

HEDGEHOG '85



GOVERNMENT TAKES FIRST STEPS TO IMPROVE HOME DEFENCES

MORE HOME SERVICE FORCE UNITS TO FORM

MAJOR EXERCISE IN 1985 .

Since our public launch in 1983 we have been drawing attention to the steady development of the Warsaw Pact's Special Forces. These are the 'troops of Special Designation' and their role is to operate deep behind the enemy's front line and actually in his homeland, with the aim of causing disruption. This is achieved through sabotage, 'disinformation' (or spreading of rumour), intelligence gathering and assassination. The threat posed by these elite troops was acknowledged by our Government for the first time in the 1984 Defence White Paper in these words:

"Protection of our own country and its people must be at the heart of our defence policy . . . Although we regard the air defence of the United Kingdom as our highest priority we have not ignored ground defences. The main threat here is not that of large-scale invasion but of sabotage by small squads of specially-trained troops . . . The targets would include vital military installations like radar sites and air bases . . . We already have 100,000 ground forces available on mobilization for home defence. We are strengthening these forces . . ."

This is good news. The trial recruitment of four companies of the TA's new Home Service

Force proved a huge success and expansion of the force is now in hand. In addition, extra squadrons of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force Regiment are being raised for airfield defence. A lot of our supporters agree with us and have shown their mettle by volunteering for the new force. We have listed the known locations of HSF units inside and if there's one near you, try joining it.

Exercise BRAVE DEFENDER will take place in September. This is to be the biggest home defence exercise ever held in this country and its purpose is to test mobilization plans and the latest plans for the defence of key strategic targets.

EDITORIAL

Well, what's been going on at HQ DBH since our last newsletter of December 1983? Elsewhere on this page we summarize the steps now being taken by the Government to sharpen up our home defences. We welcome them but say that these measures will not suffice to guarantee the security of the UK base - so vitally important to the whole of NATO in any period of grave international crisis. The resources allotted to Home Defence - and manpower is the principal one - are still inadequate. We are continuing to campaign for the creation, by Parliament, of a nationwide volunteer reserve on the lines of the Scandinavian Home Guards.

As ever, we are drawing support from men and women of all political complexions. It is our belief that the defence of our country, its way of life and its democratic institutions is a matter which crosses all party-political boundaries and that all of us have the right to play a part, if we so wish.

We urge you to read this newsletter carefully, then pass it around. Further supplies are readily available free of charge (though it will help if you can send stamps or POs to help with our big postage bill!). Use the coupon which comes with 'Hedgehog' to place orders for literature, badges and stickers. Let's see our hedgehogs all over the country, just as you can see them on cars, windows, doors and personal baggage in Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Holland and Germany.

THE AIM OF 'HEDGEHOG 85' IS TO LET YOU KNOW HOW OUR CAMPAIGN IS GOING, WHAT YOU CAN DO TO GET THE MESSAGE ACROSS, AND TO GIVE YOU MORE INFORMATION ON THE SOVIET SPECIAL FORCES, AND ON THE PROGRESS OF THE LOCAL HOME GUARD MOVEMENT ELSEWHERE IN NATO.

a start

"100,000 DEFENDERS"

The Government say that there will be 100,000 troops for Home Defence even after we have sent 55,000-odd across to reinforce our Army in Germany. But 100,000 is some 27,000 less than the total of regular police available in England, Scotland and Wales. Few of the 100,000 will be front line regular or TA field force units. A large proportion will be TA volunteer battalions raised specifically for home defence; lightly equipped for relatively static guard roles, they lack the means for combat mobility. More alarmingly, they find it hard to retain their personnel and in some cases the annual manpower turnover is over 40%. The extra companies of the Home Service Force, comprising older volunteers with previous military experience, will help to compensate for this wastage but won't do much for our national ability to defend, not just a few hundred Key Points, but to establish 'Watch and Ward' nationwide.

Apart from the vital Key Points there are literally thousands of vulnerable targets for attack by the 'Spetsnaz' - the Soviet Special Troops, and their pre-placed agents and helpers. Such targets exist in every community: telephone exchanges; pumping stations; the national electricity grid system; oil, water and gas pipelines; the road and rail system. It is child's play to attack these, because at present there is no provision for their defence. Who will guard and patrol them?

