

Falkland Islands Operatic and Dramatic Association
FIODA is proud to present

DAD'S ARMY

By Jimmy Perry and David Croft



**Thursday 9th, Friday 10th and
Saturday 11th March 2006**

Stanley Town Hall, Curtain 7.30pm

Directed by Roger Diggles



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DAD'S ARMY

Written by Jimmy Perry & David Croft

Directed by Roger Diggle

Sergeant Wilson's Little Secret

"What on earth's the matter with you, Wilson? You've been in a dream all evening. You're not ill, are you? Just pull yourself together. I'll speak to you after parade."

Interval

The Loneliness of the Long Distance Walker

"I know I can rely on you, Wilson, to banish from your mind the thought that if Walker goes, so will the cigarettes and the whisky."

Interval

The Battle of Godfrey's Cottage

"Now, we need to establish a second command post. I think the ideal place would be your cottage, Godfrey. You don't mind, do you?"

Falkland Islands Operatic and Dramatic Association
FIODA

The Dad's Army Platoon

"Although Mainwaring was always saying how wrong it was to have anything to do with the black market, constant pressure from his wife Elizabeth forced him to deal with Walker."

"Wilson was always coming out with little bits of information about his service in World War One, including the fact that he was an officer and has medals. This would upset Mainwaring, who was not posted to France until 1919."

"Lance Corporal Jones was a regular soldier with 29 years service. He signed on as a drummer boy in 1884 and took part in many campaigns, hence his chest full of medals."

"Jones' most famous campaign was the Battle of Omdurman in the Sudan in 1898 under General Kitchener. General Kitchener was rumoured to be a homosexual, and whenever he quoted him Jones put his hand on his hip."

"Although Godfrey could usually be relied upon to mess up a parade ground drill, it was Jones who eventually became the platoon's biggest liability in this department."

"'I wonder if I might be excused?' Godfrey's bladder was a constant source of amusement throughout the show."

"Like Godfrey's waterworks, Frazer's catchphrase 'We're doomed!' became a regular feature of the show."

"'I've got a note from my mum....' Pike's excuses were a constant irritation for Mainwaring."

"During the war, the cinema and radio were the only sources of entertainment, as there was no television. Young Pike 'went to the pictures' at least two or three times a week."

All quotes are from 'Dad's Army: The Lost Episodes' by Jimmy Perry & David Croft, published by Virgin Publishing Limited, London, 1998

Cast List

Captain George Mainwaring
Sergeant Arthur Wilson
Lance Corporal Jack Jones
Private James Frazer
Private Joe Walker
Private Charles Godfrey
Private Frank Pike

Keith Biles
Garry Tyrrell
Geoff Pring
Matthew Thomson
Nick Barrett
David Lang
Tim Stenning

Platoon Bernice Hewitt, Clovis Kilmartin, David Hewitt,
Rebecca Arthur-Almond, Rhys Clifford

Mrs Mavis Pike
Private Sponge
Little Arthur
Brigadier
Captain
Chairwoman
Mr Reed / Policeman
Miss Dolly Godfrey
Miss Cissy Godfrey
A.R.P. Warden Hodges

Corina Bishop
Clovis Kilmartin
Rhys Clifford
Martin Beaton
David Hewitt
Anika Clarke
Simon Jackson
Maxine Sweeting
Ruth Taylor
George Burroughs

"The character of the A.R.P. Warden Hodges became more prominent as the show developed. There was ample scope for him to come into conflict with Mainwaring. He was based on the many petty officials who achieved power because of the war. In the last ever episode he confessed to Mainwaring that he had enjoyed every minute of the war, as it gave him the one thing he had always wanted—power! He was almost in tears when he said that if there hadn't been a war he would have just been a greengrocer."

David Croft

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"Don't panic Mr Mainwaring!!"



