

# **Home front children of the Second World War**





## Home Front Children of the Second World War

The play follows the lives of the Brown Family during the Second World War and each of the seven acts end with a song sung by children at the front of the stage. This way all the children are involved in the play.

### **Key characters:**

Mum:	Mary
Dad:	Albert
Son [17]:	Frank
Daughter [14]:	Doris
Daughter [11]:	Lilly
Son [9]:	George
Son [6]:	Tommy
Billeting Officer:	Mrs Parsons
Farmer:	Mr Gordon
Farmers Wife:	Mrs Gordon
Teacher:	Miss Jacobs
Evacuee Children at train station:	non-speaking, max of about 20
Evacuee children at village:	non speaking – between 12 – 15
Villagers:	Three villagers are needed
Postman:	Bob
Children for V.E party in Act 7:	non speaking – between 12 – 15

**Main Speaking parts: 7      Smaller speaking parts 8      Non speaking: 50**  
**Narrators 7                  the rest of the children ~50 make up the choir.**

**Narrator:** One or two children could narrate the story from the side of the stage introducing each Act. Different children to narrate each Act – 1-7

**Choir:** The rest of Year 5 and 6 make up the choir in front of the stage and as the curtains close at the end of each act, the choir sings a song. Behind the curtains the characters get ready for the next scene.

**Sound effects:** Suggest using a computer with speakers to give extra effect, for Radio broadcasts, Air Raid Sirens etc. Someone sitting at the side/back of the stage hidden behind a curtain could do this quite easily.

**Songs:** Eight songs for which the words and sheet music are easily available:

- End of Act 1 – Mister Brown of London Town
- End of Act 2 – Good Night Sweetheart
- End of Act 3 – We'll meet again
- End of Act 4 – Run Rabbit Run
- End of Act 5 – Bluebirds over the White cliffs of Dover
- End of Act 6 – Lilly Marlene
- Middle of Act 7 – Roll out the Barrel
- End of Act 7 – When the lights go on again – all over the World
- Encore – We'll meet again

## ACT 1: Before the War

Narrator 1 reads: Act 1: Before the War –

It's September 1939 and we're in the East End of London – the children of the Brown family – Doris, Lilly, George and Tommy are playing football in the street.

Their lives are about to be turned upside down, as so many children's lives were during the Second World War!

*Doris, Lilly, George and Tommy are playing football in the street*

Tommy: Over 'ere Lilly – pass the ball! Come on!  
Lilly: There you go – it's yours

*George fouls Tommy with a heavy tackle and Tommy falls to the ground.*

Tommy: Owww… George … Whatya do that for  
Doris, you're the oldest, tell him he can't do that…  
go on Doris, tell him.  
Doris: Come on George play fair, that was a foul  
George: No it wasn't … I 'ardly touched him  
Tommy's pretending he's hurt… come on Tommy get up, get up.  
*George tries to pull Tommy up.*  
Lilly: Now George, that's enough, we don't want any fighting. We've got enough to worry about with Hitler, without having you two fighting!  
George: Who's Hitler?  
Doris: Hitler's the leader of Germany and people are saying he's going to invade Poland and there might be another War.  
Tommy: Another War?  
Doris: Yes --- Dad said that we went to War with Germany 25 years ago and that War is a terrible thing and millions of people are killed!  
George: Is that why we got one of those Morrison things in the living room?  
Lilly: Yes – Mum's using it as a table as well. We'll have to get in it, if the Germans planes bomb us.  
Tommy: No fear! I'm not getting in that thing – it looks like a cage!

Doris: You'll soon get in it when the bombs start dropping Tommy!  
Tommy: Bombs?..... Dropping ..... from where?  
Lilly: From German planes silly! I overheard Mum speaking to our next-door neighbour yesterday and she thinks Hitler's mad!  
George: Do you think Hitler will send his planes to bomb us?  
Doris: We don't know George!  
Tommy: Why didn't we get an Anderson shelter like my friend Bill at school?  
Doris: Because we couldn't fit into our tiny back yard.

