the Motley Mounting the two Bren L.M.Gs. will be manned, magazines on, change lever at "A".

Loaded magazines will be immediately to hand.

Method of Fire

Solothurns:- The cartwheel sight will be used.

Brens: Hosepipe: Standing - from the waist.

Kneeling - from the thigh.

Rules for opening and ceasing fire.

a) A.A.L.M.G. detachments will aim and swing at all aircraft which come within range and which have not definitely been recognised as one of our own.

While engaging, the forefinger will always be along the trigger guard.

b) Fire will be opened immediately the aircraft commits a hostile act or is definitely recognised as hostile.

- c) Responsibility for opening and ceasing fire rests with the senior N.C.O. or man present.
- d) Ammunition will be conserved and aircraft out of range will not be fired upon.
- e) Fire will not be opened on Flares.
- f) Fire will NOT be opened on any party of 7 or less descending by parachute.

6. 7. Defensive measures against land attack - Summary

1. All ranks handed out 40 rounds S.A.A. (to make 50 each)
2. Guard to be doubled.
3. All Rifle Posts to be manned.
4. 12 extra men to Battery Position.
5. A.A.L.M.G. fully manned.
6. Anti-Tank Obstruction placed in position at Slipway.
7. Knife rest placed at Customs House.
8. Knife rest placed 50 yds west of Corner Post.
9. Concertina road blocks placed at following positions:-
 - 50 yds east of Garden Post
 - 50 yds east of George Post
 - Irsha Street rear of No.1 Gun House
 - Lovers' Lane top and bottom
10. Wire will be closed opposite Engine Room in H.O.P. Field, also at eastern perimeter to roadway.
11. No. 1 Irsha Street will be taken over and two men stationed there.
12. Cook will take to War Shelter emergency cooking utensils, water bins, and half of available rations.
13. All water bottles will be filled and taken to each defence post.
14. [~~crossed out: "A.W.";~~ inserted: "S/P"] Bombs will be distributed as per Standing Orders.
15. Blacker Bombards will be mounted and manned.
16. All surplus personnel will parade at Guard Room for patrols, etc., under B.S.M.
17. Camouflage nets for steel helmets will be issued.

Weapons Available

- Rifles -1 per man with 50 rounds S.A.A.
- 2 Bren Guns (A.A.L.M.G. for local defence)
- 2 Thompson Carbines.
- 2 Blacker Bombards

100 hand grenades are stored as follows:-

Magazine	-	28
No.2 Emplct	-	12
No.2 Gun	-	24

H.O.P.	-	12
No.1 Emplct.	-	12
Engine Room	-	12

For complete details, see Appendix IX

Landwards Firing - Fire Control:

1. The general principles to be observed are laid down in C.A.T. Vol.III Pamphlet 9.
2. Firing on landing beaches will take priority over other landward targets.
3. Unobserved fire is forbidden, and will be resorted to only in cases of extreme urgency. Permission to do so must be obtained from R.H.Q., or C.C.A.
4. Requests for fire will whenever possible be referred to R.H.Q., or C.C.A. before fire is opened.
5. During daylight hours targets will be engaged at CASE I.
6. During darkness if C.A.S.Ls. are still in action targets Nos. 1 - 2 - 3 and 5 will be engaged at CASE I.
7. During fog, or if a smoke screen has been laid, or at night if C.A.S.Ls. and Ryder Flares have been put out of action, targets will be engaged at CASE III as per attached table of targets (See Para 3).
8. During darkness Chivenor Aerodrome cannot be illuminated by C.A.S.Ls. and provided Instructions in Para 3 are carried out fire can be opened at CASE III. Observations will be given by the Aerodrome Defence Headquarters by telephone or by Aldis Lamp. If smoke was being used by the enemy to blanket the Aerodrome, Defence Headquarters would not be in a position to give observations.
9. No.2 Gun will be used at CASE III as it can cover all targets, and only one Clinometer is available.
10. Index error of clinometer is not included in Q.Es. in Table of Targets.
11. The greatest care must be taken to conserve ammunition on Landward targets so the primary role of the Battery can be carried out later if necessary.
12. Drift corrections cannot be applied as bearings Arcs on Guns are graduated in degrees only.

Copy	No.	1	R.H.Q. 557 Coast Regiment. R.A.
Copy	No.	2	N.O.I.C
Copy	No.	3	Fort Record Book

Copy No. 4 Fighting Book
 Copy No. 5 B.O.F.
 Copy No. 6 No. 2 Gun Floor
 Copy No. 7&8 File

Table of Targets - Land - For Engagement at CASE III.

Ref: Map - 1:25000. Sheet 118.

Co-ords. of No.2. Gun (Battery Pivot)

Compiled from R.T. O.U.6090(B) for 4.7" Q.F. Mk.V. on P X Naval Mountings

Ammunition H.E. Fuze 44. Charge - Full. 4 C.R.H.

M.V. for which compiled - 2350 f.s.

N.B. Meteor correction will be applied before firing if data can be obtained from N.O.I.C.

Target	Description	Bearing	Range	Q.E.	Remarks
1	War Signal Stn 881539	294 deg.	2000x	1 deg 12'	Visible from B.O.P & Gun-floors during daylight
2	Grey Sands Heel 890537	305 deg.	1000x	18'	Do. do. do.
3	Airy Point 887551	333 deg.	2300x	1 deg 20'	Do. do. do.
4	Chivenor Aerodrome (Intersection of Runways 931567)	041 deg.	5300x	4 deg 32'	Do. do. do.
5.	Instow Beach 912539	065 deg.	1900x	56'	Do. do. do.

