SCENARIO AND INTERIM SCRIPT FOR "CHEERS" as at 11.10.95

SCENE 1: THE STREET PARTY:

"HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN" CHORUS WITH WHOLE GROUP. KIDS SITTING DOWN, GROWN-UPS BEHIND.

Happy days are here again
The skies above are clear again
Let us sing a song of cheer again
Happy days are here again.

All together shout it now There's no-one who can doubt it now So let's tell the world about it now Happy days are here again

GENERAL CHEERFUL GREETINGS AND GLAD TO BE TOGETHER SENTIMENTS, INCLUDING NOTICING HOW KIDS HAVE GROWN AND HOW SOME ARE STILL AWAITED. (QUIET VAMPING UNDERNEATH)

Happy days are here again The skies above are clear again Let us sing a song of cheer again Happy days are here again.

SCENE 2: EVACUATION:

KITTY: It's good to have the kids back home. They didn't all have such a good time while they were away from London. This is my story about being evacuated.

GO INTO STORY WITH SAYING GOODBYE TO MUM AT DOOR OF HOUSE...

MUM: Now here's your bags and your gas masks. Have you got your labels on? You look ever so smart.

ARTHUR: Why've we got to wear these labels, Mum?

MUM: Case you get lost son, but keep with the others and don't get separated. Florrie, you look after Arthur and Kitty and keep together. Florrie's in charge.

FLORRIE: I'll look after them Mum, don't worry.

ARTHUR CRIES NOISILY

MUM: You're the man of the family down there Arthur, so you mustn't cry.

KITTY: What if they're not nice people we get put with?

MUM: Write home and if they're not kind to you, put big kisses on your letter and then I'll know.

KITTY: (CLINGING TO MUM) I don't want to go.

MUM: You've got to love. Everyone's going...all your friends.

KITTY: Why can't you come with us?

MUM: I'll come down and see you soon. (KITTY CLINGS ON. KISSES ALL ROUND. THE KIDS LEAVE AND WAVE. MUM WEEPS. ALL FREEZE ON WAVE) Goodbye darlings.

UNDER THE FREEZE, THE CAST SING "GOODNIGHT CHILDREN EVERYWHERE"

Goodnight Children Everywhere Your Mummy thinks of you tonight Lay your head upon your pillow Don't be a kid or a weeping willow....

SCENE IN VILLAGE HALL:

FLORRIE, KITTY AND ARTHUR UNFREEZE AND TURN. OTHER CHILDREN JOIN EVACUEE PARADE. BILLETING OFFICER INTRODUCES BILLET PARENTS.

BILLETING OFFICER: Ah come in ladies and gentlemen. The children are here if you'd like to come and choose.

MRS. GRUNDY: Oh yes, I'll take these two. (TAKES TWO OTHER CHILDREN ASIDE)

MRS. NORSEWORTHY: (HORRIFIED BY THE REMAINDER) Oh no. They're out of the question.

MR. N: Now then dear, we said we would take some of these poor London children.

MRS N: But look at them (EXAMINING KIDS) They've surely got nits and they smell atrocious.

MR.N: We can soon sort that out, I'm sure.

MRS N: And I'm not having any boys. (SEPARATING FAMILY)

FLORRIE: My mum says we've got to stay together.

MRS N: Well your mum isn't here now is she. She should be grateful you're taken in.

ARTHUR: I'm going with them

MRS.N: Oh no you're not.

MRS. GRUNDY: I'll take the little boy. You come with me. You can see your sisters soon, dear.

ARTHUR: Florrie! Kitty!

(PIANO LINE OF GOODNIGHT CHILDREN AS MRS. N. TAKES OFF WEEPING GIRLS (TURN BACKS TO AUDIENCE) AND MRS. G. TAKES ARTHUR)

FLORRIE: (TURNING ROUND) We're starving hungry. Can we have something to eat?

MRS.N: I was told you'd bring food with you. I've got nothing for you tonight. I'm sorry. You'll have to wait till morning. (SHE GOES)

KITTY: I'm starving. I'll die if I don't have something to eat. I want my mum. (CRIES)

FLORRIE: (SHOUTING AFTER MRS N:) Eh misses.

