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Notes for Home Guard Anniversary Parade

14th May, 1944

The fourth anniversary of the formation of the Home Guard (then called Local Defence Volunteers) will be celebrated by a parade in Hyde Park on Sunday, 14th May.

His Majesty the King will take the salute at Stanhope Gate. The Officer in attendance is Lieut.-General H.C. Loyd, G.O.C. London District.

The parade and march past will be made up as follows:-

Officers and Other Ranks from every Home Guard Battalion, M.T. Column and A.A. Battery in London.

A detachment of the 1st American Squadron in London.

Four Home Guard bands from 'Y' Sector, the 51st Essex Battalion, the 56th Survey Battalion and 'X' Sector.

A detachment Headquarters Signal Company.

Each composite Battalion will be commanded by a Battalion Commander.

Colonel R. Johnston C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., will act as Chief Marshalling Officer at the starting point, which is just west of the Tyburn Gate, Marble Arch.

There will be many thousands of Home Guards taking part in all. The route of the march will be - Marble Arch, East Carriage Road, Hyde Park, Hyde Park Corner, Piccadilly, Piccadilly Circus (South side) Shaftesbury Avenue, Cambridge Circus, Charing Cross Road, St. Giles' Circus, Oxford Street, Marble Arch, Hyde Park (where the procession will disperse). The saluting base is at Stanhope Gate, Hyde Park.

The procession will be divided into composite battalions and will be led by the 'Y' sector composite band. The band of the Welsh Guards will play the whole column past the saluting base.

The dress to be worn will be Battle Dress, Steel helmets and Respirators. Rifles will be carried.

Note:-

It is the general policy to discourage ceremonial parades for the Home Guard, as taking up time required for training for battle, but on this occasion there are two very good reasons why an exception is being made.

First, there is great moral value in showing both our own people and the enemy what a large, well-armed, and well-trained force the Home Guard has become. Secondly, good publicity will stimulate the justifiable pride which Home Guards take in their membership of the force and their personal efficiency.

It is not the intention of the War Office or of Home Forces to alter their general policy about ceremonial parades. This is an exceptional occasion and it is settled policy not to allow unnecessary parades.

THE ORDER OF THE PROCESSION.

- 1st. The procession will be divided into composite battalions and will be led by the "Y" sector composite band.
- 2nd. A detachment of the 1st American Squadron in London.
- 3rd. A detachment Headquarters Signal Company.
- 4th. A. Battalion.
- 5th. B. Battalion.
- 6th. Four Home Guard bands from "Y" Sector, the 51st Essex Battalion, the 56th Survey Battalion and "X" Sector.
- 7th. C. Battalion.
- 8th. D. Battalion.
- 9th. Band of 56th.
- 10th. E. Battalion.
- 11th. F. Battalion.
- 12th. X Section Composite Band.
- 13th. G. Battalion
- 14th. A.A. Gun Detachment.
- 15th. Smith Gun Detachment.
- 16th. No.1. London Transport Column Lorries.
- 17th. No.2. London Transport Column Lorries.
- 18th. Taxi Column.

NOTE. Home Guard Parade in Hyde Park. 14th May 1944

NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE - NO.5 (LONDON) REGION.

INSPECTION OF (NO.5 REGION) OVERSEAS CONTINGENT BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE, THE RT. HON. H. MORRISON, P.C., M.P.

HYDE PARK, FRIDAY, 12th MAY, 1944.

PROGRAMME.

1. Musical selections by the Central Band of the London Fire Forces, directed by Company Officer T. Kingston Jarvis.
2. A fanfare of trumpets will announce the arrival of the Secretary of State, who will be accompanied by O.C. Allen, Esq., C.B.E., Sir A.L. Dixon, C.B., C.B.E., and Commander A.N.G. Firebrace, C.B.E., R.N. (Retd.)
Sir Ernest Gowers, Senior Regional Commissioner for the London Region will receive the Secretary of State.
3. Inspection of personnel and appliances by the Secretary of State.
4. The Secretary of State will address the assembled personnel.
5. The National Anthem will be played.
6. The Column will drive past the saluting base in line ahead. The salute will be taken by the Secretary of State.
7. The Secretary of State will take leave of the Assembly.

Dope!

J.C.S.

G.B. covered this rota.
I believe Swarbrick is
ordering a copy.

NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE - NO. 5 (LONDON) REGION.

INSPECTION OF OVERSEAS CONTINGENT BY THE SECRETARY
OF STATE, 12TH MAY, 1944.

The No. 5 (London) Region Overseas Contingent is to be inspected by the Secretary of State on Friday, 12th May, 1944, at 1500 hours, and the following arrangements have been made.