Q.Es. above corrected to allow for 10% decrease in "C".

See Landwards Fire Chart

Copy No. 1 R.H.Q. 557 Coast Regiment. R.A.
 Copy No. 2 N.O.I.C
 Copy No. 3 Fort Record Book
 Copy No. 4 Fighting Book
 Copy No. 5 B.O.F.
 Copy No. 6 No. 2 Gun Floor
 Copy No. 7&8 File

Table II

Ammunition Shrapnel Fuze 80 T. & P.

Target	Description	Bearing	Range	Q.E.	Fuze Setting
1	War Signal Stn 881539	294 deg.	2000x	1 deg 11'	4.2
2	Grey Sands Heel 890537	305 deg.	1000x	18'	1.5
3	Airy Point 887551	330 deg.	2300x	1 deg 19'	4.4
4	Chivenor Aerodrome (Intersection of Runways 931567)	041 deg.	5300x	4 deg 26'	11.7
5.	Instow Beach 912539	065 deg.	1900x	55'	3.5

Q.Es. above corrected to allow for 5% decrease in "C".
See Landwards Fire Chart

Fuze lengths are adjusted to give height of burst 10' above line of sight.

Alarms:

Nature	Action
Battery Alarm Bells	Official Day:- B.O.P. & Duty Gun Detachment Take Post Remainder man landward defence Official Night:- B.O.P. & Duty Gun Detachment & C.A.S.L. Detachments "Take Post" Remainder man Landward Defences
Trench Rattle	Respirators will be worn until "Gas Clear" is given.
"Spray" (Verbal) Operational Duties	Carry out personal decontamination Part I whilst proceeding with Passive Defence Part II will be carried out when ordered by senior N.C.O. or man present.
Siren	Man A.A. defences. Wear Steel Helmets.

Prepared by: E Messford[?] Lt R.A.

Checked by:

Date: 1 Nov 42.

75mm Q.F. ----- FRENCH PATTERN

Site.

Although the gun is mobile and can quickly be taken anywhere required its operational site has been chosen in that corner of the Sports Field nearest the Camp. A map showing the position will be found in Appendix XII.

Roles.

- 1) The firing role is Anti-Tank. The gun in its present position covers Torridge Road, the coast road between Appledore & Northam or Westward Ho at point blank range. Pebble Ridge at 2100x - 3000x range and Northam Burrows. It also covers possible landing beaches at Greysands Heel & The Skern.
- 2) The gun can fill an Anti-Personnel role & engage targets situated as above.
- 3) Small enemy craft inside the Bar can be engaged.

Manning.

The gun will be manned on the ringing of the Battery Alarm by No.2 Gun Reserve Detachment. Its fire will be controlled by the senior N.C.O. of No.2 Gun Reserve Detachment.

Ammunition.

H.E. with Fuzes 75mm long will be used against personnel & lightly armoured & unarmoured vehicles. Other vehicles will be engaged with S.A.P.

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SECTION "F" – CONTROL OF TRAFFIC:

The N.O.I.C., APPLIEDORE maintains a modified Examination Service.

There is no Examination anchorage. APPLIEDORE BATTERY is Examination Battery.

1. BY DAY the Examination Vessel operates in the neighbourhood of the BAR from about 3 hours before to 1 hour after high water.

War Vessels, if unidentified, are challenged by the Examination Vessel and answer by the ship to shore letter. Any such vessel which has passed the Examination Vessel may be considered friendly.

Merchant vessels are boarded outside the BAR if weather permits; otherwise inside. When the Examination Officer is satisfied, he gives the vessel the flag of the day and orders it to proceed.

If the vessel (whether war or merchant) is hostile or suspicious, the Examination Vessel hoists a large red flag. APPLIEDORE BATTERY will then bring to the vessel. If a Minor War Vessel (except those operating from APPLIEDORE which are well known) attempts to enter in

the absence of the Examination Vessel and if its arrival has not been reported by the N.O.I.C., APPLEDORE BATTERY will challenge by exposing a searchlight on the vessel. While getting the S/L into action, INT may be flashed by Aldis Lamp.

If a Merchant Vessel attempts to enter in the absence of the Examination Vessel, APPLEDORE BATTERY will bring-to the vessel.

Small fishing and pleasure craft may cruise inside BIDEFORD BAR without restriction between half-an-hour before sunrise and half-an-hour after sunset.

2. BY NIGHT. Minor War Vessels should not approach unless they have given prior warning. As they approach they identify themselves by flashing the ship to shore letter. The Examination Vessel is sent out as required by the N.O.I.C. to meet Merchant Vessels. When passed in they show the following signals:-

On ODD days of the month a red all-round light BELOW the steaming light.

On EVEN days of the month a red all-round light ABOVE the steaming light. If the Examination Officer finds the vessel suspicious or hostile he fires a green Verey's Light. APPLEDORE BATTERY will then open fire on the vessel.

Other Light Signals made by vessels in the Estuary are as follows:-

Minor War Vessels approaching or passing APPLEDORE BATTERY flash the ship to shore letter.

Base Motor-boats approaching or passing APPLEDORE BATTERY make six long flashes in groups of two. Battery will reply with one long flash.

Examination Vessel when under way shows three white all-round light and burns navigation lights.

Pilot Cutter returning to harbour will make three long flashes when inside the Pulleys. When observed this should be reported to the N.O.I.C. who will acknowledge the signal.

Vessels leaving the Estuary show a stern light until past the FAIRWAY BUOY, but no other light.