*A spitfire flies low over the children's' heads [computer-cdrom]. Children look up into the sky*

George: WOW! ... What's that! ? [*George speaks as the spitfire sound is playing*]  
Lilly: It's one of ours -- that's a Spitfire I bet he's after a Gerry plane  
Doris: Hitler better watch out! He won't beat our Spitfires  
Tommy: I want to fly one of those!  
George: No chance Tommy – you've' got to be 18 before you can join the air force  
  
Doris: Anyway – I heard our next-door neighbour say that if there's a war the children will be sent away to the countryside.  
Tommy: I don't want to go to the countryside – it smells – all those Pigs and Cows.  
Lilly: Come on ... don't talk about War, let's play football

*The children play football for a short time laughing and shouting, before:-  
Mum - from off stage- calls out to the children to come in for Lunch*

Mum: Doris, Lilly, George, Tommy ..... come on kids – it's time for tea!  
Doris: We'd better go Mum's calling ..... come on, last one back is a rotten tomato!

*Children run off stage – curtain closes – end of Scene 1.*

The choir stand to sing – Mister Brown of London Town –  
accompained by piano

## ACT 2 War is declared

Narrator 2 reads: ACT 2 War is declared -

The children have just come in after playing football in the street and the Family are seated around the dinner table eating their meal.

*Curtain opens – the whole Family are having Dinner at the table*

Frank: Mum. What are we going to eat?  
Mum: Pork chops. Potatoes and greens dear  
Doris: I hate greens!  
Mum: That's enough of that Doris – you should be glad you've got something to eat  
Tommy: Pork chops are my favourite – Yum yum pigs bum  
Mum: That's enough of that Tommy Brown – wash your mouth out with soap

George: Dad .....

Dad: Yes George

George: Doris said we might go to War with Germany

Mum: Doris – I told you about scaring the youngsters with talk about War!

Dad: We don't know George ..... The Prime Minister has visited Herr Hitler and he has a signature that says there won't be any War

Frank: Dad – will you have to go to War?

Dad: Maybe

Frank: Dad – can I go with you. I am old enough, I'm 17

Dad: You don't want to go to War Frank – it's a terrible thing

Frank: But Dad ..... it'll be exciting!

Dad: No but's Frank – you don't want to go to War!

George: Can I go as well Dad?

Mum: That's enough children! ... No more talk of War

Dad: Frank – turn the radio on for a minute, we might catch the weather forecast .

***Frank turns the radio on and over the Radio comes the voice of Neville Chamberlain announcing that Britain is at War with Germany [computer].***

Dad: Well that's it – no going back now

Mum: Oh no – I was hoping it wouldn't come to War.

Dad: Looks like it going to happen though I'll probably get called up to fight soon

Lilly: please don't go Dad. Don't leave us!

Everyone: Don't go Dad!

*At this point air raid sound is played on the computer*

Mum: Quick it's an Air Raid.

Dad: Come on get into the Morrison shelter.

*Everyone gets under a table on the stage – which depicts a Morrison shelter.*

George: I'm scared

Doris: So am I...

Frank: Don't worry it will pass soon

Tommy: I want to go to the loo

Frank: You'll have to hold it Tommy – there's bombs exploding out there – you could be killed if you get out

Mum: I think it's too dangerous for the children to stay in the city, they'll have to go and stay in the countryside

Lilly: What do you mean Mum?

Mum: Well – the Government are talking about sending children in the cities to stay with families in the countryside.

Doris: Will you be coming Mum?

Mum: No I won't – and I don't think you will be going either Doris, your 14 and now you have left school, you will have to go to work

Frank: Well I'm going to join up with the Army.

Mum: Frank – I told you not to speak about that.

Lilly: We don't want to leave you Mum

Dad: Lilly – there will be thousands of other children evacuated as well

Tommy: We don't want to go Dad

George: How long will we have to go for?

Mum: Just until the bombing stops – not long we hope.

Dad: Come on – don't think about it now.

***The all clear Air Raid Siren sounds - computer***

Mum: That's the All Clear sound – come on up to your bedrooms. We can get a couple of hours sleep in our beds before morning comes.