Venue - The Parade and Inspection will take place in that part of Hyde Park known as the Exhibition Ground (almost opposite Knightsbridge Barracks), after which the whole column will drive past the Secretary of State in companies (see sketch plan attached).

Rehearsal - There will be a rehearsal on Friday, 12th May, immediately prior to the inspection and all appliances and personnel taking part are to be at the Assembly Point not later than 1300 hours.

Parade and drive past.

Dress - All ranks will wear overseas uniform, complete with webbing belt and gaiters, and army boots.

Band - The Central Band of the London Fire Forces will be in attendance and will play selections of music throughout the ceremony.

Assembly - Appliances from L.O.T.S. are to enter Hyde Park by the Hyde Park Corner Gate, and those from Woodford at the Victoria Gate, Bayswater Road. The latter, as far as possible, will avoid travelling through the City and Oxford Street. On entering the Victoria Gate they will proceed to the Parade Ground by way of the North Carriage Road, Serpentine Bridge and South Carriage Road, to a point just past the Prince of Wales Gate, where the control point of the divisional officer in charge of the contingent will be established. Arrangements should be made to see that the appliances arrive in companies, accompanied by their ancillary vehicles and they are to be despatched from their stations with a sufficient time interval between each company to prevent traffic confusion, and ensure an orderly arrival in the Park. There is to be an interval of ten minutes between the despatch of each company.

Parade Marshals will attach themselves to each company as it arrives at the Control Point, and will superintend its positioning. Crews must not dismount from their appliances until the vehicles are in position or unless they are ordered to do so by their officer-in-charge.

Inspection - The personnel of each company will parade in front of the vehicles of the company in accordance with the plan (attached). It should be arranged that personnel occupy a suitable position in relation to their pumps, i.e., those men attached to the first section of pumps should be in the first lines. The inspection will be made in open order and once personnel have been allotted their positions they should not leave them without permission.

Order of proceedings.

The Secretary of State will be met just inside the Park at Hyde Park Corner by two despatch riders (R.5.HQ.) who will conduct his car to the dais, proceeding via the South Carriage Road turning on to the Parade Ground almost opposite the Prince of Wales Gate.

As the Secretary of State is seen approaching, the parade will be called to attention by the officer in charge, Divisional Officer Bowles.

As the Secretary of State arrives at the dais, the band will play a few bars of the Scipio March. He will be received by Sir Ernest Gowers and a fanfare of trumpets will be sounded; simultaneously the N.F.S. flag will be broken at the masthead.

The Secretary of State, accompanied by Sir Ernest Gowers, will be introduced to the officers of the contingent and will then inspect the front rank of the parade and certain appliances.

At the conclusion of the inspection, the Secretary of State will mount the dais, and the parade will be stood at ease.

The Secretary of State will address the column and at the conclusion of the address a roll of drums will be sounded preparatory to the playing of the National Anthem, which will be the signal for each Company to be called to attention by its officer in charge. The National Anthem will be played and the officer in charge of the contingent and officers in charge of companies will salute.

Following the National Anthem, the Secretary of State and party will leave the dais and proceed to the Saluting base.

While the official party are proceeding to the saluting base, the Column Car will move forward to a position immediately in front of the dais and the Divisional Officer, Flag Officer and Captain (R.A.) will enter it.

When the Secretary of State reaches the saluting base, the Flag Officer in the Column Car will display the following signals, at which appropriate action is to be taken. No movements are to be made until the flag drops:-

1. Red flag - The Contingent will about-turn smartly and remount their appliances at the double.
2. Green flag - All engines to be started.

When signal No. 2 has been given, the Column Car will proceed to take up a position in front of "A" Company and will lead the Column in line ahead past the saluting base. Each company will be headed by its officer in charge and four despatch riders. The movement of companies will be controlled by the Flag Officer, who will maintain a distance of 100 feet between each company.

After the Column Car passes the saluting base it will break line and park on the parade ground in the position marked, from whence the Flag Officer will give signals to the Flag Marshal for the starting of the various companies.

The entire column will then drive past in line ahead and the Secretary of State will take the salute. Officers and despatch riders will turn their heads to the right as they pass the saluting base.

At the conclusion of the drive past the Secretary of State will leave the assembly and his car will be escorted by the two despatch riders back to Hyde Park Corner, the car leaving the Park by the Prince of Wales Gate into Knightsbridge.

