

The
War Book
of
the Borough of
Helston
in the County of Cornwall

- PART 1. OUTLINE OF PROBLEM. 2;
- PART 2. HEADQUARTERS.
- PART 3. THE INVASION COMMITTEE.
- PART 4. CIVIL DEFENCE SERVICES.
- PART 5. NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE.
- PART 6. FIRE GUARDS.
- PART 7. POLICE.
- PART 8. COMMUNICATIONS AND MESSENGER SERVICE.
- PART 9. INFORMATION.
- PART 10. SHELTER.
- PART 11. FOOD.
- PART 12. CASUALTY SERVICES.
- PART 13. DECONTAMINATION .
- PART 14. REST CENTRES .
- PART 15. BILLETING.
- PART 16. WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICE.
- PART 17. EMERGENCY LABOUR.
- PART 18. EMERGENCY TOOLS AND PLANT.
- PART 19. EMERGENCY TRANSPORT.
- PART 20. WATER.
- PART 21. SANITATION.
- PART 22. BURIAL OF THE DEAD.

APPENDICES.

1. EMERGENCY LABOUR.
2. TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT.
3. EMERGENCY TRANSPORT.
4. 1" GRIDDED MAP.

The defence of the borough against hostile attack is, of course, the concern of the military forces and the invasion committee has been constituted to carry out any instructions of the military authorities and to be responsible for the following duties :-

- 1). Upholding the morale of the civil population of the borough.
- 2). The prevention of, and dealing with, fires.
- 3). The decontamination of food.
- 4). The establishment and organisation of Rest Centres.
- 5). The organisation of a scheme for the accommodation of persons rendered homeless.
- 6). The provision of billets.
- 7). The burial of the dead.
- 8). The Dissemination of information
- 9). The provision of labour for military and other purposes.

The Helston Borough Council has delegated its civil defence duties as regards preparatory work to an invasion committee as to the constitution of which see part 3 within and in an emergency to the Officer in charge of the relative department.

The invasion committee has power before an emergency to act in all matters within the scope of its functions save in any action involving the expenditure of money to be provided by the Borough Council/for which purpose it may recommend to the Council the action to be taken.

In the event of an emergency the chairman will summon the invasion committee which is vested automatically with power to act in all matters for the borough council including the incurring of expenditure and in an emergency the invasion committee has power to act by the decision of such of its members as are present at any time and from time to time, the quorum being considered to be one.

1. COMPOSITION

The Military Forces available within the area consist of :-

- (a) A Field Force Battalion with Head Quarters at HELSTON (at present under canvas at TRELOWARREN).
- (b) Certain Field Garrisons at Vulnerable Points.
- (c) Home Guard.

2.

- (a) The Role of the Field Force Battalion is outlined later.
- (b) The garrisons of Vulnerable Points are of necessity tied to their posts and cannot, therefore, be considered as available for any other purpose. List of Vulnerable Points at Appendix 'A'.
- (c) The role of the Home Guard is contained in their Defence Scheme.

3. ROLE OF THE LOCALITY IN THE EVENT OF INVASION ETC:

- (a) The coast line of CORNWALL provides many coves and beaches suitable for landing shallow draft craft. GOONHILLY DOWNS 1544 - 1742 - 1241 - 1243 provide an area suitable for airborne landings on a large scale. The LIZARD Peninsula is considered the most vital and vulnerable portion of CORNWALL.

- (b) Threats to be considered are :-

(1) Invasion.

(2) Raids which may be either air or sea borne and which would probably have as object :-

(a) Sabotage, or

(b) Capture of secret parts of apparatus from night fighting aircraft or R.D.F. Stations.

A probable type of raid is the landing by air of a Commando type force which would attempt to escape either by fast seacraft or submarine. Speed of action by us to cut off and destroy the raiders is therefore essential.

(3) Heavy raids on centres of communication.

