

HORTON HOME GUARD BY MARK THOMPSON

When the men in Horton were called up no-one knew what was to happen and naturally all the wives were upset not knowing when they were going to see their husbands again or whereabouts they were being sent.

The majority of them were found at the Crown being exempt because of their jobs.

Mark was one of the first members of Horton Home Guard. When the Guard was first formed all the members were called out on a Sunday and all had to meet at the Crown which at that time was the Headquarters. None of the wives knew where they were all thinking they were out on exercises. At the end of the day it turned out that once again the majority of them had spent the day in the Crown and not a few were slightly inebriated.

Mark used to help guard Ribbleshead Viaduct and they used to go into the Railwaymen's Cabin at Ribbleshead.

One day they had a Colonel coming to inspect the Home Guard and all had to muster at the School and march through the Village. When they reached the spot where the Colonel was standing they were told to turn their eyes left, unfortunately the Colonel was standing to their right and was none too pleased about the mistake.

One of the member's of the Home Guard was in the pub at Helwith Bridge demonstrating how to use his rifle when he inadvertantly fired it into the oven causing chaos and confusion. A cleaning party had to be organised to clean the soot up and clean the furniture and fittings before normal business could be resumed.

When the Home Guard was first formed they had no ammunition, eventually they were supplied with one cartridge each and upon complaining were then issued three each, in the event the ammunition was no good as it simply exploded. Later they were issued with 303 rifles and practised at Attermire Scar.