



Danskernes Historie Online

Danske Slægtsforskeres Bibliotek

Dette værk er downloadet fra Danskernes Historie Online

Danskernes Historie Online er Danmarks største digitaliseringsprojekt af litteratur inden for emner som personalhistorie, lokalhistorie og slægtsforskning. Biblioteket hører under den almennyttige forening Danske Slægtsforskere. Vi bevarer vores fælles kulturarv, digitaliserer den og stiller den til rådighed for alle interesserede.

Støt Danskernes Historie Online - Bliv sponsor

Som sponsor i biblioteket opnår du en række fordele. Læs mere om fordele og sponsorat her: <https://slaegtsbibliotek.dk/sponsorat>

Ophavsret

Biblioteket indeholder værker både med og uden ophavsret. For værker, som er omfattet af ophavsret, må PDF-filen kun benyttes til personligt brug.

Links

Slægtsforskeres Bibliotek: <https://slaegtsbibliotek.dk>

Danske Slægtsforskere: <https://slaegt.dk>

A survey
OF
THE DANISH HOME GUARD



ITS HISTORY
AND ORGANIZATION

c.

A survey
OF
THE DANISH HOME GUARD



ITS HISTORY
AND ORGANIZATION

FOREWORD

It is the purpose of this publication to present officers and staffs within NATO with information about the Danish Home Guard, its organization, training and characteristics.

The publication, which particularly aims at orientating military personnel without knowledge of the Danish language, has been prepared by Major Jørgen Halck, a staff officer of the Danish Home Guard.

The Home Guard is responsible for all facts and information contained in the publication.

Lyngby, Denmark, in July 1954

S. E. JOHNSTAD-MØLLER

Major-General

Chief and Inspector-General of the Danish Home Guard

I

The Danish Home Guard

DENMARKS NEW TERRITORIAL ARMY

At the conclusion of World War II and having been occupied by German armed forces for more than five years, the Kingdom of Denmark was obliged to rebuild her defences from rock-bottom. This applies particularly to arms and equipment. The German military occupation, which whilst it lasted caused considerable distress to the Danish people, had one advantage: it brought home to the nation the sinister meaning of oppression. The Danes emerged from the ordeal as a people spiritually strengthened, and hardened in its determination to resist any future violation of its sovereignty and freedom.

Whereas after liberation nothing remained of Denmark's weak defences, a formidable spirit of resistance had developed in the Danish people during the five years of occupation. This determination was manifested in the slogan: "Never again a 9th April!" (the day in 1940 when the German invasion occurred). A small nation had come to realize that no one is too small to fight for his liberty.

Danish policy of recent years has reflected this resolve. The accession of Denmark to the Atlantic Pact Defence System in 1949 was supported by a considerable political majority, and a marked tendency to place military problems above everyday party political disputes has been noticeable. Simultaneously, the rapid rebuilding of

military defences has provided ample proof of the willing cooperation of the large majority of the population.

The accession to NATO, which aims at coordinating the military defences of each individual member state, is based on the principle that each participant provides the military forces and establishments necessary for the security of its own territory. This development has naturally—in spite of the simplification and standardizing of equipment, military technique and arms production brought about by mutual coordination and planning—put a heavy economic burden on the population.

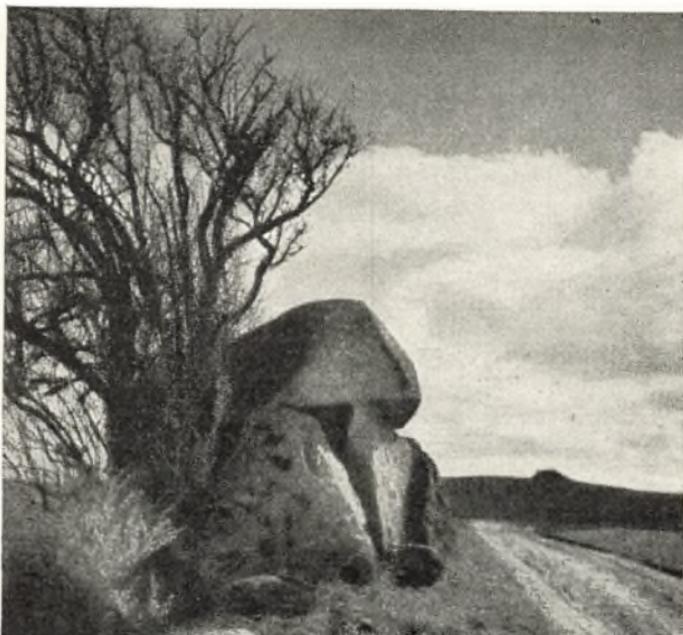
In joining the Atlantic Pact, the Danish armed forces became a link in the chain in which British and U.S. forces play such an important part. Consequently the development of British and American defence measures is being watched with keen interest in Denmark, and—needless to say—every phase in the reconstruction of the British Home Guard is being studied closely by the Danish Home Guard. It can already safely be stated that a great deal of inspiration and several "good ideas" have been imported from the British Home Guard and the U.S. National Guards by the young brother-organization in Denmark.

A complete coordinated Home Guard defence scheme did not exist in Denmark prior to 1946. Throughout her history, territorial units of volunteers have been raised and disbanded in all parts of the Realm, but it required two world wars to persuade the Danes that armed forces which could be mobilized practically within the hour, would have to cover all parts of the Kingdom and be administered independently of the more slowly mobilized army of reservists.

That such armed forces could only be established with vigorous government backing (in respect of propaganda, equipment, training, accommodation, instructors etc.) had also to be realized at the same time.

Only very few of the old volunteer units had been able to survive the economic crisis which tended to arise in Denmark whenever the first outburst of patriotic fervour (usually inspired by an imminent threat of German or Prussian aggression) had abated.

General conscription was introduced in Denmark in the year 1805—originally comprising the peasant class only—but from 1849 (during



The Home Guard is firmly rooted in the thousand years old history and culture of Denmark.

the war against Germany 1848—1850) was extended to every physically fit young man in the country. The regular forces would—in case of war or general mobilization—call up 20 classes, which meant that no man between the age of 20—40 was able to devote himself to any voluntary service, because in the event of a national emergency he would instantaneously be called up for service in the regular army, navy or air force.

Nevertheless, when World War I cast its shadow over Europe, a patriotic movement swept the country and led to the formation of volunteer bicycle-corps, all members being armed with rifles and the newly invented Danish Madsen light machine gun (adopted by the British Army in 1915 as the "Rexer Rifle" but for political reasons never issued). These units were raised in almost every county and specialized invariably in considerable fire-power combined with freedom of movement (transportation consisting of bicycles and motor-cycles).

Apart from these units, members of the local rifle associations simultaneously formed defence companies with a view to guarding railways, bridges, harbours and other points of strategic and tactical value. Members of these units were issued with old Remington single-loader Rifles, but they were evenly distributed throughout the country, and although probably somewhat ineffective in case of war (e. g. they never drilled) it can justly be claimed that they were the pioneers of the present Danish Home Guard.

