

Farm boy 'ordered to blow up a town'

By **John Ingham** Defence Editor

A FARMER yesterday told for the first time how as an 18-year-old boy he was ordered to blow his home town "to smithereens" if the Germans invaded during the Second World War.

Dillwyn Thomas, 88, was part of a secret Army unit trained to carry on a guerrilla war against the Nazis.

"We had access to every weapon you could imagine," he said. "Daggers, guns, explosives. They were kept in a secret underground bunker that only we knew about.

"If the Germans had landed and it looked as though they were making inroads we were to blow up the steelworks, oil refinery, train line and anything else which could have been of any use to them, then lie low in the countryside."

Combat

Dillwyn, of Margam, near Port Talbot, South Wales, was working as a farm boy when he was recruited by one of the guerrilla groups set up by Winston Churchill and called Auxiliary Units.

He trained on weekend courses at Coleshill House, near Highworth, Wiltshire, in the arts of guerrilla warfare, including assassination, unarmed combat, demolition and sabotage.

He said: "We were told to blow Port Talbot to smithereens. Of course I'm delighted it never came to that but I must admit there's a tiny part of me which is disappointed that I never got to test my training in battle."

For more than 30 years after the end of the war he did not even tell his family what he had been up to. But now Dillwyn, who still farms in the area, has revealed his secret in a book, *A View From The Main Ring*.

Pictures: WALES NEWS



Dillwyn as a boy during the war



...and today still farming aged 88



Steelworks at Port Talbot that Dillwyn Thomas was supposed to blow up