4. ROLE OF THE BATTALION WITH HEAD QUARTERS IN HELSTON:

This Unit is part of the Field Force and therefore has a limited availability for local assistance. Its role is :-

- (a) Prior to 'Stand-to':

(1) Air Raid assistance to the target towns of REDRUTH and CAMBORNE.

(2) Immediate counter-attack on any enemy air or seaborne raiders on Vulnerable Points in the LIZARD Area.

- (b) On 'Stand to' the unit moves to area NEWQUAY and is replaced in HELSTON by a Battalion (at present 70 Northhamptons) who will occupy the same Head Quarters as at present. This latter unit then assumes responsibility for counter-attack within the LIZARD Area.

- (c) On 'Action Stations' the Field Force Battalion acts in accordance with orders of C-in-C, Home Forces to deal with any invasion.

5. Battalion Head Quarters of Field Force Unit is :-

Hillside,
Godolphin Road,
HELSTON

Tel No: Helston 261

Temporary address is :-

TRELOWARREN CAMP.
(146468)

Tel No: MAWGAN 244.

LIST OF VULNERABLE POINTS

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| THE JACKA | 3661. |
| PEN OLIVER | 1334. |
| CARNI BREA | 8151. |
| DUNDERHOLE POINT | 4710. |
| ST AGNES BEACON | 1373. |
| ROSELAND | 2754. |
| DRYTREE | 154440. |
| TREREW | 238813. |
| TRELANVEAN | 192426. |
| SENNEN | 786498. |
| MARK'S CASTLE | 773486. |
| PENOLVER | 138347. |
| TREVOSE HEAD | 285993. |
| ST AGNES BEACON | 128743. |
| DUNDERHOLE POINT | 480106. |
| HORE POINT | 925643. |
| POLRUAN | 563731. |
| THE JACKA | 362617. |
| TRELEAVER | 189406. |
| NEWFORD | 3435. |
| FALMOUTH | 240550: 250550. |
| PORTHURNO | 810460. |
| HAYLE | 982609. |

| <u>Unit</u> | <u>Address.</u> | <u>Officer I/C</u> | <u>Telephone No.</u> |
|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Battalion | 52 Coinagehall Street, Helston. | Lt-Col C.W. Long. | Helston 247. |
| "A" Company. | Torleven Farm, Porthleven. | Maj. E.T. Gotto. | Porthleven 272. |
| No. 1. Platoon. | Tye Rock House, Porthleven. | Lieut. F. Robbins. | Porthleven 259. |
| No. 2. Platoon. | Atlantic View, Porthleven. | Lieut. R.G. Hadden. | No telephone. |
| "B" Company | Trevilges, Trewennack, Helston. | Major Thomas. | Helston 180. |
| No. 1. Platoon. | Nansloe Farm (Bray) Helston. | Lieut. Hedley Thomas. | Helston 162. |
| Regtl. Aid Post. | Godolphin Hall, Helston. | Major Michael. M.O. | Helston 41. |

Strength. Officers.
Other ranks.

A Coy. 8th Battalion (Porthleven) Home Guard.

O.C. Major E.T. Gotto, The Vicarage, Porthleven. Tel. No. 237.
Tye Rock House, " Tel. No. 247.

ACTION STATIONS.

| <u>PLACE</u> | <u>PLATOON</u> | <u>UNDER COMMAND</u> | <u>DISPOSITIONS.</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------|--|--|
| Porthleven | 1 & 2 | Capt. L.H. Mitchell. Lt. F. Robbins. Lt. R.G. Hadden. Lt. W.H. Chesterfield . | Dispositions for Beach Defence and perimeter of Porthleven against Air-borne Troops. |
| Breage & Ashton. | 3,4, 5 | Capt. S. Trevaskis. Lt. I.S. Holmes. 2/Lt. W.J. Bryant. 2/Lt. A. Treloar. | Prah Sands Beach Defence and perimeter of Breage & Ashton. |
| Germoe | 6,7 | Lt. R. Barnwell. Lt. C. Oldbury. | Beach Defence of Kennegy & Prussia Cove and perimeter of same. |
| Townshend & Godolphin | 8,9 | Lt. J. Pearce. 2/Lt. W. Preston. 2/Lt. R. Mumby. | Defence against Air-borne Troops in rear of Platoons 3,4,5,6,7. |

Strength. 16 Officers.