During the German occupation (1940—45) an underground resistance army was formed in Denmark. This force was mainly equipped with British, United States and Swedish arms and ammunition, which had been smuggled into the country: SMLEs, Stens, Piats and various types of explosives. These weapons enabled the resistance people to carry out the important part of the strategical war which had been assigned to them—e. g. sabotage of the Danish railway system, which caused considerable delay to German troop movements from Norway to France during the time of the crucial battles of Normandy. They also participated in intelligence- and information activities as well as vital liaison work with unoccupied allied countries.

Apart from this activity, the resistance forces gradually became organized and trained with a view to harassing the German army in the rear in case of an Allied Invasion of Scandinavia—or at such times when Allied military spearheads would be approaching the Danish border from the South. Complete coordination between the Danish illegal resistance forces and the British and American armies was achieved through the establishment of an Allied "Special Operations" branch, which placed experienced officers at the disposal of the Danes—to be parachuted into the occupied country and take command of the various resistance units at a previously arranged Zero Hour.

The Germans surrendered to the Allies simultaneously with the arrival of the British XXI Army Group at the Danish-German frontier in May 1945, and due to the unfortunate fact that the regular Danish forces had been effectively disposed of (officers, NCOs and men being either killed, imprisoned, placed in concentration camps or disbanded) the resistance army plus one Brigade of Danish volunteers (consisting of patriotic refugees who had been trained in "neutral" Sweden and landed in Denmark on May 5th 1945) immediately took over police-



A member of the National
Militia – the Home Guard of
1813

and guard duties, as well as undertaking important mopping-up operations in connection with the large scale German surrender.

This work was mainly carried out in cooperation with the British "Royal Dragoons", the 2nd Bataillon "Kings Royal Rifle Corps" and various RAF units that arrived in Denmark during the hectic period when the country was being liberated.

On the large Danish island of Bornholm in the Baltic, Russian armed forces effectively aided in the liberation.



The modern Home Guard is composed of members of all classes of the community. Here is the Lord Mayor of Copenhagen.

From Resistance to Home Guard

The resistance army immediately took steps to convert itself into a national Home Guard, possessing already a country-wide organization plus a certain amount of arms and equipment—apart from the essential enthusiasm and team spirit dating back to the grim days of occupation. This spirit was to become an important asset of the new Home Guard's morale—although military training and efficiency during those early pioneer days naturally was not of the highest order.



The older members of the Home Guard are trained for special guard duties.

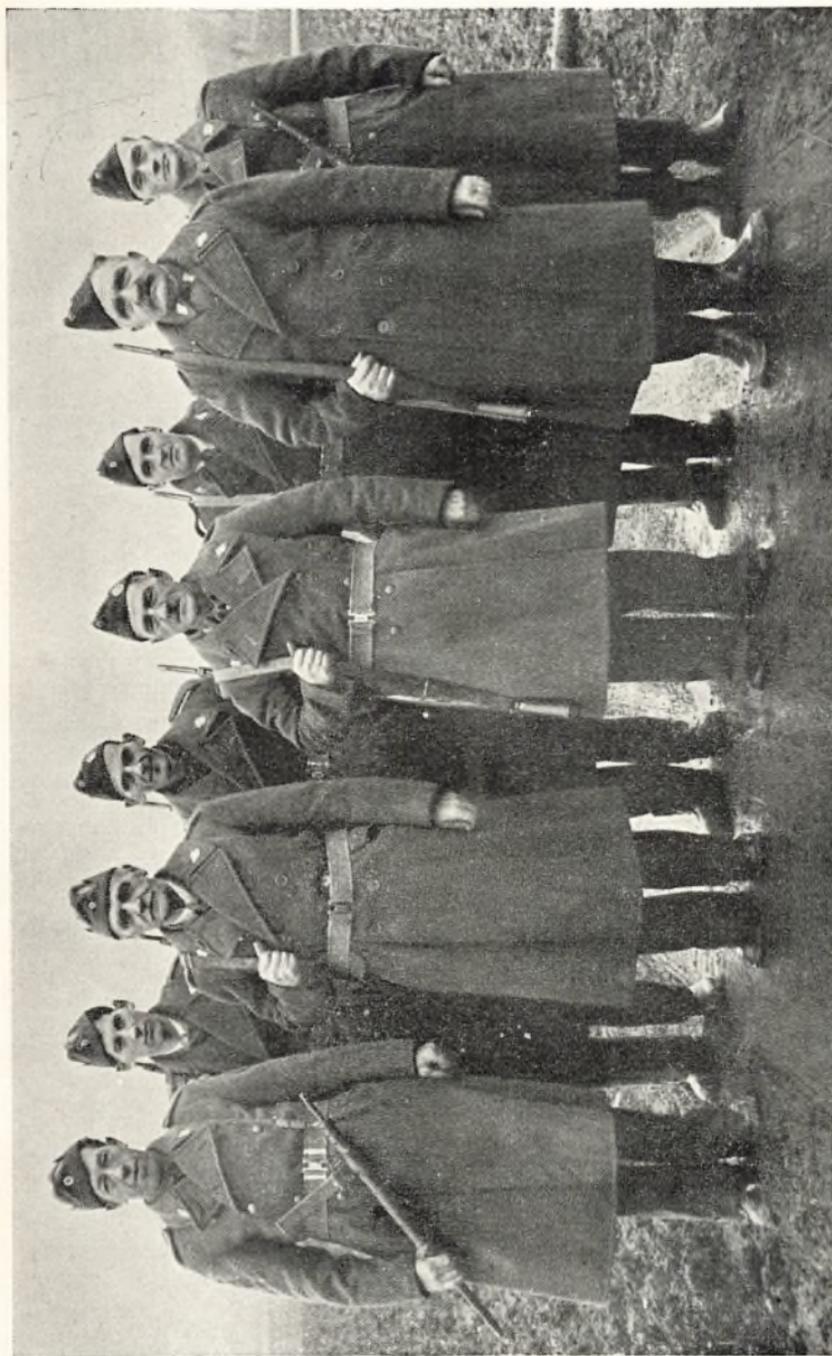
Before the reestablishment of the regular forces was finally agreed upon, an act of Parliament was passed which clearly defined the scope of the new Home Guard and secured for it the necessary economical support, equipment, training facilities and staff, but at the same time—as even to-day—the old resistance movement still constitutes the core of the Danish Home Guard.

In the beginning many serious obstacles had to be overcome because the Home Guard was being built up simultaneously with the regular forces, after an occupation which had cost the army, navy and airforce the loss of all equipment and resulted in a crippling shortage of officers—partly due to casualties during the resistance fighting and partly due



But younger ones join the fighting patrols, a duty requiring hard and realistic training

to the closing down of all military establishments and training centres during the years of occupation.



Family traditions also thrive in the Home Guard. Here are our fathers and sons serving in the same platoon. The record, however, is six fathers and sons in the same platoon.

Since then matters have progressed apace. Being a small country, Denmark was faced with unenviable problems in connection with the rebuilding of her defences before the required state of preparedness could be attained. These problems had to be solved with due regard to the exposed geographical situation of the Kingdom as well as with a certain deference to the internal economical position.

The first mentioned consideration required well developed and trained defence forces, the second complete coordination between the productive and defensive capacity of the country.

