

## THE HOME GUARD

Slack leash connected we set out  
upon our routine daily walk,  
his jangling tags announcing us  
in sounds of secret dog code talk.

Without mistake the local dogs  
deciphered our identities  
and knew exactly who we were  
by tinklings carried on the breeze.

Some dogs were never seen at all  
as we walked past their boarded yards,  
but they knew us by collar clinks  
and barked befitting true Home Guards.

The network of the neighborhood  
continued barking up a fuss,  
alerted by our metal tags,  
to sound alarms ahead of us.

It stayed with us throughout the walk.  
At our front door we stepped inside.  
I hung his collar on the peg,  
then heard the warning noise subside.

But peace and quiet didn't last.  
Fresh waves of barking soon rolled past.  
One voice seemed louder through the din:  
It was our Home Guard joining in.

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