384 Other ranks.

may J.A. Thomas, Trevilges, Trewernack, Helston Tel. NO. Helston 180

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>PLACE</u> | <u>PLATOON</u> | <u>UNDER COMMAND</u> | <u>DISPOSITIONS.</u> |
| Nansloe Farm | 1, 2 & 3. | Lieut. H. Thomas Lieut. C.H. Rows. | General all round Defence. |

Strength. 5 Officers.

120 other ranks.

The dispositions of the Home Guard will necessarily vary according to the exigencies of the military situation which may arise from time to time, but the general scheme will be to deny Helston and Porthleven to the enemy.

In view of the total strength of the Home Guard it is not anticipated that it will be possible to launch counter attacks but the general scheme will be to maintain mobile patrols with the object of harassing the enemy, dealing with any parachutists who may land and the obtaining of information to be passed on to the regular troops.

Copy/

8th Battalion (Helston) Cornwall Home Guard

Part II Sub Para VII

Copy No. 66

Feeding Centres

Feeding Centres are located at the D.L's and Platoon Bases shown in Appendix "B".

In the case of Helston D. L. the feeding centre on mustering will be the Drill Hall, but when the D. L. is isolated each Platoon will feed in its own HQ building.

In all cases Platoons are responsible for their own cooking though in many cases they will receive assistance from the farmer's wife &c. at the Base. No arrangements have been made with the W. V. S.

In all centres inside cooking is available though in some cases this will be supplemented by outside arrangements.

Entered on Town Clerk's Authority dated 27th April 1944 J.L.B.

Headquarters.

A. Regular Troops.

Helston 261 : 262

Liaison Officer with Military.
Military Liaison Officer.
Commanding Officer 6th.
Battalion South Lincs.

Councillor J.H. Adams.
Lt. Col. T.S. Rendall.O.B.E.
Lt. Col. F. Thompson.

St. Johns Road. Helston.
Advanced Regional Hqt.
Trevelley DuWheved,
Launceston.
"Hillside", Helston.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

Helston 308 (extension 3)
Mullion 249 " 3)

L.D.A., R.A.F. Station.

Predannack, Mullion.

B. Home Guard.

Home Guard.

Helston 298.

Officer Commanding West Cornwall Group, Home Guard. COL W D CROFT. CB. CMG. D.S.O.

Headquarters, Trevarno, Helston.

Mullion 218.

~~De. STAFF CAPT~~ (A 7 9) (A 7 9) CAPT M. P. WILLIAMS

Bochym, Cury Cross Lanes, Helston.

~~Mullion 250.~~

HELSTON 247
MULLION 315

Officer Commanding 8th. Battalion, Helston Home Guard.

Lt. Col. C.W. Long.
~~Lt. Col. B. Pidgeon.~~
MAJOR B. Pidgeon. (Liaison Officer).

12 COINAGEHALL ST
The Elms, Creek.
HELSTON
POLPEOR, MULLION

Helston 301.

Officer Commanding B. Company, Helston Home Guard.

Major J.A. Thomas.
CAPT Major A.C. Booth.
LT WILLEN (LIAISON)

51 Coinagehall Street, Helston.

Porthleven 237.

" 247.

Officer Commanding A. Company, Porthleven Home Guard.

Major E.T. Gotto.
LT SEAR (LIAISON)

The Vicarage, Porthleven.
Tye Rock House, Porthleven.

C. Invasion Committee.

Headquarters.

Helston 9.

Alterations.

- 1. Helston 77.
- 2. Helston 290.
- 3. Helston 29.

The Office of the Kerrier R.D.C.
The Food Office.
The Penrose Estate Office.

17 Coinagehall Street, Helston.

The Willows, Helston.
5. Cross St. Helston.
58. Coinagehall Street, Helston.