The Danish defences have been rebuilt along orthodox lines and consist of:

- 1) REGULAR ARMY UNITS (based on general conscription)
- 2) REGULAR NAVAL UNITS (based on general conscription)
- 3) REGULAR AIRFORCE UNITS (partly based on general conscription)
- 4) HOME GUARD UNITS OF VARIOUS CATEGORIES (based on voluntary service).

Whereas an account of the composition of the three first mentioned categories of regular services obviously falls outside the scope of this resumè, the Home Guard in its present form constitutes a new phenomenon in Denmark, and a brief survey of its organization and tasks may well be of interest.

The idea of creating a Home Guard must be viewed as an attempt to achieve a higher state of military preparedness without—simultaneously—placing too many obstacles in the way of rebuilding the national industries and productive capacity. Consequently the organization is based on the formation of local volunteer defence units.

Gradually the new Home Guard took shape, and the first objective: establishment of armed forces in every hamlet, village, city and parish was soon achieved and the various units were quickly incorporated in a firm yet elastic organization. At present the Home Guard cooperates closely with all branches of the regular armed forces, and derives considerable benefit from tuition by regular officers and NCOs. For—and it should not be forgotten—in Denmark the Home Guard is still an entirely voluntary movement. It is CIVILIANS who parade and hold manoeuvres at week-ends and during their holidays in order to qualify themselves to defend their country.



Special H. G. units are trained as anti-aircraft gunners, and make a valuable contribution to the regular air-defences.

Many of these civilians may be NCOs and officers in the Home Guard, but they still remain "week-end officers". They have to attend to their civilian occupation and are consequently obliged to obtain the necessary tuitionary assistance from colleagues in the regular forces.

The tasks of this new Home Guard were allotted so as to form an immediate obstacle in the path of any hostile surprise invasion by land, sea or air, and to cover the mobilization of regular units by acting as an instantaneous counterforce against the five new arms of aggression which were particularly developed during World War II:

- 1) Hostile commando raids, surprise attacks and enemy infiltration.
- 2) Hostile fifth column and tactical sabotage at vulnerable points.
- 3) Enemy airborne raids and large scale invasions by airborne troops.
- 4) Large scale seaborne invasion by enemy landing craft.
- 5) Enemy psychological warfare and propaganda,

apart from which the Home Guard would also, in the event of national emergency, be employed on guard- and reconnaissance duties at vulnerable points.

As a result of the development of the above mentioned arms of aggression, a completely new military situation arose. In the past the defending forces have always been able to estimate roughly where and

when a major enemy attack would and could be launched with any chance of success—and as a consequence it was generally sufficient to keep constant watch on land frontiers and certain major ports and key points.

Today the situation is vastly different. There scarcely exists a spot anywhere in any country in any part of the world where an attack is improbable—let alone impossible. The flat country of Denmark has been compared with a stationary aircraft-carrier, and it is admittedly a fact that there is hardly a field within the Kingdom which is unapproachable and could not provide suitable landing grounds and assembly points for enemy airborne troops. There is scarcely a single mile of the extensive Danish coast line which is secure from enemy seaborne raiding parties, and there is no village or city which can be considered 100 % secure against fifth column sabotage. Faced with these grave possibilities, regular military forces contained in garrisons, camps or at concentration points—whether urban or rural—may well, in spite of all modern mobility—be seriously decimated. In these circumstances it has been felt necessary to disperse the military establishments all over the country and create a mobile defence force capable of sustaining the initial shock of the enemy's attack.

A great part of this vital task has been allotted the Home Guard.

With these objects in mind, the Danish Home Guard has been thoroughly trained to deal with any possible fifth column activity. Besides, cooperation with the regular field forces has reached a satisfactory standard of efficiency, and during periodic military manoeuvres and large-scale combined exercises, the Home Guard has participated on an equal footing with the regular army and has repeatedly proved its high standard of efficiency to the satisfaction of army commands and regular military observers from other North Atlantic Treaty Organization member states.

In the event of a future war the initial impact of an enemy's attack may well be directed against Denmark, whose important strategic position—placed as it is on the Northern flank of the extended NATO front and controlling as it does the vital sea lanes leading into the Baltic Sea—is indisputable. If such an attack was launched it would not find the Danish defenders unprepared, and it is generally recognized that the Home Guard—during the initial and decisive stages of the battle—



The Air Observers Corps is well organized throughout the country. The corps comprises both men and women members.

until military assistance from the regular forces and the other NATO member states makes itself felt—has been set a fundamental task.

At the outbreak of war it will be the main responsibility of the Home Guard to support the other services. It is presumed that an attack on Denmark would take place without previous warning, and for that reason it is essential to retain a state of permanent military preparedness. In this respect, a small country will admittedly always suffer a handicap, and must therefore—in periods of emergency—necessarily depend on its ability to mobilize the greater part of its reservists before the enemy's main attack culminates. The permanent state of preparedness of the Danish Home Guard aims—as previously stated—at gaining vital time during the period of mobilization. In addition, the Home Guard will relieve the regular army's covering forces of many essential guard duties and also of observation- and patrolling tasks. In addition the Home Guard will supplement the defence of operational airfields and air-stations, and the immediate arrival of H. G. units in threatened areas should ensure that no hostile force—large or small—will be able to operate unobserved or unchecked in any part of the country. Should the Home Guard—due to enemy superiority in numbers or firepower—be unable



Denmark is a country of bicycles and it is therefore natural that this means of transport is used extensively during manoeuvres etc.

to halt the enemy spearheads, it will at any rate be in a position to impede his progress and report his movements.

Whenever it becomes necessary to demolish bridges and lines of communication or create road blocks—in or outside the combat area—this responsibility will mainly rest with the local Home Guard units.

Naval Home Guard and Air Observers Corps

Originally all units were infantry, but gradually Home Guard units were also formed into AA batteries, service corps units—and lately a Naval Home Guard has been separated and attached to the regular Navy where amongst other tasks, it is to undertake guard and patrolling



The Home Guard Officers Training Centre is situated at Nymindegab on the west coast of Jutland. Each morning the cadets assemble for flag-parade.

duties. It is obvious that a country like Denmark, consisting of one major peninsula- and 598 smaller islands within the archipelago, always requires a naval force continually on the alert and fully cognizant with coastal geography for its defence.

Nowadays the Danish navy is supported by Home Guard flotillas, which, in close cooperation with units of the home fleet and coast guard, patrol harbour entrances and points of maritime strategical importance. Considering the extended coast line of Denmark it will be appreciated that very arduous guard duties are imposed on the Danish navy—particularly in view of the exposed and vulnerable main sea lanes leading from the Kattegat, the Skager Rack and the North Sea into the Baltic.

The Danish Home Guard has likewise been of considerable assistance to the airforce through its participation in air observation- and control services and in the protection and defence of air fields. For this specific purpose a special air observers corps has been formed consisting of both men and women.

A few characteristic features illustrating the Danish Home Guards activities may be of interest. Within all detachments working in conjunction with regular army and airforce contingents, specially qualified

personnel is receiving specialist training. This applies i. a. to fighting- and reconnaissance patrols. Considerable demands are being made, not only on the physique and enthusiasm of the students attending these courses—but also (from a psychological point of view) on purely personal qualifications.

It is obvious that the training period of these volunteers far exceeds the minimum stipulated by law: 24—100 hours annually.

