

---

# **The village hall - "The Hut"**

## **(part 4)**

---

Back to the War

At the start of the War like all other Villages, and Towns, a Local Defence Volunteers Unit was formed, later to become the Home Guard. Most of the original volunteers were older and had fought in the First World War; they took to it like a duck takes to water.

Later would come the compulsory "Recruits", mostly the younger men awaiting their "Call Up", into the regular Services, they didn't have the dedication of the older ones. Contrary to the many derogatory stories told about this force in general, I believe they would have given a good account of themselves if they had been called on to do so. Apart from their previous active Service, they knew the area intimately, and couldn't wait for the call to come. In no way would they compete with a Regular Unit for smartness, and discipline, but their weapons training, and practical work was treated as a necessary part of life.

The Rifles were originally First War, Short Lee Enfields, which were later changed to Canadian Ross, they also had some Grenade throwing Rifles; the name "Boys", springs to mind. Picking up two Rifles tested the proof of how strong anyone might be, this was accomplished by grasping the end of the barrel, one in each hand, and raising them to shoulder height, a bit beyond us I have to admit.