

GLAMORGAN RECORD OFFICE/ARCHIFYDY MORGANNWG

Reference code: GB 0214 DARP

Title: AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS

Creation Dates 1939-1946

Dates accumulated

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 0.07 cubic metres (86 vols, 6 bdles, 8 files, 9 papers and 1 booklet)

Name of creator Air Raid Precautions. Glamorgan County Area

Administrative/Biographical history

The need for precautions to protect the civilian population from air attack was seen as early as 1935, but the real precautions began in 1937, with the establishment in Wales of ARP Committees by the local councils and the setting up of the Air Raid Warden Service, the first of which were appointed in Cardiff in 1939.

Local control centres were set up throughout the Glamorgan area and the wardens were required to know everything about the local ARP organisation and how to contact it. In the event of an attack, their duties were to advise the local people where the shelters were, report the fall of bombs and any fires in their sector, check on damage, guide the police and the fire brigade to incidents and assist the public to new places of shelter. When the Blackout Regulations began to be eased in September 1944, there was a general reduction in ARP activities and this was followed by the final stand-down of the Civil Defence Organisation on 2 May 1945.

Archival History

Immediate source of acquisition or transfer

Transferred to the Glamorgan Record Office between February 1949 and March 1952 by various sources.

Scope and content

Records of the Air Raid Precautions , Glamorgan County area, 1939-1946, including log books and attendance books relating to:

Bargoed and Hengoed control centre	1939-1944
Barry control centre	1940-1944
Bridgend control centre	1939-1945
Caerphilly Control Centre	1939-1944
Glamorgan main control centre	1939-1946
Gorseinon control centre	1940-1945
Maesteg control centre	1941-1944
Neath control centre	1940-1944
Penarth control centre	1940-1944
Pontypridd control centre	1940-1945
Whitchurch control centre	1939-1944

The log books comprise a daily record of the activity of a control centre, and contain information about air raid warnings and reports of bomb damage. The attendance books give names of staff on duty, and their worktimes.

Appraisal, destruction and scheduling information

All records have been retained Record Office reference numbers were allocated to each centre in the county area, in anticipation, but from some centres no documents were recovered.

Accruals

Accruals are possible

System of Arrangement

Arranged according to type and date.

Conditions governing access

No restrictions

Conditions governing reproduction

Usual copyright laws apply

Language/Scripts of material

English

Physical characteristics and technical requirements

Fair to good condition.

Finding aids

Detailed list available

Existence and location of originals**Existence and location of copies****Related units of description**

DHG Home Guard, 1940-1945.

Language code

Eng

Publication note**Note**

Title supplied from contents of fonds. Record Office numbers were allocated to each centre in the county area in anticipation, but from some centres (8 Mountain Ash control centre; 11 Pentre control centre; 12 Pontardawe control centre; and 14 Port Talbot control centre) no documents were recovered.

Archivists Note

Compiled by Hayden Burns for the Glamorgan Record Office. The following sources were used in the compilation of this description: Glamorgan Record Office, Schedule for Civil Defence, Air Raid Precautions - Glamorgan County Area. O'Brien, Terence H. *Civil Defence*, (London, 1955). Powell, Don. *Pontypridd at War, 1939-1945*, (Cardiff, 1999). Harrison, Tom. *Living through the Blitz* (London, 1976).

Rules or Conventions

This description follows GRO guidelines based on ISAD(G) second edition, AACR2, and LCSH

