Surrey Constabulary History
'An in depth history of policing in Surrey'

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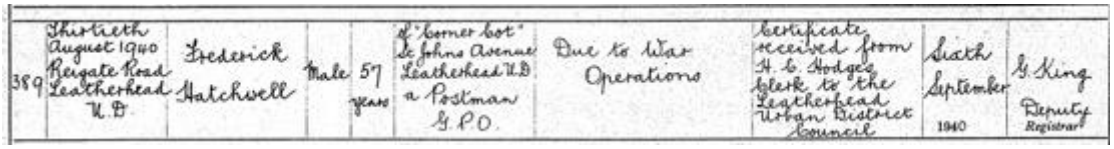
Surrey Constabulary History 130

**Chief Constable Brian Hayes, Chief Inspector Shane Burrows,
Home Secretary Douglas Hurd, PCs Mary Moore, Ray Acland**

Contents

Eighty-Five Years ago

1940 August 30: Two died Reigate Road, Leatherhead when a fleeing German bomber dropped its remaining bombs, killing John Simms and a Leatherhead postman, an Old Contemptible, Mr Frederick Hatchwell, aged 57, who is buried at SS Mary & Nicholas, Leatherhead.[1]



389	Thirtieth August 1940 Reigate Road Leatherhead U.D.	Frederick Hatchwell	Male	57 years	of "Corner Cot" St Johns Avenue Leatherhead U.D. a Postman G.P.O.	Due to War Operations	Certificate received from H. G. Hodges Clerk to the Leatherhead Urban District Council	Sixth September 1940	G. King Deputy Registrar	

1940 August 30: Sixty high explosive bombs fell in a line from Yarm Court to Crampshaw Lane, **Ashtead and five people died.[2]**

1940 August 30: Two Messerschmitt 109s collided over **Oxted** during an aerial battle. Both pilots bailed out and were captured immediately[3]

1940 August 30: A Heinkel bomber shot down and force landed at **Lingfield.** This was one of a number that were brought down over southeast Surrey and north Sussex that day.[4] **1940 August 30 1135 Haxted Mead Farm, near Lingfield:** Heinkel 111 with a crew of five – four

[1] pete@smee.me.uk email 17 September 2025 to editor
[2] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated.
[3] Surrey at War 1939- 19405 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated.
[4] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated.

survived and one died later in Redhill Hospital and were taken prisoner. Brought down by 253 Squadron. [5]

1940 August 30: 1122 Swires Farm, Capel Heinkel HE111- three crew killed and two wounded and taken prisoner. The Heinkel collided with a Hurricane of 79 Squadron flown by Flying Officer James Morris who survived, landing in Dorking. (Morris was to fly again the following day and again crashed and was more seriously injured. He survived the war retiring in 1968 as an Air Commodore) The German plane crashed into farm buildings causing a fire and exploding bullets. Four bombs then exploded causing considerable damage. Two Canadian soldiers were thwarted in obtaining souvenirs by the arrival of the local policeman on his bicycle. A German was taken to Dorking hospital then moved to Woolwich the following day.[6] **1940 August 30: A number of reports:** Shortly before noon a British aircraft collided with a Heinkel over **Reigate,** the RAF pilot landing by parachute in **Dorking** breaking a leg the plane landing at Lodge Farm, **South Holmwood** and exploded. The Heinkel with a crew of five plummeted to the earth at Swires Farm, **Capel**; three were killed one badly wounded and the fifth captured. The captured aircrew was detained by the Teasdale brothers, local grocers, and handed to PC Cooper who was hurrying from his home to the scene of the crash.[7] **Hurricane of 79** Squadron from Biggin Hill collided with a Heinkel HE111 during combat over Reigate at 1110, Crashed near Swires Farm, Henfold Lane. **P/O Morris** a South African bailed out.

[5] War-Torn Skies Battle of Britain Surrey by Simon Parry 2007 ISBN9780955473500 Red Kite Books Walton on Thames
[6] War-Torn Skies Battle of Britain Surrey by Simon Parry 2007 ISBN9780955473500 Red Kite Books Walton on Thames
[7] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated

Three of the German crew were killed and the captain landed by parachute with severe head injuries. A lorry load of soldiers attending the crash site was approaching the scene when the plane exploded catching the lorry and some trees on fire. The explosion seriously damaged the interior of neighbouring farmhouses. P/O Morris's aircraft crashed close by but caused no damage. When one of the bombs fell on the Westcott Road a fragment injured local Doctor Billings. The bomb crater was 18 feet across and 7 feet down. There were three smaller craters nearby. One fell on Sondes Place, another damaged Milton Court. One bomb at least seemed to be an oil incendiary bomb burning for a long time in the crater. One elderly man who was standing in the street was slightly injured by a spent machine gun bullet, which struck him on the shoulder.

There were five craters in a line across fields where cattle were grazing. Two heifers were injured and were destroyed. Some small pigs were burnt alive through incendiary bombs falling in their pen. [8]

German bomber downed in Henfold Lane; three local dead and are three crew: The Heinkel dropped its bombs whilst trying to outrun attacking British planes. A motorcyclist was seriously wounded and died the following day. An elderly man died whilst hurrying home to the Cotmandene Alms-houses. Pigs are burnt alive in their pen by a falling incendiary. Westcott Road, Sondes Place and Milton Court were damaged. The Heinkell then collided with an attacking Hurricane and crashed near Swire Farm, Henfold Lane, Holmwood. Three of the crew are killed, the pilot parachuted safely near Dorking. The Hurricane came down nearby.[9]

1940 August 30 Butlers Dene Road, Warlingham 1145 Pilot Officer Owen baled out of his Hurricane from 253 Squadron but died of wounds.[10]

1940 August 30 Fickleshole Lane, Chelsham 1145 Messerchmitt 109E - pilot captured[11]

1940 August 30 Meadowside, Detillens Lane, Limpsfield 1145: Messerschmitt brought down in Addington with pilot landing and captured in Limpsfield.[12]

First uniformed police in Great Britain

From a former member of the Surrey Constabulary.

I always have a good look through the material that's circulated by the SPRCA, including your excellent "Journal", and my eye was caught by the last article in the latest issue. I was

[8] Dorking at War David Knight
[9] Dorking Museum display 2013
[10] War-Torn Skies Battle of Britain Surrey by Simon Parry 2007 ISBN9780955473500 Red Kite Books Walton on Thames
[11] War-Torn Skies Battle of Britain Surrey by Simon Parry 2007
[12] War-Torn Skies Battle of Britain Surrey by Simon Parry 2007

somewhat surprised at the claim in respect of the Bow Street Horse Patrol that it "... was the first uniformed police force in Great Britain".

I think we have previously corresponded over the "Times" story about the Metropolitan Police falling foul of the ASA (Advertising Standards) when it wrongly claimed that it was the oldest police force in the world, and I might have confessed that the paper's kite-flying in respect of "a long-serving Glasgow officer" is completely wrong, as it was I who complained to them! However, I was only playing Devil's Advocate because I was already aware of what the old Strathclyde Police - which of course was subsumed into Police Scotland *(or, to some of us, Seirbheis Phoilis na h-Alba)* on 1 April 2013 - claimed on their history pages. I'm not qualified to argue, as I know there are lots of relevant arguments - e.g. the Thames River Police was established even earlier, but to my understanding wasn't uniformed - but I wasn't aware that either the Bow Street Runners and/or the Bow Street Horse Patrol was regarded as being a "uniformed police force".

However, as it pre-dates the City of Glasgow Police (even though the Horse Patrol, too, was short-lived: it lasted only a year and was re-established in 1805) either by 16 years or 37 years, depending on whether or not the establishment of the latter is taken to be the 1800 Act of Parliament, it would be interesting if someone is prepared to challenge the Strathclyde Police claim that it was the first uniformed police force in Great Britain, as the word "police" was displayed on officers' uniforms, and they had a preventive policing role notwithstanding their more civic duties.

First patrols

Despite its distance from London, Egham and Englefield Green were included in the Bow Street Horse Patrol. The patrol was originally founded in 1763 to have a presence patrolling the highways in and around London, but it died out due to a lack of funding after 18 months. It was revived in 1805 by Sir John Fielding, who despite being blind could recognise 3,000 criminals by voice alone. The new and improved Bow Street Horse Patrol had 60 men patrolling from the centre of London outwards towards places like Windsor. Bow Street Patrol were recognisable from their uniform, as they were the first uniformed police force in Great Britain. They wore blue jackets with brass buttons, a leather hat, blue trousers and leather boots; but what made them stand out were their scarlet waistcoats, earning them the nickname of ‘robin red breast’. As officers they carried a cutlass, truncheon and pistol as a form of protection. The patrol was very effective in removing highwaymen from the roads into and out of London, particularly Hounslow Heath, until they were disbanded by the government, and the highway men returned.

Dr Peter Kennison late Metropolitan Police son of Surrey Constabulary officer and joint author of “Policing from Bow Street”.

The first uniform police were the Bow Street Horse Patrole 1805, which consisted of blue overcoat , blue trousers and red waist coat. They carried a Tipstaff as a sign of office. The 1763 horse Patrole experiment was a huge success but they were not uniformed and the Government refused to carry on contributing for the next year because they were lacking funds.