MRS. N. (RETURNING OUTRAGED) Are you talking to me?

FLORRIE: We need more to eat. Kitty's starving. You're supposed to look after us.

MRS.N: You cheeky little monkey.

KITTY: I wish I was back in London.

MRS. N: I wish you were too.

FLORRIE: You're cruel and horrible. And you've got grey hair and you're a witch!

MRS. N: That's it. You're going to be taught a lesson. I'll put you in the coal hole. That'll quieten you down. (SHE LOCKS FLORRIE UP AND WHEELS KITTY OFF) (TO KITTY) And you can get off to bed.

MUSIC LINE ON THIS. ONLY PIANO, ONLY ONE LINE

ARTHUR: (LOOKING THROUGH WINDOW) Florrie! Kitty!

KITTY CREEPS DOWN AND MAKES SIGNALS TO ARTHUR THROUGH

WINDOW ABOUT HORRIBLE MRS. N.)

ARTHUR: Where's Florrie?

KITTY: (SIGNING TO WHERE SHE IS) Kitty's locked in the coal hole.

ARTHUR RUNS OFF FRIGHTENED.

KITTY GOES TO SEE FLORRIE)

KITTY: (THROUGH COAL CUPBOARD DOOR) You all right Florrie?

FLORRIE: It's all cold and dark.

KITTY: There's a latch (JUMPING UP) but it's too high for me.

MRS. N: (CATCHING HER UP) You get back to bed. How dare you?

REPRISE ON PIANO OF ONE LINE OF *GOODNIGHT CHILDREN EVERYWHERE....*

MR.N: (RETURNS, HANGS COAT, WARMS SELF BY FIRE, GOES TO COAL CUPBOARD, FINDS FLORRIE ASLEEP) Florence. What on earth are you doing here?

FLORRIE: She put me in here.

MR.N: Whatever for?

FLORRIE: Cos I asked for more food. (CRIES)

MR.N: (TAKES HER OUT AND DUSTS HER DOWN) You get off to bed with your sister. And brush that coal off you. Dear, oh dear! (SHOUTS TO WIFE) Maud? What do you think you're doing?

MRS.N: (ENTERS ANGRY) The child was rude. They're like animals.

MR.N: You can't treat them like that. You'll get us reported.

MRS.N: Well you look after them if you think they're such angels.

MR N: (TO AUDIENCE IN DESPAIR) What can I do? What's happened to my

wife?

ONE PIANO LINE FROM *GOODNIGHT* AS LINK

KITTY AND FLORRIE WRITE HOME TO MUM

K & F: Dear Mum....We are having a horrible time. (SUDDENLY REMEMBERING THAT MRS N. MIGHT SEE THIS)

FLORRIE: No we mustn't pit that. SHE might see it.

K & F: Dear Mum, We are all right......We miss you......Send sweets please... Love

Kitty and Florrie....Let's put lots of big kisses so she'll know.

MRS.N: Let me post your letters for you. (SHE VETS THEM AND SHOWS

AUDIENCE MOCKINGLY) Such big kisses...So crude.

CHORD FOR FORTHCOMING SONG

MUM GETS LETTER

MUM: They're not happy. I'll have to do something. I'm sending a parcel down. It's some sweets and some tap shoes for Kitty. I can't have them back here. It's too dangerous.

CAST SING:

Close your eyes and say a prayer
And surely you can find a kiss to spare
Though you are far away
She's with you night and day
Goodnight children everywhere

KIT: That really happened to me. Mum sent these shoes....(SHE BECOMES THE YOUNG KITTY) and I forced them on although they were too small. And I gave little concerts for my friends from school in the fields behind the house. I used to dance and everyone learned the steps. Come on girls.