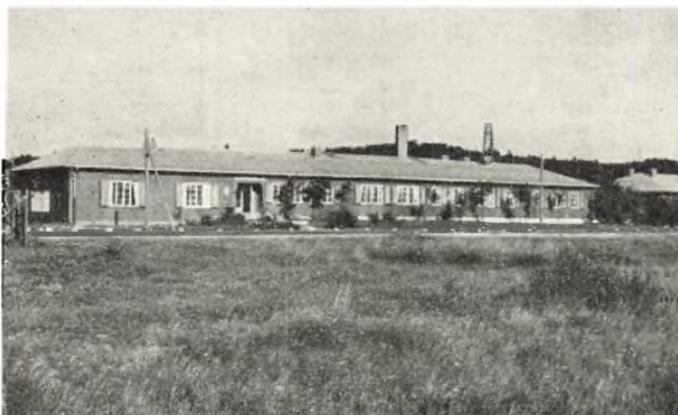
All specialists (and a very considerable number is required in a Home Guard corps which embodies approx. 65,000 men) spend considerably more hours on their military training—and they do so gladly. They are taught to disarm landmines and booby-traps. They attend intelligence courses, they man anti-aircraft guns and engage in numerous other activities. At the same time they attend to their civilian occupation.

They even participate on an equal footing with the regular army, navy and airforce in military competitions, and it might be mentioned that the Home Guard's despatch riders' corps so far has been victorious in all competitions against the regular army—even in cases where the regular army has been represented by teams of regular NCOs. This indicates the strenuous nature of the H. G. training courses.

The Danish Home Guard is legally prevented from enrolling any NS reservist class young enough to be conscripted by the regular forces in the event of national emergency or general mobilization. Consequently the main intake consists of recruits in the age group 30—50, and most units can boast of NCOs and privates in the age group 65—70—and even 80 years of age.

Up to the present all enlistment has been on a purely voluntary basis, but the law provides for general Home Guard conscription and transfer of army-trained personnel of higher age groups within areas where voluntary enlistment may not have been sufficient to cover local requirements. As yet this contingency has not arisen. Retraining of NS personnel falls outside the scope of the Home Guard but is arranged by periodic recalling of ex-NS personnel to their regular units.

As is common throughout the world, the rate of voluntary enlistment for service in the Danish Home Guard depends to some extent on the current international political situation. At the outbreak of the Korean



And this is one of the larger training huts of the O. T. C.

war, large queues indicated the situation of Home Guard recruiting centres.

A considerable number of H. G. recruits have previously served with the regular forces. Among the higher age-groups, however, the majority have never been on active service, due to the fact that the intake of recruits in the years between the two world wars was consistently reduced for economical and political reasons.

As a result the large majority are obliged to undergo a more extensive training than NS reservists with previous military experience.

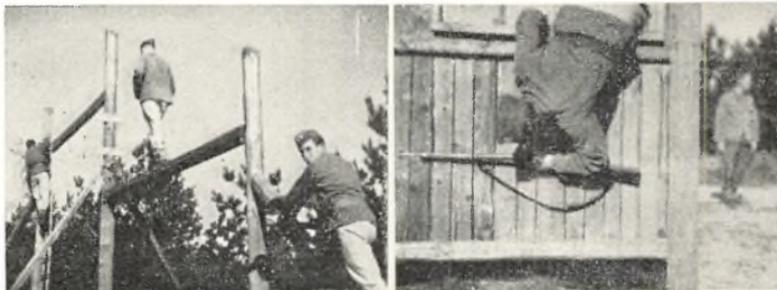
Saturday afternoons, Sundays and weekends are the usual periods for routine training. During the summer months, ordinary weekday evenings are frequently used as well. Summer camps are becoming more and more frequent and popular as equipment grows more plentiful, and training courses for section commanders have been established throughout the country.

The Danish Home Guard boasts its own Officers Training Centre, where officers and NCOs can attend a 7—14 days course every year under the instruction of regular army officers. Although this O.T.C. was established as recently as in 1949, a total of 2508 students attended courses during 1952, and this O.T.C. has already become one of the largest and most important military establishments in Scandinavia and Northern Europe.

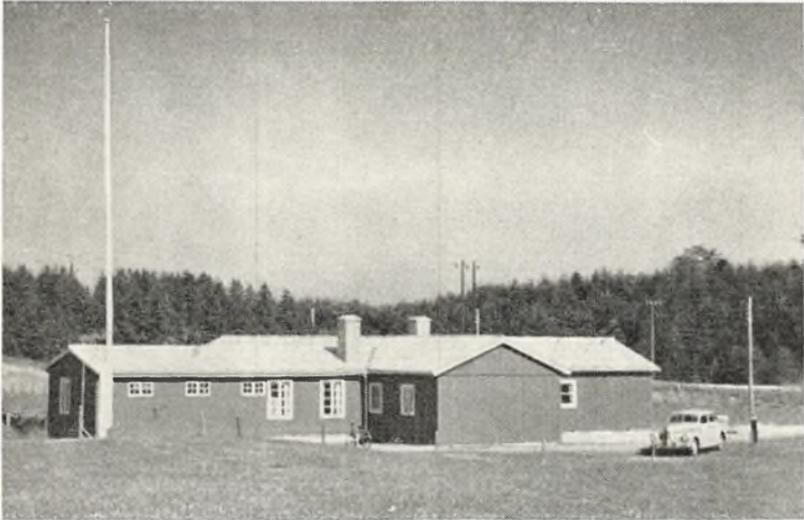
Officers and NCOs are generally selected from the ranks, but naturally members who previously have held commissions in the regular forces are particularly requested to take over the command of local H.G. units. There are, however, areas densely populated with retired officers, where majors and colonels serve as LMG-gunners under H.G. subalterns 30 years their junior. In principle anybody can obtain a commission and retain it as long as he is considered sufficiently efficient and enjoys the confidence of his fellow countrymen—from the same village or area.

A remarkable state of preparedness has gradually been achieved by this voluntarily recruited Home Guard, but in addition a considerable psychological barrier has been created against any possible fifth column activity in the event of a national emergency. Every vital undertaking—commercial or industrial—in the Kingdom has its Home Guard units which are always ready to combat both external and internal threats. Experience has proved that an internal coup d'état cannot easily be successfully carried out in countries which possess a reliable and effective Home Guard. Usually the H.G. will be able to suppress any such attempts by force, apart from which the constant vigilance of a Home Guard tends to exercise a restraining effect on subversive elements.

Clothing and equipment are permanently issued and kept by members in their homes. Likewise is live ammunition, with the result that all Home Guard units are constantly on the alert and can be mobilized within a very short time.



A fighting patrol in training at Nymindégab.



In various parts of the country voluntary labour and donations have caused Home Guard Centres to be established. These centres serve as assembly points and training camps for the local H. G. companies.

Discipline is based on mutual confidence and comradeship, and on the fact that everybody is doing his duty on a voluntary basis. Breaches of discipline are extremely rare—and in serious cases would result in immediate expulsion from the force. Every volunteer desirous of enlisting is carefully examined, his records are checked and a clean sheet in every respect has to be produced. It may safely be assumed that no subversive elements have managed to join the organization.

