

55 (Kent) HAA Regt

(WO 166/2345)

April 1941

Commanding Officer: R.G. Davy Lt. Col. R.A.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Strood	4 th & 5 th		Slight enemy activity after nightfall.	
	8 th & 9 th		Slight enemy activity after nightfall.	
	11 th	0130 to 0330	S.6 and S24 engaged enemy a/c by unseen target methods. Enemy activity greater than for some considerable time.	
Strood	19 th & 20 th	2100 to 0300	A heavy raid on the Chatham area. Flares, Incendiaries and H.E. bombs dropped. Chatham Barrage fired for the first time. Record number of rounds expended.	
			During the month daylight alerts were frequent but enemy planes were not seen.	

May 1941

Commanding Officer: R.G. Davy Lt. Col. R.A.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Strood	4-5		Slight enemy activity during the hours of darkness. Predicted concentration were cancelled to enable friendly fighters to close in on the target.	
	5	0732	M.E. 110 seen for five seconds by S.9 before it disappeared into a cloud-bank. During the day one gun was removed from S.8 to Woolwich for conversion to mobile.	
	6		One gun taken from S.10 for conversion to mobile.	
	7		A second gun from S.8 was removed to Woolwich.	
	8	0930	S.2 and S.21 were in action against M.E. 109s which were out of range for S.8 & S.10. A second gun from S.10 was removed to Woolwich.	
	9	01.22 to 03.40	Some enemy activity. Hostile planes engaged by G.L / E.F. methods & by predicted concentrations.	
Sheppey		0930	DO 215 seen pursued by friendly fighters.	

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			One gun returned from Woolwich to S.8 & was prepared for action.	
Strood	10 & 11	23.00 to 04.30	Considerable enemy activity. Targets were engaged by G.L. / E.F & by predicted concentrations. Bombs were dropped in the vicinity of S.8. Several sites reported having seen a total of three enemy planes crashing in flames. One gun returned to S.10 from Woolwich.	
Strood	13	0330	Slight enemy activity. S6, 7 & 24 were in action.	
	16		Second gun returned to S.8 from Woolwich and was prepared for action. A second gun also returned to S.10.	
Strood	17	1630	Six new officers from 124 O.C.T.U. Reported to R.H.Q. and were attached to Batteries. Posted to 55 th Regt w.e.f. 10/5/41.	
Sheppey		1145	Divisional & Brigade Commanders visited S.21.	
Strood	19		A third gun left S.8 for Woolwich.	
Sheppey	20		Night alarms. S.21 reported mine laying in the estuary.	
Strood	27		Several bombs were dropped in the vicinity of S.8.	
Sheppey	28		Personnel of S.1 and S.21 changed over. Some gun fire during hours of darkness.	
Strood	29	0115	S.21 engaged hostile a/c by G.L. / E.F. method. G.L. reported observation of bursts on the G.L. screen very close to plane, which suddenly lost over 1000 ft in height & was lost by G.L. whilst still at close range of about 6000 to 6500 yds. Plane believed shot down into the sea. Destruction claimed by S.21.	
Strood	30	1318	Ju. 88 engaged by S10 & S21 by unseen methods. S9 engaged the same target by seen methods at height control.	

June 1941

Commanding Officer: R.G. Davy Lt. Col. R.A.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Strood	5 th	00.05 to 02.18	Slight enemy activity in Chatham Area. D.A. bombs dropped. Little gun fire owing to presence of friendly fighters.	
		02.41	S.9. had a Gas Scare. After the passage of an enemy plane over the site, Gas Detectors were found to be coloured with Red spots. Personnel went through the process of	

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			decontaminating themselves. Detectors were forwarded for examination, but no satisfactory explanation of their state could be given.	
	6 th	10.59	Lone hostile plane engaged by S.6.,7.,10., and 24. Unseen Target methods employed owing to the presence of low cloud.	
	11 th		307 H.A.A. Battery entrained 12.20 hrs. for Practice Camp at Weybourne. 387/121st. H.A.A. Regt.. and 264/58th. H.A.A. Regt. took over S.6. and S.24. respectively.	
	12 th	01.45 to 04.42	Slight enemy activity. Friendly fighters restricted firing, but S.6., 7., and 9., were all in action during the night.	
	14 th	00.50 to 04.03	Heavier enemy activity than for some time. Chatham appeared to be a principal enemy objective as was later borne out by the German Communique. Predicted Concentrations were fired and even for a time Chatham Barrage. One enemy plane exploded in mid-air.	
	16 th		308 H.A.A. Battery became an independent unit and left for Mobilisation Centre, Leeds.	
	23 rd	01.26 to 02.23	Slight enemy activity. Some bombs dropped.	
	24 th	00.30 to 03.30	Slight enemy activity. Some bombs dropped. Some gun fire. Searchlights illuminated a target but failed to hold it for long. 307 H.A.A. Battery returned from Weybourne Practice Camp.	
	25 th		S.8 was "attacked" in a Ground Defence exercise by personnel of S.9.	
	27 th	00.45 to 02.28	Slight enemy activity. Bombs were dropped in the neighbourhood and a small fire was seen in the North. This was soon under control. Searchlights illuminated a target for a short time. S.7., 9., and 24. were in action.	

July 1941

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Strood	3		163 B.H.Q. moved from Wellstone, [?] Shorne to Drill Hall Sittingbourne.	
			Troop of 163 Bty. vacated S.8 & took over S.21. Troop of 285 / 90 th Hy. A.A. Regt. took over S.8.	
Sheppey	6	0109	S.21 went into action firing 8 rounds. Result of firing unknown.	

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Strood		1000	28 th A.A. Bde. Exercise "Dummy Dummy Dummy" commenced.	
	7	0052	Slight enemy activity but no gun fire. Night fighters in operation.	
		0900	28 th A.A. Bde. Exercise ended.	
		1700	418 Hy. A.A. Bty, posted to 55 th Hy. A.A. Regt. R.A. wef 8/7/41, took over S.8 from 285 Hy. A.A. Bty.	
Manston	8	0900	No 7 Troop of 418 Bty relieved 285 Hy. A.A. Bty at D.8 & D.9.	
Shorne	11	1500	B.H.Q. 418 Bty. moved to Wells House, Shorne.	
Manston	16	1000	No 7 Troop 418 Bty. relieved by troop of 394 / 90 th Hy. A.A. Regt. at D.8 & D.9 & returned to S.8.	
Strood	22	1930	No. 7 Troop 418 Bty. relieved 264 Hy. A.A. Bty 58 th Regt. at S.15.	
Strood	28	0157 to 0331	Hostile a/c passed over the Chatham area on the way to London. Predicted concentrations were fired. S6, 7, 9, 21 & 24 were in action.	