

# **MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND NATIONAL SERVICE.**

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## **EXPLANATORY LEAFLET ON THE HOME GUARD.**

### **1. Object.**

The object of the force is to augment the forces of Great Britain by providing local defence and protection of vulnerable points and by giving timely notice of enemy movement.

### **2. Status.**

The Home Guard forms part of the Armed Forces of the Crown. The members of the forces are unpaid. They are not, however, required to give whole-time service or to live away from their homes, except when mustered by reason of an actual or apprehended invasion.

### **3. Training and Duty.**

Members of the Home Guard may be ordered to perform training and operational duty for periods not exceeding a total of 48 hours in each period of four weeks.

The expression "training and operational duty" includes such duties in connection with civil defence as may be authorised by the appropriate military authority.

This will not prevent additional training or operational duty being undertaken voluntarily if authorised by the Military Commander.

The total of 48 hours in each four weeks is the largest amount of training and operational duty which a man may be required to perform and is not a fixed amount which must necessarily be required of every member of the Home Guard. The actual amount of training or operational duty to be performed will depend on a number of factors which can only be decided locally, such as, on the one hand, the requirements for operational duties, the standard of training reached and a man's actual Home Guard duties, and, on the other hand, a member's civil employment and the distance he lives from the place of training. Full weight will be given to the claims of men working long hours in deciding what periods of duty they are to be called on to perform.

#### **4. Mustering.**

A member of the Home Guard may be required to serve continuously and to live away from his home, during the period during which the platoon or other part of the Home Guard to which he belongs is mustered (that is placed on a total war footing) for the purpose of resisting an actual or apprehended invasion.

Full consideration will be given to the importance to the national war effort of the man's civil employment and arrangements will be made to ensure that those engaged on vital work will not be taken from their work until the situation warrants it.

#### **5. Subsistence and other Allowances.**

A Home Guard performing properly authorised operational duty may receive either subsistence in kind or a subsistence allowance towards provision of food.

He is also entitled to allowances and/or free medical attention for any disablement attributable to Home Guard service.

Provision is made for compensation in respect of loss of normal earnings as a result of mustering.

Financial provision is also made for widows, children or dependants in the event of a Home Guard being killed, taken prisoner or missing in operations against the enemy.

#### **6. Liability to be called up under the National Service Acts.**

Membership of the Home Guard does not constitute grounds for exemption from calling-up under the National Service Acts, 1939 to 1941.