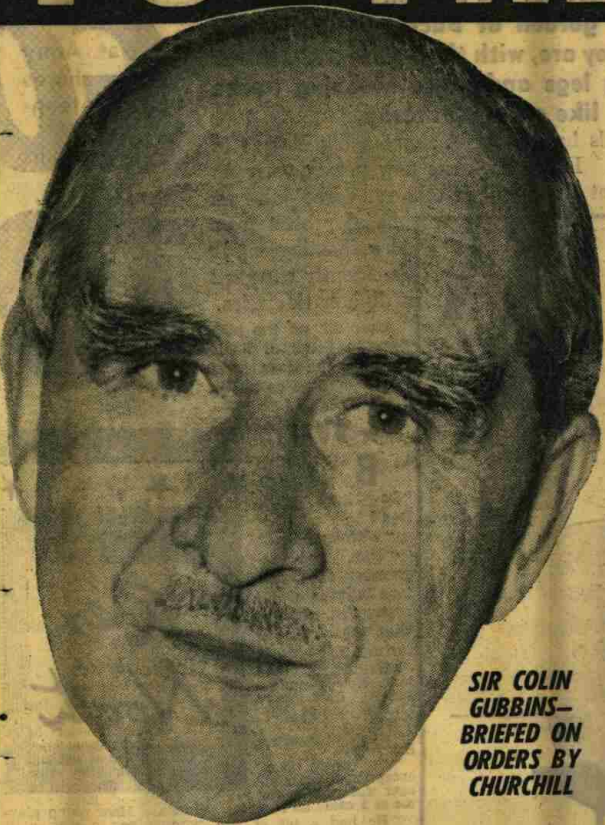


FIRST TIME... HOW WE IN BRITAIN WOULD HAVE FOUGHT WITH OUR-

TO THE WALL...



SIR COLIN GUBBINS— BRIEFED BY ORDERS BY CHURCHILL

HE WOULD HAVE LED US



Men like these prepared secret hideouts in woods and stocked them with arms, ready for the day the Nazi invaders might have landed.

In Lincolnshire we sought out the fens, who knew every inch of their fens and marshes.

"In Scotland we found the ghillies, who knew every track and hiding place on the wild moors.

"In the New Forest of Hampshire and other forests we recruited the Forest Rangers, men who could harass the enemy and disappear among their trees as swiftly and silently as their own deer."

Strike

HE added: "Around the Wash and the South Coast we found fishermen and lobstermen who knew every creek.

"In South Wales and Cornwall we sought out miners who could live and strike from the web of pit shafts, which only they knew."

And everywhere in the country the Colonel and his men rounded up gamekeepers and farmers for the army.

"In fact," said General Gubbins, "one of my men was King George VI's gamekeeper at Sandringham, Mr. W. Clark.

"It was vital that no one knew what these men were going to do so that no secrets could be given away.

"So the men had solemnly to swear not to tell even their wives what their real job was.

"To all appearances they were in the ordinary Local Defence Volunteers."

H.Q.

WITHIN a couple of months several thousand men were members of the Secret Army.

General Gubbins continued: "Soon we had taken over Coleshill House, at Coleshill, in Berkshire, as our headquarters.

"Every Friday to Tuesday forty men of the Secret Army arrived from all over the country for a course in guerilla fighting.

"Since most of them were World War One veterans, and countrymen they were nearly all good shots."

Silent

THE general continued: "At the headquarters the men were trained to move silently and unseen over the ground, taught sniping and how to handle Molotov cocktails (petrol-filled bottles for use against tanks), and explosives for the destruction of bridges and arms dumps."

"And in each sector, secret hideouts were prepared.

"They were mostly dugouts in thick woods and forests, in disused mine shafts and caves.

"They were stocked with three months' supply of arms, stores and food.

"At first each unit consisted of one officer and about seven members of the LDV.

"Soon automatics, Tommy-guns and rifles be-

gan to arrive from America and each unit was equipped with a portable radio.

"By this means they would have been directed against vital points behind the German lines spied out by RAF spotter planes."

Winston Churchill became very enthusiastic about the Secret Army.

Colonel Gubbins received copies of progress reports he had submitted with scribbled comments by Churchill like "Great, Keep on with it..."

Colonel Gubbins DID keep on with the good work. His Secret Army became highly trained, although they never went into action, because the

Royal Navy and the RAF kept command of the sea and the sky. That dashed Hitler's hopes of invasion.

BUT GENERAL GUBBINS'S STORY PROVES THAT BRITAIN WAS READY TO FIGHT TO THE END IF THE NAZIS HAD LANDED.

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