Injured policeman in Basingstoke, Hampshire

Robert Bartlett with newspaper research Jenny Tuffs

I have always had a memory from being a child that set me on the route to being a police officer. I recall that a policeman in the small country town of Basingstoke, not much bigger than Dorking, on night duty was attacked at the rear of a shop in Wote Street, hit by his own torch. He then crawled, bleeding heavily, up the hill and to the police station in Mark Lane. My memory has it that he went to a hospital outside the town where his heroism was rewarded by the town council presenting him with a clock!

I asked Jenny Tuffs to work her magic and she found a number of newspaper reports which remarkably coincided with my memory and it proved to be when I was just seven years of age!

This is obviously not a Surrey Constabulary tale but not far away and it shows how those before us had to work on their own. No support and with no radio. (That was how it was when I started and on until the first personal radios probably in 1967). Had the officer not made his next point and someone tried to contact him may raise an alarm for a search to begin. It was very likely it could be a couple of hours before he would be missed.

Jenny Tuffs traced some of articles about this brutal assault, which was probably how it came to stick in my mind at such an early age. The incident was mentioned in newspapers across Britain.

1952 3 March Daily Express

POLICEMAN BEATEN UP AFTER SHOP HUNT

THE town hall clock at Basingstoke, Hants, had just struck midnight when 29-year-old Police Constable Reginald James Turner went to the back of a clothier's shop in Wolt-street to investigate a light he had seen there. Half an hour later he was staggering back to the police station, his head battered and bleeding.

He collapsed at the station door. His battered torch was found at the rear of the shop.

The search for his assailants began at once and two men were detained early yesterday on the London - road some miles beyond the town. They will appear at Basingstoke this morning accused of attempted murder.

P.C. TURNER

Superintendent Willmot, of the Basingstoke police, said yesterday: "Turner was seriously injured in the head and left unconscious."

Leicester Evening Mail 3 March 1952

1950s Hampshire and Isle of Wight

2 accused of bid to kill P.c.

ROWLAND GEORGE PROWTING (19) and Dennis Gordon Wells (19), both of the RAF Station, Chigwell, Essex, were at Basingstoke, Hants, remanded in custody until tomorrow charged with wounding Pc. Reginald J. Turner with intent to murder him yesterday, and with attempted shopbreaking.

The men were in civilian clothes. Insp. D. A. Chalke said that at 12.05 a.m. on Sunday, Pc. Turner was on duty in Wote-street, Basingstoke, when he saw at the back of Redman's shop the two accused in the act of attempting to break into the shop.

"He was arresting them when they attacked him," said the inspector.

"They caused serious injuries to the head and the constable is now detained in hospital with multiple lacerations to the head."

The inspector said that at 3 a.m. the same day the two men were seen walking along the London road from Basingstoke, near Hook, and Pc. E. J. Jones, of the traffic department at Basingstoke, stopped them and noticed they were wearing bloodstained mackintoshes.

The inspector added that at the police station they admitted being concerned with the assault and also with attempting to break and enter the shop, and they were cautioned and charged.

One of the men said today that they were not wearing mackintoshes.

Pc. Turner's condition is stated to be satisfactory.

Western Mail Cardiff

P.C. attacked: Two men charged

Police-constable Reginald James Turner, of Basingstoke (Hants.), was attacked and severely wounded early yesterday by two men in Wote-street, Basingstoke.

It is alleged the men knocked him down and hit him on the head with his torch.

The constable staggered to the police-station and later was taken to Rooksdown House Plastic and Jaw Unit, where an operation was performed. His condition yesterday was stated to be comfortable.

Later two men were charged with attempted murder and are to appear in court to-day.

1952 11th March, Grimsby Daily Telegraph

TORCH ATTACK ON P.C. ALLEGED

TWO 19-years-old R.A.F. men entered the court at Basingstoke today handcuffed to face a joint charge of wounding P.c. Reginald John Turner, of Basingstoke, with intent to murder him, on Sunday, March 2.

Later they were allowed to sit with arms folded.

They were Leading Aircraftman Rowland George Prowting and Leading Aircraftman Dennis Gordon Wells, both of the R.A.F. Station, Chigwell, Essex.

CROWD GATHERS

Both were also charged with attempting to break and enter the premises of E. G. Johnson, Men's outfitters, of Wote - street, Basingstoke, with intent to steal.

They were committed for trial at the next Wiltshire Assizes and Devizes in May.

As they left the court a crowd of 200 gathered. Girls hissed and peered into the police car.

GREAT VIOLENCE

Mr. M. D. Hutchison, prosecuting, said that the police officer making an investigation at the back of shop premises in Wote-street, "was set upon by these two young men who treated him with the greatest violence and brutality before making their escape."

Putty had been removed from the window of the shop and part of the glass was broken.

"One of the men, I think you will hear it was Wells, started to hit the police officer on top of the head with the officers's torch, which had a sharp edge.

"The police officer was unconscious for about 15 minutes. Then he dragged himself back to the police station, his head covered in blood. Thirty stitches were put into the wound."

MURDEROUS ATTACK

"It was indeed a most murderous attack on this officer," said Mr. Hutchinson.

The men were arrested three hours later. There was blood on their clothes, and they were in possession of housebreaking implements.

Mr. Hutchinson said that Leading Aircraftman Prowting in a statement said, "we came to Basingstoke to get clothes by breaking into a shop. We started to break in when a policeman came through the gate and caught us in the yard."

SHOUT FOR HELP

Wells, who said in his statement that his home was in Barrow-in-Furness, Lancashire, stated that Prowting "was on about wanting a new coat" and said he could get one from the place where he used to work. He also said there was money in the shop and offered me half.

Prowting suddenly turned and started grappling with the policeman.

"I am a bit hazy about what happened but Prowting and the policeman were fighting on the ground and the policeman started to shout for help at the top of his voice.

"I do not know how but I picked up the torch and hit the policeman on the head and at the same time Prowting hit him with something else. I was really scared."

P.c. Turner, part of his head shaved bare showing his injuries, said in evidence that Prowting appeared to be trying to strangle him and the other chap was striking him over the head with what he took to be his torch. "He hit me about six times." P.c. Turner added.

Cost of guarding Stone queried

Mr. Emrys Hughes (Lab., Ayrshire S.), will ask the Home Secretary on Thursday "What special police precautions have been taken to prevent the removal of the Stone of Destiny, and what expenditure is being incurred for this purpose."

Can find no account of trial at Wiltshire Assizes in May or anything else about the accused, details probably in Basingstoke newspaper's which are not online.

Auxiliary Units the "scallywags," and the Home Guard

Think Captain Wintringham rather than Captain Mainwaring![13] [14]

Robert Bartlett

Readers may wonder why a military history subject is given such prominence in a Journal concentrating on police history! The Home Guard and secret activities were a significant part of the role of the Surrey Constabulary and the Boroughs in Surrey during the Second World War. There was a department based at HQ in Leapale Lane in Guildford known as the Emergency Department headed for much of the war by Detective Superintendent Tom Roberts.

IWM photo LDV

IWM Dorking Home Guard[15]

[13] Malcolm Watkin 2021

[14] https://www.mwatkin.com/guerrillas

[15] https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/205195183

Brockham Home Guard - smart and well-armed[16]

The Second World War generated an array of acronyms, of military and civilian units that operated beneath the radar on and off the battlefield. SBS, SAS, LRDG, Popski's Private Army (PPA), Small Scale Raiding Force (SCRF), Force 136, MI9, SOE At home, Bletchley Park and Enigma, GC&CS, Auxiliary Units, Special Duties Section (Branch), Section V11, Y Service and all manner of organisations run by MI5 and MI6 including Section D. Unravelling what a secret organisation got up to is by its nature very difficult and often complex as records were either not kept or were destroyed after the war. There may be a reliance on chance survivals of documents or random survivor interviews which can distort research or awareness. There must have been a deal of duplication and initiatives undertaken by a range of individualistic driven people, difficult to tie down who had no respect for structures or paperwork. Coordination of effort must have been a nightmare! [17] Given the range of activities thousands must have been involved but mostly security held and remained after the end of the conflict. This paper will concentrate on an overt organisation, the Home Guard and show how it has been maligned, unintentionally, by a TV series. The Home Guard had a little-known darker side, with opportunities for selected younger members to undertake commando, guerrilla style activities against the invader.

Some argue that what has evolved is seventy years of myths around the formation, activities and contribution made by secret organisations such as Auxiliary Units including Special Duties Branch. The work in this field by Malcolm Watkin can be found on the Internet.

Watkin introduces his paper, "The British Auxiliary Units of the Second World War" referring to an elite commando organisation based around the Home Guard.[18] The article describes the

[16] https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Home_Guard_in_the_Second_World_War_H5848.jpg
[17] During the Troubles in Northern Ireland these problems were addressed by activating tasking and coordination centres where all activities had to be lodged. But secrets probably still inhibited the effectiveness of the role.
[18] https://www.mwatkin.com/aux-units

myths that developed around secrecy and purpose; how a reliance on oral history created a history that differed from the official records. A misunderstanding of the role of the organisation created the myth and romance of the 'British Resistance Organisation' which has been perpetuated as a useful marketing tool at the expense of historical integrity.