Uniform and equipment will eventually become similar to that of the regular forces—with the exception of a colour badge which can be quickly discarded in case of mobilization so as to remove any distinction between members of the Home Guard and the regular forces. For that same reason "flashes" are avoided.

Whereas H.G. formations usually are under the command of the CO of the local army command they are not directly attached to local field regiments—and therefore wear a special Home Guard county badge.

The uniform is khaki or battle-dress with a field cap of old Danish design. The web equipment is similar to the British 1937 pattern, and

personal weapon and basic equipment consist at present of rifles, LMGs, sub-machine guns, grenades and anti-tank projectors.

The standard of signal equipment and heavy arms has improved considerably during the last couple of years, but only comparatively few items are of the most modern type, and there is still room for considerable improvement.

The Danish Home Guard may now be said to have settled down. Several years hard work to develop the organization from what it was originally, a resistance army during the German occupation, has now been terminated and the child is growing up.

In spite of the apparent easing of international tension there is still a satisfactory influx of volunteers to the Home Guard. At times it has even been difficult to equip all recruits with the necessary speed. At present (May 1954) the total strength is estimated to be in the neighbourhood of 65,000 men and women and still growing. While the Danish Home Guard aims at doubling its strength on a voluntary basis, there is every reason to be grateful that a comparatively small number of spirited volunteers made the start and put everything in shape before the major recruiting drive could commence.

The enthusiasm of the recruits and their willingness to volunteer for duty in the Home Guard may be taken as a proof that the Danish people realize the seriousness of the present international situation—and also as an expression of the population's willingness to make sacrifices in the defence of their homeland.

From being a small country which fondly imagined that a strict unarmed neutrality in a disturbed world would be the form for security most likely to succeed, Denmark, as a result of a hostile military occupation, has come to understand that the future must be based on more concrete and realistic foundations if liberty is to survive.

It is acknowledged by every man and woman in the Home Guard (and there are thousands of women in the H.G. auxiliary corps) that the future security of Denmark depends upon the willingness of the Danish nation to honour the demands that membership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization necessitates, and contribute towards an effective defence of their country.

The Home Guard is a most important factor in the defence forces of the country. It already possesses considerable striking power, which



Members of the H. G. Women's Auxiliary Corps render valuable service.

should—in time—grow increasingly formidable. It is furthermore a valuable barometer which at any time enables the Danish Government and its Allies to gauge the nation's spiritual power of defence.

A survey of the Home Guard Women's Auxiliary Corps

It is felt that the importance of these womens auxiliary corps, which are closely affiliated with the Home Guard, is such as to warrant an account of their history and organization.

DENMARKS "LOTTEKORPS"—WOMENS AUXILIARY CORPS—as the name implies, is a voluntary nonpolitical organization

of Danish women, established on democratic principles and organized on a geographical basis in (recruiting) units, subdivided according to military districts and regions:

The object of the W.A.C. is briefly:

1) to recruit and train women for active service in the defence of their country within spheres of activity suitable for women.

2) *In peacetime*: to participate in social and humanitarian work.

All Danish women of good health and character may be admitted.

The Women's Auxiliary Corps was established on 9th April 1946 by a number of Danish women, and the status of the organization was subsequently confirmed by the Department of Defence, when, according to a decree dated 9th March 1951, the corps was placed at the disposal of the regular army and the Home Guard and under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defence.

During peacetime, members of the corps work on a voluntary, unpaid basis, the training of members taking place in their spare time—in the evenings, weekends and during summer camps.

In case of war or general mobilization, or when called up for protracted military exercises, members receive a salary. Uniforms are issued, but members have to supply their own personal equipment.

The corps receives a subsidy from the state, but the grant is inadequate, and the Women's Auxiliary Corps is consequently obliged to raise additional funds.

At present the organization comprises 210 units totalling more than 8000 members. An increasing number of members (approx. 3–400) are being accepted as regulars—but as yet on a civilian salary basis and without any possibilities of further promotion.

Recruits are obliged to sign a contract for one year at a time. They are also required to pass certain tests, viz:

1) BASIC SCHOOL: approx. 50 hours.

2) SPECIAL TRAINING:

(a) *elementary*—approx. 50 hours

(b) *advanced*—indefinitely at the military units.

The purpose and organization of the Danish Women's Voluntary Auxiliary Corps is comparable with that of the W.R.A.C. and the W.A.C.



And here members of the Women's Auxiliary Marine Corps participate in Home Guard manoeuvres.

Leadership Schools are conducted during summer holidays. These schools are modelled on the British A.T.S. (now W.R.A.C.) training centres and approximately 1200 students have passed through these establishments.

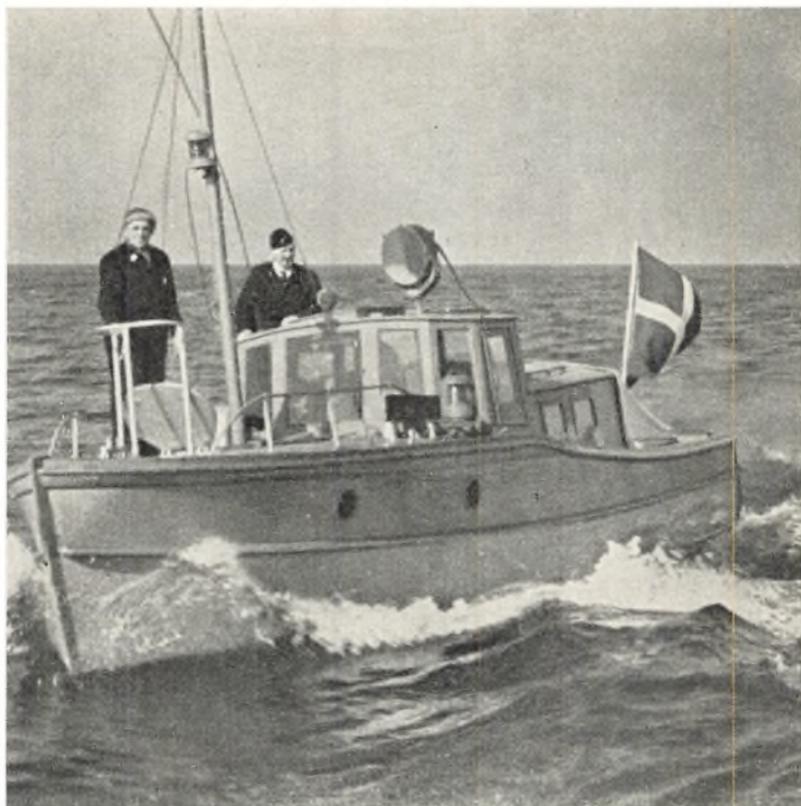
Women's Auxiliary Marine Corps

The Danish Women's Auxiliary Marine Corps was established on 22nd June 1946 with a view to training women for auxiliary work with the Royal Danish Navy:

The corps is organized in a number of sections:

1. BASIC TRAINING WING: is responsible for basic training of personnel throughout the country. This training is divided into elementary and advanced basic schools. At the conclusion of their terms at these courses, volunteers are permitted to apply for additional training on specialist courses.

2. COMMAND WING: supervises the training of all officers. On these courses students are taught leadership, staff work, international politics, navy history, jiu-jitsu etc. etc.



