

PATHE GAZETTE: 40/62.

BRITAIN'S CITIZEN ARMY

In the Local Defence Volunteers, now renamed the Home Guard, the country has a new and powerful shield against invasion. They have grown to such huge proportions in a few weeks that Lt.Gen.Sir Henry Farnall has been appointed their Inspector General and it will be his task to preside over the training of this great defensive force of a million and a half men who are all volunteers and a great many of them old soldiers. Their orders, and this has been something that has not always been clear and understanding, are first of all to observe. Here's an example. Set in a typical piece of country downland and sea, Home Guards patrolling in pairs as always, keep watch for any kind of invasion by land or water. They have been something. One man runs back to platoon headquarters to report, while the other continues to observe the country. At the Home Guard Post, the man are well under cover in a gorse bush. The runner comes up with his report. The platoon commander receives the information, works out on his map where the enemy are going and writes out a message for company headquarters. He states the time and place and the number of enemy seen, where they are going and what action he is himself taking. He gives the message to a motorcycle despatch rider and details two more men to join the volunteer observing the enemy. Their duty is to keep contact and shoot when and if they are sure of a kill. That is the second task of the Home Guard, to shoot when they are sure of a kill. Meanwhile, the despatch rider arrives at the company headquarters and hands in his message, company commander telephones it to the local military authorities who will quickly bring the necessary forces to the scene of the action, but the Home Guard volunteer hopes that there will

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be nothing left for the regulars to do by the time they arrive.

In the words of a senior Home Guard officer addressing his men - SYNC.