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Crew List

Director	Roger Diggle
Assistant Director	Lidda Luxton
Technical Directors	Graham Didlick & Martin Cant
Producer	Alison Inglis
Scenery Design	Jennifer Jones
Prompt & Make-up	Diane Brown
Publicity & Soundtrack	Jason Lewis
Video	Alan Jones

Back Stage & Props

James Barrett, Joe Birmingham, Lyn Dent, Olaf Keene, Philip Cant, Richard Fogerty

Front of House & Refreshments

Alan Dawson, Christina Niederer, Graham France, Jean Diggle, John Birmingham, Lesley Barrett, Louise Taylor, Rene Rowlands, Sandra Picone, Sharon Middleton, Shirley Adams-Leach, Sue Evans

"The obsession among the Home Guard was to fight as guerrillas and not to expose oneself to the enemy. This was the keynote of all training. 'Colonel Blimp' tactics of men advancing across open country were regarded with horror; a legacy from World War One when the casualties had been appalling."

David Croft

"I remember one beautiful summer evening in 1940 while on duty with an old World War One veteran and saying, 'What do I do if the Germans come, Corporal?' He looked at me and replied, 'If the Germans come, son, you'll do as you're bloody well told.' But they never did come."

Jimmy Perry



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The Home Guard

By Jimmy Perry

Was the Home Guard a worthwhile undertaking? Most certainly. It gave ordinary citizens, at least ordinary male citizens, a feeling that they were engaged in a great enterprise and it was an important morale-builder. As time went by, the Home Guard became a well-armed auxiliary force and released large numbers of the regular army for active service.

The Home Guard was a British organisation; improvisation and eccentricity at its very best. I can remember our commanding officer in the Watford Home Guard having a special revolver holster designed so that it was strapped to his thigh. This gave him a quick 'draw', which he demonstrated to us at the end of each parade. He would then wave his revolver in the air and shout 'Kill Germans!' We would wave our rifles and shout back 'Kill, kill, kill!' and then dismiss.

Our enthusiasm verged on the fanatical. He decided to form all of us teenage boys into a commando unit and designed us a special badge with a large 'C' which we wore on our shoulders. We loved it and revelled in the special weapons we were issued with: a wire cheese cutter for creeping up behind Nazi sentries and decapitating them; sharpened bicycle chains for close combat; razor-sharp knives and knuckle dusters. These were topped off with P17 rifles, which we carried everywhere. However, we were not allowed to take any ammunition home; this was only to be issued in case of an invasion.

The sight of us young boys swaggering down the street, armed to the teeth, would have sent a modern-day social worker screaming into the bushes. Our training never stopped and quite often took the form of competitions. A favourite was rather like the Generation Game. It involved two Lewis guns and two blindfolded contestants who would strip the machine guns and reassemble them. They were encouraged by cheers from the rest of the platoon and our potty CO with a stopwatch shouting, 'Hurry up, the Nazis are coming!'

There was also the wonderful comradeship: booze-ups, dances, and of course, our concert party—every unit had one. Make no mistake, it was our finest hour. We stood alone against the most evil tyranny the world had ever seen. To be alive at that time was to experience the British people at their best and perhaps the greatest moment in their history.

The Writing of Dad's Army

Jimmy Perry was a working actor. He wrote a script called 'Fighting Tigers' based on his own experiences as a boy in the Home Guard. The script featured a working-class officer and an upper-class NCO.

He was introduced to producer David Croft by David's wife Ann, who at the time was Jimmy's agent. Ann arranged a small part for Jimmy in a comedy series called 'Beggar My Neighbour' which David was filming. It was during rehearsals for that show that Jimmy gave David his script to read, a script which for some time had been sitting in the bottom drawer of Jimmy's desk.

Michael Mills, head of comedy at the BBC, liked the concept immediately, and fought to get the series made. It was he who suggested changing the title to 'Dad's Army'.

The show eventually ran to nine series and eighty episodes. After four decades of regular, prime-time repeats the wartime adventures of Walmington-on-Sea's Home Guard have established themselves as true and enduring classics of British comedy.

Jimmy Perry and David Croft later co-wrote many programmes, including 'It Ain't Half Hot Mum' (revisiting the theme of the military in World War Two), 'Hi De Hi' and 'You Rang M'Lord?'

David Croft

"We little realised when we were writing these shows the enormous affection the public were to have for them."

Jimmy Perry

"When we were writing the second series, we had no hint of the great success the show would finally become. The critical reaction had been lukewarm for the first series and, consequently, we had no idea how the second series would be received. A small article in the TV section of an up-market newspaper said, 'The BBC have commissioned a second series of the rather lightweight comedy 'Dad's Army'. In spite of its charm, with its feeble jokes and obvious characters, it hardly got off the ground the first time around. Let's hope in the next series the writers can pull something original out of the bag and give it some depth.'"