Previous warning of movements inside the BAR during dark hours by ships proceeding from one berth to another, sand barges, fishing boats, etc., is always given to Batteries by N.O.I.C. These vessels show no lights or signals. Similarly no lights or signals are shown by vessels moving in either the TAW or TORRIDGE.

Any Vessel moving in the ESTUARY not identifying herself as above will be considered hostile and fired on by the BATTERY.

3. IN BAD VISIBILITY the N.O.I.C. will inform the BATTERY if DAY or NIGHT procedure is being followed.

MINELAYING.

Lookouts will report time, bearing & range of mines laid. This information will be relayed IMMEDIATELY to N.O.I.C. & R.H.Q.

WHITE SMOKE.

Report to R.H.Q.

1. Shape of smoke cloud
2. Whether smoke follows trail across sky or is just in patches.
3. Whether smoke hangs or vanishes quickly.
4. Approximate height, speed and direction of aircraft.
5. Actual time of emission & length of emission.

DESCENT OF AIRCRAFT (Enemy or Friendly)

Report to R.H.Q.

- A. Nature & nationality
- B. Damage sustained.
- C. Casualties.
- D. Prisoners.
- E. Action taken to safeguard aircraft & stores.

Prepared by: [signed] ~?~ Lt. R.A.

Checked by: [blank]

Date: 1 Nov 1942

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SECTION "G" - DETAILS OF EQUIPMENT.

1. Range Finders.

9ft Barr & Stroud, Mark F.Q.2., 2062.74 medium base.

Admiralty No. 1246 Mark 1.

Height above m.s.l. 114.96ft.

Displacement from guns - No.1, 203.3 yds; No.2 210.2 yds.

Bearing from guns - No.1, 170 18'30"; No.2 158 35'55".

Limits of bearing arc - 270 through N to 060.

Limit of range, - 40,000 yds.

Data is passed to B.O.P. via voice tube.

2. Fire Control Instruments.

Telephones.

Signal Indicators.

Coventry Range Clock.

Dumaresq.

3. Guns & Mountings.

No.1. - No.1223. Built at Kure navy yard. Q.F. 4.7" Mark V.

45 calibres, 212". Rifled on Polygroved system.
 M.V. = 2350 f.s. with 50lb. projectile, 4 C.R.H.
 No. of rounds fired = 58 full charge.
 M.V. remains constant for first 180 rounds.

No.2. - No.1415. Built at [crossed out: "Mayma"; inserted: "Mairura"] navy yard. Q.F. 4.7" Mark V.

45 calibres, 212". Rifled on Polygroved system.
 M.V. = 2350 f.s. with 50lb. projectile, 4 C.R.H.
 No. of rounds fired = 53 full charge.
 M.V. remains constant for first 180 rounds.

4.	Small Arms	War Establishment	Actually Held
	Detail		
	Pistols .38"	4	2
	Rifles .300"	107	72
	L.M.Gs. .303" - Bren Guns	2	2
	Thompson Sub Machine Gun .45"		3
	Spigot Mortar		2
	Signal Pistols		3
	Solothurn 7.92mm		2

5. Gun Ammunition

H.E. (Fuze 44)		100
S.A.P. (Fuze 12)		105
Shrapnel (Fuze 80)		29
"Bring To" (Shrapnel "drowned")		6
Practice (Mark VIII A)		
Fuzes 44		100
Fuzes 12		105
Fuzes 80 (T & P)		35
Cartridges (Primer 26) Lot RNC 2338 July 1940 (Weight: 8lbs 10oz 6dr)		122
Cartridges (Primer 26) Lot RNC 2450 Aug. 1940 (Weight: 8lbs 10oz 6dr)		48
Cartridges (Primer 26) Lot RNC 2338 Aug. 1941 (Weight: 8lbs 10oz 6dr)		3
Cartridges (Adaptor Mark 1 with percussion tube) Lot RNC 2338 Jan. 1941 (Weight: 8lbs 10oz 6dr)		5

6. A.F.G. 854 for Gun Ammunition on Charge.

Held by Master Gunner at H.Q., 557th Coast Regt., R.S.

7. Details of S.A.A. and pyrotechnics.

Detail	War Establishment	Actually held
.38 Pistol	72	Nil

.300	Rifle	5350	10398
.303	LMG Mk VII	16000	13806
.22	Practice .303 Tracer	---	984
	Ryder Flares		57
	4 sec Grenades (36 Mills)		300
	7 sec ditto ditto		Nil
	S.I.P. Grenades		71
	74 ST (Sticky) bomb		31
	Spigot Mortar, 29mm		2
	.45 T.S.M.G.		1200
	S/M 20lb A/T		60
	S/M Fuzes		60

8. No.1 Emplacement.

Projector - 90 c.m. Mark V.
Lamp - S/L H.C.D.90 c.m. Mark III
Control - Remote by the introduction of a plug and socket combined with a brush gear unit Mark V+ Switch 1 Inching Switch (Elevation and Depression). Expose device switch.
Emplacement - Concrete [crossed out: "brick"] walls with double wooden doors and wooden shutters; concrete roof.

No.2 Emplacement.

Projector - 90 c.m. Mark V.
Lamp - S/L H.C.D.90 c.m. Mark III
Control - Same as for No. 1 Emplacement.
Emplacement - Brick walls with reinforced concrete roof, wooden doors and shutters. The reinforced concrete roof is covered with corrugated zinc to resemble a seaside hut.

Reserve S/L. (In Bty Position)

Projector - A.A. 90 c.m. Mark VI on Tractor Unit.
Lamp - Mark V
Control - Manual.

