

EDITH'S WARTIME SCRAPBOOK

SCRIPT SAMPLE #2

Scene 6

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

Removal 1 Wow! Those women were amazing! I'm seeing my Great Grandma in a whole new light. She's so frail now, that I'd never have thought she was responsible for helping to keep Britain fed during the war.

Edith *(She turns a page in her scrapbook.)* Well, the 'old boys' did their bit too. 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 used to watch that show with my family when I was young. 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 attempt to line up, some rubbing their 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, 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 cannot and will not be postponed just so you can 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 angry!
- 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!)*

(The rest of the Home Guard lead the cast in the next song. HG1 sneaks back on for Verse 2, rubbing his ear!)

Song **We Are The Home Guard**

Track 7 - vocal demo
Track 28 - backing track
Lyrics p26

*(As the **continuity music** plays (**track 29**), all resume their seats and the stage is made ready for the next scene. Fade the music when ready.)*

Scene 7

(Back in Edith's modern-day living room. She turns a page in her scrapbook.)

Edith Look, an old newspaper cutting from December 1941. *(reading)* 'The Japanese have bombed the American Navy at Pearl Harbour.' Well, that brought the Americans into the war at last...and into our lives.

Removal 2 I bet that caused a stir!

Edith Not half! The eldest daughter of the family next door to us was...how do they say...'dating' one of the American soldiers stationed here. Oh, he was so handsome! Cary Carmichael his name was. He'd talk to me sometimes. He said he came from California and that Clark Gable was his second cousin! He even told me he owned a bowling alley!

Removal 1 And you fell for that, did you?

Edith Oh, I'd have believed anything he told me. All the girls would! Those American GI's certainly knew how to turn on the charm. They'd all go dancing on a Saturday night. I was too young though, and I was really jealous of the older girls. Mind you, I wasn't the only one who was jealous. The local young men didn't take too kindly to the Americans getting all the female attention. In fact, they hated it...

(The action moves to the main stage. The scene is a dance hall. A 'big band' could stand in one corner, each member behind a music stand miming to the backing track of the next song. A group of American GI's enter and casually stand to one side. Some suited local lads enter and stand agitatedly at the other side. The girls then enter and stand between them, smiling and waving at the Americans, who wolf whistle. During the song a lot can be made of the tension between the two male groups through the choreography. Some old-style jiving by a couple or group will really add to the visual impact.)

Song **Hollywood Girls**

Track 8 - vocal demo
Track 30 - backing track
Lyrics p27

(The song finishes with each girl paired up with a GI.)

GI So, wha'd'y'all say we move this party somewhere more...exclusive?

Girl Oh wow! You betcha! Let's go! *(The girls and GI's exit)*

Local Lads *(watching with sneaking admiration)* Boy! They're smooth!

*(As the **continuity music** plays (**track 31**), all resume their seats and the stage is made ready for the next scene. Fade the music when ready.)*

.....**END OF SCRIPT SAMPLE**.....