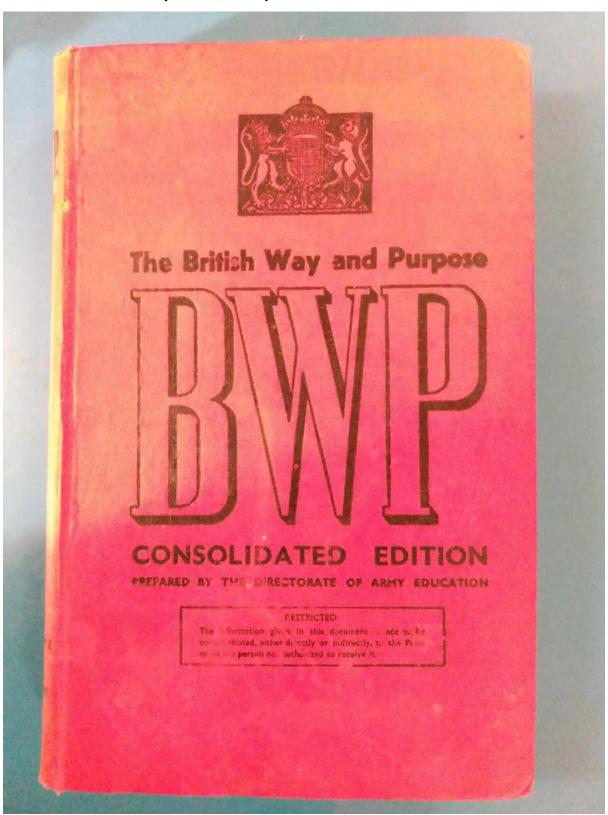
The British Way and Purpose



#### **PREFACE**

The initials BWP first appeared in the Army's crop of cryptic abbreviations in the autumn of 1942. The Army Council had given general approval to the allotment throughout the months November 1942 - February 1943, of three hours per week from training or working time to education. The implementing of the scheme in formations and units, including ATS units, was left to the decision of Army Commanders, but it was suggested that one of the hours should be devoted to education in citizenship.

The instructors for these sessions were sought wherever they might be found: in the Army Educational Corps among the civilian experts made available through the Central Advisory Council for Adult Education in HM Forces and its Regional Committees and among the officers and other ranks of the units themselves. To help instructors the Directorate of Army Education issued a series of four monthly booklets which were designed to provide both information and a possible pattern for the course. The booklets, dealing with domestic, imperial and international affairs were written by experts under the editorship of Major RL Marshall, A.E.C., of the Directorate of my Education and appeared under the title "The British Way and Purpose which became, conventionally and quickly, B.W.P.

There was little expectation, to begin with, that the series would continue beyond the four winter months. By Christmas 1942, however, it had become clear that the results of the scheme justified its development and, early in 1943, approval was given for the continuation of the BWP hour and of the B.W.P. series without terminal date. After a revision booklet in March 1943, a second sequence of seven booklets was issued between April and October 1943.

The general theme was Report on the Nation, and this sequence dealt more widely and more intensively with domestic affairs than had been possible in the first. It was followed by a third sequence of six booklets, issued between December 1943 and May 1944, on the theme "Today and Tomorrow." This last sequence reviewed war-time developments in various spheres of individual responsibility, from family life to international relations

By that time it was certain that B.W.P. would continue as a central strand in war-time Army Education. Moreover, it was decided that B.W.P. should be a universal item in Army Education throughout the release period, when, sooner or later, that time came. But, on a survey of the general progress of the scheme so far, it was determined that the continuation should be on lines other than the publication monthly of further B.W.P. booklets.

In the first place, BW.P. instructors have displayed a growing independence and capacity in framing their own courses of instruction and discussion, for which they have drawn, at their own discretion, on other sources of material as well as B.W.P. booklets. It is desired to give every encouragement to that individual discretion. A limited number of possible outline courses will be published from time to time but the use of them will be left entirely to local judgment.

Secondly, it was recognised that the material in the eighteen booklets so far issued had not been exhausted, and that the booklets contained a large amount of permanently useful and conveniently arranged information. Accordingly it has been decided, with the full support of expert advisers, to republish the chapters of all the booklets in one volume, for issue as a handy reference book. It will in no way be the exclusive "prescribed text." The volume has no privileged status among the many possible sources of information except that it can be made available and that it has been designed for the conditions of Army Education.

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