Engines.

Type - Two Lister Generating Sets 22 k.w.
Lubrication System - Automatic supplied by gear pump.
Fuel System - By the Bosch Pump.
Cooling System - By water control through suction pump.

Engine Room.

Two Engines houses in brick building with concrete roof fitted with windows and doors of wood.

Engines on concrete beds with special extension pipes fitted for draining oil and water.

Reserve Engine House & Fuel Store.

At rear of No.1 Gun emplacement.

Ordnance Q.F. 75mm - French Pattern.

Regd. No. 17412

Maker: A.B.S. of U.S.A.

Date: 1917.

AMMUNITION.

Shell Q.F. 75mm S.A.P. ----- 105

Shell Q.F. 75mm H.E. ----- 490

Fuzes Long 75mm ----- 600

(100 with I.O.O. for repair)

Prepared by: [signed] J Stocker 2/Lt

Checked by: [signed] ~?~, Capt

Date: 1 May 1942

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PART II

SECTION "A" - DESCRIPTION OF THE FORT

HISTORY OF THE FORT AND CONSTRUCTIONAL DETAILS.

The Battery was sited in July 1940 by Colonel Oliver, C.F.D., Plymouth.

a) Gun Houses.

The Guns were first mounted on concrete bases and subsequently, re-inforced concrete gun houses were constructed around the guns, including a re-inforced concrete overhead cover. As part of the camouflage scheme the gun houses were built to resemble cottages and to assist in this direction a room was built on the top of each gun house. These rooms are now used as stores. The work in the first place was carried out by the Devon County Council, acting on instructions from D.C.R.E., BARNSTAPLE.

b) Battery Office & War Shelter.

The Committee Room of the Appledore Lifeboat Institution was taken over as a War Shelter with the Battery Office on the top floor.

c) Searchlight Emplacements.

No.1 Emplacement is a re-inforced concrete building with wooden shutters and doors, and was erected by D.C.R.E., Barnstaple, on the site of a derelict cottage off Irsha Street.

No.2 Emplacement is a brick building with concrete roof, wooden shutters and doors, and has overhead camouflage to represent a seaside hut. It is built in the old "Armada Fort" position the ground belonging to H.M. Customs and Excise.

d) B.O.P.

The B.O.P. was sited by Colonel Oliver on a sloping field 200 yards to the rear of the Battery position. It is constructed of brick with re-inforced concrete roof. Over it is the range finder shelter with brick side walls and splinter proof overhead cover of 6" concrete resting on corrugated iron.

This constructional work was carried out by the Devon County Council.

The rear of the B.O.P. is a War Shelter with accommodation for six men.

[crossed out: "This was erected by Battery personnel"]

e) Engine Room.

The engine Room is situated to the rear of the Camp, in the B.O.P. field. It is brick built with re-inforced concrete roof, constructed by the Devon County Council. The two Lister 22 kw. Generating Engines were installed by Captain Stone, R.E., Plymouth.

f) Magazine.

The magazine is in the Camp position, partially underground, and is constructed of brick with re-inforced roof and iron doors. Built by Devon County Council.

g) Camp.

Originally personnel were accommodated in private billets. Subsequently Devon County Council constructed ten Nissen Huts, one of which was used as a Cookhouse, being provided with cooking range, sink and boiler. Another hut was used as a dining hall and one was fitted with the necessary appliances to enable it to be used by N.A.A.F.I. The remaining seven huts were used for living accommodation. Devon County Council later built another Nissen Hut which was converted into an Ablution Hut with boiler, hand basins, showers and lavatories. Two further Nissen Huts were erected early in 1942 by Battery personnel from material supplied by D.C.R.E., Barnstaple.

h) Spare Engine Room.

In March 1942 the Spare Engine Room and Fuel Store, referred to in Section G (8) was built by D.C.R.E. and a Section O.P. was constructed in the Battery position.

The camouflage scheme for the gun positions was prepared by Sound City, Limited.

Prepared by: [signed] J Stocker 2/Lt

Checked by: [signed] ~?~, Capt

Date: 1 May 1942

SECTION "A" - HISTORY OF THE FORT AND CONSTRUCTIONAL DETAILS (Contd.)
364 Coast Battery R.A.

i) The Engine Room was enlarged in August & September of 1942 to provide sleeping accommodation for the manning detail.

j) In September & October of 1942 the sleeping accommodation for B.O.P. detail that had been built by 379 Coast Battery personnel was replaced by a brick built & concrete roofed building erected by the Garrison Engineer's contractors.

[THE FOLLOWING HANDWRITTEN, NOT TYPED - ADDED LATER]:

DISMANTLING:

The Guns were dismantled and taken by road, to Western Kings, Plymouth, during February 1945. A straightforward scheme. No difficulties were encountered. Guns were dismantled onto temporary Sleighs and conveyed into Iasha [sic - Irsha] Street and loaded onto 10 ton lorries. The whole operation was completed in 6 days. Working party - 1 officer, 1 W.O. and 10 aks.

[signed] ~?~, Captain (I.G.)

Prepared by: [signed] E Messford Lt R.A.

Checked by: [blank]

Date: 1 Nov 1942

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PART IIB - ADMINISTRATION

1. WAR ACCOMMODATION.

The Battery Office and War Shelter are accommodated in the old Lifeboat House with Committee Room above. Then men are accommodated in Nissen Huts in a camp 75 yards to the south of the Battery position, with a B.O.P. in the field immediately to the rear of the Camp. Officers [~~crossed out: "are billeted privately in the village"; inserted: "mess is at 19 Irsha Street].~~

2. SUPPLIES.

Supplies are drawn on week-days (except Wednesday and Friday - "motorless days") from R.A.S.C., Depot, Barnstaple and N.A.A.F.I., Barnstaple.

