

**Press contact:**

Tom Sykes

0872 045 9940

email [coleshillhouse@gmail.com](mailto:coleshillhouse@gmail.com)



**\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\***

**CHURCHILL'S SECRET ARMY ENCOURAGED TO RESURFACE AFTER 70 YEARS OF SILENCE**

*The Auxiliary Unit National Badge Campaign launched by the Coleshill Auxiliary Research Team (CART)*

**COLESHILL UK, 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2010** – With the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Britain it was natural that thoughts turned this year to those dark days in Britain's history. With the threat of invasion a very real one, Britain's defences were stretched to the limit. Amongst those vital to Britain's defensive plans were a group of civilian volunteers made up of all layers of society most of whom had an intimate knowledge of their local area.

They were given intensive training in guerrilla warfare and were to attack the enemy supplies and reserve troops once the invasion was under way. They were all willing to leave their families, and give their lives - the average life expectancy of an Auxilier was predicted to have been two weeks after going into action - in order to defend their country. However, because of the secrecy of their mission not one of them got any official recognition and no public thanks. Many veterans never even let their closest family members know what they had been trained to do, so seriously did they take their signature on the Official Secrets Act.

Tom Sykes, founder of Coleshill Auxiliary Research Team (CART), based at Coleshill near Swindon (where the Auxiliers were trained) believes that it is now time for this to be rectified. "For 70 years these volunteers have been unrecognised. Recently we have seen different groups such as the Land Army and Bevan Boy rightly receive recognition for their efforts during the war. The Auxiliers should be included within this. Knowing very well that their mission was almost certainly suicidal, this group of brave volunteers should be publicly recognised for their commitment and service to the country,"

Already securing the support of local Tory MP Justin Tomlinson, Tom Sykes is keen for veterans to end their silence and get in touch so that future generations can learn more about their training and mission. "Many Auxiliers are either unaware that they are now allowed to talk about their experiences or believe that no one is interested – nothing could be further from the truth. It would be a tragedy if information about this remarkable group of men & women disappears as that generation fades away. At CART we are determined to ensure that this does not happen and that those remaining members of the Auxiliary Units gain the recognition they so richly deserve."

He is also keen for those interested in the Auxiliary Units or that have knowledge about them, especially the location of the units underground observational bases (OBs) to get in touch. "Our aim is for CART to provide a library of information about all aspects of the Auxiliary Units and we need volunteers to pull this information from surviving Unit members and other scattered pieces of information from around the country."

You can find more about CART's Auxiliary Unit National Badge Campaign [here](#).

\*\*\* ENDS \*\*\*

### **About CART**

The Coleshill Auxiliary Research Team (CART) is a non-profit making organisation set up in June 2009 by Tom Sykes after he was informed about Coleshill and its wartime involvement. The aim of CART is to research, document and preserve the important history of the Auxiliary Units

Since June 2009 its website ([www.coleshillhouse.com](http://www.coleshillhouse.com)) has seen over 18,000 unique visitors and has attracted TV, Radio and national press attention and the group has many expert members. Most of these are authors on the subject or have a direct relation to the Auxiliary Unit. In August 2009 the team organised a filming day at Coleshill which saw the largest display of Aux Unit weapons ever displayed since 1940 and a surviving Auxilier visit the Coleshillbunker for the first time.

For further information about the Auxiliary Units and how you can help CART please go to the website, call 0872 045 9940 or email [coleshillhouse@gmail.com](mailto:coleshillhouse@gmail.com).