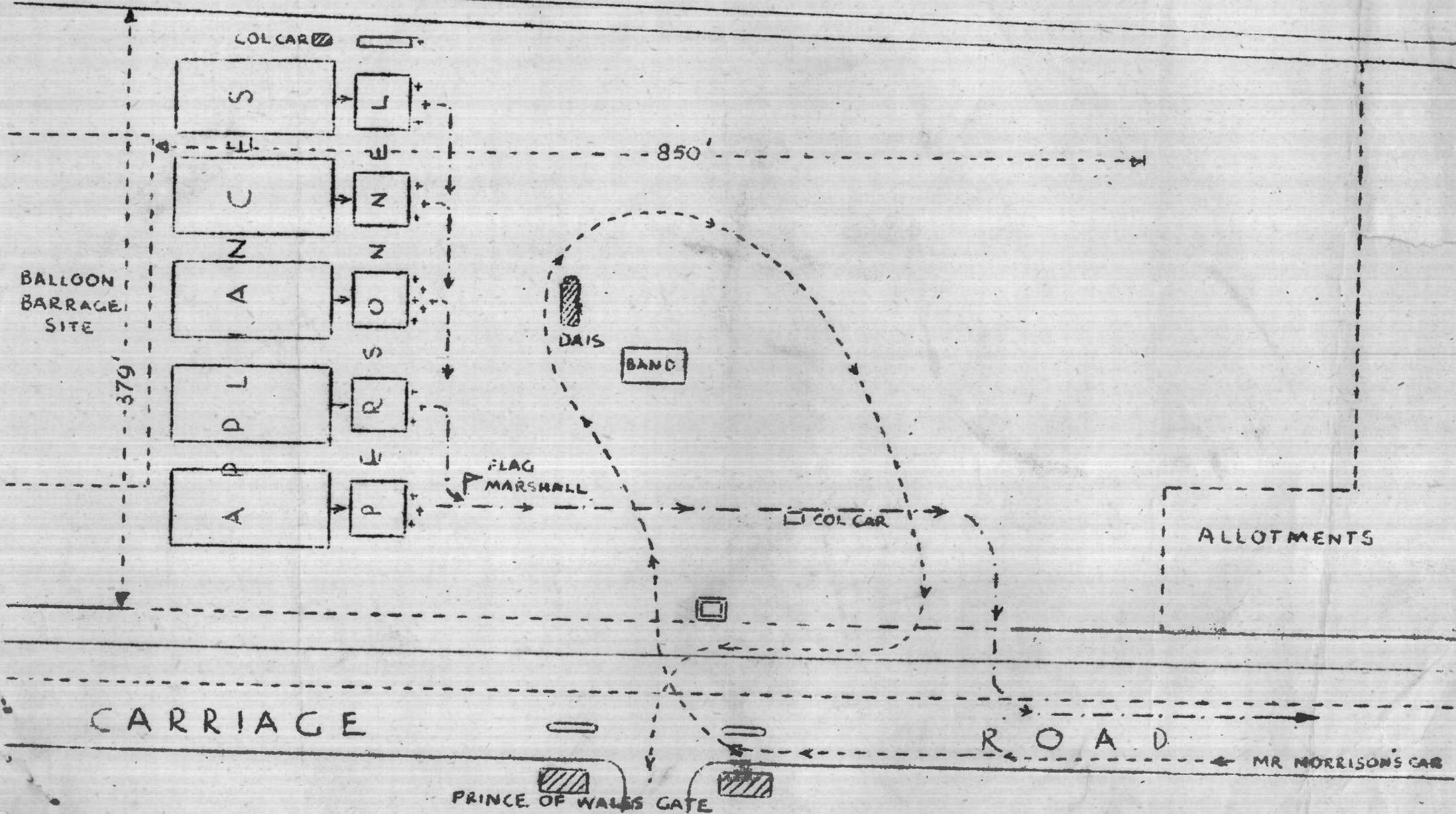
The column, after passing the saluting base, will proceed off the Parade ground into South Carriage Road and proceed eastwards to Hyde Park Corner, where "A" Company will break off and proceed direct to West Norwood. "B" Company will lead the remainder of the column back down Serpentine Road and will itself proceed out of the Park by way of Serpentine Bridge and Prince Albert Gate, straight down Exhibition Road.

The remainder of the Column will halt in Serpentine Road and disperse at suitable intervals under the directions of the officers in charge.

11.5.44.

F. W. DELVE,
Chief Regional Fire Officer.

ROTTEN ROW



BALLOON
BARRAGE
SITE

379'

850'

FLAG
MARSHALL

COL CAR

ALLOTMENTS

CARRIAGE

ROAD

MR MORRISON'S CAR

PRINCE OF WALES GATE