GOOD SHIP LOLLIPOP TAP ROUTINE LED BY KITTY)

SCENE 3: WOMEN IN THE FORCES

GIRLS ASSEMBLE AS RAW RECRUITS FOR DRILL

OLIVE AS SERGEANT: Allo, Allo...Right funny looking lot we've got here. My job is to make a fighting unit out of you lot, God help me. Now when I give you the command to come to attention, I want you to put your right foot to your left smartly......wait for it.....WHEN I say so! Atten....Wait for it....shun!! (GIRLS DRILL ACCORDINGLY) Oi you, no putting your arms behind your back. I can do that cos I know what I'm doing. You don't. Arms to your sides. Now let's have a look what we've got...(INSPECTS AND CRITICISES INDIVIDUALS ---Get your hair cut, stop smirking, chin up, stomach in, chest out, bags of swank, etc---PLUS SOME ADMIRATION) Now right turn. By the left, quick march. Left, right, etc...Marching on the spot...Get those legs up like young horses...Squad ---Halt. Left turn. At ease. Now I want you here on the parade ground every morning at seven o'clock for the next two weeks, with shiny faces and shiny buttons and shiny boots. Atten....tion. Dis.....miss!

ALL (LED BY PENNY) "Ooh, must have a fag". ALL LIGHT UP.
BARRACK ROOM CHORES LIKE WASHING SMALLS, POLISHING BUTTONS
AND BOOTS TO SONG IN RHYTHM *QUARTERMASTERS' STORES*ALL (LED BY OLIVE) "Ooh, must have a drink. Let's go over the NAAFI."
DRINK ROUND PIANO AND SING *KISS ME GOODNIGHT SERGEANT MAJOR*

Kiss me goodnight sergeant major
Tuck me in my little wooden bed
We all love you sergeant major
Especially when you tell us "show a leg"
Don't forget to wake me in the morning
And bring me up a nice hot cup of tea ... Cor blimey!

Kiss me goodnight sergeant major Sergeant major be a mother to me.

ALL: (LED BY LIL) "Let's hit the town. Come on girls." MAKE-UP ROUTINE IN MIRRORS FACING FRONT. THEN TO SIDE TO CHECK EACH OTHER'S MAKE-UP.

LINK ARMS

BARBARA: Come on girls.

ALL 'Yeah' AND TAKE ONE STEP FORWARD.

KITTY: Come on everyone, let's get fish and chips.

ALL TURN SIDEWAYS INTO QUEUE. on 'Mmmmmmmm' sound

PENNY: Four fish and chips please. Big ones.

OLIVE: (RATHER DRUNK) And hurry up about it, Pen...hic..hic

PENNY: Oh get her out of here. She's showing us up.

JOYCE: Come on Olive. We'll wait outside. You're embarrassing Penny.

TWO YOUNG SOLDIERS SHOW UP

JOYCE: Oh look what we've got.

MEN: Hallo girls.

JOYCE: There's a dance at the drill hall.

SOLDIER 1: (TALKING HER ARM) So what are we waiting for?

SOLDIER 2: 'Ere, wait a minute. Mine's one over the eight. (INDICATING OLIVE)

PENNY: 'Ere's the fish and chips girls.

SOLDIER 1: Go and get that one. (INDICATING PENNY) She's all right.

SOLDIER 2: (TO PENNY) You coming dancing?

PENNY: Yes.

OLIVE GRABS FISH AND CHIPS AND MAKES IT TO PIANO TO PLAY

JOYCE: Off we go then. I think I can hear the music.

IN THE MOOD WHILE COUPLES DANCE

SWITCH TO $\it WEDDING MARCH$ AS COUPLES SMILE AT EACH OTHER AND FRONT.

LADS LEAVE, WAVING TO BRIDES TO TUNE OF WISH ME LUCK AS YOU WAVE ME GOODBYE.

GIRLS CRY. THEN BREAK BACK INTO *IN THE MOOD* AND DANCE TOGETHER.

SCENE 4: JOYCE'S SHELTER STORY:

BLACK OUT DIALOGUE IN THE DARK. LOTS OF 'Ooops' 'Sorry', 'Over here' 'Put that light out' etc, etc.

JOYCE AND HER MUM FIND THEIR HOUSE IN THE DARK WITH A LITTLE TORCH

MUM: Is this ours?

JOYCE: No. Not that one. Ooops there it is. Here's the front door.

(AS THEY GO IN THERE'S AN AIR RAID SOUND)

CAST: LOTS OF 'Oh no' and 'Not again' and 'Get down the shelter' RHUBARB

MUM: Come on Joyce. Get the bags, get the valuables.