Like much research subjected to evaluation and hopefully balance with incomplete sources and established myths, care needs to be taken with interpretation. As a subject area iconoclast Auxiliaries, have become a developing source of curiosity to many who should be cautious when using terms like commando, elite, resistance and so on. Readers need to be flexible of mind![19] Beware romanticism. Do not suspend judgement! However, unquestionably, there were brave committed people who would have done their duty and more, should the invaders have come.

Members of a newly formed Local Defence Volunteers (LDV) in Somerset were approached to see if they wanted to do something "more interesting."[20] They knew little of what was expected when they signed the Official Secrets Act declaration after background vetting by "the local chief of police." They were then withdrawn from their LDV unit to join the Auxiliary Patrols, some of the best men lost to the LDV at a crucial time. The LDV was to be re-named Home Guard (HG) on the insistence of Churchill. Most people of a certain generation are aware of the HG mostly because of the TV series Dad's Army. That is a blessing and a curse! It is good that the concept of the HG is known and remembered although without the TV programme it is unlikely this national militia would be so well, and affectionally, known. It takes little reading to discover that although there may have been several Mainwaring, Pike[21] and Jones the overwhelming impression once bedded in, is one of efficiency, commitment and probably but fortunately, unknowingly, effectiveness. Far from being the aged pensioners of Dad's Army myth, most of the HG were men in reserved occupations or teenagers awaiting call-up, with an average age by 1944 of around 35 years. Even considering the youthful average age of the Home Guard, up to 40 per cent of the men had served in the First World War. (Only about twenty years ago!) This provided a solid core of men used to discipline, familiar with deadly weapons and ready to defend the country to the last bullet.[22]

Over the course of the war, aside from deaths in accidents, the Home Guard lost a total of 1,206 members killed on duty to air and rocket attacks. [23] [24]

[19] https://www.mwatkin.com/_files/ugd/b10ee0_627ec13d4f2b48fd9573d8322b152189.pdf?index=true
[20] "Britain's Secret Defences" Andrew Chatterton Casemate 2022 page 18
[21] Whilst writing this on 5 February 2024 the death was reported of Ian Lavender age 77, played young Pike and is reported as the last survivor from Dad's Army tv programme.
[22] https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6898405/Fascinating-pictures-reveal-true-nature-Dads-Army-Home-Guard.html
[23] https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/the-real-dads-army#:~:text=Over%20the%20course%20of%20the,down%20on%203%20December%201944.
[24] https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/the-home-guard/

July 1941: Home Guard originals and innovators, Tom Wintringham, left, and Yank Levy, right, pictured testing a homemade 4ins mortar at Denbies Training School, Dorking on what was then Bradley Farm and now the vineyard near the railway station. The weapon had a range of 350 yards and could fire a 6lb bomb. [25]

As soon as the LDV was formed and seemingly not before, a debate started on how and where they were to be used. Initially at least, the volunteers were to be in a static observer role, keeping their eyes peeled for the most feared parachute landings. As the war progressed the role evolved and discussions around possible guerrilla activities. There was a unit made up of younger men expected to undertake "commando like" roles in the event of an invasion.[26] There were concerns by the few who were aware, that the Home Guard move towards guerrilla tactics would conflict with the secret work of the Auxiliaries or Special Duties Branch. This problem was not unique to home defence. An excellent example is the careful, discreet work undertaken by the Long Range Desert Group with the more overt and noisy operations of the SAS stirring up the enemy whilst the dug in observation patrols were monitoring activity.

Witteringham and no doubt others, had concerns about the development of the HG. Questions were asked as to why in April 1941 of 300 senior commissions in the HG out of a total of 319, were given to peers, baronets, knights and retired generals. Why, he asked, were there so few young men in positions of command and why was there a continuing commitment to static defence? [27]

Tom Wintringham (whose photograph appears above at Denbies) was a former fighter in the Spanish Civil War. With the support of the Earl of Jersey the owner of Osterley Park in West London near Hounslow, he established a school for the training of Home Guard in what were

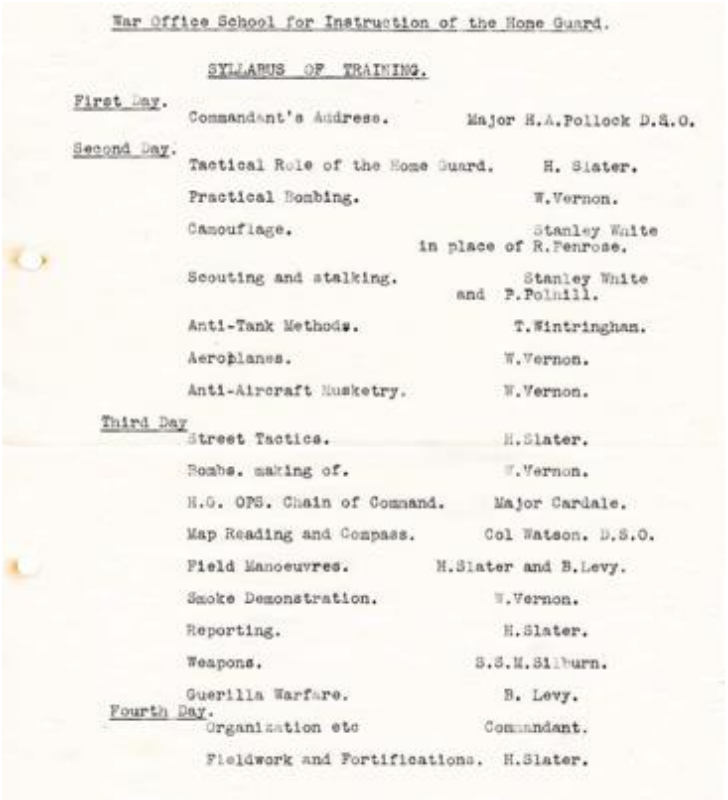
[25] https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6898405/Fascinating-pictures-reveal-true-nature-Dads-Army-Home-Guard.html
[26] "Britain's Secret Defences" Andrew Chatterton Casemate 2022 page 93
[27] "The Last English Revolutionary" Hugh Purcell Sutton Publishing 2004 page198

similar tactics to the Auxiliaries.[28] Although much of what was taught was of benefit there was the over-arching concern within the military hierarchy of the involvement of the politically far left. There was also what was seen as leftish propaganda that became too much for government and general staff, so Osterley was closed. The security of Auxiliary Patrols and Special Duties was no doubt the basis for some of the antipathy from the chain of command towards this type of Home Guard training. The potential for "private armies" clashing continued with some HG units forming "shock squads", a silent section, dirty tricks! They remained in HG uniform with the addition of a specialist knife on their belt. Once the enemy came, they may operate in civilian clothes.[29] It does seem that Home Guard Shock Squads or guerrilla sections were formed in those inland areas where there were no formal Auxiliary Patrols. At Osterley students were advised to file their bullets into illegal 'dum-dums'; to bury their uniforms and blend back into the local community; to fight on with revolvers and explosives in secret teams of 2 - 3; trained to destroy ammunition dumps and poison wells.[30] Around 5,000 potential guerrillas were trained by the unofficial Osterley Home Guard Training School between July and the end of September 1940.[31]

There were industrial saboteurs trained and ready to destroy or at least take out of action machinery within factories interrupting strategic manufacturing. Using the Home Guard as cover for their secret activities such as damaging production lines, taking petrol stations out of service thereby forcing the enemy to transport their own POL[32] supplies which were to be targeted by Auxiliary Patrols.[33]

In the autumn of 1940, the training school was moved from Osterley near Hounslow to Dorking, a wing of Denbies, a large white country house on top of Ranmore. The school was run by Major Hugh Pollock, husband of the children's writer, Enid Blyton and employed many of the Osterley instructors. The new establishment was not to court publicity! Home Guard members came from all over the country to learn how to make booby traps and sticky bombs, to decapitate enemy motorcyclists and to kill with a stiletto heel. The nearby Dorking chalk pits were used for explosives training, those at Brockham for anti-tank training.[34] Below is a training syllabus for a four-day course.[35]

[28] "The Last English Revolutionary" Hugh Purcell Sutton Publishing 2004 page 198
[29] "Britain's Secret Defences" Andrew Chatterton Casemate 2022 page 100-101
[30] https://www.mwatkin.com/guerrillas
[31] https://www.mwatkin.com/guerrillas
[32] POL - Petrol Oil Lubricants – in vulnerable tankers
[33] "Britain's Secret Defences" Andrew Chatterton Casemate 2022 page 108
[34] https://www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk/wartime-at-dorkings-mansions/
[35] "The Last English Revolutionary" Hugh Purcell Sutton Publishing 2004 page 197



War Office School for Instruction of the Home Guard.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING.