HOME SERVICE FORCE TO EXPAND

On 1 May, Mr Michael Heseltine introduced the 1985 Defence White Paper in the House of Commons, confirming the expansion of the TA's Home Service Force to a strength of 5,000 during the next few years. It is being raised specifically - in Mr Heseltine's words - "against the threat of small units of specially trained sabotage troops", by guarding vulnerable installations such as nuclear bases, docks and power stations. He went on to say that... "our aim is to have a complete set of plans for the defence of vital installations, both military and civil..." At present, the Government plans to raise 43 HSF rifle companies, most of them hosted by TA units, but 5 attached to the Regular Army. We warmly commend the HSF to those of our supporters who qualify for enlistment - minimum age 20, maximum 50 (but some up to 55). You must have served in the TA or other categories of the reserve forces; entry is open to ex service personnel from all 3 services, former instructors and officers of the Cadet Forces, and former Ministry of Defence policemen. Further information is available from local TA and Volunteer Reserve Associations (see under 'Army' in local telephone directory), any TA unit, or Army Careers Information Office. Units of the HSF have formed or are due to form in BATH, TRURO, LEICESTER, NORWICH, PETERBOROUGH, WORKSOP, KIDDERMINSTER, WALSALL, WORCESTER, CHORLEY, LANCASTER, LIVERPOOL, WARRINGTON, BISHOP AUCKLAND, HUDDERSFIELD, HULL, NEWCASTLE, SCARBOROUGH, CARDIFF, SWAN-

SEA, WREXHAM, ABERDEEN, AYR, DUMFRIES, DUNFERMLINE, EDINBURGH, ELGIN, PERTH, PLYMOUTH, OXFORD, KENSINGTON, RUNCORN, FINSBURY, CHELSEA, HAMMERSMITH, CATTERICK, LECONFIELD, SOUTH CERNEY, SALISBURY, and DONNINGTON.

Note that Wales is to get three HSF units, only one of which is anywhere near the highly vulnerable lakes which provide so much power and water for Merseyside. Scotland has seven companies, but nothing North of the Great Glen, leaving the Hebrides, the Far North, Shetlands and Orkneys up for grabs. The Spetsnaz are specifically trained to work in remote areas - and that is where many of their Key targets are sited.

1. HOME DEFENCE 1804 In that year the Napoleonic war was at crisis point. Britain faced the threat of cross-channel invasion and a huge Volunteer force was raised to back up the Regular Army garrison; Home Defence was debated in the House of Commons. Here is Pitt, from the opposition Benches, on 24 April 1804:

... "When I say that the country is defended by 400,000 Volunteers, by a strong Regular force, and a well disciplined Militia... I must ask, how many thousands of that force may be assembled, in what time, and in what condition, near any of those points which are likely to be attacked?" He knew that even with a large garrison, an attack might find our defenders off balance. How much more could we be caught unaware by a well planned and executed Spetsnaz campaign... NOW?

2. HOME DEFENCE 1942 It is fashionable these days to laugh at the Home Guard of World War 2 - now known as 'Dad's Army' through the hilarious and splendidly acted (but wildly misleading) BBC serial. Formed in May 1940, initially as the 'Local Defence Volunteers' at a time when invasion of these islands appeared imminent, its initial equipment and weapons were makeshift, but the spirit of resistance fired all its volunteers, who included schoolboys as well as Boer War veterans (and some even older, wearing the medals of Kitchener's campaign in the Sudan). By 1942 the LDV had become the highly effective Home Guard. Factories raised their own battalions, and competition between units was keen. The strength of the Home Guard reached 1 1/4 million, and over 3 million served in it between 1940 and 1945. Their role was not glamorous - guarding minor key points, helping man the coast defences, patrolling, and generally acting as back-up for the steadily growing allied forces as they prepared for 'Overlord' - the invasion of Europe. At this grim time in our history, we were one nation; everyone had a part to play and was encouraged to do so. We all readily accepted our share of duty, whether in the Home Guard, as first-aiders, special constabulary, auxiliary fire crews or in civil defence. THERE ARE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF MEN AND WOMEN TODAY WHO BELIEVE, WITH 'DEFENCE BEGINS AT HOME', THAT AS TAXPAYERS WE SHOULD BE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO OFFER OUR SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY - EVEN IF MANY CANNOT FOR VARIOUS REASONS JOIN THE TERRITORIALS.

