

(The action moves to the main stage. A group of 'older' gentlemen enter, dressed in civilian clothes with 'HG' or 'LDV' armbands. They carry an assortment of gardening tools and domestic utensils, which they brandish as weapons!)

HG1 Right men, into a straight line and stand to attention.

(The men comically attempt to line up, some rubbing their painful joints, others facing in opposite directions etc.)

HG1 Now men, we may be a little too advanced in years to be sent to the front line, but it doesn't mean we can't do our bit to protect our shores.

HG2 That's right, sir. Just let Jerry try to get past us. *(He makes a feeble lunge with his gardening fork, and his back seizes up!)* Ooh! I'm fine, I'm fine! I just get a bit stiff in the mornings.

HG3 Well, let's hope Jerry doesn't attack until the afternoon then!

HG4 Sir, when will we be given proper uniforms and weapons? I don't fancy facing an armed German soldier holding a broom!

HG3 Ha! Why would a German soldier be holding a broom!?

HG1 This is no time for joking! We will be provided with the necessary equipment in due course. Until then we must improvise. Now men, there's an important secret mission we'll be undertaking later today...

HG5 Later today? Oh, I'm afraid I'm busy later on. My wife's got a list as long as her arm of things she wants me to do. I can't possibly go on a secret mission. Maybe if it were rearranged for later in the week?

HG1 Absolutely not! Our vital work can not, and will not be postponed to allow you to help with domestic chores, or for other such trivial reasons. Jerry could attack at any time!

HG5 I think I'd rather face Jerry than my wife when she's in a mood!

HG1 Well, that can't be helped. Now listen men, this afternoon we will be patrolling the local area removing road signs. If Jerry invades we need to make it as difficult as possible for him to...*(HG1's wife enters holding a frying pan!)*...Oh! Hello Dear!

Wife There you are! You should have been home ten minutes ago! See this empty frying pan? Shall I tell you why it's empty? It's empty because you're playing soldiers instead of queuing for the bacon at the butcher's like I told you to.

HG1 Errr...but we have a secret mi.....

Wife Home...now!

HG1 Yes, Dear. Right men, at ease. We'll postpone the secret mi....

Wife NOW! *(she drags him off!)*