First Day.	Commandant's Address.	Major H.A.Pollock D.S.O.
Second Day.	Tactical Role of the Home Guard.	H. Slater.
	Practical Bombing.	W.Vernon.
	Camouflage.	Stanley White in place of R.Penrose.
	Scouting and stalking.	Stanley White and P.Polhill.
	Anti-Tank Methods.	T.Wintringham.
	Aeroplanes.	W.Vernon.
	Anti-Aircraft Musketry.	W.Vernon.
Third Day	Street Tactics.	H.Slater.
	Bombs. making of.	W.Vernon.
	H.G. OPS. Chain of Command.	Major Cardale.
	Map Reading and Compass.	Col Watson. D.S.O.
	Field Manoeuvres.	H.Slater and B.Levy.
	Smoke Demonstration.	W.Vernon.
	Reporting.	H.Slater.
	Weapons.	S.S.M.Silburn.
	Guerilla Warfare.	B. Levy.
Fourth Day.	Organisation etc	Commandant.
	Fieldwork and Fortifications.	H.Slater.

General Paget C-in-C Home Forces in 1942 attempted to draw a line under the potential Home Guard guerrillas, “This is unsound, they are not trained or equipped for that sort of fighting and they would be a menace to the field army. ---- Instructions issued must not detract from the overriding principle that there will be no withdrawal from nodal points where there are any men left to defend it.” [36]

An April 1943 magazine articles described a training course covering the use of camouflage and ambush hides. The role of the Home Guard was said to be, 'To snipe, harass and kill an enemy at every turn, from hedges, trees, wall, windows, slag heaps, rubbish heaps, that is the intention: continuous killing and the invader never seeing the defender'.[37]

Home Guard once better trained and equipped, were to defend nodal points defined as a defended town or village ‘situated at a tactically important centre of communications which it is intended to deny to the enemy until our counter attack can develop’ and which ‘may also serve as a pivot for the manoeuvre of reserves’.[38] Dorking was a nodal point the defence of which would have been trained for a great deal of the time. This became the main role of the HG. Literally guarding and fighting for their homes. It would appear that the men of the HG acted in support of the police as an armed militia, a gendarmerie.

[36] “Britain’s Secret Defences” Andrew Chatterton Casemate 2022 page 95
[37] https://www.mwatkin.com/guerrillas
[38] https://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/sites/default/files/aspects18.pdf

The use of leafy camouflage worn by two Home Guard at the Denbies training school in July 1943. These men are wearing 'sniper suits' meant to disguise them in the brush using painted denim overalls and netting adorned with plants.[39]

1943 London Home Guard in urban warfare camouflage. Armed with an M1928 A1 Thompson sub-machine gun. This tough-looking, well-armed. Home Guard is very different from the popular image promoted by the TV series Dad's Army.

Dorking was on the GHQ Line of pill-box defences and a nodal point. For the Germans to advance through the Dorking Gap local Home Guard, reinforced by mobile regular forces, would man the River Mole pill boxes and those on the A25 and A24. Roadblocks on these and other roads supported by anti-tank guns were designed to delay the tanks as were the tank blocks and traps along the base of the hills leading up to Ranmore.[40] There were two categories

[39] https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6898405/Fascinating-pictures-reveal-true-nature-Dads-Army-Home-Guard.html
[40] https://www.dorkingu3a.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Newsletter-9-MHG-April-2021.pdf

of these nodal points. Type "A" might become isolated and have to hold out for six days before relief. Type "B" might have to hold out for three days. Co-ordination of military and civil plans was to be ensured by the creation of a 'triumvirate' consisting of the local military commander, the senior police officer or his representative and a civil officer, who might be the mayor or the chairman of the council. In Surrey there were category "A" nodal points, administered from Chatham garrison, at Dorking, Guildford and Redhill, and category "B" at Betchworth, Byfleet, Cranleigh, Egham, Godalming, Godstone, Haslemere, Horley, Leatherhead, Limpsfield, Newchapel and Shere.

A Home Guard outline plan of the defences of Dorking is held by Dorking Museum and a redrawn detail of this is shown below. The nodal point HQ was located at the Dorking Urban District Council headquarters at Pippbrook in the mansion house then used as offices. It is shown heavily defended, with a linear fixed anti-tank obstacle on the north and east sides, four movable anti-tank obstacles on approach roads and five rifle points at key positions.[41] The importance of this nodal point is no more, with the coming of the M25 and the diversion of much of the traffic (though there remains a great deal) away from the town.

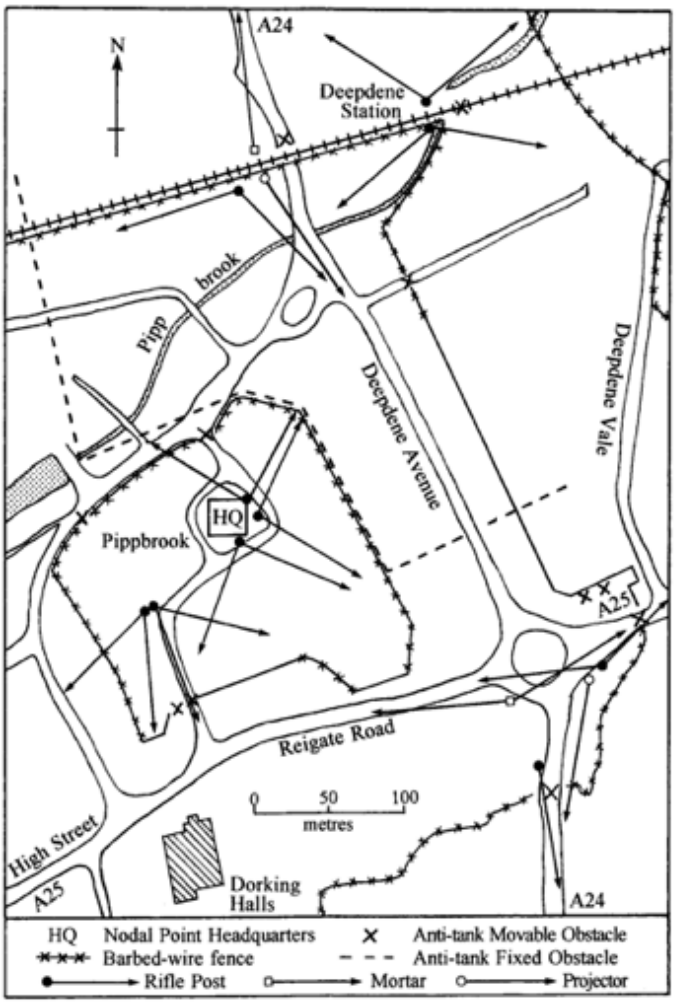


Fig 18.3 Redrawn detail of a plan of the proposed defences around the Type A Nodal point of Dorking during the Second World War. The headquarters, located at Pippbrook, Deepdene railway station and the junction of the A24 and A25 roads are all well-defended.

[41] https://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/sites/default/files/aspects18.pdf

The following randomly collected press and other cuttings establishes a range of HG duties within rural Surrey.

> **1940 August 2: Ockley** A Home Guard **sentry fired on a car**, which it is alleged failed to stop after it had been challenged by a road patrol in Stane Street, Ockley. A passenger was seriously wounded.
> **1940 23/24 September 0137** West End, Chobham a Heinkell crashed with four crew bailing out safely and the police and **Home Guard set off to find and detain them**. The Surrey Constabulary detaining two, officers from Hersham found one wandering around Burhill Gold Club.[42]
>
> **1941 March 14: Night raider down at Ockley:** One of the German bombers which made widespread attacks over Britain on Wednesday night was brought down in flames at Ockley a short distance from the Sussex border having been attacked by a night fighter. One of the crew bailed out, was captured and taken to hospital whilst the dead body of another who also took to his parachute was **found by members of the Home Guard**. Three other members of the crew were found dead in the crashed plane.[43]
>
> **April 14, 1941,** or near that date: Location not given due to wartime restrictions. German crew held by police: A Junkers 88 was brought down in the Leatherhead district in the early hours of Saturday morning and the crew of four were all taken prisoner. **Members of the Home Guard caught two**, regular military forces took another and the fourth gave himself up to a householder. It was in the early hours of Saturday morning that the householder Mr AE Haddock was awakened by a noise outside his front door. On opening the front door, he was surprised to see a German airman who had told him in broken English that he had bailed out and landed in a field. He gave up his revolver to Mr Haddock who telephoned the police and later the German was removed to the police station, where the other members of the crew had already been taken.[44]
>
> **1942 August: A Mass Observation Researcher** described a meeting in **Great Bookham** village hall: A local resident informed the well-attended meeting that, in the event of invasion a triumvirate would be set up with himself, Lieutenant N of the Home Guard and Sergeant G of the local police as members. The police would give instructions regarding street leaders. Lieutenant N said the main task of the public was to keep out of the way of the military. "Don't leave the area to go to work". Sergeant G addressed the meeting reading his speech word for word and very deliberately. "Everyone should obey the police. Police may be distinguished from Fifth Columnists by their warrant card with photo - but at such a time you would be unlikely to have an opportunity to check the constables' bona fides. Get to know your local police. (This raised the biggest laugh of the evening) --- Later comments included "Fancy having