3. WATER SUPPLIES.

Water supply for the Camp is taken from the mains of Northam U.D.C.

4. MEDICAL AND SANITARY ARRANGEMENTS.

Doctor Youngman of Northam is the C.M.P. for the Battery and there is a daily sick parade.

5. PASSIVE AIR DEFENCE.

For details see Appendix X

6. TRANSPORT

The Battery has on charge:-

1 Fordson 15 cwt Truck

1 Austin 10 Utility Van

1 Ariel Motor Cycle

Transport may be requisitioned from R.A.S.C., Transport Officer, Barnstaple via Regimental Headquarters.

The 379 Coast Battery R.A. under the command of Capt S.F. Kneller R.A. was replaced on September 4th, 1942 by 364 Coast Battery R.A. under the command of Capt C.M. Pollock R.A.

557 Coast Regiment R.A. took over administration of the site from 558 Coast Regiment R.A. on 15th October 1942. The new Regimental Commander is Lt. Col. C.R. Paul R.A.

Prepared by: [signed] J Stocker 2/Lt

Checked by: [signed] ~?~ Capt

Date: 1 May 1942

[THE FOLLOWING NOTES ARE HANDWRITTEN, ADDED AT A LATER DATE]:

On 10th November 1941 Major J.F. Donald D.C.M. R.A. relieved Capt C.M. Pollock R.A. and took over command of the Battery.

Major C.J. Cocks T.D.R.A. took over command of 557 Coast Regiment R.A. from Lt Col C.R. Paul R.A. on 1st June 1943.

556 Coast Regiment R.A. commanded by Lt F.A.L. Cooper took over 364 Coast Battery R.A. for all purposes on 1st April 1944.

Prepared by: [signed] E Messford Lt R.A.

Checked by: ~?~

Date: 1 Nov 1942

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APPENDIX X

379th COAST BATTERY, R.A.

P.A.D. STANDING ORDERS

[STAMPED]: SECRET

INFORMATION

1.

a) Nominal Strength of Battery:- 3 Officers. 108 Other Ranks.

b) The Battery is divided into 3 Watches:-

- i) Duty Watch
- ii) Reserve Watch
- iii) Rest Watch

c) The Battery is accommodated in Nissen Huts except the Duty Watch which is in the old Lifeboat House.

d) As any action seawards or active air defence must take precedence over P.A.D., a rigid scheme cannot be laid down, but the following P.A.D. Scheme will be adhered to as far as is possible,

INTENTION

2. To provide an efficient P.A.D. Scheme to meet all known eventualities.

METHOD

3.

a) P.A.D. Personnel will consist of :-

- i) Fire Picquet 4 (1 N.C.O. & 3 men)
- ii) First Aid Party 2
- iii) Gas Cleansing Centre 5 (1 N.C.O. & 4 men)
- iv) Cooks 1
- v) Stretcher Bearers 2
- vi) Rescue Party 2
- vii) M.T. Drivers 1
- viii) Decontamination Party 4-6

b) i) Fire Piquet will be detailed daily in Battery Orders from the Reserve Watch.

ii) Parties ((a)ii-vii incl.) will be detailed permanently from C.A.S.Ls. and Battery Employed Men.

iii) Decontamination Party will be detailed when required by N.C.O. i/c P.A.D. All men will be instructed in decontamination, and as this work will not be carried out until the "RAIDERS PASSED" is sounded, a decontamination Party will not be detailed until required.

4. ACTION TO BE TAKEN ON RECEIPT OF AIR RAID WARNING.

i) By Day

a) The Fire Picquet will double to the P.A.D. Stores. The N.C.O.i/c will detail his men to act as fire watchers and gas reconnaissance party. They will wear steel helmets, eye shields, and respirators at the alert.

b) All other Battery personnel, if in the open, will put on steep helmets, eye shields, and respirators at the alert and go on with their work.

ii) By Night

a) The Fire Picquet will double to the P.A.D. stores and the N.C.O.i/c will detail his men to act as fire watchers and gas reconnaissance party. They will wear steel helmets, eye shields, and respirators at the alert.

b) All other P.A.D. personnel will dress and remain in their huts.

c) All other personnel of the Battery will remain under cover, unless detailed for duty by the Duty Officer.

5. ACTION TO BE TAKEN IF BOMBS ARE DROPPED OR DANGER OF DEFINITE AIR ATTACK IS IMMINENT.

i) By Day

a) First Aid Party will double to F.A.P.

b) Stretcher Bearers will double to F.A.P.

c) Gas Cleansing Party will double to P.A.D. Stores, and draw A/G Clothing as laid down in Battery Orders for Gas Cleansing Party, and double to the Gas Cleansing Centre.

d) Rescue Party will double to the P.A.D. Stores.

e) M.T. Driver (if in camp) will double to P.A.D. Stores.

ii) By Night

a) First Aid Party will double to F.A.P.

b) Stretcher Bearers will double to F.A.P.

c) Gas Cleansing Party will double to P.A.D. Stores, draw A/G Clothing and double to Gas Cleansing Centre.

d) Cook will double to Cookhouse.

e) Rescue Party will double to the P.A.D. Stores.

f) M.T. Driver will double to P.A.D. Stores.

g) All other Battery personnel will dress and stay in their huts, unless detailed for duty by the Duty Officer.