Dad: Come on children up to bed and go to sleep... don't worry about anything, it will be O.K

*The children walk off stage – The scene ends and the curtains close.*

*The choir sings-*

Good Night Sweetheart – accompanied by piano

## ACT 3 Evacuation 1939

Narrator 3 reads: Evacuation Day 1939 –

Mum and her children are at the train station waiting with the rest of the school children and Mums for the train to leave. All the children are being evacuated to the countryside. The children are nervous and excited – all at the same time.

*Scene opens at the train station with the children waiting to be evacuated. Extra children would be needed on stage to give an idea of the amount of children waiting to be evacuated.*

*Children could wear boxes on string around their necks to signify gas mask boxes and carry brown paper bags for their belongings*

Mum: Lilly, Tommy. George make sure you've got your gas masks and labels.  
Tommy: Can I put my gas mask on?  
Mum: Stop mucking around Tommy – that mask will save your life if there's a gas attack.  
George: Why do we have to have labels – are we being sold  
Mum: No – there so you don't get lost.  
Lilly: There's hundreds of Children here Mum, where are they going.  
Mum: They're all being evacuated to the countryside like you dear.  
Lilly: Are we all going to the same place?  
Mum: Some of them will be going to the same place as you, the rest are going to all different places in the countryside.  
Tommy: I'm so excited it's like going on holiday  
Mum: It's not a holiday Tommy – you will still have to go to school ... a new school at that.  
Tommy: Awww ... I don't wanna go to a new school  
Mum: Oh and you'll have to do chores and help the Family that you stay with.  
George: I wanna go to a new school – it'll be exciting.  
Mum: Lilly, Tommy, George – you make sure you behave yourselves with your new Family. They'll be doing there bit to help the War effort. You mustn't be naughty – do you understand!!  
Tommy/Lilly/George: Yes Mum!

*Mum starts crying*

Tommy: Don't cry Mum – we'll be O.K

Mum: I know darling  
Lilly: Where are we going Mum?  
Mum: We don't know exactly darling, I think you're being evacuated to somewhere in Oxfordshire  
Tommy: When are we going?  
Mum: The train will be leaving soon, ,but adults aren't allowed on the platform  
George: We'll be left all alone .  
Mum: Don't worry – everyone will be O.K.  
Lilly: It will be a big adventure George, it'll be fun, we might even live in a big mansion with ghosts – whooooo...  
Mum: Now don't be silly Lilly  
Tommy: Are we going to leave you forever Mum?  
Mum: No Tommy ..... just until the bombing stops!  
Lilly: When will that be?  
Mum: We don't know children ... hopefully soon  
George: What are you going to do Mum?  
Mum: I'll stay at home with your Aunty Ivy and we'll help the War effort by becoming Air Raid Wardens

Mum: George, Tommy, Lilly – look smart your teacher's here.  
Miss Jacobs: Come on children say good bye . The train is arriving  
Lilly: Don't cry Mum – you'll come and visit us at Christmas won't you? It's only a few months  
Mum: Yes darling I will and I'll write to all of you every week  
Bye children –  
Children: Bye Mum. Bye      Bye.....

*Children walk off stage*

*Mum cries heavily once the children leave*

Mum: sob, sob, sob

*The scene ends and the curtain closes.*

The choir stand to sing – We'll meet again – accompanied by piano.

## ACT 4 Our new Home in the country

Narrator reads: ACT 4 Our new Home in the country

The children and their teacher arrive at their destination in the country. Some children are very excited and it feels like a holiday for them, for others it's rather frightening. Difficult but exciting times lay ahead.

*On stage there needs to be about 12 –15 evacuee children as well as the cast.*

Miss Jacobs: We've arrived Children – come along

George: Where are we Miss?

Miss Jacobs: We're somewhere in Oxfordshire – I think...

Evacuee 1: Look! – What are they?

Evacuee 2: They're Cows – I've seen a picture in a book

Evacuee 3: Why are they black and white?

Evacuee 4: That's so you can see them in the dark

Evacuee 5: Don't be silly. Is that why they're black & white Miss?