[42] War-Torn Skies Battle of Britain Surrey by Simon Parry 2007 page 96
[43] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[44] Dorking Advertiser Yesteryear Column 14 April 2016

that man (Sergeant G) giving orders. Why choose the most unpopular man in the district."[45]

Date uncertain, Cranleigh School pupil: That Autumn I went to Cranleigh School. The Germans were bombing London, and sometimes they dropped bombs quite near the school. We could hear them whistling as they came down. There would be a huge bang and once or twice some windows were broken. During the day, if there was an air raid warning, all the school had to go and sit in air raid shelters built on the school grounds. I became part of the school section of the Home Guard. This was rather exciting as we had to practice firing guns, including a very primitive anti-tank gun which fired a bomb and was supposed to bounce along the ground and hit the underneath of the tank – some hope! Just before I left to join the Navy in 1944, the Germans started sending VI bombs to attack London and they would often pass right over the school. As they were coming over at all kinds of time, it was impossible to spend all the time in shelters and do no work. So, the oldest boys took it in turns to stand on the roof of the school and press a hooter if a 'Buzz Bomb' looked as though it might hit us. We felt very important. [46] There is no reason to doubt the fact that schoolboys in early teens were recruited into the Home Guard. Certainly, they would have brought down the age profile. It was one of the responsibilities of the Cranleigh Home Guard to provide sentries for Dunsfold aerodrome.[47]

The involvement in wartime activities by the Home Guard show that members were available and expected to participate in a range of military/security related activities. There is no doubt that the volunteers acted as armed support for mainly unarmed police taking part in spontaneous open country searches for downed aircraft and missing crews. However, the HG as its name suggests would have concentrated on defending or guarding their local nodal point a somewhat tedious occupation until under attack! Was there something more suited for the younger, fitter more adventuress souls?

Home Guard had no formal links with Auxiliary Units though in some areas there were attempts by proactive leaders to form units of guerrilla type troops, trained in sabotage and assassination against the invader. Bases used by Auxiliaries were Top Secret and many locations remain unknown to this day. Because of the extremely limited awareness of the Auxiliaries and their role, innovative HG officers seeking to extend their task into irregular warfare were trespassing into forbidden zones. By operating as guerrillas without a wider awareness, unknowingly they risked the security of the Auxiliaries and their bases. To be made aware weakened the security of the Auxiliaries and their operating bases.

The Auxiliary Units, Home Guard Shock Squads or GHQ (military led) Auxiliary Units were specially trained, highly secret military units created with the aim of using irregular warfare in

[45] "The Gentlemen at War" Policing Britain 1939-1945 Roy Ingleton Cranborne Publications 1994 page 96
[46] http://cranleigh-ww1.daisy.websds.net/Filename.ashx?systemFileName=CRANECR1939-45.pdf&origFilename=CRANECR1939-45.pdf
[47] https://www.ocsociety.org/2019/06/we-knew-the-invasion-was-about-to-begin/

response to invasion. The names vary but very similar anticipated role. With the advantage of having witnessed the rapid fall of several European nations, the United Kingdom was able to create a multi-layered guerrilla force in anticipation of an invasion.

> The essence of the role of the Auxiliary Units in 1940-41 was to provide covert support to the regular forces - interrupting the flow of supplies to the enemy and disrupting lines of communication. They were not expected to survive more than a few weeks and so were not considered worthy of large-scale investment. They were, however, supplied with large amounts of explosives to enable to carry out their task - including large quantities of Time Pencils, which had begun to be distributed across Europe by Section D in September 1939.[48]

The Auxiliary Units would fight as uniformed guerrillas in the event of an invasion, disappearing into their operational bases not in contact with local Home Guard commanders, who were to be unaware of their existence. Although the Auxiliaries were mostly recruited from HG volunteers wearing HG uniforms, they were not a part of the structure or nominal role of their local HG unit. Auxiliaries would not participate in countering the initial invasion but would be activated once the local HG defence had ended to inflict maximum mayhem and disruption over a further brief but violent period. They were not envisaged as a continuing resistance force against long-term occupation. The secrecy surrounding the Patrols meant that members had no documentation and no military status, possibly operating out of uniform. There were only ever few official records of their activities and even fewer of those survived the war. Many ifs, buts, possibly, maybes abound!

Service in the Auxiliary Units was expected to be highly dangerous, with a projected life expectancy of just twelve days for its members, with orders to either shoot one another or use explosives to kill themselves if capture by an enemy force seemed likely.

Urged on by the War Office, Prime Minister Winston Churchill initiated the Auxiliary Units in the early summer of 1940. This was to counter the civilian Home Defence Scheme already established by SIS (MI6)[49], but outside War Office control. The Auxiliary Units answered to GHQ Home Forces though legally an integral part of the Home Guard.

In modern times, the Auxiliary Units have sometimes misleadingly been referred to as the "British Resistance Organisation". That title was never used by the organization officially but reflects a subsequent misunderstanding of what their role might have been. Colloquially, members of the Auxiliary Units were referred to as "scallywags" and their activities as "scallywagging".[50]

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[48] https://www.mwatkin.com/aux-units#:~:text=The%20essence%20of%20the%20role,worthy%20of%20large%2Dscale%20investment.
[49] This is correct. MI6 were operating within the UK which was counter to their normal areas of operation.
[50] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auxiliary_Units

Origins of the Auxiliaries: [51] Section D, a sabotage and resistance unit a part of MI6, began recruiting personnel and accumulating arms and equipment in mid-June, 1940. This roused suspicion among the military authorities, and General Ironside, the C-in-C of GHQ Home Forces, insisted that all guerrilla and sabotage organisations be subject to military control. Colonel Colin Gubbins had acquired considerable experience and expertise in guerrilla warfare during the Allied intervention in the Russian Civil War in 1919 and in the Irish War of Independence of 1919–1921. From early 1939, he had served with MI R, another guerrilla organisation controlled by the War Office. Most recently, he had returned from the Norwegian campaign, where he headed the Independent Companies, the predecessors of the British Commandos, before succeeding to the acting command of a Guards brigade.

Gubbins used several officers who had served with the Independent Companies in Norway and others whom he had known there. Units were localised on a county structure, as they would probably be fragmented and isolated from one another. They were distributed around the coast rather than being countrywide, with priority being given to the counties most at risk from enemy invasion, the two most vulnerable being Kent and Sussex in South East England.

Operational Base reconstruction at Parham Airfield, Suffolk, Museum

Operational Patrols of between four and eight men, often farmers or landowners were usually recruited from the most able members of the Home Guard, possessing excellent local knowledge and able to live off the land. Gamekeepers and even poachers were particularly valued. They were always intended to fight in Home Guard uniform and from 1942 the men were badged to Home Guard battalions 201 (Scotland), 202 (northern England), or 203 (southern England). Around 3,500 men were trained on weekend courses at Coleshill House, near Highworth, Wiltshire in the arts of guerrilla warfare including assassination, unarmed combat, demolition and sabotage.[52] Courses not available for the normal HG volunteers.

Each Patrol was a self-contained cell, expected to be self-sufficient and operationally autonomous in the case of invasion, generally operating within a 15-mile radius. They were provided with elaborately-concealed underground Operational Bases (AUOB / OB), usually built by the Royal Engineers in a local woodland, with a camouflaged entrance and emergency

[51] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auxiliary_Units
[52] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guerrilla_warfare

escape tunnel. It is thought that 400 to 500 such OBs were constructed in England, Wales and Scotland. [53]

Some Patrols had an additional concealed Observation Post and/or underground ammunition store. Patrols were provided with a selection of the latest weapons, including a silenced pistol or Sten gun and Fairbairn–Sykes "commando" knives, quantities of plastic explosive,

incendiary devices, and food to last for two weeks. Members anticipated being shot if they were captured and were expected to shoot themselves rather than be taken alive.[54]

The mission of the units was to attack invading forces from behind their own lines while conventional forces fell back to prepared defences. Aircraft, fuel dumps, railway lines, and depots were high on the list of targets, as would be the assassination of senior German officers and local collaborators. Patrols secretly reconnoitred local country houses, which might be used by German officers, and prepared lists of suspected fifth columnists as early targets for killing.

Special Duty Branch and Signals: Completely separate from the Auxiliary Units' Operational Patrols was the Special Duty Branch, (SDB) originally recruited by SIS and carefully vetted and selected from the local civilian population. It acted as "eyes and ears" and would report back to military intelligence any information that it heard from 'careless talk' or from watching troop movements and supply routes. It was supported by a signals network of hidden, short-range, wireless sets around the coast with evidence of some being inland. The structure was of two distinct organisations with designated roles and tasks. The structure allowed no means to pass on such information to the Operational Patrols. [55] Members of the Auxiliaries should not know the identities of the SDS and they of the Auxiliaries. Whilst SIS had its own intelligence network, linked by wireless (Section VII), it maintained a strong interest in the development of the SDB (not least to ensure its own organisation was not compromised) and the Auxiliary Units HQ had little part in how any gathered intelligence was utilised. [56] Little account appears to have been taken of the use of dogs, particularly the German Shepherd, trained to track and trace humans. Post war, police officers from Surrey including Superintendent Tom Roberts, on behalf of the government, went to Germany to look at police dog training. To this day much of what was learnt is the way modern British dogs and handlers are trained.