6. ACTION TO BE TAKEN DURING AN AIR RAID.

a) Fire Picquet will act as Fire Watchers and during their tour of reconnaissance will frequently inspect Detectors Gas Spray for any signs of discolouration. If any detector is found to be discoloured it will at once be reported to the Duty Officer or P.A.D. Officer.

b) In the event of fire, any spare men not detailed for duty, will parade outside the P.A.D. Stores under the senior N.C.O. present to render additional assistance if necessary.

c) Stretcher Bearers will remove casualties to the F.A.P. Serious cases, after first aid treatment, will be removed to Reception Station, Raleigh House, Bideford as soon as possible.

7. ACTION TO BE TAKEN IF BLISTER GAS IS USED.

(Telephone No. Northam 374)

Northam Trailer Appliance (always manned)
(Telephone No. Northam 356)

Bideford Fire Station, Captain Morris (always manned)
(Telephone No. Bideford 569)

c) First Aid Post Situated top of Bude Street, Appledore (manned on alert)
(Telephone No. Northam 21, Mr Payne)

District Nurse - Telephone No. Northam 306.

d) Police P.C. Harris - Telephone No. Northam 200.

If required Battery P.A.D. personnel will go to the assistance of the civilian population as far as the exigencies of the service allow.

APPLEDORE, N.Devon
10th July 1941.

[signed] ~?~, Captain, R.A.
COMMANDING 379th COAST BATTERY R.A.

DISTRIBUTION

1 Copy - Battery Office.

1 Copy - Guard Room.

1 Copy - Watch Shelter.

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497/C/42 (COPY)
No.3 Platoon, "A" Co[mpan]y.
7/6/42.

O.C. "A" Co[mpan]y.

Following the C.O.'s visit today (June 6th 1942) my understanding of the Defence Scheme at Appledore is as follows:-

Outer Perimeter - Old Gas Works Post at Staddon to be manned.
Manse
Chanters' Folly

Inner Perimeter - Old Lime Kiln Post at Staddon to be manned.
Holt Lodge
Myrtle Street Road Block

Keeps - The Holt.
Battery Position.

On "Action Stations" outer defence line to be manned and road blocks to be laid down and manned. Quay Pill-Box to be manned. Staddon Hill to be manned.

Under special circumstances in real emergency, Gas Works' personnel to fall back to Old Lime Kiln, Manse to Holt Lodge, Chanters to Myrtle Street. Finally personnel of Gas Works would withdraw to Battery Keep, Manse and Chanters to Holt Keep.

Later, it was agreed between the C.O. and O.C. Battery that personnel of road blocks from Quay direction would withdraw if necessary to outer perimeter of Battery at Royal George, Irsha Street. Staddon Hill personnel to withdraw to Holt Keep. Sketch plan herewith which kindly return.

(Sg) A.C. Saunders, Lieut.
O.C. No.3 Platoon.

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[Stamped]: SECRET

[Handwritten]: Fortress Record Book Copy

APPENDIX IX
379th COAST BATTERY R.A.

STANDING ORDERS LOCAL DEFENCE SCHEME

INFORMATION

The sources regarding enemy attempting to land on the coast or by parachute are detailed below:-

- 1) The R.N.O. (Naval Vessels, Coast Guard, Auxiliary Patrol Boats, River Patrol Boats.)
- 2) Group H.Q.
- 3) Infantry H.Q., Westward Ho.
- 4) Home Guard.
- 5) Local Police.

On receipt of the message "STAND TO" or "ACTION STATIONS" the steps detailed below will be taken, but the authenticity of the information in all cases should be checked as

thoroughly as possible; for such purpose, the anti-invasion challenge and reply system should be used, or if information comes from civilian sources it should be checked by asking the name and 'phone number of the person giving the message, and then after replacing the 'phone, calling up that number and checking.

The GENERAL ALARM "ACTION STATIONS" will be given by sounding 3 long rings on the Battery Alarm.

INTENTION.

- a) To make the immediate vicinity of this Battery a defended locality.
- b) To attack hostile troops attempting to penetrate the land at and along the estuary.

PLAN.

Rifle and Machine Gun Posts will be established to deal with an attack and to cover all approaches to the Battery Position and Camp. Knife Rests, Concertina wiring and one asparagus bed "Anti Tank Defence" will be used.

METHOD.

1) A strongly defended sandbag emplacement outside the Watch Shelter will provide posts for 12 rifles, and will command approaches from the EAST, SOUTH and WEST. This post would be manned by the Duty Gun Sections provided there was no action seawards. Also by 12 men from Rest Watch if Rest Watch have been confined to camp. This will be called the "WATCH SHELTER POST".

2) One A.A.L.M.G. will be kept mounted in the gun position; this will be kept loaded during the hours of daylight and only during the hours of darkness upon receipt of "STAND TO", "ACTION STATIONS" or "AIR RAID ALERT". Extra magazines and bag of spare parts will be kept in the recess of No.2 Gun. The role of this post is to provide:-

- a) A.A. Defence.
- b) Where necessary, to increase the fire power of the rifle posts in repelling hostile landing and movement on the estuary.

This post will be called "THE BATTERY POST".

3) Another A.A.L.M.G. will be kept mounted in a prepared emplacement in Camp in front of the Guard Room, to the west of the magazine. This gun will not normally be kept loaded but full magazines and bag of spare parts will be kept in the Guard Room. This post will be manned on receipt of the messages "STAND TO", "ACTION STATIONS" or "AIR RAID ALERT". This post will be called "THE GUARD ROOM POST".