Miss Jacobs: Quiet children this is the village we're stopping at

Evacuee 6: Are we staying here?

Miss Jacobs: No – this is the Billeting Hall

Lily: What's that?

Miss Jacobs: It's where you'll meet the families your going to stay with. This is the local Village Hall

Tommy: Will we stay together Miss – Lily. Tommy and me?

Miss Jacobs: We hope so, but there are three of you and many people don't have the space to look after three children.

Lily: Don't let them split us up Miss.

Miss Jacobs: We'll try not to – but we have to find you all homes before the days over.

Billeting Off: Come on Children don't dawdle – up on the stage and sit down. We have people coming to choose you soon.

*The children sit down on chairs on the stage  
In the hall there is a radio and over the radio comes  
the speech of young Princess Elizabeth [computer-  
cdrom].*

*Four Villagers come onto stage*

Villager 1: So who have we got here then?

Billeting Off: These Children are from the East End of London

Villager2: Are they clean?

Billeting Off: Yes they are! – they're good honest children

Villager3: I hope they won't cause too much trouble in the village

Billeting Off: I would have you know that these Children haven't had it easy. They have been parted from their parents and brought to live in a strange village in the countryside. You should be kind and be welcoming to them.

Villager4: We're sorry – but there is a lot of change for us too. We're not used to having so many children around.

Billeting Off: Well – some of the children have had their homes destroyed in the Air raids on London. You're lucky to live in the countryside away from all the bombing.

*Villagers walk over to 12 evacuee children sitting down + Tommy Lilly and George*

Villager1: I'll take two girls – these two please.

Vilager2: I've only got space for one

Villager3: I can take two boys

Villager 4 [Mrs Gordon]: I can take two as well.

Billeting Off: Mrs Gordon ... you have a lovely big farm. Couldn't you take three children?

Mrs Gordon: Mr Gordon has a farm to run and he will kill me if I bring three children home.

Billeting Off: I have a family here Mrs Gordon – two boys and a girl. I do really want to keep them together.

Lilly: Please Mrs – please take all three of us. We'll be good and work hard... please! Please!

Mrs Gordon: Well ..... O.K then, it wouldn't be right to split you kids up. Come on!

Tommy/Lilly/George: Yeah...

Lilly: Miss Jacobs – what about those children over there

Miss Jacobs: Hopefully someone will pick them later, if not they will have to come back tomorrow and go through all this again.

Billeting Off: You can go with Mrs Gordon now; she'll take you to your new home. I'll come and visit you in a few days to make sure you've settle in O.K.

Mrs Gordon: Come with me children, when we get back to the farmhouse you can help me prepare tea.

George: What are we having Mrs?

Mrs Gordon: That'll be Mrs Gordon to you young man.

George: What are we going to eat? Mrs Gordon?

Mrs Gordon: Well it's Friday so we've got Rabbit pie

Tommy/George/Lilly: Rabbit pie!!

Mrs Gordon: Yes children – there's a War on if you hadn't noticed! We have to eat whatever we can get hold off. There's rationing in the countryside as well as the cities you know.

*The scene ends and the curtain closes.*

The choir stand to sing – Run Rabbit Run – accompanied by piano.

## ACT 5 Life in the countryside

Narrator reads: ACT 5 Life in the Countryside

The children are on the Farm, seated around the dinner table in the Farmhouse. They are about to experience everyday life in the countryside during the war years.

*The children and Mr and Mrs Gordon are all seated around the dining table*

Mrs Gordon: Mr Gordon will take you with him today.

Mr Gordon: Come on kids you can help me milk the cows and then you can feed the pigs.

*Everyone gets up from the table and moves to the side of the stage*

George: Do we have too?

Lilly: George ... behave.

Mr Gordon: Yes you do have to help young man – there's a war on and everyone needs to do their bit to help and that includes you.

George: I'm sorry Mr Gordon.

Mr Gordon: Well here are the cows – help me milk them.

Lilly: How do you milk them?

Mr Gordon: You pull on their udders

George: Pull the 'udder' one

Children laugh

Tommy: Where are the udders?