A flotilla of the Naval Home Guard enters the harbour.

3. **ECONOMIC WING:** administers finances and equipment of the corps.

4. **PERSONNEL WING:** maintains liaison with all trained personnel. It is also responsible for all planning and coordinating of future training.

Normally members of the W.A.M.C. hold civilian occupations and have to be trained in their spare time—in the evenings or during holidays and week-ends.

Members are required to pay a minimal admission fee and a small yearly subscription. In return they receive free tuition and uniforms. When their training is terminated members are still required to put in an additional number of training hours every year.

Personnel of the Danish Women's Auxiliary Marine Corps are employed on a purely voluntary basis and receive no pay.

The Women's Auxiliary Marine Corps has branches attached to all naval commands and stations throughout the country and a considerable number of members serve as regulars, but on civilian salary.

As is the case with the other women's auxiliary corps, the W.A.M.C. is still such a young branch of the services that it may be said to be in the experimental stage. It is expected that the future will offer considerable possibilities. One thing is already certain: the position of the Women's Auxiliary Marine Corps within the framework of the Royal Danish Navy has already proved invaluable.

Women's Auxiliary Air Force

The Danish W.A.A.F. was formed on the initiative of the Air Command (Royal Danish Air Force) in 1953 with a view to supporting the R.D.A.F. in Denmark and Greenland. This auxiliary service is performed by women specially trained for this purpose in accordance with a contract between the Minister of Defence and the W.A.A.F.—and in pursuance of the laws and regulations governing the Danish Home Guard.

For reasons of training and organization the Women's Auxiliary Air Force is grouped into two sections corresponding to the military areas allotted to the Danish Western and Eastern Base Commands.

A Directorate, consisting of a Chief of Corps, two base-commanders and a number of section commanders as well as a few specially elected members, is in charge of the organization. This executive branch administers the corps in accordance with W.A.A.F. regulations and acting on R.D.A.F. orders. Whereas the director and the base- and section commanders all are appointed and must be confirmed in their appointments by the Royal Danish Air Force as well as the Department of Defence and the Home Guard Command, a number of members of the Directorate are specially chosen among the W.A.A.F. officers by members of the corps for a period of 3 years at a time.

The personnel are divided into squadrons, platoons and groups, and the organization comprises two different categories of members:

- 1) enlisted personnel employed on contract

2) volunteers serving during large scale manoeuvres and in the case of national emergency.

Membership is confined to Danish women of good character who can produce a satisfactory health certificate. As a rule only women within the age group 18—35 years are accepted.

After having passed various preparatory and basic training courses, members are permitted to apply for admission to corporal, cadet and officers training colleges. The establishment of a staff officers training course is contemplated, but the final curriculum has still to be decided upon. On the various courses training is mainly confined to subjects appertaining to the W.A.A.F. and R.D.A.F., e. g. organization, air-defence, drill, discipline, general service knowledge, clerical duties (secretarial statistical work and accountancy) small arms training, jiu-jitsu, athletics, orientation and psychology.

Technical courses include training in various subjects, e. g. photography, parachute packing, ground- to air signalling, control- and communication services (radar, plotting, signalling and meteorology).

At the present moment additional courses are in the process of being planned: aircraft engineering, servicing of electrical and mechanical equipment, motorized transportation, medical first aid, air craft control and W/T services.

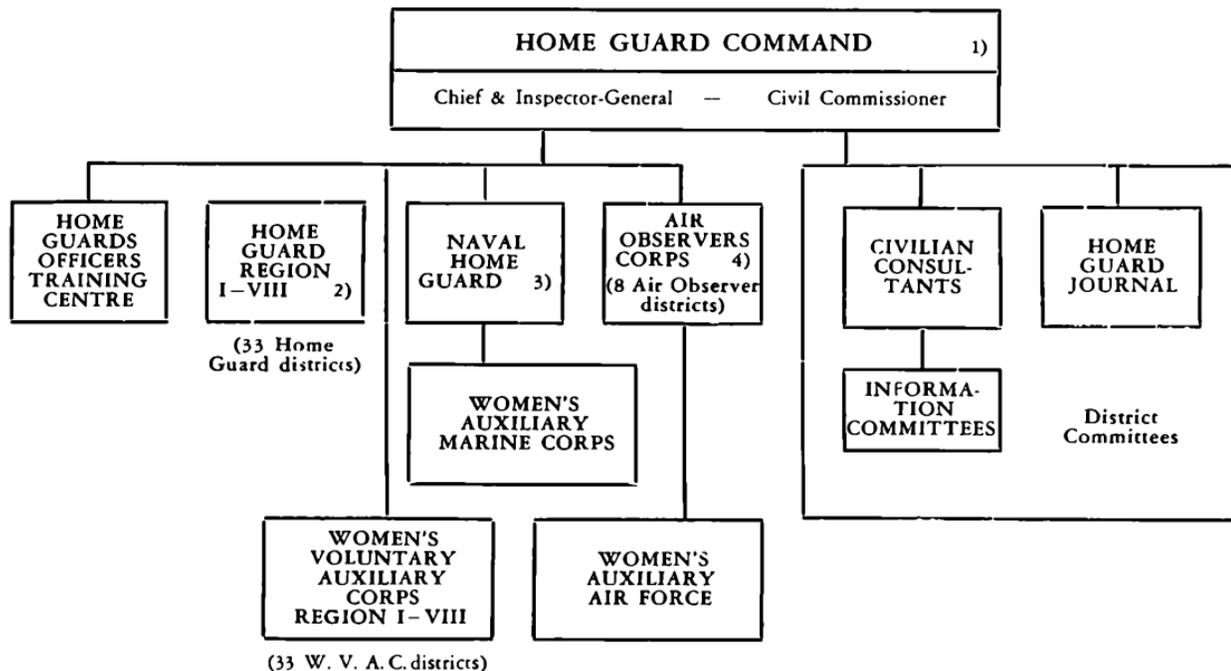
The Danish Women's Auxiliary Air Force is still in its infancy, but the enthusiasm and morale of its members is high and promises well for the future.

Explanatory notes to Diagram

1. THE DANISH HOME GUARD was established by Law of 16th July 1948 and by later laws.
2. ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION: (see diagram)
 - (a) The Home Guard consists of military units, which for operational- and training purposes—according to their character—are under the command of the army, navy and air force respectively.
 - (b) The sections of the Home Guard which are directly attached to the army (the territorial Home Guard) are divided into 8 Home Guard regions.