4) A firing post consisting of 4 rifles will be established in a post to the west of the War Shelter on the side of No.2 Searchlight emplacement. These rifles will cover seaward approaches, the lifeboat jetty and the shore westwards. This post will be called "THE CUSTOMS POST".

5) A similar post at the head of the Slipway outside the ROYAL GEORGE HOTEL will be responsible for covering the shore within view from this Post, as well as the Slipway and the Road immediately EAST.

In addition it will serve to protect No.1 Searchlight emplacement.

This post will be called "THE GEORGE POST".

6) A similar post in the corner of the Camp at the side of LOVER'S LANE will cover the road from WATERTOWN and approaches either side within view, as well as the hillside.

This post will be called "THE CORNER POST".

7) A similar post at the extreme east boundary of the Camp will cover the approach from APPLIEDORE VILLAGE, along NEW ROAD.

This post will be called "THE GARDEN POST".

8) A similar post adjacent to the Magazine covering the slope of the field towards the south.

This post will be called "THE MAGAZINE POST".

9) A similar post to the west of the ENGINE ROOM covering the slope of the hill towards the south, and approaches from APPLIEDORE over the fields.

This post will be called "THE ENGINE ROOM POST".

10) The B.O.P. will be manned with 6 rifles, and by means of the 4 loopholes and windows will cover the fields on either side. As circumstances demand extra rifles can be used from the Range-Finding Emplacement above the B.O.P.

During "ACTION STATIONS" a lookout will be posted in Rangefinder Emplacement. [date: 1/8/41]

11) Sockets in the Slipway have been formed and iron rails are available to form an Asparagus bed "anti-tank obstruction" in order to prevent A.F.Vs from approaching the Battery Position.

12) Portable Knife rest will be available to place across the Slipway in front of the CUSTOMS HOUSE to hinder the approach to the Battery up the Slipway from the shore.

13) Portable knife rest is available to be placed on the main NORTHAM ROAD 50 yards west of the "CORNER POST".

14) Coils of concertina wire will be available in the roadway in the rear of No.1 Gun House in order to be placed across the narrow portion of the roadway thus preventing approach up IRSHA STREET from east.

15) Coils of concertina wire will be available by the roadside to be placed across the roadway 50 yards east of "GARDEN POST" in order to prevent approach from the east along NEW ROAD.

16) [Added 1/8/41]: Coils of concertina wire will be available George Post to use as road block at the corner 50 yards east of the George Post.

17) [Added 1/8/41]: Coils of concertina wire will be available to block Lovers Lane, top and bottom.

ADMINISTRATION.

The various posts will be manned as occasions demand, but the following details will be followed closely as circumstances allow:-

WITH NO SEAWARD ACTION ANTICIPATED.

WATCH SHELTER POST	Duty Watch (Gun)	(12)
WATCH SHELTER POST	Rest Watch	(12)
BATTERY A.A.L.M.G.	Duty Watch (Gun)	(2)
CUSTOMS POST.	Duty Watch D.E.L.	(4)
GEORGE POST.	Duty Watch D.E.L.	(4)
CORNER POST.	Reserve Gun Section	(4)
GUARD ROOM POST (A.A.L.M.G.)	Guard	(2)
B.O.P.	Duty B.O.P. Section	(6)
EXTRA B.O.P. LOOKOUTS. or RUNNERS TO H.G. FIELD POST	Reserve B.O.P. Section	(2)
GARDEN POST.	Reserve B.O.P.	(4)
ENGINE ROOM POST.	D.E.L. Engine Men	(4)
MAGAZINE POST.	Off Duty Section	(4)
GUARD ROOM.	Reserve Gun Section	(4)
DOUBLE GUARD.	Off Duty Section	(4)

The remaining personnel (except Cooks) will parade at the GUARD Room, and will be detailed for reliefs, and other duties by the B.S.M.

A patrol will be found from this surplus personnel, and this will be under the control of the Orderly Sergeant, and will be used for visiting the various posts.

The above scheme will operate when prior warning has been received and all members of the Battery are available. If, however, certain personnel are out of Camp, the posts will be cut down in the following order:-

ENGINE ROOM POST.
MAGAZINE POST.
GEORGE POST.

SEAWARD ACTION ANTICIPATED.

If there are strong likelihoods of the Battery being used against a seaward attack, the personnel who are surplus to gun and B.O.P. Sections, and have not been detailed for other duties, will parade at the GUARD ROOM, and will be used as directed by the B.S.M.

STATE OF READINESS.

Upon "ACTION STATIONS" the Posts will remain fully manned at night and reliefs arranged for meals, etc., such reliefs will be provided from the surplus personnel. During daytimes, posts may be manned by half the stated number during relief for meals.

Upon receipt official "STAND TO" the guard will be doubled and personnel will be held in readiness to man the posts immediately.

AMMUNITION.

Upon official "STAND TO" each man with rifle will be issued with a bandolier of 50 rounds. A.A.L.M.Gs will be kept loaded, with spare magazines close at hand.

[THE FOLLOWING AMMUNITION INFORMATION ADDED 29/4/42, IN LIEU OF PREVIOUS DISTRIBUTION FIGURES]:

Upon "ACTION STATIONS" Hand Grenades (36 Mills) will be distributed as follows:-

Battery Position	24
No.2 Emplacement	12
B.O.P.	12
No.1 Emplacement	6
George Post	6
Engine Room	6
Engine Room Post	6
Corner Post	6
Magazine Post	6
Guard Room Post	6
Garden Post	6

S.I.P Bombs will be distributed as follows:-

Corner Post	6
Garden Post	6
George Post	6
Customs Post	6
Battery Position (as reserve)	24

74 (Sticky) Bombs, 15 are kept in the magazine and on information being received of the use of A.F.Vs one case of five will be issued to each of the road blocks at N.O.i/c., Garden Post and George Post.