Mr Gordon: It's the bit under the cow.

George: What – the bit that looks like it has little handles on?

Mr Gordon: Yes that's right – you just pull on them gently like this.

*Children pretend to milk cows*

Tommy: Yuk – I don't fancy doing that.

Mr Gordon: Come on try it you'll be fine

Lilly: Look! I'm getting milk.

Mr Gordon: Well done Lilly. Come on kids when this is done we need to feed the pigs and chickens and sheep.

George: Look it's the postman

Lilly: Maybe he has a letter for us

Mr Gordon: Hello Bob

Postman: Hello - I've got a letter for you and one for Mrs Gordon. How's your wife keeping?

Mr Gordon: Very well thanks.

Tommy: Any post for us?

Postman: No sorry kids.

Tommy/George/Lilly: *Look sad*

Postman: Well I haven't looked in my other sack yet. Ahh here's one with a London postmark.

Tommy/George/Lily: Yes - that's ours!

*Lilly takes the letter*

Tommy: Open it! ... open it !

George: Read it Lilly!

*Lilly reads the letter aloud on stage*

Lilly:

*Dear George, Tommy and Lilly,*

*We hope you are settling in well and that everything is O.K for you. We miss you very much, but you are much safer where you are in the countryside. Your sister Doris has got a job in a factory, making parts for Spitfires.*

*Your Aunty Ivy and I are helping out as Air Raid Wardens and also doing fire watching during the night.*

*Your Dad and older brother have been called up to fight in the War. Your Dad has flown out to Africa to fight Rommel in the Desert and your Brother has gone to Burma in the Far East to fight the Japanese.*

*The bombing here in London is very heavy. Every night, for the last three weeks we have had air raids. The RAF fighters have shot down some German bombers, but the bombs have destroyed a lot of buildings and homes. Bombs have hit part of your school and some of the classrooms were destroyed.*

*We are in the Andersen Shelter nearly every night from dusk to nearly dawn.*

*If circumstances allow, Aunty Ivy and I will try and visit you at Christmas.*

*Don't worry about us we'll be O.K and remember that one day again, there will be Bluebirds over the White Cliffs of Dover.*

*Best Wishes*

*Mum                   xxx*

- George: Our school has been blown up  
Lilly: Don't worry George they can fix it – I bet they will have it rebuilt by the time we get back to London.  
Tommy: What does Mum mean about 'There'll be Bluebirds over the White Cliffs of Dover'  
Lilly: I don't know Tommy.  
Mrs Gordon: I think your Mum is saying that one day when the War is over, life will get back to normal again.

*The scene ends and the curtain closes.*

The choir stand to sing – There'll be Bluebirds over the White Cliffs of Dover – accompanied by piano.

## ACT 6 Returning Home

Narrator reads: ACT 6 Returning Home

Several years have passed and the children have grown accustomed to their lives as evacuees in the country. They have settled into a new school and even though they have lived on a farm they have experienced shortages and rationing.

Finally in the spring of 1945 they receive a letter from their Mum to say that they can come home at last, as the V1 Flying bombs and the V2 Rockets that had been raining down on London for the last year have finally stopped.

The scene opens with Tommy, George, and Lilly returning home by train to London.

*Our Children are on the train excited about returning home.*

Tommy: Look at all bombed out buildings  
Lilly: It looks like everything has been destroyed!  
George: Are we there yet?  
Lilly: Nearly George – we'll be going past our old school soon. Lets look out for it.  
Tommy: Look there's the school! It's been bombed just like Mum said in her letter.  
George: What are those things in the playground?  
Lilly: Mum said they are prefabs – temporary buildings made out of wood.  
Tommy: We might have to go in those to have our lessons.  
George: That'll be fun.  
Lilly: We're coming into the station  
Tommy: Look there's Mum and Aunty Ivy waiting on the platform

*Mum and Aunty Ivy hug the children*

Mum: Hello my darlings – we've missed you so much.  
Tommy/George/Lilly: We've missed you Mum.  
Lilly: Mum – I can't believe how much has been destroyed in London.  
Mum: It's the same for most of the big cities and towns Lilly.  
Aunty Ivy: You wait until you get to our road Lilly – it's in a pretty sorry state.

