



# The Legacy of Wartime Humour

After the end of the Second World War, some soldiers used humour and creativity as a way of coping with the experiences they had faced. Many of the soldiers wanted to put the war behind them, and never spoke about what happened to them to their families and loved ones.

Some television channels chose to address the war in a humorous way, and programmes which showed the funny sides to war became hugely popular. Dad's Army came out in 1968 and was followed by It Ain't Half Hot Mum (1974), 'Allo 'Allo (1982) and Blackadder Goes Forth (1989). Whilst these shows made fun of aspects of army life, they nearly always had a poignant message which spoke to those who had lived through the war.

Despite the restrictions and restraints of life on the home front, the enduring memories expressed from the children who lived through it are the songs they sang, the games they played, and the ways they adapted their lives. Against the odds, a sense of nostalgia for the 'good old days' has prevailed for the war children.

It is important to remember these stories of hope and humour as it helps us to humanise conflict and those people who lived through it.

