



Photographed at the London Palladium

## Palladium Girls drink milk

Five minutes to curtain up. Out front the restless, expectant audience. Backstage all is last-minute flutter and confusion. Struggle with a stubborn zip. Search for a lost lipstick. Snatch a glass of milk.

Milk—that's a very important prop backstage. Which does not seem surprising when you come to consider a dancer's life. It's incredibly energetic, often disorganised and

rushed, always unsettled. And it is just such people—living with strain, snatching hurried, irregular meals, always on the move—that milk helps so tremendously.

Milk makes up for rushed, scrappy meals. It steadies the nerves. And it's a wonderful beauty treatment. Little wonder you find it in the dressing room—alongside the grease-paint and powder!

**Drink a pint of milk a day**

REVEALED TODAY FOR THE

# BACKS

**THE** man who would have led Britain's Secret Army into action, if the Nazis had landed on our shores in that fateful summer of 1940, has ended his nineteen-year silence to tell me:—

"Yes, I was ordered to organise guerilla and sabotage units to fight behind the lines."

Major-General Sir Colin Gubbins, D.S.O., M.C., is now the managing director of a textile firm. In 1940 he was forty-four-year-old Colonel Gubbins.

He was just back from Norway where he had commanded the Independent Companies—later to become the Commandos—in action against the Germans.

The story of the Secret Army he organised has never been told until today. But it is a story every Briton can read with pride.

I have told you, in previous weeks, what the Nazis planned to do in Britain.

Now I can tell you about the desperate fight which would have been made to save Britain after the invaders had landed.

### Plans

OF course, Britain's main line of defence would have been the Royal Navy, the RAF and the Army divisions—which were poised to fight.

But the Nazis were expected to achieve some early successes.

They were expected to be able to put about 100,000 men ashore on the South Coast between Rottingdean and Hythe.

Then the Germans—and this is known from captured plans—would have launched a lightning, all-

out, armoured punch at London. But the Secret Army would have struck behind the German lines, where the enemy was most vulnerable.

These British guerillas would have already reported to secret hideouts in woods, caves and disused quarries.

There they would have remained hidden until the German spearhead had passed.

Then they would have emerged stealthily to strike dramatically at the enemy's rear.

### Order

GENERAL GUBBINS—later in the war he commanded the daring cloak-and-dagger Special Forces—told me last week how all this was prepared.

He said: "I had just been evacuated with my troops from Norway."

"We landed at Glasgow, where I was ordered to re-

port immediately to the War Office."

Colonel Gubbins hurried to London. He did not know that Winston Churchill himself had ordered the appointment.

### Forces

AT the War Office, the colonel was told:—"The Germans must be attacked all the time. They will be attacked at sea and from the air as they cross the Channel. They will be attacked as they land."

"But we must be prepared for them to gain an initial success before we can bring the main part of our forces against them."

"For that reason you are instructed to try to create an organisation to fight the Germans behind their lines."

"You will report progress directly to the Commander-in-Chief Home Forces, General Ironside, and to the Prime Minister himself."

The idea of guerilla warfare was not new to Colonel Gubbins, although he was a Regular Gunner officer trained in conventional methods.

He told me:—"Organisation of guerillas to fight in Britain in the event of an invasion was first suggested by my good friend, the late Major Joe Holland."

"Before the war he had studied the underground and unorthodox methods of fighting so successfully used in Spain and China."

### Relics

THE colonel went on:—"I, too, had studied guerilla activities before the war."

"And twice I had seen the Nazis in action—in Poland, where I was serving when they invaded in 1939, and in Norway."

But how was Colonel Gubbins to set about his task?

Men were queuing up to join the then virtually unarmed Local Defence Volunteers (later the Home Guard).

Old shotguns and revolvers were cleaned, spears and native clubs—

## Where Britons

### DID fight the invaders

A BRITISH Resistance Movement DID go into action on British soil—in the Channel Islands.

Although British troops were withdrawn from the islands in 1940 and the islanders were told not to run risks in resisting, they formed their own Secret Army and:—

● CHARTED all the Germans' elaborate military defences, photographed the charts, then smuggled them out to Britain.

● The photographer, Stanley Green, was caught and sent to Belsen, but he survived and is now the chief projectionist at a St. Helier cinema.

● BLEW UP a big ammunition dump at the Palace Hotel, Jersey, killing many Germans.

● BUILT a radio transmitter. Engineer P. G. Warder, who made it, stood by to transmit German troop movements to Britain, but the Germans surrendered before it could be used.

● CUT military telephone lines and railway lines laid for transporting ammunition.

● STARTED their own underground newspaper, called GUNS, to spread B.B.C. news. For helping in this, Canon Cohu was sent to a concentration camp where he died.