The Lost Episodes

Six episodes of 'Dad's Army' were recorded for the second series of the show. However, all but one episode ('Sergeant Wilson's Little Secret') were believed to have been wiped after their first broadcast in 1969, never to be seen again.

This was standard practice in the BBC in the 1960s and 1970s, allowing the two inch tape that programmes were recorded on to be serviced, repaired and reused.

However, David Croft routinely refused permission for his work to be wiped, and these episodes of 'Dad's Army' were his only "lost" work in over 400 programmes that he produced and co-wrote during his career with the BBC.

After years of searching for the missing scripts, and eventually reaching the sad conclusion that the likelihood of finding them was really pretty remote, in 1998 Jimmy Perry and David Croft decided to unearth and publish the original scripts from the second series (the last to be broadcast in black and white).

In June 2001, weeks after the launch of a BBC Treasure Hunt appeal for television productions from before 1980 (and the introduction of home video), two episodes ('Operation Kilt' and 'The Battle of Godfrey's Cottage') were handed-in to the BBC by a Hertfordshire man in his 80s who wished to remain anonymous.

The 19 rusting film cans were pulled out of a skip at Elstree film studios in the 1970s by someone who was working there. One of the missing 'Dad's Army' cans contained a card which read "Return to David Croft". There is no explanation for how the film cans reached Elstree, which was not owned or used by the BBC.

The man who found the cans kept them in his loft for many years, until his daughter persuaded him to dispose of them. He handed them to a friend for safe-keeping, who placed them in his garden shed. They were returned to the BBC when the men spotted the Treasure Hunt appeal.

'The Loneliness of the Long Distance Walker' is one of three episodes of 'Dad's Army' for which no recordings are known to exist.

Dad's Army Encapsulated

"It is almost forty years since viewers first saw Captain Mainwaring's ill-trained, ill-equipped platoon shamble forward to defend the realm with a butcher's lorry to transport it, a church hall as headquarters, and a bank manager in command."

"The BBC actually received letters of complaint after 'Sergeant Wilson's Little Secret' went out, claiming it was immoral, lewd and a bad example to young people."

"Very few scripts failed to mention food. Due to strict wartime rationing food became an obsession with the public, spawning jokes and songs on the radio and articles in the newspapers. For all the shortages (very little meat, fats and sugar), the British people were never healthier than they were in the wartime years."

"It was exceedingly hard to avoid military service during the war. Reserved occupations were jobs essential to the war effort. Sometimes they only applied to those over a certain age, such as key railwaymen and munitions workers. Coal was so vital that later in the war when men were called up they were given the choice of going into the forces or becoming a miner."

"Not only the Home Guard but also most of the civilian population were trained in how to deal with incendiary bombs and did their share of duty as fire watchers."

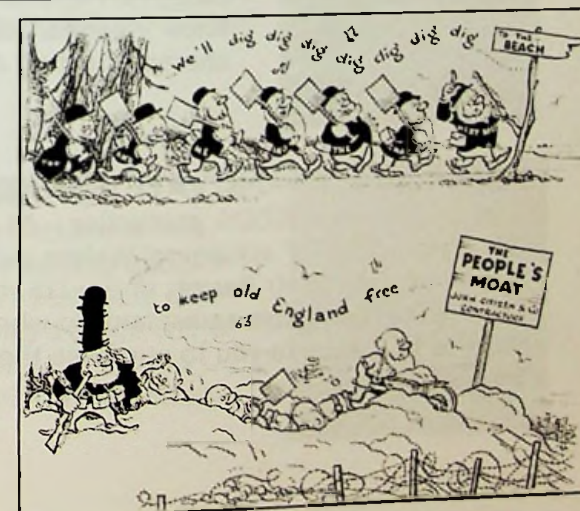
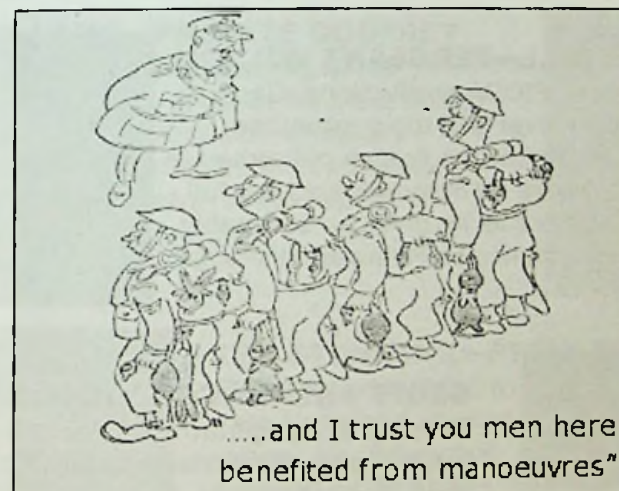
"The Battle of Godfrey's Cottage' was always a particular favourite with the writers. The idea of Godfrey and his sisters putting lace doilies on their polished tables to save them from being scratched by a gun had a special appeal to their sense of humour."