Organization and Administration of The Danish Home Guard

Organizational Structure of The Danish Home Guard



1) for administrative purposes placed directly under the Ministry of Defence

2) for operational and training purposes placed under Army Command (regional)

3) for operational and training purposes placed under Royal Danish Navy Command

4) for operational and training purposes placed under Royal Danish Air Force Command

- (c) Those units attached to the Royal Danish Navy (the naval Home Guard) constitute an entirety, which for administrative purposes corresponds to a Home Guard region. The naval Home Guard consists of a number of H. G. flotillas.
 - (d) Those units which are attached to the Royal Danish Air Force (Air Observers Corps) correspond for administrative purposes to a Home Guard region.
3. **THE HOME GUARD COMMAND:** consists of a Commanding General (Inspector-General of the Home Guard) and a Civil Commissioner.
 4. **THE HOME GUARD STAFF:** consists of both military and civilian personnel, who are directly controlled by the Home Guard Command.
 5. **THE CHIEF OF THE HOME GUARD** is also Inspector-General, which is to say that he lays down all regulations concerning equipment and training within the organization, just as he supervises and is responsible for the training.
 6. **THE CIVIL COMMISSIONER** is the civilian leader of the Home Guard, in charge of all political- and public relations. The C. C. is also in charge of information and recruiting—assisted by a number of civilian consultants.
 7. **THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES:** handle applications for Home Guard membership. Members of these committees are nominated by the Minister of Defence after recommendation from "The Association of Danish Provincial Towns" and "The Cooperative Association of City Councils".
 8. **THE HOME GUARD OFFICERS TRAINING CENTRE:** is directly under the supervision of the Inspector-General of the Home Guard. The school trains officers and NCOs, but also specialist training of instructors is undertaken.
 9. **A HOME GUARD REGION** constitutes:
 - A regional leader (Colonel or Lieut. Colonel)
 - A regional Home Guard staff
 - A number of Home Guard districts.
 - The Army chief of the region concerned assigns the duties to



The Home Guard contains several well trained motor despatch units.

the Home Guard (in respect of both security- and guard duties) and is also responsible for the coordination of all military units within the army region).

10. A HOME GUARD DISTRICT constitutes:

A district leader (Major) and

A number of Home Guard companies.

The district leader is under the direct command of the regional leader, from whom he receives orders in respect of training and directives as regards security- and guard duties.

III

The Danish Home Guards Officers Training Centre, Jutland

This O.T.S. (henceforth called the H.G. School) was established on 1st June 1949—which day is considered the date of inauguration

despite the fact that actual training was only commenced on 12th June 1949.

Prior to establishment, directives had been received from the Inspector-General of the Home Guard to the effect that the primary task of the H.G. School during the opening season would be to give company commanders, 2 i-c's and NCOs attached to the newly formed Home Guard companies an all-round training, which would not only qualify them to "supervise and direct the formation and training of H.G. companies in all parts of the Kingdom" but would also aim at promoting "a spirit and morale within the Home Guard Officers Corps which ensured that the Danish Home Guard would retain its national character as well as the essential solidarity with the civilian population"—as stipulated in the regulations governing the organization.

In compliance with these directives it became necessary for the new H.G. School to develop a working program, which would synchronize the high patriotic morale and the maintenance of a democratic and national spirit of the students, who were all volunteers in the Home Guard, with an effective short term military training, which would qualify the officer graduates for the difficult task they had undertaken: the creation of a new Danish Home Guard.

During the first season of the School's existence, the first mentioned task was considered to be of paramount importance because it obviously was difficult to give students on the 1 week courses more than the rudiments of military training during the six working days which were allotted the instructors—particularly when it is remembered that several years had elapsed since the majority of the students had seen military service and that a considerable number had never been conscripted.

During the initial stages, the School was consequently obliged to concentrate the training on the development of moral character and a sense of responsibility in the students by treating them as mature and responsible fellow citizens—which in fact they were—and by appealing to their sense of honour in order to convey to them an understanding of their duties and responsibilities towards their subordinates at a time when new units were still being equipped and trained throughout the country.

Right from the beginning the curriculum of the H.G. School has



Members of the Danish Home Guard visit Norway. A considerable exchange of H. G. personnel takes place between the Scandinavian countries.

been based on the object lesson method, and the theory that military students on short-term courses should gather their knowledge **PRACTICALLY** in preference to **THEORETICALLY**, and **VISUALLY** in preference to by **WORD OF MOUTH**, has been adhered to and has proved its worth. For each succeeding season, and with the aid of increasing experience, this method has been systematically developed and improved upon.

During 1949—the year of foundation—a total of 30 courses were attended by 879 students. Already the following year, however, the rapidly growing interest in this kind of training proved evident and caused the number of students to enroll for the season 15/4—30/9 1950 to increase to 2139 and the third year (1951) to 3003, while new courses were still being organized (e.g. specialist courses in demolition and railway-security—as well as extended company—and platoon commander courses).

In 1952 a plan was drawn up with a view to admitting as many Home Guard officers and suitable Home Guard officer candidates to the School as possible. According to estimates it was hoped to pass

approximately 3800—4200 students through the School every year during a season lasting from 1st February—31st October.

During the 1950 and 1951 terms, section-leader courses were held regularly at the School, but with the growth of the Home Guard and the subsequent increasing demand for additional knowledge and impulses through short-term training courses, lack of space and shortage of personnel forced the School to discontinue these courses and transfer them to the regional Home Guard commands. During the 1952 term, platoon- and company commander courses as well as specialists courses were concentrated on.

The School, which is under the direction and supervision of a professional officer (Lieut. Colonel) and a staff of regular officers and specially trained Home Guard officers, is divided into two different wings and a number of separate faculties, each headed by a superintendent, a second in command and a number of teachers depending upon the number of students. The teachers and instructors are selected partly from the Home Guard itself and partly from the regular army. Each faculty has its own complement of officers (company- and platoon-commanders and specialists). During the 1953 season it proved possible to include a few sectionleader courses in the curriculum.

The courses ranging under the various Departments are the following:

- 1) TACTICAL WING:
 - 4 consecutive company commanders courses (a-b-c-d).
 - 3 consecutive platoon commanders courses (a-b-e).
 - 1 house-to-house and street fighting course.
 - 1 anti-tank and tank recognition course.
 - 1 section-leaders course.
all remaining specialist courses viz:
 - 2 fighting patrol courses (a-b).
 - 1 close combat course.
- 2) TECHNICAL WING:
 - 3 small arms instructors, shooting and fire practice courses.
 - 1 signal instructors course.
 - 1 demolition course.
 - 1 mining course.
 - 1 railway security course (for railway employees).



But visitors from the west are also welcome. Here a member of the British Home Guard takes leave of one of his Danish colleagues.

- 1 motor despatch riders course.
- 1 administration course for senior NCOs.
- 1 special instructors course (drill—use of various types of arms).

As experience has proved that pressure of work is at a minimum within the building industry and farming community during the winter months, the School has arranged for platoon-commander courses for farmers and artisans to be held during the month of February.

The tendency during the last 5 years has been towards a gradual intensification of military training with particular stress laid on the development of INDIVIDUAL efficiency—the demand for which has emanated from the students themselves and naturally been warmly welcomed and supported by the School authorities.

It has been ascertained that students who have once attended a course at the School usually return for one or more subsequent terms, and it has consequently proved feasible to introduce "extended and advanced courses" in various subjects on the curriculum, a fact which naturally, both from a tactical and technical point of view enables the School to give the students a more detailed and thorough training in the military subjects in which they are specializing.

Simultaneously with the intensification of military training, the School has continued to accent that part of the training which tends to develop the character and will-power of the students, not least through the personal example of teachers and instructors. It is felt to be of importance that the personal contact between instructors and students, as well as the comradely association of all ranks should be retained to the greatest possible extent, although the steadily growing number of students naturally tends to impede this trend. The School is well aware of this difficulty and an ever increasing part of the instructors' spare time is being devoted to social association with the students.

