

Wartime West Sussex 1939 - 1945: HOME GUARD AND OTHER VOLUNTEER UNITS

Thank you message from the King

Extracts from *Despatches from the Home Front, The War Diaries of Joan Strange 1939-1945* (Monarch Publications, 1989)

1944

December 3rd Britain's Home Guard is officially 'stood down' as from today. The King broadcast a nice message to them tonight: "The Home Guard has reached the end of more than four years of duty under arms. But I know that your devotion to our land, your comradeship, your power to work your hardest at the end of the longest day, will discover new outlets for patriotic service in time of peace. History will say that your share in the greatest of all our struggles for freedom was a vitally important one. You have given your service without thought of reward. You have earned in full measure your country's gratitude."

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