"As the ingredients for upside-down cake are pineapple, sugar, butter, glace cherries and eggs—all of which were strictly rationed or completely unobtainable during the war—it is difficult to imagine what ingredients Godfrey's sisters used in their baking."

"The Lewis light machine gun was used during World War One, especially in fighter planes. It was inclined to jam and was soon replaced by the far more efficient Bren gun, but due to the shortage of weapons it was issued during World War Two to the Home Guard, who became very proficient in overcoming its faults."

Cabinet report of the German Reaction to the formation of the Local Defence Volunteers (LDV), the forerunner to the Home Guard.

The immediate reaction of the German authorities to the news of the formation of the such a force was to announce that in the event of its members being captured by them with arms in their hands, they would be treated as "Franc-tireurs" and shot. Dr Goebbels at first referred to the L.D.V. as a "rabble" and a "mob of amateurs armed with broom-sticks and darts", but it was not long after that, however, before he was obliged to revise his comments. He was able, apparently, to find out that this was not a group of "amateurs", that it was not armed with "broom-stick and darts" but that it was a very vital force, playing an important part in the defence of its country. It was then that Dr. Goebbels referred to the L.D.V as "gangsters and murderers franc-tireurs".



FIODA IS PROUD TO PRESENT



KEITH BILES—CAPTAIN MAINWARING

A seasoned actor, Keith's professionalism has been the mainstay of many a FIODA performance, and we are delighted that he has risen to the challenge of leading Walmington-on-Sea's platoon, although we wonder whether in real life he might have been slightly less inept than poor Mainwaring.

GARRY TYRRELL—SERGEANT WILSON

The star of many FIODA productions, Garry is better known for over-the-top pantomime characters (remember the French policeman in 'Allo 'Allo?) but here he demonstrates the full range of his abilities as he gives an admirably restrained performance as Mainwaring's long-suffering sidekick.



GEOFF PRING—CORPORAL JONES

The role of the geriatric but bloodthirsty Jones ("give the jerries a touch of cold steel, Mr Mainwaring, they don't like it, you know") allows Geoff to revel in his gifts for character acting and comic timing.

NICK BARRETT—PRIVATE WALKER

This is Nick's first FIODA production. As the wheelin' dealin' scheming' Walker we see a new side to Mr Barrett of the IJS, but beware his formidable salesmanship when he tries to persuade you to purchase the new school uniforms.



STARRING IN DAD'S ARMY



MATTHEW THOMSON—PTE FRAZER

Matthew is enjoying a one-year work secondment to Stanley. An experienced actor, he naturally gravitated towards FIODA. This is his second outing on Stanley's stage, having previously starred as Lancelot in 'Seven Deadly Sins' in Sept. 2005.

DAVID LANG—PRIVATE GODFREY

Another veteran FIODA actor, David brought the house down in his most recent role as the malevolent but terminally sleepy Rip Van Winkle in 'Seven Deadly Sins'. Godfrey allows him to explore a gentler side to his nature.



TIM STENNING—PRIVATE PIKE

FIDOA are delighted to welcome Tim back onto the stage after an absence of some years. He shows that his talents have not dimmed as he brings the awkward, silly, young Pike to life with a light touch

ROGER DIGGLE—DIRECTOR

After directing the highly acclaimed 'Allo, 'Allo in 2003, Roger was heard to exclaim "Never again" but couldn't resist the challenge of bringing to Stanley's stage one of his all-time favourite shows. What you see is the result of Roger's driving vision.



