



In the years when our Country
was in mortal danger

JOHN ALEXANDER DEWAR

who served 20 June 1940 - 31 December 1944

gave generously of his time and
powers to make himself ready
for her defence by force of arms
and with his life if need be.

George R.I.

THE HOME GUARD

From:- Colonel F.W.R. Douglas.

To:- The Members of Auxiliary Units - Operational Branch

The War Office has ordered that the Operational side of Auxiliary Units shall stand down! This is due to the greatly improved War situation and the strategic requirements of the moment.

I realize what joining Auxiliary Units has meant to you; so do the officers under my command. You were invited to do a job which would require more skill and coolness, more hard work and greater danger, than was demanded of any other voluntary organization. In the event of "Action Stations" being ordered you knew well the kind of life you were in for. But that was in order; you were picked men; and others, including myself, knew that you would continue to fight whatever the conditions, with, or if necessary without, orders.

It now falls to me to tell you that your work has been appreciated and well carried out, and that your contract, for the moment, is at an end. I am grateful to you for the way you have trained in the last four years. So is the Regular Army. It was due to you that more divisions left this country to fight the battle of France; and it was due to your reputation for skill and determination that extra risk was taken - successfully as it turned out - in the defence arrangements of this country during that vital period. I congratulate you on this reputation and thank you for this voluntary effort.

In view of the fact that your lives depended on secrecy no public recognition will be possible. But those in the most responsible positions at General Headquarters, Home Forces, know what was done; and what would have been done had you been called upon. They know it well, as is emphasized in the attached letter from the Commander-in-Chief. It will not be forgotten.

30 NOV 44
HQ Auxiliary Units,
C/o G.P.O. HIGHWORTH,
Nr. Swindon (Wilts).

F. W. R. Douglas
Colonel,
Commander,
Auxiliary Units.

COPY

The Commander,
GHQ Auxiliary Units.

In view of the improved war situation, it has been decided by the War Office that the Operational Branch of Auxiliary Units shall stand down, and the time has now come to put an end to an organisation which would have been of inestimable value to this country in the event of invasion.

All ranks under your command are aware of the secret nature of their duties. For that reason it has not been possible for them to receive publicity, nor will it be possible even now. So far from considering this to be a misfortune, I should like all members of Auxiliary Units to regard it as a matter of special pride.

I have been much impressed by the devotion to duty and high standard of training shown by all ranks. The careful preparations, the hard work undertaken in their own time, and their readiness to face the inevitable dangers of their role, are all matters which reflect the greatest credit on the body of picked men who form the Auxiliary Units.

I should be glad, therefore, if my congratulations and best wishes could be conveyed to all ranks.

(Signed) H.E. Franklyn

GHQ Home Forces.
18th November 1944.

General
Commander-in-Chief

W. J. GROUND, A.A.I.A., A.T.I.I.

Accountant & Auditor

ASSOCIATE OF THE INSTITUTE OF TAXATION

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High Street,

Holbeach.

13th. December 1944.

Dear *Jack,*

I enclose herewith letters from our Colonel and from the Commander in Chief Home Forces. It is good to know from these letters that we are not "forgotten men". You will notice that the secrecy angle is still stressed and I ask that you now burn any papers that you may have in connection with our Unit.

As you will see we can expect no public recognition for the work that we have done. However, we never expected any so "who cares". We entered Auxiliary Units because we thought that we could do a good job of work. The only thing that really matters is the fact that we have done our best and our efforts are appreciated by G.H.Q. Home Forces. I have made a suitable reply on your behalf to Colonel Douglas.

I wish to add my personal thanks for the excellent support that you have given me. Your willing work has been both a help and an encouragement to me. As you know I am not a "Flag wagger" and do not wish to appear dramatic but I must state my appreciation for your determination to be well trained in spite of constant changes in role, equipment &c. We have had many rough parades especially as our training &c was carried out at not very easy times. Also we have many jolly good times to look back upon. Of course we have had our "ups and downs" and teething troubles but every man can look back with pride on his service with the Unit.

I enclose herewith the "Old boys" badge which must not be worn, as already explained, until hostilities in Europe cease.

P.T.O.

I recently received a letter from our good friend Capt. Lamb who wished to be remembered to you all and also thanks you most heartily for the support that you gave him when in our area.

Once again thanking you and wishing you the best of luck of luck in the future,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Bill Jones