

## SECRET REPORT ON ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE

Headquarters,  
Anti-Aircraft Battalion, McKee Barracks, Dublin.

10th June 1941

Ref No: AA/34

SECRET

Director of Artillery, Department of Defence, Parkgate,  
Dublin.

SPECIAL REPORT ANTI-AIRCRAFT AGAINST BELLIGERENT AIRCRAFT ON 31st MAY 1941

Sir,

I have the honour to report that, as a result of information received at 23.48 hours on 30/5/41 to the effect that unauthorised aircraft were heard east of Carnsore, Co. Wexford, and moving North, AIR RAID MESSAGE "YELLOW" was given to the guns and searchlights of the AA Defences, Dublin.

At 23.58 hours on 30/5/41, on receiving further information to the effect that these aircraft were now at Wicklow Head and still moving North, AIR RAID MESSAGE "RED" was given.

At 00.04 hours on 31/5/41, Dalkey and Sandycove Searchlight Detachments were "On Sound" of aircraft approaching the City of Dublin from a southerly direction. Both searchlights exposed, failed to illuminate and doused. Numerous exposures were made from time to time between 00.04 hours and 02.13 hours by searchlights on aircraft heard in the vicinity of Dublin. Aircraft were successfully illuminated for AA gun action on three occasions.

Fire was opened by AA Units as follows:

CLONTARF: At 00.35 hours, Clontarf AA Gun Outpost opened fire on an unauthorised aircraft seen illuminated East of Post, moving North. Height 7,000 feet. Four rounds of 3.7 in ammunition were fired - two at Fuze 13 and two at Fuze 18.

The proximity of the bursts in relation to the target could not be estimated, as the aircraft jinked from the beams before the termination of time of flight of the shell.

RINGSEND: At 01.28 hours, Ringsend AA Gun Outpost opened fire on unauthorised aircraft seen illuminated North-West of Post, moving South-East. Height 8,000 feet. Four rounds of 3.7 in ammunition were fired - two at Fuze 15 and two at Fuze 9. The first two rounds were observed to burst in the centre of the intersection of beams and close to the target. The aircraft succeeded in jinking from the beams, with the result that no observation for effect could be made on the two later bursts.

CLONTARF: At 01.28 hours, Clontarf AA Gun Outpost opened fire on an unauthorised aircraft seen illuminated West of Post, moving South. Height 8,000 feet. Four rounds of 3.7 in ammunition were fired - two at Fuze 9 and two at Fuze 8. The aircraft, a large monoplane, succeeded in jinking before the bursts in relation to the target were observed. It is considered that these bursts were very close.

BALLYFERMOT: At 01.31 hours, Ballyfermot AA Gun Outpost opened fire on an unauthorised aircraft seen illuminated East of Post, moving South. Height 8,000 feet. Four rounds of 3 inch ammunition were fired, all rounds being fuzeed at 14. The aircraft took avoiding action and jinked from beams before rounds were observed to burst.

## SECTION 2 · History of the Corps

STILLORGAN: At 01.30 hours, Stillorgan AA Gun Outpost opened fire on an unauthorised aircraft seen illuminated North-West. Height 8,000 feet. Three rounds of 3 in ammunition were fired all rounds being fuzed at 12. The aircraft took avoiding action prior to shell bursts. No observation for effect possible.

During this engagement by heavy AA gun, the aircraft illuminated was observed endeavouring to get out of the searchlight beams. Two objects thought to be green flares were seen dropping from the aircraft, which coincided with and were probably the bombs dropped in the Phoenix Park. It would appear that the pilot of this aircraft, being unable to avoid the beams, thought it safe to jettison his bomb load rather than risk it being detonated as a result of a hit by AA shell. Two aircraft were observed illuminated during this engagement.

COLLINSTOWN: At 01.30 hours, Collinstown AA Gun Outpost opened fire with two Bofors 40mm and four Hotchkiss Guns on an unauthorised twin-engined monoplane seen over Post. Height 2-3,000 feet, range 1,000 yards. The aircraft was observed to turn back on being fired at, and then fly in a south-easterly direction. Rounds were observed to be low. 54 rounds of Bofors and 248 rounds of .303 ammunition were fired.

COLLINSTOWN: At 01.45 hours, Collinstown AA Gun Outpost saw a twin-engined monoplane approaching Post. Height 2,000 feet, range 1,000 yards. The aircraft was engaged by two Bofors 40mm and four Hotchkiss Guns 58 Rounds Bofors and 490 rounds of .303 ammunition were fired. Rounds were observed to be low.

In these engagements by Collinstown AA Guns, aircraft were easily discernible through being silhouetted against a background of bright sky.

In the engagement of heavy AA guns, the aircraft fired on were illuminated by searchlights for periods of over one minute.

Aircraft were not identified during the period of "alert" which lasted from 23.48 hours 30/5/41 until 02.32 hours 31/5/41. Within this period, four bombs were dropped on the following areas in the city of Dublin, which resulted in loss of life and damage to property:-

Summerhill Parade, North Circular Road, Phoenix Park, Newcoinen Bridge, North Strand.

At 03.45 hours, information was received that an unauthorised aircraft was seen North of Dublin moving South. AIR RAID MESSAGE "RED" was given to AA Defences.

DALKEY: At 03.50 hours, Dalkey Searchlight Detachment opened fire with a Hotchkiss Machine Gun on this aircraft, a twin-engined monoplane flying at 1,000 feet. Thirteen (13) rounds of .3.3 S AA were fired. Rounds were observed to be low. Nationality unknown. Period of alert from 03.45 hours to 04.15 hours on 31/5/41.

I have the honour to be, sir, Your obedient servant,  
M.P. MacCarthy, A/Comdt

OFFICER COMMANDING, AA BATTALION  
jinxed Copy to/  
Operations Officer,  
Eastern Command.

OC Air Defence Command, Dublin Castle.