It is unlikely that the SDB wireless network would survive long after invasion and that it would not have been possible to link the isolated Operational Patrols into a national network that could act in concert on behalf of a British government in exile and its representatives still in the United Kingdom. Instead, SIS (MI6) created an even more secret, separate resistance organisation (Section VII) with powerful wireless sets that was intended to act on a longer-

[53] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auxiliary_Units
[54] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auxiliary_Units
[55]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auxiliary_Units#:~:text=Separate%20from%20the%20Auxiliary%20Units,from%20the%20local%20civilian%20population.
[56] https://www.mwatkin.com/aux-units#:~:text=The%20essence%20of%20the%20role,worthy%20of%20large%2Dscale%20investment.

term basis. Within the radio plan Reigate Hill features strongly with an underground operations room built into the chalk.

(A number of photographs of an underground bunker on Reigate Hill probably the In-Station, can be found at this reference. The similarity with an Auxiliary base is obvious.)[57]

The Special Duties Branch were recruited largely from the civilian population, with around 4,000 members. They were trained to identify vehicles, high-ranking officers and military units and were to gather intelligence and leave reports in dead letter drops. The reports would be collected by runners and taken to one of over 200 secret radio transmitters operated by trained civilian signals staff. The civilian personnel operated as 'Intelligence Gatherers' and operated the OUT Station radios. ATS subalterns or Royal Signals personnel operated the Special Duties IN-Stations.

From 1942 once the high threat of invasion had passed, the Operational Patrols of the Auxiliary Units worked to reinvent themselves as an anti-raiding force. That was primarily a device to avoid being disbanded, as the War Office had promised volunteers would not be returned to normal Home Guard duties. They had to be kept in existence until the general stand-down of the Home Guard. Some units were deployed to the Isle of Wight prior to the D-day landings in 1944 to help protect the PLUTO fuel pipeline from being attacked by German commandos. It was then proposed that the Auxiliary Units should be fully administered by the Home Guard, but that was not enacted before the final stand-down in November 1944. [58] An indication of the quality of the men and the adequacy of their training, several Auxiliary Unit members went on to serve in the Special Air Service seeing action in France during late 1944, including Operation Houndsworth and Operation Bulbasket.[59]

The Home Guard was operational from 1940 to 1944, with 1.5 million local volunteers. Many were ineligible for regular military service, which was restricted to those aged 18 to 41, and those in reserved occupations. The HG were to slow down the advance of the enemy even by a few hours to give regular troops time to regroup. They were also to defend key communication points and factories in rear areas against possible capture by paratroopers or fifth columnists. A key purpose was to maintain control of the civilian population in the event of an invasion, to forestall panic and to prevent communication routes from being blocked by refugees to free the regular forces to fight the Germans. The Home Guard continued to man roadblocks and guard the coastal areas of the United Kingdom and other important places such as airfields, factories and explosives stores until late 1944, when they were stood down. They were finally disbanded on 31 December 1945, eight months after Germany's surrender. [60]

[57] https://www.derelictplaces.co.uk/threads/secret-bunker-reigate-surrey-may-2021-picture-heavy.38198/
[58] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auxiliary_Units
[59] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auxiliary_Units
[60] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_Guard_(United_Kingdom)

Churchill argued that some form of home defence force should be raised from people who were ineligible to serve in the regular forces but wished to serve their country. In a letter to Samuel Hoare, the Lord Privy Seal, on 8 October 1939, Churchill called for a Home Guard force of 500,000 men over the age of 40 to be formed.

The Battle of France began on 10 May 1940, with the Wehrmacht invading Belgium, the Netherlands and France. By 20 May, German forces had reached the English Channel, and on 28 May, the Belgian Army surrendered.

The government and senior military officials by 13 May 1940, worked out an improvised plan for a home defence force, to be called the Local Defence Volunteers (LDV). On the evening of 14 May 1940, Secretary of State for War Anthony Eden gave a radio broadcast to the nation at 6pm and 9pm announcing the formation of the LDV and calling for volunteers to join the force: "You will not be paid, but you will receive a uniform and will be armed., although at this early stage it was known as the Local Volunteer Volunteers (LDV). All a man had to do to join, as long as he was aged between 17 and 65, was to volunteer at his local police station. All chief constables had been forewarned by telegram on the morning of the broadcast. Eight hundred registered in Redhill and Reigate within the first twenty-four hours and fifteen hundred within forty-eight hours. **[61]** By the 24 May in the Dorking Police Division over 1400 men had offered their services for the LDV.[62]

The announcement was met with much enthusiasm: 250,000 volunteers tried to sign up in the first seven days, and by July this had increased to 1.5 million. Social groups such as cricket clubs began forming their own units, but the bulk were workplace-based, especially as co-operation from employers was necessary to ensure that volunteers would be available for training and operational patrols. Indeed, many employers envisaged the LDV units primarily as protecting industrial plants from fifth column attack.

On 17 May, the LDV achieved official legal status when the Privy Council issued the Defence (Local Defence Volunteers) Order in Council. Units were to be divided into sections, platoons and companies; leaders of units would not hold commissions or have the power to command regular forces. [63]

All civilian firearms, especially shotguns and pistols, had been handed in to local police stations and volunteers were allowed often by the police, to retrieve these for their LDV duties. In rural areas, volunteer shotgun users initially organised themselves into vigilante groups, dubbed 'the parashots' by the press, to watch the early morning skies for German parachutists.[64]

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[61] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/homeguard.htm(Now defunct)
[62] Dorking in Wartime – David Knight
[63] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Army_during_the_Second_World_War#:~:text=Home%20Guard%20(formerly%20Local%20Defence%20Volunteers),-Home%20Guard%20post&text=The%20LDV%20had%20achieved%20official,the%20status%20of%20LDV%20units.
[64] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_Guard_(United_Kingdom)

Another problem that was encountered as the LDV was organised was the definition of the role the organisation was to play. Initially, in the eyes of the War Office and the army, the LDV was to act as 'an armed police constabulary', which, in the event of an invasion, was to man roadblocks, observe German troop movements, convey information to the regular forces and guard places of strategic or tactical importance. The War Office believed that the LDV would act best in such a passive role because of its lack of training, weapons and proper equipment. Such a role clashed with the expectations of LDV commanders and members who believed that the organisation would be best suited to an active role of hunting down and killing parachutists, and fifth columnists, as well as attacking and harassing German forces. They actually spent most of its time preparing to defend 'nodal points' against tank attack, operating anti-aircraft artillery or locating unexploded bombs. In August the role of the LDV was refined to include delaying and obstructing German forces through any means possible.[65]

Churchill had the opinion that one of the main causes of disciplinary and morale problems stemmed from the uninspiring title of the LDV and suggesting that it be renamed 'Home Guard'. Which it was on 22 July. Churchill ruled decisively on the issue of whether civilian volunteers should actively resist German forces, even at the expense of setting themselves outside the protection of the Geneva Conventions. The 'Rules of War', he pointed out, had been drawn up with the express intention of avoiding defeated combatants fighting on to the last. However, in the fight against Nazism, any outcome, including the complete destruction of a town and the massacre of its population, would be preferable to its acquiescing to Nazi rule. [66]

Nevertheless, the British Government consistently maintained that as Home Guard service was strictly to be undertaken only in approved uniform, volunteers would be lawful combatants within the Geneva Conventions and so would be "prisoners of war" if captured. [67]

By the end of 1940, the Home Guard was established into 1,200 battalions, 5,000 companies and 25,000 platoons. For its primary defensive role, each section was trained and equipped to operate as a single, largely independent 'battle platoon', with an operational establishment of between 25 and 30 men at any one time although, as volunteers would also have full-time jobs, the numbers of volunteers in each section would be around twice that establishment. In the event of an invasion, the Home Guard battle platoons in a town would be under the overall control of an Army military commander and maintain contact with that commander with a designated 'runner' (no Home Guard units were issued with wireless sets until 1942), who would usually be a motorbike owner. Otherwise, the battle platoon was static and would defend a defined local area and report on enemy activity in that area, but it was neither equipped nor expected to join up with the mobile forces of the regular army. [68]

Each Home Guard unit would establish and prepare a local strongpoint, from which 'civilians' (non-Home Guard) would be cleared if possible and aim to defend that strongpoint for as long as possible. (Nodal Point) It might be forced to retreat towards a neighbouring strongpoint but

[65] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_Guard_(United_Kingdom.
[66] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_Guard_(United_Kingdom.
[67] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_Guard_(United_Kingdom)
[68] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_Guard_(United_Kingdom)

would not surrender so long as ammunition held out. Most towns of any size would have a number such Home Guard units, each defending its own strongpoint and providing 'defence in depth' using the principle of nodal points, which should ideally be sited to offer supporting fire to cover one another and to control road access through the town from all directions.[69]

Each battle platoon had a headquarters section; commander, second in command, runner, and at least one marksman 'sniper' with an M1917 Enfield rifle. The fighting force of the platoon consisted of three squads of around 8 men, each squad having a three-man automatic weapons group (usually with one either of a BAR or Lewis gun) and a rifle/bomb group armed with M1917 rifles, grenades and sticky-bombs, and a Thompson or Sten sub-machine gun if possible. Men without rifles should all have shotguns, if available. The basic tactical principle was 'aggressive defence'; fire would be held until the enemy were within the defensive perimeter of the town in force and they would then be attacked with concentrated firepower of bombs, grenades, shotguns and automatic weapons (as much as possible from above and from the rear), with the object of forcing them into cover close by. Retreating enemy forces would be counterattacked (again preferably from the rear), the automatic weapons group of each squad providing covering fire while the bombing group attacked with grenades, submachine guns and shotguns. As many Germans as possible should be killed, and no prisoners would be taken.[70]

Battle tactics were derived substantially from the experience of Spanish Republican forces although they also drew on the experience of the British Army (and the IRA) in Ireland. The emphasis was on drawing the Germans into fighting in central urban areas at short ranges, where stone buildings would provide cover; lines of communication between units would be short; the Home Guard's powerful arsenal of shotguns, bombs and grenades would be most effective; and German tanks and vehicles would be constrained by narrow, winding streets.[71]

The formation of the Home Guard in the Reigate Borough Police district was recorded in 1944 by the local newspaper. Surrey Mirror - Friday 29 December 1944: “The Reigate Borough’s Home Guard: A Short History of The 8th Surrey Battalion: The Days Of The L.D.V.”