TRADITION already means a great deal to the students—in so far as it has been possible to create real traditions within the limited period of five years that the School has been in existence. It is a fact, however, that students who return to the School for a second term expect to be met with the familiar training methods, the same cooperative spirit and cordial atmosphere that they encountered on their first visit, and they are repeatedly expressing their appreciation of certain School routines which have become traditional, viz the daily flag parade, the welcoming ceremony and the free and easy fellowship between students and instructors.

That members of the Home Guard enthusiastically approve of the educational methods employed, may best be gauged by the fact during the five years of its existence, more than 11,000 students have passed through the School.

Though the students originate from all classes of the community they have proved perfectly able to keep order amongst themselves and their conduct has been exemplary. The instructors continuously emphasize the goal to be attained, and this fact, coupled with the students obvious satisfaction at training and cooperating with countrymen of a similar patriotic outlook, who have dedicated themselves to the defence of their country, has been the incentive behind the School during its short existence.

The encouraging success of the School may also be gauged from the number of students who frequent this training centre from year to year.

The figures are as follows:



Danish Home Guard Officers visiting U.S.A.

1949:	879
1950:	2139
1951:	3003
1952:	2508
1953:	3200

Considering that no section-leader courses were held during 1952 (which accounts for the decline in the number of students that particular year) and in view of the fact that it is estimated that the total of students during 1954 is expected to exceed that of any previous year, it will be appreciated that the popularity of the School has been proved, and that this training centre has become a most important factor in the Danish military training program—based as it is upon voluntary and democratic service within the framework of national defence and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

General Training

Some of the factors which must always be borne in mind when considering the training of Danish Home Guard units are:

- (a) **THE NATURE OF THE TASK TO BE FULFILLED.**—Some tasks of a purely static nature require comparatively little training. Others, though of a defensive nature, involve the active use of

fighting patrols, demolition squads—and other tasks require a highly trained personnel.

- (b) CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT.—Certain civilian employments already lend themselves to the task, e.g. a gamekeeper is usually a readymade stalker, a physically fit railwayman a suitable member of the Home Guards railway security units.
- (c) THE OPPORTUNITY TO REHEARSE.—Because it will be possible to rehearse most of the operations which the Home Guard may be called upon to carry out, less training in battlecraft is required than, for instance, in the case of the field army.
- (d) AGE AND PHYSIQUE.—It is useless to suppose that older men and men employed on sedentary jobs in civilian life can be thrown into full-scale active training at a moment's notice.

The Danish Home Guard is consequently being trained only for the tasks which it will have to perform, making full use of suitable material which already exists. This training is, as far as possible, carried out sensibly and progressively, having due regard for age and civilian employment. Training which is, or was, suitable for the field army is not necessarily suitable for the Home Guard, partly because the tasks differ and partly on account of the differences in age and physique.

By making the training progressive these difficulties are being overcome and more and more active training is being undertaken without fear of ill effects. Only the simplest drills to enable parties to assemble, move from one place to another and handle their weapon in a workmanlike fashion are required. It has been ascertained that discipline never suffers, provided that these movements are carried out smartly and briskly.

IV

Curriculum for the Danish Home Guards Officers Training Centre 1953

(abridged).

When the School herewith publishes a detailed survey of the curriculum for the 1953 season, this is done in order to comply with a long expressed desire on the part of the students.



Though varied in its composition and appearance the Danish voluntary Home Guard possesses the will-power and spirit to defend the country should liberty again be threatened.



In this connection it would be natural to mention some of the considerations which have had an influence on the planning of the more important courses.

COMPANY COMMANDER COURSES: Considering the large amount of professional and technical knowledge which has to be acquired by a company commander, the training period is extremely short.

It has therefore proved necessary to subdivide the various subjects very clearly and omit material and subjects from the individual courses which previously had been used to complete the teaching, while on the other hand the variety of subjects on the three courses has been increased.

Course I.a.: will therefore deal primarily with administration, organization and general training, while tactical training will be postponed until later courses.

PLATOON COMMANDER COURSES: As is the case with company commander courses, the material must of necessity be divided between the two compulsory courses, so that they—from an educational point of view—form a whole. Practical and personal skill can be attained on Course II a, while the art of instructing forms the main subject on Course II b.

It has long been regretted that lack of time did not permit platoon commanders to receive a more thorough training. This year a platoon commanders Course II e has therefore been included in the curriculum, where the training is concentrated on tactical exercises and practical combat.

Courses on close combat, general battle- and fieldcraft, house- and street fighting are planned within well defined limits, and during 1953, the courses will generally take the form of those held during 1952.

SPECIALIST COURSES: will not alter materially from those held in 1952.

As regards *fighting- and reconnaissance patrol courses* more stress

will be laid on elementary patrol training—both in country and built-up areas—and this course will not in future be run concurrently with *the advanced fighting patrol course*, as experience has proved that a combination of the two is disadvantageous.

THE SIGNAL COURSE: will this year be a continuous course, but will—in contrast to the 1952-courses—concentrate on training specialists. There will, however, also this year be a repetition of the ordinary course.

RAILWAY COURSES: will not this year be divided into a basic and an advanced course, but will partly encompass ordinary elementary military training and partly training in guard and sentry duties etc. in connection with the railway communication system.

SMALL ARMS INSTRUCTORS COURSE: will this year be extended experimentally by another course where small arms instructors I and II will get an opportunity of augmenting their knowledge—particularly in spheres where lack of time has previously prevented them from participating. The technical aspect as well as the planning of exercises will be stressed in particular.

It is considered of great importance that the weapon training and fire practice of the Home Guard be efficiently and expediently carried out, and it is the hope of this Training Centre that instructors who specialize in the use of small arms will avail themselves of these courses—thereby becoming efficient and practiced instructors.

MOTOR DESPATCH RIDERS COURSE: of which there will be two this season, aims at training those instructors who have been entrusted with independent tasks. It is still considered necessary to put the main stress on instruction, but the course will nevertheless, to a greater extent than previous years, offer the students opportunities of becoming efficient as far as ordinary despatch service is concerned. It can therefore be attended with advantage by all officers connected with this branch of the services—and form a basis for future training of platoon commanders.

It is the hope of this training centre, that the survey which is now

being published and which covers all spheres of the Schools activities, will prove useful to members of the Home Guard desirous of improving their military efficiency, so that they will have no difficulty in choosing the courses they wish to attend.

During the 1952 season students repeatedly expressed a desire that their period of training at the School should be utilized to the best possible advantage, and the School is confident that the efforts, both on the part of instructors and students, will be characterized by the same determination and good fellowship this season as during the previous seasons.



CONTENTS

- I The Danish Home Guard — Denmark's New Territorial Army
 - Infantry Home Guard
 - Naval Home Guard and Air Observers Corps
 - Women's Voluntary Auxiliary Corps (Danish „Lottekorps“)
 - Women's Auxiliary Marine Corps
 - Women's Auxiliary Air Force
- II Organization and Administration of the Danish Home Guard
- III An account of the Danish Home Guard officers training centre, Jutland.
- IV Curriculum for the Danish Home Guard's officers training centre, 1953 (abridged).