Mum: Prepare yourself we're here  
Tommy: But.. But... it's all gone...  
Mum: It's not quite that bad Tommy.  
Aunty Ivy: I'm afraid the Thompson's at number three took a direct hit from a German bomb and were all killed.  
Lilly: That's terrible  
Aunty Ivy: I know dear – the whole War has been a terrible thing.  
Tommy: I never want to see another War again.  
Mum: I couldn't agree more Tommy.  
Aunty Ivy: Let's go in and I'll put the kettle on.  
Mum: Turn the radio on Lilly

*BBC announcement of VE day comes over the radio  
[computer- cdrom].*

Everyone: Cheering!!! ...  
Lilly: Yes the Wars over!  
Mum: Come on calm down now – there'll be plenty of time for celebrating, I'm sure.  
Aunty Ivy: The War's not completely over yet Lilly, don't forget your Brother is in the Far East and the War is still going on there.  
Mum: The Japanese are still fighting on.  
Aunty Ivy: And your Dad is still in Africa – we think.  
Lilly: I'm sorry.

*Knocking on a door comes from off stage*

Mum: I wonder who that is. I'll get the door.

*Mum goes across stage to answer the door at the stage edge and brings on Dad.*

Mum: Anyone recognise who this is?  
Lilly: Mum ... Mum – it's Dad.  
Dad: Hello everyone  
Tommy/George: Dad!

*Everyone hugs Dad*

Doris: How are you Dad?  
Dad: I'm O.K – very tired.

Lilly: Mum said that the War's not quite over yet.  
Dad: That's right Lilly! We've beaten Hitler and the Nazis, but the War is still going on in the Far East against Japan.

Mum: I hope your brother is O.K  
Dad: This has been a terrible War – we should never go to War again, millions of people have died.

Mum: We as a Family have been very lucky  
Aunty Ivy: We haven't lost anyone yet, but many Families have lost Mum's, Dad's, Brother's, Sisters.

Mum: God willing your Brother will return home safely.  
Tommy: Dad tell us what you did in Africa.

Dad: Well I drove a tank in the desert, fighting against Rommel.

George: Who's Rommel?  
Dad: He's a famous German General, who nearly beat us Desert Rats, but we overcame him in the end.

Tommy: Yeah we hate the Germans  
Dad: No Tommy! – it wasn't the German people that started this War, it was the Nazis, don't get confused.

Tommy: But they bombed us Dad.  
Dad: I know Tommy – but many Germans are no different to us, drawn into a War that they didn't want. War brings out the best and the worst in people.

Lilly: What were the Germans like in the Desert Dad?  
Dad: Men just like us Lilly. In fact we learnt a song from the Germans, which was played on the radio and drifted across from their lines.

George: What was is called Dad?  
Dad: It was called Lilli Marlene

Lilly: That's the same name as me Lilli!  
Dad: Yes dear – we heard the Germans singing it in their language and so we would also sing it in German as well.

Tommy: You don't speak German do you Dad?  
Dad: Only that song – it's become the most popular song of the War.

Lilly: Sing it for us Dad.

The choir stand to sing – Lilli Marlene – accompanied by piano

## Lilli Marlene

Lilli Marlene was the most popular song of the Second World War. It was based upon a poem written by a German soldier in World War 1. By the end of the Second World War, soldiers of nearly every army in the world had heard it's haunting tune.

It was first heard coming from the German lines in Africa, by the Desert Rats, who would also sing the song in German. Eventually, it was translated into English. The Nazis tried to ban the song when they heard it, but even they knew that banning such a popular song would have adversely affected the morale of the German troops. The most famous person to sing the song was the famous anti-Nazi campaigner Marlene Dietrich.

The words for the song in both German and English are available in this script. It might be nice to either sing the whole song in German or sing the first and third verses in English and the second and fourth verses in German, repeating the final verse again this time in English.