IN 1942 THE THREAT OF INVASION HAD ALMOST VANISHED, AND THE TIDE OF WAR WAS TURNING IN OUR FAVOUR. BUT THE HOME GUARD STUCK TO THEIR JOBS AND ONLY 'FELL OUT' IN 1945. Today we face a far more uncertain

DANGER . . . WHAT DANGER?

The Soviets' employment of Special units in time of rising tension or war might initially pass un-noticed, for it is actually an extension of terrorist activities pursued energetically in peacetime by various extremist groups. Many of these are openly anti-NATO. Here are some examples of their work: 11 December 1984 - six bombs destroyed valve chambers on the NATO European pipeline system in Belgium. Responsibility claimed by 'Communist Combat Cells'. 15 January 1985 - French 'Direct Action' and German 'Red Army Faction' issued a joint statement to Reuters, announcing the start of a major campaign of international terrorism, with NATO as main target. December 1984 - February 1985 - sixty terrorist strikes in Germany alone, mostly against NATO installations. 25 January 1985 - murder of the French General Audan by 'Direct Action'. The Belgian-based 'Communist Combat Cells' have carried out 13 recent attacks on NATO facilities. 28 January 1985 - a mortar attack on warships off Lisbon. Since 1 January 1985, Portugal's 'Popular Forces of April 25th' have carried out 11 terrorist attacks.

In the UK we have seen all too much terrorist activity, both in Ulster and on the mainland, in recent years. If the Provisional IRA can bring off their attacks in peacetime, how much easier for the well-trained saboteur and assassin during the confusion of mobilization and preparation for war. At such a time, Spetsnaz detachments would find it easy to enter our country and link up with their pre-placed 'friends', moving freely around . . . UNLESS WE HAVE A NATIONWIDE FORCE OF CITIZEN VOLUNTEERS, ALERT AND WELL MOTIVATED, WHICH CAN RAPIDLY MOBILIZE FOR 'WATCH AND WARD' DUTY AT COMMUNITY LEVEL. SUCH A FORCE IS POSSIBLE. IN FACT WE ARE THE ONLY EUROPEAN COUNTRY TO PAY SO LITTLE ATTENTION TO THIS FORM OF NATIONAL DEFENCE. A COMPARISON OF OUR HOME DEFENCE CAPABILITY AGAINST THAT OF OUR ALLIES, AND OF THE

NEUTRAL STATES WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY DETERRED ALL AGGRESSION FOR GENERATIONS, SHOWS US IN A VERY POOR LIGHT.

Resolution without aggression - the example of our friends in Europe

It is futile to think that our geography still guarantees safety against hostile penetration. For centuries, as a great naval and maritime power, we could shelter behind our fleets and the 'White Cliffs'. Nowadays, a potential enemy can get into our vitals as easily as if we were land-locked neighbours. The smaller NATO countries - all of whom know the bitter experience of enemy occupation and don't want it again - have set us a fine example. First, look at our own position: Population, 56 million, and 100,000 troops declared for Home Defence - or less than 1/4 of one per cent of the population. Then compare this with -

- **DENMARK** - Population 5.1 million. Over 100,000 troops and Home Guards for home defence, or more than 2% of the population. (UK equivalent would be nearly 1 1/4 million troops)
- **NETHERLANDS** - Population 14.4 million. More than 1 1/2% of the population for home defence, including a growing Home Guard, Civil Defence Corps, Army Reservists and Royal Military Constabulary. (UK equivalent would be over 800,000 troops)
- **NORWAY** - Population 4.1 million. Over 5% of the population available for home defence, as Home Guards, Reservists and Civil Defence Corps. (UK equivalent would be over 2 1/2 million).
- **SWEDEN (NEUTRAL)** - Population 8.3 million. On mobilization, over 850,000 troops, including Home Guard, are available for home defence. This is over 10% of the population and the UK equivalent would be more than 5 1/2 million.

OUR NATO ALLIES WHO RECOGNIZE THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF BRITAIN, ARE AMAZED AT OUR APPARENT INDIFFERENCE TO THE THREAT OF SPETSNAZ ACTION AGAINST THIS SOFT AND ILL-PROTECTED TARGET. AND WHAT MUST THE KREMLIN THINK . . . ?

future in the certain knowledge that the Soviet and Warsaw Pact intruders know what they are about and can enter this country virtually undetected in peacetime in order to familiarize with the targets they would be attacking in wartime. Can anyone really feel happy in the knowledge that only a fraction of the 1942 Home Defence - or for that matter of those in 1804 - can be mustered?

