

## Scene 4

*(Back in Edith's modern-day living room. The removal men are now sitting on the arms of Edith's chair, looking at the scrapbook with her.)*

**Removal 1** Wow! The Blitz! That must have been terrifying, Edith!

**Edith** Well, yes! The phoney War certainly came to an end with a bang! We didn't have an Anderson shelter, so Mum, Gran and I, and of course Toffee here, all got rushed into the Tilbury Shelter just off Canal Street, along with lots of other families. I remember it was a cold and damp place, but we took our minds off things by telling stories and singing songs.

**Removal 2** Even so, it sounds like you had it rough!

**Edith** Well, it certainly wasn't easy.....

*(The action moves to the main stage, which is a shelter scene. Adults sit around while children play games e.g. one potato, two potato etc, and ARPs patrol.)*

**Adult 1** You alright there, Mo? Hey, what's little Harry doing here? I thought he'd been evacuated.

**Adult 2** Well he was so miserable Evie, that he begged me to bring him back home, didn't you son? And I did miss him, so....

**Adult 3** *(noticing a bandaged head)* Blimey! What happened to you?

**Adult 4** I walked into a lamp-post last night...again! They say this black-out has caused more injuries than the Blitz!

**Adult 5** You'll have to eat more carrots to help you see in the dark.

**Adult 6** You'll have no problems seeing in the dark tonight! There are fires everywhere. The warehouses have been hit – there are pepper fires, rum fires, paint fires....everything's up in smoke!

**Adult 7** Well at least we're safe in here. My boy's in the thick of the fighting – I'm so worried about him. He's being sent to Africa soon, 'cause apparently the troops are.....

**ARP 1** *(dramatically)* Don't say anymore! The walls have ears! Haven't you seen the posters? He could be a German spy *(pointing to old Wally Davies sitting alone)*, listening to all our conversations and passing information to Hitler.

**Adult 7** *(peering closer)* It's only old Wally Davies! If he's a German spy then I'm Winston Churchill!

- Tea Lady** Cup of tea anyone?
- Adult 1** Ooh, yes please. Milk and three sugars!
- Tea Lady** Three! You've got to be joking. You are aware of a little something called rationing I presume? You can have half a spoonful and count yourself lucky!
- Adult 2** I know all this rationing is a pain, but at least it's making us all healthy! We're eating less fat and sugar, and more vegetables which some of us are growing ourselves. Digging for victory!
- Adult 3** Yeah, Doctor Carrot and Potato Pete, keeping us all in tip-top shape! I do miss my bacon though!
- Adult 4** Ooh yes, and fresh eggs! Those powdered ones they give us really are disgusting.
- Adult 5** Eurgh! My kids won't touch them, and I can't even bribe them with sweets to clean their plates, 'cause there just aren't any.
- Adult 6** And what about clothes? I haven't had a new frock since...well I can't remember. All this making do and mending just to look half decent.
- Adult 3** I'd gladly have holes in my socks if I could still have my bacon!
- Adult 7** Well, we're all in the same boat, rich or poor, and it's fairer this way. We just need to learn to adapt. As you said, at least we're healthy. Come on, what do you say we have a sing-song to keep our spirits up? All together now.....

**Song 5 – Keep Our Spirits Flying** *(CD Track 19, lyrics page 24)*  
*(Children and adults in the shelter, supported by whole cast)*

*(We hear the All-Clear Siren at the end of the song – leave the backing track running.)*

- ARP 1** That's the All-Clear. You can go back to your homes.
- Adult 1** If we've got any to go back to!

*(The backing track is played again (CD Track 19). The singers resume their seats and the stage is made ready for the next scene. Fade the music when ready.)*

## **Scene 5**

*(Back in Edith's modern-day living room.)*

- Edith** *(She turns a page in her scrapbook.)* Look, a photo of our neighbourhood LDV.

**Removal 2** I've heard about those guys – the Local Defence Volunteers. Don't we know them better as the Home Guard?

**Removal 1** Of course, Dad's Army! I love that show, it's so funny! But Edith, the Home guard weren't really like that, were they?

**Edith** Well, now you come to mention it.....

*(The action moves to the main stage. A group of 'older' gentlemen enter, dressed in civilian clothes with 'HG' or 'LDV' armbands. They carry an assortment of gardening tools and domestic utensils, which they brandish as weapons! Their leader, HG1, is a typically officious character. He has a lot to say, so he could carry a clipboard on which his lines are written as cues.)*

**HG1** Right men, into a straight line and stand to attention.

*(The men comically attempt to line up, some rubbing their painful joints, others facing in opposite directions etc.)*

**HG1** Now, as you know, we may be a little too advanced in years to be sent to the front line, but that doesn't mean we can't do our bit to protect our shores.

**HG2** That's right, sir. Just let Jerry try to get past us. *(He makes a feeble lunge with his gardening fork, and his back seizes up!)* Ooh! I'm fine, I'm fine! I just get a bit stiff in the mornings.

**HG3** *(helping him back into line)* Well, let's hope Jerry doesn't attack until the afternoon then!

**HG4** Sir, when will we be given proper uniforms and weapons? I don't fancy facing an armed German soldier holding a broom!

**HG3** Ha! Why would a German soldier be holding a broom!?

**HG1** Ahem! This is no time for joking around! We will be provided with the necessary equipment in due course. Until then we must improvise. Now men, there's an important secret mission we'll be undertaking later today...

**HG5** Later today? Oh, I'm afraid I'm busy later on. My wife's got a list as long as her arm of things she wants me to do this afternoon. I can't possibly go on a secret mission. Maybe if it were rearranged for later in the week?

**HG1** Absolutely not! Our vital work can not, and will not be postponed to allow you to help with domestic chores, or for other such trivial reasons. Jerry could attack at any time!

**HG5** I think I'd rather face Jerry than my wife when she's in a mood!

**HG1** Well, that can't be helped. Now listen men, this afternoon we will be patrolling the local area removing road signs. If Jerry invades we need to make it as difficult as possible for him to...*(HG1's wife enters holding a frying pan!)*...Oh! Hello Dear!

**Wife** There you are! You should have been home ten minutes ago! See this empty frying pan? Shall I tell you why it's empty? It's empty because you're playing soldiers instead of queuing for the bacon at the butcher's like I told you to.

**HG1** Errr...but we have a secret mi.....

**Wife** Home...now!

**HG1** Yes, Dear. Right men, at ease. We'll postpone the secret mi....

**Wife** NOW! *(she drags him off!)*

**Song 7 – We Are The Home Guard** *(CD Track 21, lyrics page 26)*  
*(Home Guard supported by whole cast)*

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