How many people lining the route of the 8th Surrey (Reigate) Battalion Home Guard's farewell march on Sunday, December 3rd, gave more than a passing thought to the significance of the event, or cast their minds back to Tuesday, May 14th, 1940. when, with the field-grey hordes of Germany spreading like an evil canker across Europe, the Secretary for War. Mr. Anthony Eden, came to a B.B.C. microphone with the appeal that brought old soldiers, well past the age of soldiering, back to arms, and set youth, not yet quite old enough for full-time soldiering, drilling, shooting and stalking?

The story starts at mid-day on that memorable Tuesday with a telegram over the signature of the Under Secretary of State. It went to every chief constable in the country. Mr. W. H. Beacher,

[69] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_Guard_(United_Kingdom)
[70] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_Guard_(United_Kingdom)
[71] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_Guard_(United_Kingdom)

sitting in his office in Reigate, read it: "Broadcast Will be made at 9.10 pm. to-day inviting male British subjects between the ages of 17 and 65 to register for Local Defence Volunteer Corps against enemy landings by parachute or otherwise. Registrations will be at any police station. Circular follows. In meantime, please ensure forthwith that all stations are prepared to receive registrations." There followed details of particulars to be taken. While the then Reigate Borough Police were making the necessary arrangements there came a second telegram notifying them of a broadcast appeal to be made for rifles and ammunition and asking the police to be ready also to record details of all weapons offered to the new Volunteer Force.

The broadcasts which gave first news of the new Force to the public came in the bulletins at 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. It was during the latter that Mr. Eden outlined the enemy's methods of parachute attack and made his now famous appeal. In the Borough, as elsewhere in the country, the response was astounding. Almost before the broadcast was over the telephone lines to the police stations were busy and personal calls at the stations to register mounted rapidly. Mr. Beacher and his staff worked almost without pause to keep pace with the applications, 1,500 of which poured in in 48 hours.

Reigate Hill Patrol: Some of the Volunteers had their first taste of duty only three days after the broadcast, for it was on May 17th that the late Capt. E. H. Tuckwell came from Guildford Headquarters to the chief constable - at 4 p.m. - to make arrangements for night patrols to be on Reigate Hill. Capt. W. E. Hill, M.C., was contacted, and was acquainted on his arrival, shortly before 7 p.m., with what was required. A police car took him to the addresses of several of the Volunteers, and, armed with six "P.14" rifles, all that could be mustered at that stage, the little party set off in police cars for their patrol ground. The twelve men who comprised this first patrol were Messrs' Chalcraft, Cook, Cuss, Dungate, Elliott, Hunt, Jarrett, Laker, Lott, Lovegrove, Pilbeam and Rumble, under the command of Capt. Hill, who, however, found the chosen site for the observation post, a spot near the water tower on Colley Hill, to be unsatisfactory, the view to the southward being impeded by Reigate Park. On the following night therefore, the same patrol moved to Reigate Park itself, and were under the command of Mr. Vigers, Capt. Hill having been summoned to Guildford to an urgent conference. Most of the men on these early patrols were unfamiliar with the "P.14" rifle, not having handled firearms since the last war, and so the commanders divided their small force into two, one keeping up the patrol of the area whilst the other received some instruction as to the handling of the unfamiliar weapons. These night watches were divided into three periods - 10 p.m. to 1 a.m., 1 a.m. to 4 a.m., and 4 a.m. to 7 am.

The Borough Company Formed: Meanwhile at the conference to which Capt. Hill had gone, and which was also attended by Alderman Lieutenant-Col. F. J. Spranger, Mr. W. H. Beacher, Capt. Mansfield (Redhill) and Capt. Charlesworth (Merstham), it had been decided that Reigate (including Redhill, Earlswood and Merstham) should be allotted one Company of the L D.V. The work of registration was continuing, and preliminary details of the scheme were being worked out, so that on May 20th at a meeting at the Town Hall, convened by the Chief Constable and presided over by Alderman Spranger, it was possible to get down to the work of organisation. At this meeting, at which Alderman Spranger intimated that he was unable to take

command of the Reigate Company but at which he introduced Mr. R. J. V. Hake, of the White House, Reigate Heath, as Company Commander, it was decided that the Company should comprise a Reigate Town Platoon under Capt. W. E. Hill, a Redhill Platoon under Capt. E. T. Mansfield, and a Merstham Platoon under Capt. W. G. Charlesworth.

The Platoon Commanders quickly organised their own divisions. Capt. Hill sub-divided his command into Reigate North and Reigate South Platoons, under Lieut. A. W. G. Dewar and Capt. J. Gibson respectively, while at Redhill, Capt. Mansfield, with Major Strickland as his Second-in-Command, organised his Platoon into four sections under the commands of Mr. Cutliffe, Major Bowyer, Lieutenant W. R. Howe Pringle, and Capt. Ferguson. At Merstham, Capt. Charlesworth, with Capt. D. J. Smith as Second-in-Command, set up two sections under Capt. C. Bowring and Lieut. V. H. Winson. At the outset the approximate strength of the Borough of Reigate Company was 930 officers and men, but the numbers expanded as more and more names were registered. [72]

Reigate's response to the implementation of a HG is replicated across the land. There was no initial grand plan with local commanding officers given freedom to innovate and do what they considered best to counter any enemy**.**

The Auxiliary Units were to establish bases, upwards of 600, to support the dangerous stay behind role. In the event of an invasion, all Auxiliary Units would disappear into their operational bases with local Home Guard commanders unaware of their existence. Although the Auxiliaries were HG volunteers and wore HG uniforms, they would not participate in the conventional phase of their town's defence. The units would be activated once local Home Guard defence had ended to inflict maximum mayhem and disruption over a further necessarily brief but violent period.[73]

It is a common fallacy that the Home Guard never fired a shot in anger during the whole of the Second World War. In fact, individual Home Guardsmen helped man anti-aircraft guns as early as the Battle of Britain during the summer of 1940. By 1943, the Home Guard operated its own dedicated batteries of anti-aircraft guns, rockets, coastal defence artillery and engaging German planes with their machine guns. They are credited with shooting down numerous Luftwaffe aircraft and the V-1 flying bombs that followed them in the summer of 1944. The Home Guard's first official kill was shot down on Tyneside in 1943. The Home Guard in Northern Ireland also took part in gun battles with the IRA. [74]

A major new function emerged for the Home Guard after the Blitz, in 1940 and 1941which resulted in large numbers of unexploded bombs in urban areas. Home Guard units took on the task of locating unexploded bombs after raids and, if such bombs were found (often after several months or years), would commonly assist in sealing off the danger area and evacuating civilians. Most Home Guard wartime fatalities occurred in the course of that task. Aside from

[72] Surrey Mirror - Friday 29 December 1944 http://sussexhistoryforum.co.uk/index.php?topic=7355.0
[73] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_Guard_(United_Kingdom)
[74] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_Guard_(United_Kingdom)

deaths in accidents, the Home Guard lost a total of 1,206 members on duty to unexploded bombs, air and rocket attacks during the war. [75]

The Home Guard would have worked locally with police who employed as an additional task, Bomb Reconnaissance Officers. They attended every report of bombing and sent back detail of what had happened and what needed to be done. 1 PC Ken Browning wrote in the Surrey Constabulary Newspaper Off Beat in July 1976: "During the Second World war there existed in the Force six to eight men who were designated bomb reconnaissance officers [76] – one I remember was ex-Inspector Sizer from Walton on Thames. I had my full share of danger being the BRO for Oxted Division where we had one hundred and twenty-three flying bombs alone and one night sixty thousand explosive incendiaries, hundreds of which I defused myself with Superintendent Mann."

