



The Home Guard started out being called the Local Defence Volunteers, and included men who could not join the armed forces, perhaps because of medical reasons, being too young or too old, or because their job at home was essential to keep the country running.

It was formed at a time when we expected Germany to invade, and almost a million men volunteered within a very short time, but then Hitler turned his attention to Russia, and the Home Guard had a breathing space for training and getting armed.

They trained to patrol coastal areas, to guard places enemy forces might try to take over or sabotage during an invasion, and to be a first line of defence for their own towns and villages. They also guarded crashed aircraft and manned check-points.

Compared with a likely invading force, they weren't very well armed.

- What advantages would the Home Guard have over the invaders?
- What might the Home Guard do to prepare to fight off an invasion?
- Can you spot which of the Home Guard men is behaving foolishly, and what he's doing wrong?