DRESS.

Upon receipt of official "STAND TO" all ranks will carry respirators at the alert, wear steel helmets, rolled Anti-Gas Capes and skeleton equipment.

[Initialled and dated 1/8/41]

COMMUNICATIONS.

Contact must be maintained with:-

- a) The local Infantry
- b) The Home Guard
- c) Group H.Q.
- d) R.N.O.

a) Subject to other arrangements the only means of communication with the local Infantry H.Q. are by G.P.O. telephone or D.R., although phonograph messages may be sent over private wires via R.N.O. and North Devon Sub-Area.

b) Communication with the Home Guard may be made over G.P.O. telephone, to the Home Guard, but it is desirable that personal contact should be made with the nearest manned post, and for this purpose on receipt of "ACTION STATIONS" and provided there are no definite signs of "SEAWARD ACTION", 2 O.Rs will be despatched to act as runners for bringing back information, to the following Home Guard Posts:-

- i) The Gas Works Post.
- ii) Field Post at top of LOVERS LANE.
- iii) Machine Gun Post east end of NEW ROAD.

c) Communication with Group H.Q. may be by private lines, B.O.P., via Instow, or private lines R.N.O., via Instow, or G.P.O. line direct, or by D.R.

d) There are private lines from B.O.P. and from Battery Office as well as G.P.O. lines, but in any event the R.N.O.'s Office is only 100 yards distance from Battery Office.

[signed]: S. H???, Captain, R.A.
Commanding 379th Coast Battery R.A.
March 1941

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379th COAST BATTERY R.A.
POSITIONS ON "ACTION STATIONS"

Guns - Operational	16	10 Duty Watch 6 Reserve Watch
Bty Position Defence (Including A.A. Gun)	6	6 Home Guard Duty Watch
George Post	6	2 Duty C.A.S.L. 4 Home Guard Reserve Watch
Customs Post (Including 75mm Gun)	6	2 Duty C.A.S.L. 4 Home Guard Reserve Watch
Emergency O.P. Battery Clerk B.C.A. Telephonist Med. Orderly & Runner	4	1 Battery Employed Staff 1 Reserve Watch 1 Reserve Watch Employed Staff (Batman)
Emergency Cookhouse	2	Employed Staff (Cooks)
Stores - No.1	2	1 Employed Staff (District Gunner) 1 Employed Staff (Storeman)
B.O.P. – Operational	6	6 Duty Watch
B.O.P. - Defence	6	4 Reserve Watch 2 Reserve C.A.S.L.
Corner Post (Including 75mm Gun)	6	6 Rest Watch
Guard Post (Including A.A. Gun)	4	Reserve Watch
Magazine Post & Spigot Mortar	4	Rest Watch
Engine Room & Engine Room Post	6	2 Duty C.A.S.L. 4 Reserve Watch C.A.S.L.
Garden Post & Spigot Mortar	6	Home Guard Reserve Watch
Cookhouse (Camp)	2	Employed Staff (Cook and Dining Room Orderly)
Ablution Hut	2	Employed Staff (Sanitary Orderly and Medical Orderly)

Reserves for Patrols	8	4 Rest Watch (Home Guard) 4 Home Guard Rest Watch
Allow for leave and courses	8	6 Rest Watch 2 Home Guard Rest Watch
TOTAL	100	
B.S.M.	1	
Detached	1	
TOTAL	102	

PLEASE NOTE:- By day Guard would man Customs Post 75mm Gun while Home Guard Duty Watch would supply personnel for Guard Post in Camp. At night the positions would be reversed.

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To:- O.C. "A" Co[mpany]

Temporary Defence Scheme - Appledore

As a temporary measure pending further developments, arrangements have been made with Os. C. Coast Battery and "D" Co[mpany] to man the following Action Stations in Appledore in case of Alarm:-

Old Gas Works	8 O.R.'s with 2 L.M.G.'s
Kingsley House, Irsha St.,	3 O.R.'s with 1 L.M.G.
George Hotl, Irsha St.,	6 O.R.'s with Stens and Bombs
75mm Gun (Battery huts)	3 O.R.'s
Lovers' Lane	4 O.R.'s with Spigot Mortar (of Battery)
Staddon Hill	8 O.R.'s with 2 L.M.G.'s
Look Out Cottage	6 O.R.'s with 1 Spigot Mortar (of "D" Coy to be issued)
Appledore Quay Pillbox	3 O.R.'s with 1 L.M.G.
	41 O.R.'s with 6 L.M.G.'s 2 Spigot (1 H.G. and 1 R.A.)

2. The above arrangement will relieve "A" Co[mpany] for responsibility for some of Appledore's "Outer Defences".

3. Meanwhile, pending enrolment of more recruits, it is suggested that you should consider the area between Windmill Lane, Northam, and the South Edge of Appledore as a very probable field of operations for "A" Co[mpan]y Mobile Reserve.

[signed]: E.C. Hilder, Capt, for Lt. Col. Cmdg, 5th B[attalio]n. (Bideford) H.G.

10.9.42

Drill Hall,

Bideford

10.9.42

Copies to:-

O.C. "D" Co[mpan]y

O.C. 364 Battery R.A.

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