Mr. Ken Browning in retirement

Pictured here are the Crosby & Co, Home Guard Bomb Disposal Unit in Farnham, posing with an unexploded device that they buried in the Surrey town. It later sparked a scare when it was discovered decades later during a development.[77]

[75] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_Guard_(United_Kingdom)
[76] Instituted in 1942 Civil Defence services and police trained as Bomb Reconnaissance Officers. Officers would identify any unexploded items (either German bombs or unexploded anti-aircraft shells) and pass this information onto bomb disposal squads from the Royal Engineers.
[77] https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6898405/Fascinating-pictures-reveal-true-nature-Dads-Army-Home-Guard.html

For the first few weeks the LDV were poorly armed since the regular forces had priority for weapons and equipment. Since the government could not admit the severe shortage of basic armaments for the regular troops in 1940, the public remained deeply frustrated at the failure to issue rifles to the LDV. Rifles were a particular problem, as domestic production of new Lee-Enfield rifles had ceased after the First World War; and in the summer of 1940 there were no more than 1.5 million serviceable frontline military rifles available in total. Contracts had been placed in the UK, Canada and the United States to build new factories for an updated Lee-Enfield model (designated Rifle No. 4), but in 1940, they were still a long way from volume production. The LDV's original role had been envisaged by the army as largely observing and reporting enemy movements, but it swiftly changed to a more aggressive role. Nevertheless, it would have been expected to fight well-trained and equipped troops despite having only negligible training and only weapons such as home-made bombs and shotguns (a solid ammunition for shotguns was developed for that purpose), personal sidearms and firearms that belonged in museums. Patrols were carried out on foot, by bicycle, even on horseback and often without uniforms, although all volunteers wore an armband printed with the letters "LDV". There were also river patrols using the private craft of members.

Supplies of small arms to the Home Guard improved radically after July 1940, when the active support of US President Franklin Roosevelt allowed the British government to purchase 500,000 M1917 Enfield Rifles and 25,000 M1918 Browning Automatic Rifles from the reserve stock of the US armed forces. The limited initial issue of standard Lee-Enfield rifles was withdrawn as the American arms became available, as were some 25,000 Pattern 14 .303 rifles (the British calibre version of the M1917 Enfield) and 60,000 Canadian Ross rifles. The British government had placed large commercial orders for Thompson submachine guns, which were issued first to the Home Guard from 1941 onwards (especially to Auxiliary Units).[78]

The British Expeditionary Force had lost almost its entire stock of Bren Guns in the Dunkirk evacuation and the regular army initially fell back on pre-war and American Lewis guns as a stopgap; but by the end of 1940, around 14,000 of these American Lewis guns (together with some 4,000 American M1917 Browning machine guns) had been released to the Home Guard.

Within a few months, the Home Guard had acquired proper uniforms and equipment as the immediate needs of the regular forces were satisfied. Special trains were laid on to rush the new rifles to HG units, and by the end of July, all had been distributed. Priority in mid-1940 was given to HG units on the South Coast and Home Counties and those defending key air industry suppliers from air and paratrooper attack. Had an invasion happened in September or October, those Home Guard units would have largely been well equipped and armed for a static defence role. Training would have been limited and there was a lack of an effective anti-tank grenade capable of being launched a reasonable distance. After September 1940, the army began to take charge of the Home Guard training in Osterley, and Wintringham and his associates were gradually side-lined. Wintringham resigned in April 1941. Ironically, despite

[78] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_Guard_(United_Kingdom)

his support of the Home Guard, Wintringham was never allowed to join the organisation himself because of a policy barring membership by communists and fascists.[79]

When the Home Guard was first formed, it had its own rank structure. As a unit of volunteers, it was thought that there should be a system of appointed ranks, with officers who did not hold a King's Commission. It was not until November 1940 that it was decided to bring the Home Guard structure into line with the regular army. From February 1941, officers and men were known by regular army ranks except that "Private" was not used until the spring of 1942, when the rank of "Volunteer" was dropped in favour of "Private". After November 1940, officers were granted a King's Commission but were regarded as junior in rank to a regular army officer of the equivalent rank and senior to army officers of a junior rank.[80]

The German invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941 clearly indicated that an immediate invasion of Britain was no longer to be expected. But initially, the British military command did not expect Soviet resistance to last more than a few months and so the Home Guard needed to be retained in full readiness should the German threat be resumed in greater strength once the Soviets had been defeated. The Home Guard remained in existence manning guard posts and performing other duties to free up regular troops for duties overseas, especially taking over the operation of coastal artillery batteries and anti-aircraft batteries (especially rocket batteries for the protection of key industrial sites). In 1942, the National Service Act allowed for compulsory enrolment in the Home Guard of men aged 42 to 51 years where units were below strength.[81]

It was only when the tide on the Eastern Front had definitively turned against Germany in 1943 that the military necessity for the Home Guard began to recede. Even so, both military planners and the public maintained an apprehension that the Germans might launch seaborne or airborne commando raids against targets in Southern England to disrupt the preparations for the Second Front or to assassinate Allied leaders. Following the successful landings in France and the drive towards Germany by the Allies, the Home Guard were formally stood down on 3 December 1944 and finally disbanded on 31 December 1945.[82]

Home Guard: 1952–1957: Not long after the Home Guard had been disbanded, suggestions began to be made that it be revived in the face of a new threat from the Soviet Union. The first official step was a paper by the Director of Military Operations (DMO) in November 1948, which was later incorporated into an executive committee of the Army Council (ECAC) report. Suggested roles included countering communist inspired insurrection as well as guarding vulnerable points and anti-invasion duties. In May 1949, a parliamentary Home Guard Working Party was established to consider the issues raised, which resulted in a further report being completed in August 1950. [83]

[79] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_Guard_(United_Kingdom)
[80] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_Guard_(United_Kingdom)
[81] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_Guard_(United_Kingdom)
[82] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_Guard_(United_Kingdom)
[83] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_Guard_(United_Kingdom)

Although preliminary planning started, such as the identification of suitable battalion commanders, nothing concrete was done because of financial constraints. It was not until Winston Churchill again become prime minister and Minister of Defence in the general election of October 1951 that preparations to revive the Home Guard began in earnest. Churchill predicted that there could be an assault on Britain by "twenty thousand or so" Soviet paratroopers (an assessment of the risk was not requested until March 1953, the outcome of which was that "the Chiefs of Staff believe that the Russians would not contemplate such a step – with or without atomic bombardment....").

The speech from the throne on 6 November 1951 included the intention to "take the necessary measures... to re-establish the Home Guard". While the required legislation was in passage through parliament, the Chiefs-of-Staff produced yet another report, outlining the final form that the new Home Guard should take. The force would consist of two categories of battalions; 162 would be "Category A" which would recruit 60 per cent of their projected wartime strength, while 397 "Category B" battalions would be established on an *en cadre* basis, a skeleton staff of trained officers and NCOs which could be expanded in a crisis. The majority of the Category A battalions would be in the south and east of England. The Home Guard Act 1951 received Royal Assent on 7 December. Enrolment started on 2 April 1952. The aim was to recruit 170,000 men in the first year, but by November 1952, only 23,288 had been enrolled, with a further 20,623 men who had joined a "Reserve Roll" (initially called the "Supernumerary Register") for enrolment in an emergency.

Uniform consisted of standard 1949 pattern battledress and midnight blue beret as worn by the rest of the army. Scottish battalions wore a Balmoral bonnet. A helmet and greatcoat were provided, along with 1937 pattern webbing. Small arms issued to the Home Guard were the Lee-Enfield No 4 Mk 1 rifle and the Mk II Sten sub-machine gun; the Bren gun was the section automatic weapon. Support weapons were the obsolescent PIAT antitank projector, the Vickers medium machine gun and the 2-inch mortar. A detachment of the Home Guard led the British Army section of the State Procession at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in June 1953. [84]

There was much criticism of the cost of the Home Guard, especially the full-time officers, since all battalions had a paid adjutant and quartermaster whose workload was quite limited, especially in Category B units. Accordingly, on 20 December 1955, it was announced that there would be a "reorganisation on a reserve basis". The essence was all battalions would be reduced to a *cadre* basis, and paid staff would have to effect the change before resigning their commissions or transferring to the Reserve Roll by 1 April 1956. A certificate of thanks was issued to those who had served in an active role. Even those reforms were not enough, and on 26 June 1957, John Hare, the Secretary of State for War, announced in parliament that the Home Guard would be disbanded on 31 July, making a saving of £100,000 in that year.

[84] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_Guard_(United_Kingdom)

Home Service Force: 1982–1993: At the height of the Cold War, the Home Service Force was established in 1982, starting with four "pilot companies". Recruitment began in earnest in 1984 but was limited to those who had previously served in the armed forces or reserves. Some 48 HSF units were formed, each hosted by an existing Territorial Army battalion. After the end of the Cold War, disbandment of the force commenced in 1992 as a part of the "peace dividend".[85]

Note: Given the uncertainties of modern international relations and the shortfalls in defence capabilities is 2025 a time to re-consider some form of home defence organisation encompassing both military and civilian roles, similar to the Home Guard and Civil Defence organisation? Is it now that government should charge the Lord Lieutenant with forming county-based organisations?

[85] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_Guard_(United_Kingdom)