Date of description

November 2003. Revised April 2005

CIVIL DEFENCE. AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS**DARP**

DARP/1	Glamorgan Main Control Centre	
DARP/1/1-9	Log-books [9 vols]	1939-1946
DARP/1/10-14	Log-books of fire watchers on duty at Glamorgan County Hall, Cardiff [5 vols]	1941-1944
DARP/1/15	Fire watcher's training attendance register [1 vol]	1942
DARP/1/16	Diary of first days of staffing [1 bdle]	Aug-Sep 1939
DARP/1/17	Ministry of Labour and National Service. Schedule of Reserved Occupations (revision) [1 booklet; printed]	May 1940
DARP/1/18	Ministry of Labour and National Service. Schedule of Reserved Occupations and Protected Work (revision) [1 booklet; printed]	Apr 1941
DARP/1/19	Defence Regulations (9th ed) [1 booklet; printed]	Aug 1941
DARP/1/20	Defence Regulations Vol 1. The Defence (General) Regulations (11th ed) [1 booklet; printed]	Apr 1942
DARP/2	Barry control centre	
DARP/2/1, 2	Log-books [2 vols]	1940-1944
DARP/3	Bridgend Control Centre	
DARP/3/1-15	Log-books [15 vols]	1939-1945
DARP/3/16	Daily log, originally kept on loose papers, [1 file]	Aug, Sep 1939
DARP/3/17	Register of air raid warnings and incidents, 1940-44 [giving dates and times but no further details] [1 vol]	1940-1944

CIVIL DEFENCE. AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS**DARP**

DARP/3/18	Wales Civil Defence Region, Bridgend Invasion committee, minutes of meetings [1 file]	1942, 1943
DARP/3/19, 20	Telephone numbers and addresses for local contacts [2 files]	c.1939
DARP/3/21	Wardens' posts, locations and telephone numbers [1 file]	c.1939
DARP/3/22	Operations book giving instructions on procedures for control of centre staff [1 file]	1942
DARP/3/23	Visitors book recording casual visits by staff to the control centre [1 vol]	1939-1944
DARP/3/24	Manual – 250 A.R.P. Questions Answered, by R.F. Reynolds, R.D. Wormald and J.M. Young, a training and revision course for members of civil defence services [1 booklet]	1943
DARP/3/25	Invasion instructions [1 envelope and papers]	c.1940
DARP/4	Caerphilly Control Centre	
DARP/4/1, 2	Log-books [2 vols]	1939-1944
DARP/4/3	Attendance registers, giving names and addresses of staff on duty [1 vol.]	1942, 1943
DARP/5	Gorseinon control centre	
DARP/5/1-4	Attendance registers, giving names of staff on duty and times of air raid warnings, 1940-45 [4 vols]	1940-1945
DARP/6/1-5	Bargoed and Hengoed control centre	
DARP/6/1-4	Attendance registers, giving names of staff on duty [4 vols]	1939-1944

CIVIL DEFENCE. AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS**DARP**

DARP/6/5	Circulars from the Ministry of Home Security [1 file]	1939-1943
DARP/7	Maesteg control centre	
DARP/7/1-6	Attendance registers, giving names of staff on duty [D/D ARP 7/1-3, described as men's log books, give some information about air raid warnings] [6 vols]	1941-1944
	Mountain Ash control centre No records received	
DARP/9	Neath control centre	
DARP/9/1-5	Log books, 1940-44 [5 vols]	1940-1944
DARP/10	Penarth control centre	
DARP/10/1-7	Attendance registers, giving names of staff on duty on day shifts [7 vols]	1940-1944
DARP/10/8-10	Attendance registers, giving names of staff on duty on night shifts [3 vols]	1940-1944
DARP/10/11	Details of air raid warnings passed to the control centre by the telephone exchange [1 vol]	1940-1944
DARP/11	Pentre control centre No records received	
DARP/12	Pontardawe control centre No records received	
DARP/13	Pontypridd control centre	
DARP/13/1-11	Log books [11 vols]	1940-1945
DARP/13/12-16	Details of occurrences in the Pontypridd area [5 bdles]	1940-1944
DARP/13/17	Civilian casualty returns [9 papers]	1941, 1942

CIVIL DEFENCE. AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS**DARP**

DARP/13/18	Details of messages received and sent by Pontypridd control centre [1 bdle]	1939-1944
DARP/14	Port Talbot control centre No records received	
DARP/15	Whitchurch control centre	
DARP/15/1	Notes relating to control centre staff, including names and addresses [1 vol]	1939-1945
DARP/15/2	Notes relating to the issue of war service chevrons to control centre staff [1 file]	1943, 1944