

NOTE

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Directorate of History
National Defence Headquarters
Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0K2

July 1986

CANCELLED

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Date: 24 JUL 1986 35
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(delayed)

Co-operation of CANADIAN BASE DEPOT
with HOME GUARD units.



The Director,
Historical Section,
General Staff,
National Defence Headquarters,
Ottawa, CANADA.

1. A further report is presented. This deals with co-operation of the CANADIAN BASE DEPOT with units of the HOME GUARD in the vicinity of its station.
2. Attention is directed to my previous Report No. 32, which sketched the development of the Depot and enclosed documents relating to the activities of its personnel during the heavy raids on MERSEYSIDE in May last. Lt.-Col. KEMNE, LORNE SCOTS, commanding the Depot, has now furnished me with further documents concerning earlier phases of its work. Copies of some of these are attached as Appendix "A".
3. While the matter of co-operation with and assistance to the Home Guard is doubtless of limited importance, it has seemed to me to have sufficient interest to render it worth while to take this opportunity of ensuring the preservation of at least a few documents concerning it. Not only does it reflect one phase of the preparations made in the United Kingdom to resist the invasion which has threatened this country since the early summer of 1940, but it also throws some light on relations between the Canadian troops and the English population.

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4. It will be noted that the documents of which copies are enclosed refer to the period during which the Canadian Base Depot was stationed at COVE. It will be observed further that two of them date from the early days of the Home Guard in the summer of 1940, when this force (at first known as the Local Defence Volunteers) was hastily organized under the imminent threat of an invasion in which, it was anticipated, the enemy would make considerable use of parachutists and airborne troops.

C.S.S.

(C.P. Stacey) Major,
Historical Officer, C.M.H.Q.

C O P Y

July 29th 1940.

L. D. V.

Growthorne Battalion
"A" Company. Foresters' Section.

Lieut. Colonel L. Keene, E.D.
The Lorne Scots,
C.A.S.F.
Guillemont Barracks,
Cove Hants.

Sir,

On behalf of this Section of the Local Defence Volunteers I wish to express to you, and through you to your Officers and N.C.O's our great appreciation of the instruction given on July 27th, and on previous occasions. The efficiency and bearing of your Instructors in dealing with volunteer recruits is above praise. The results are plainly to be seen in increased keenness amongst the men, and in addition to the strength.

I have to thank you heartily also for your generous hospitality to the Section.

(signed) E.G. Lloyd.
Section Leader.

HOME GUARD,
Engineers,
Ascot.

H.Q. "A" Coy. Growthorne Battalion.

O/C Lt-Col. Sir Archibald Weigall, Bt. KCMG.

16 Aug. 1940.

Brigadier P.J. Montague, CB, CMG, DSO,
Cockspur Street, London.

Dear Sir,

I am anxious to let you know of the great service which has been rendered to me and my Company of 500 men by Lt.Col. L. Keene of the Lorne Scots Battalion. As you no doubt know our whole organization has had to be very hurriedly improvised and Col. Keene by provision of Instructors, by initiating and taking part in Field exercises and in general his keen individual interest in all our activities has inspired and enthused us all. We are all very very grateful and I know this is only a typical instance of the cordial relations which exist between the Home and Canadian Forces everywhere.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) Archibald Weigall.

C O P Y

Boldrewood,
Sunningdale,
Berks.

Dear Col. Keene,

I am writing to ask if you can provide the necessary instructors for the programme for the coming Sunday February 9th.

Programme as under:-

1. (a) Rifle.
(b) Lewis Gun.
(c) Map Reading etc.
(d) Field craft.

2. Upper Ribsdon Platoon will be at Higham's Corner (Near Foxhill) at 2.30 p.m. ready with entrenching tools to dig rifle pits etc. Can an instructor be there to see that these are properly sited, that they are of a right type and to give hints regarding camouflage etc.

3. Captain Bright (Upper Ribsdon Platoon) tells me that you agreed to send some instructors with his party to Bisley on Sunday morning (9th) starting from this Headquarters (Boldrewood, Sunningdale) at 10.a.m.

Yours sincerely

(signed) F. Kinsman.

February 6th 1941.

HOME GUARD.

"B" COMPANY. 1st Bn. SURREY H.G.

SUNDAY. FEBRUARY 9th 1941. 2.30 PM. Windlesham Council Schools.

Instruction under instructors kindly arranged for by Col. Keene C.O. Lorne Scots, will be continued on the following subjects:-

1. Observation and Map reading and Special class for Guides and D.Rs.
2. Fieldcraft, elementary tactics and camouflage.
3. Lewis Gun. (Selected volunteers)
4. Rifle.

Upper Ribsdon Platoon will parade at 2.30 PM Higham's Corner (Grid 395840) for preparing Weapon pits under Lorne Scots Instructors and supervision. (Picks, shovels, Sand bags etc are to be brought).

2.30 PM 10 minutes Drill. Volunteers are to bring Gas Masks.

February 3rd 1941.

C.W.H. Taylor,
i/c Training School.

COPY

HEADQUARTERS, 1ST BATTALION, SURREY HOME GUARD.

Rowanfield,
Portesbery Road,
Camberley.

CW/R/1461

February 19th 1941.

From/

General Sir Ivo Vesey, K.C.B, K.B.E., D.S.O.

To/

Major General P.J. Montague, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.
Canadian Military Headquarters,
2, Cockspur Street,
London, S.W.1.

Dear General Montague,

I should like to express to you my thanks and sincere appreciation of all the advice and assistance in training which has been afforded by your Base Depot at Cove to the Company of my Battalion which is located at Sunningdale.

Colonel Keene has been the moving spirit and has not only taken the greatest interest himself in the training of the Home Guard but has most generously arranged for demonstrations and the provision of instructors who have given up a large part of their spare time to the work.

The instruction given has been of the highest standard and of the greatest value. I wish that my other Companies had been as fortunate in their regular units to which they have been affiliated for training.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) I.L.R.Vesey.