

The War Years 1939 -1945

The Hall was requisitioned early in the war. Godfrey Jefford continues.....

“Initially troops from the Royal Sussex Regiment were stationed at the Hall. I recall them undergoing bayonet practice on the village green. If my memory is correct, the army did not continuously occupy the Hall during the war. It was certainly used by the Local Defence Volunteer Force, later called The Home Guard. There was also an Army Cadet Unit which made use of the hall and the adjacent fields (I managed to rise to the dizzy rank of Cadet Sergeant). A large American Army base was established at Scurlage, prior to the invasion of Europe, with troops based in other areas such as Penrice Park. The training activities across Gower inevitably led to damage to roads, bridges and hedges and so a unit of the British Army Pioneer Corps was sent in to repair the damage and was stationed at the hall. Apart from the Nissen Huts erected at the rear of the hall, a cookhouse was built at the foot of the steps at the upper side of the hall”. The drill practices which had taken place during these years, in hob nailed boots, caused considerable damage to the maple-wood flooring. It took much hard work to get the floor back to its previous high standard for dances.

Carley Lloyd – Davies recollects (2011) *..After the Americans had left their camp in Scurlage for the D Day Landings, the camp was used to house prisoners of war. I remember a group of Ukrainian prisoners putting on a concert in the hall. They wore red shirts and black trousers and they performed Cossack dances.*