Theme Tune to Dad's Army

Written by Jimmy Perry

Who do you think you are kidding, Mr Hitler
If you think we're on the run?
We are the boys who will stop your little game
We are the boys who will make you think again
'Cause who do you think you are kidding, Mr Hitler
If you think Old England's done?

Mr Brown goes off to town
On the Eight Twenty-One
But he comes home each evening
And he's ready with his gun
So who do you think you are kidding, Mr Hitler
If you think Old England's done?

So watch out Mr Hitler
You have met your match in us
If you think you can crush us
we're afraid you've missed the bus
'Cause who do you think you are kidding, Mr Hitler
If you think Old England's done?

FALKLAND ISLANDS OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION **FIODA**

FIODA was founded in 1991, and over the past 15 years has performed some 50 pantomimes, musicals, dramas, comedies and murder dinners for the enjoyment of the participants and audiences alike.

Indeed, FIODA's stated object is the provision of live entertainment for enjoyment by the community of the Falkland Islands.

We welcome actors, writers, directors, producers, publicists, costume-designers, stagehands, set-designers, sound and lighting technicians, indeed anyone interested in getting involved and having a go at whatever level. We need dedicated individuals who will take a lead in organising major productions; but we also require people who are happy to act in minor roles, paint scenery, sell tickets and refreshments.

If you would like to know more, please contact the current Committee:-

Nick Barrett (Chair), Lidda Luxton (Secretary),
Alison Inglis (Treasurer), Martin Cant, Sandra Picone

VARIETY SHOW—JULY 2006

One of the highlights of Farmer's Week each July is the FIODA Variety Show, which sadly had to be cancelled in 2005 as the Town Hall was being reroofed. Now that Stanley's largest stage is open for business once again, we are busy planning this year's Variety Show, which we hope will be one of the best and brightest yet. If you would like to get involved—and particularly if you want to sing, play music, deliver a recitation, act in a comic sketch or appear on stage in any other guise—please contact the Variety Show Producer Jason Lewis on 22817 or email jlewis@horizon.co.fk

FIODA SAYS THANK YOU

First and foremost, to all our sponsors, especially our principal sponsor Port and Cargo Services for generously funding the hire of the uniforms, and DHL Express for transporting the uniforms from Leicester to Stanley

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Next, to everyone who rallied to the call and provided props and costumes, including

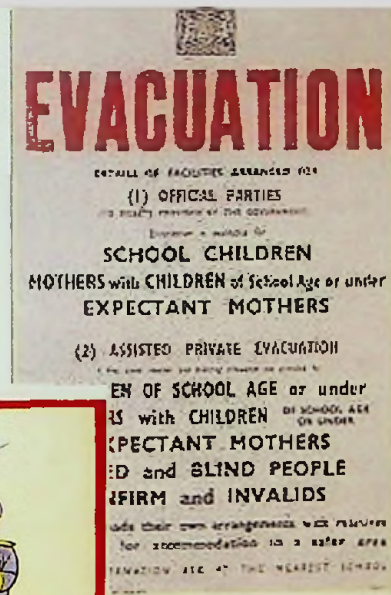
Frank Leyland
Jane Cameron
Rene Rowlands

Valerie Ellis
Alice Hancox
John Birmingham

To the Stanley Sea Cadets for the loan of and Sergeant Tom Whistler of the RFIP for the storage of the rifles, to Mike Berman of Vintage Years and Alison Ward of DHL for arranging the hire and transportation of the uniforms, to Diane Towsey for making helmets, to Ruth Taylor and Theresa Lang for sewing costumes, to the team at Stanley Electrical for printing the programmes, and to Keith Biles for returning the uniforms to Leicester.

The Director and Producer would like to thank the cast and crew for all their hard work, especially FIODA's tireless technical team Martin Cant and Graham Didlick, not forgetting the long-suffering FIODA spouses and families.

Finally a special vote of thanks to veteran FIODA member Jennifer Jones for coming to the rescue and producing the magnificent scenery at short notice.



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Island Shipping is delighted to be associated with this ambitious **FIODA** production of Dad's Army and wishes all those involved the very best of luck.



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Port & Cargo Services is also pleased to be associated with this **FIODA** production of Dad's Army and wishes all those involved the very best of luck.