CAMPAIGN LANDMARKS

7 March 1983 - We launched DBH with a media conference in London, after thorough consultation with a wide cross-section of public opinion.

December 1983 - Following nine months of low profile campaigning nationwide, we published our first newsletter, of which some 15,000 copies were distributed. The response was good and gave a stimulus to our signature campaign in selected areas. From this we identified a strong groundswell of public opinion in support of our proposals.

25 June 1984 - A well-attended meeting in the Grand Committee Room at Westminster. The Steering committee, introduced by Sir Antony Buck QC MP (Colchester N) gave a full presentation to a distinguished audience. In his introduction, Lord Hill-Norton stressed that "...the Force we advocate would be no private army, nor even a para-military force, but a constituent part of the armed forces of the Crown, under the control of Parliament."

1984-85 - We continue to visit all parts of the UK, testing opinion, addressing meetings, broadcasting and appearing on regional TV. BBC 2 are currently making a series of film programmes covering British Defence Policy and DBH features prominently in that dealing with Defence of the UK. Our secretary, Michael Hickey, has travelled from Penzance to Stornoway and made over 100 broadcasts on local radio in the past 12 months. The Government has announced plans to enlarge the TA, especially the Home Service Force, and Exercise 'Brave Defender' is to be held in the first two weeks of September. Signatures still arrive steadily at Victoria House as do requests for our 'Hedgehog' stickers and badges (order forms are enclosed).

12 March 1985 - We gave a presentation on DBH to the House of Lords all-party Defence Study Group, chaired by Lord Mulley (Defence Minister 1976-79) and well attended by Peers and MPs, many of whom took part in the lively discussion which followed. For many of our audience it was the first time they had been able to hear a full account of our proposals and to put questions to the Steering Committee. Many of those present expressed keen interest and support, and are expected to speak out on the matter of Home Defence in forthcoming debates.

Printed by Clarkes New Press Ltd., for Inner Sound Ltd.

THE WAY AHEAD . . .

Things are on the move. Two years ago, we faced a daunting prospect. A new look at old problems is often unwelcome. We were accused of militarism, the desire to form a private army, of aggravating international tension, of war-mongering. Now, even our most active critics concede that we are none of these, and that if we really wish to live securely and follow the democratic way, our country's security must be broadly based. We know that we have matchless professional armed forces, a sound Territorial Army, and the best equipment that the nation can realistically afford - *but we are desperately vulnerable where it really counts, and where a ruthless enemy could do us mortal harm: at Home.*

THE DEFENCE DEBATES HAVE STARTED. NOW IS THE TIME TO GET BACK TO YOUR MP. IF YOU HAVEN'T APPROACHED HIM/HER, DO SO NOW. JUST SAY HOW WORRIED YOU ARE, THAT THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO ACT NOW. AND THAT WE AT DBH CAN PROVIDE ALL THE NECESSARY BRIEFING. WE NOW ADVERTISE IN 'THE HOUSE MAGAZINE', WHICH IS READ BY ALL MEMBERS OF BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT. THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR THEM TO SAY - "BUT I HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT IT ..." WE CAN TELL THEM!

Exercise Brave Defender

In September the biggest home defence exercise since World War 2 will take place. To quote from the 1985 Defence White Paper: "... some 65,000 regular and reserve personnel from all three Services will take part . . . United States forces will also participate. Activities will, however, be widely spread across the country, and any disturbance to the public will therefore be kept to a minimum." In fact, very few of the nation's key points are likely to be involved, and a number of targets will be simulated ones on Ministry of Defence land. Amongst the attackers will be our own SAS, simulating the Soviet Spetsnaz.

We believe that DBH supporters, as citizens with their country's security at heart, can play a vital role in 'Brave Defender' by keeping eyes and ears open for unusual activity or unfamiliar persons in the area of likely targets, and by reporting these to the military authorities. So why not look up 'Army' in the local telephone directory, ring up the duty officer at District HQ, or the adjutant of the local Territorial Unit. Tell them that you want to be of assistance in 'Brave Defender', as a member of the general public, and that you'll report any unusual events as they occur. We will be very interested to hear how you get on.

Nearer the time of the exercise we hope to provide more information so that you will know where to be and what to look for . . . good hunting.