The hope is that this would help to show that Lilli Marlene was the only song of the war that was sung by both sides. This made it the most popular song of the War. There are mp3 audio files in both German and English to match the words below. The German audio file is very useful to help to sing the German version.

### **English**

Underneath the lantern by the barrack gate,  
Darling I remember the way you used to wait,  
'Twas there that you whispered tenderly,  
That you loved me, You'd always be,  
My Lili of the lamplight, My own Lili Marlene.

Time would come for roll call, Time for us to part,  
Darling I'd caress you and press you to my heart,  
And there 'neath that far off lantern light,  
I'd hold you tight, We'd kiss "good-night,"  
My Lili of the lamplight, My own Lili Marlene.

Orders came for sailing somewhere over there,  
All confined to barracks was more than I could bear; I knew you were waiting in the street,  
I heard your feet, But could not meet,  
My Lili of the lamplight, My own Lili Marlene.

Resting in a billet just behind the line,  
Even tho' we're parted your lips are close to mine;  
You wait where that lantern softly gleams,  
Your sweet face seems to haunt my dreams,  
My Lili of the lamplight, My own Lili Marlene.

You wait where that lantern softly gleams,  
Your sweet face seems to haunt my dreams,  
My Lili of the lamplight, My own Lili Marlene.

### **German**

Bei der Kaserne, vor dem grossen Tor,  
Steht eine Laterne und steht sie noch davor.  
Da wollen wir uns wiedersehn,  
Bei der Laterne wolln wir stehn,  
Wie einst Lilli Marleen, wie einst Lilli Marleen.

Unsre beiden Schatten, sehn wie einer aus,  
Dass wir lieb uns hatten, dass sah man gleich daraus. Und alle Leute wolln es sehn,  
Denn wir bei der Laterne stehn,  
Wie einst Lilli Marleen, wie einst Lilli Marleen.

Deine Schritte kennt sie, deinen schoenen Gang.  
Alle Abend brennt sie, mich vergass sie lang.  
Und sollte mir ein Leid geschehn,  
Wer will bei der Laterne stehn,  
Mit dir Lilli Marleen, Mit dir Lilli Marleen?

Aus dem tiefen Raume, aus der Erde Grund,  
Hebt mich wie im Traume dein verliebter Mund.  
Wenn sich die spaeten Nebel drehn,  
Wer wird bei der Laterne stehn,  
Mit dir Lilli Marleen, mit dir Lilli Marleen.

Wenn sich die spaeten Nebel drehn,  
Wer wird bei der Laterne stehn,  
Mit dir Lilli Marleen, mit dir Lilli Marleen.

## ACT 7 V.E Day and the End of the WAR

Narrator reads: ACT 7 V.E day and the End of the War

It's V.E day a celebration of the end of the war in Europe and the children are enjoying a street party. Parents, friends and neighbours have saved their ration coupons and put away food to allow the children to have a proper party.

*On Stage are several tables put together decorated with union jacks and balloons. As many children as you wish can sit around the table giving the impression of having a good party.*

Lilly: Pass the jelly Tommy.  
Tommy: There you go - pass us the sandwiches  
George: Pass the Blancmange  
Lilly: Shall we sing a song  
Tommy: How about 'Roll out the barrel?'  
Everyone: Yeah.....

Everyone on stage and the choir stand to sing – Roll out the Barrel – accompanied by Piano

*Everyone sits down after singing the song. People on stage are still in party mood.*

Tommy: Hoorah! No more air raids, no more rationing  
Doris: There'll still be rationing for a while yet Tommy.  
Lilly: No more going down the Anderson shelters and no more blackout anymore.  
Everyone: Hooray! .....

Everyone stands to sing – When the lights go on again all over the World – accompanied by Piano

*Immediately followed by an All Clear air raid siren sound [computer – cdrom]*

Finally after the teacher thanks Year 5 and 6 for putting on the play for everyone:-

All the Children stand to sing – We'll Meet Again , one final time as an encore and to round the play off. Audience could be asked to join in as well.

*Songs of the War on CD or from the internet are played on a DVD player to parents as they wait for the children to change.*

# **Home front children of the Second World War**



**Written by Lucy Waters**