JOYCE AND MUM GO DOWN THE GARDEN WITH BAGS

THEY GO IN AND THERE IS MUCH THUDDING AND SIRENS.

CROWD WORRY IN CASE IT'S THEIR HOUES, ETC. WHINING CATS AND DOGS, ETC.

THEN QUIET AND ALL CLEAR

EVERYONE BREATHES EASY ON THE ALL CLEAR. Thank God that's over, etc. from crowd.

JOYCE AND MUM COME OUT OF SHELTER + BAGS.

JOYCE: Oh leave the bags here Mum. It's not worth carrying them back to the house

MUM: (SHAKING FIST AT SKY) That bloody Hitler. I'll kill him!!

JOYCE: Oh Mum, I'm so tired. And it's freezing in there.

MUM: Come on. I'll make you a cuppa and you can sleep in the house.

JOYCE: (YAWNING AND LOOKING AT SKY) It's not worth it. I've got to be up for work soon.

MUM: Here's a blanket. Get a bit of shut-eye. I'll watch out. There'll be another lot coming over soon I bet. (MUM HUMS "CUP OF TEA" WHILST BREWING UP.

2nd SIREN AND MUM SETS OFF DOWN PATH. CALLS JOYCE TO FOLLOW)

JOYCE: I'm not Mum. I'm too tired I'm staying put. I'll stay here.

MUM: Oh no you won't my girl. (GOES BACK FOR HER)

WARDEN: Get down that shelter ladies.

JOYCE: You come down that shelter at once my girl.

Come on Joycey. In you go quick. It's rough out here.

JOYCE: (BACKING IN...SUDDEN SPLASH SOUND) Oh Mum, it's flooded. I'm soaked. And look.....(FISHING OUT PAPERS) Here's the insurance certificate.

MUM: Oh no...look, here's me marriage lines all soaked.

JOYCE: And a picture of me when I was little.

MUM: And your dad's medals. Oh no. I knew we shouldn't have left them there.

JOYCE: Never mind Mum, they'll dry out..

MUM: Oh you know what I want? A nice cup of tea.

THEY HAVE A HUG..ALL CLEAR AND SONG I LIKE A NICE CUP OF TEA IN THE MORNING WITH EVERYONE

SCENE 5 LILIAN IS BOMBED OUT

LILIAN WITH LITTLE GIRL EMERGING FROM SHELTER) Come on Pam. The raid's over. We can go back indoors now.

PAM: (HELENA, EMERGING FROM UNDER TABLE) Oh Mum, I'm so tired. Can we go to bed now.

LILIAN: Yes, we'll have a nice sleep.

PAM: (CATCHING SIGHT OF DESTROYED HOUSE) Mum, it's gone. Our house has gone. (RUSHES TOWARDS RUBBLE) Look there's my toys under all that. (CRIES AND RUNS BACK TO MUM)

LILIAN: Oh dear. What are we going to do? We'll have to find somewhere to stay. Come on Pam, let's look around. There's a sign there. Houses to let. Look all these look empty. (TO ANOTHER WOMAN) Are any of these going? They all look deserted.

NEIGHBOUR: Families have all gone away. Too dangerous. Bombed all last month round here.

LILIAN: Who do I have to see about having one of them?

NEIGHBOUR: Lady up the end has all the keys. Landlord's not been seen for months.

LILIAN: (TO DAUGHTER) Come on then Pam, let's go and see what we can find. (TO HOLDER OF BIG BUNCH OF KEYS) Any of these houses free? I need a place for me and my little girl.

KEY HOLDER: Any one you like love. Take your pick. Bring me back the keys when you've done.

LILIAN: (TAKING KEYS) Which key goes with which house?

KEY HOLDER: Dunno love. Bring 'em back when you've done.

LILIAN: (TRYING FIRST DOOR WHICH FALLS OPEN) Doesn't look like we'll need keys. There's hardly a door or window left. Ooh I don't fancy that one.

PAM: Ugh it smells horrible.

LILIAN: Let's see if we can find a better one.

CHILD: Look Mum, there's a dolly in this one. Ah, poor dolly. (PICKS UP DOLLY) It's got no-one to look after it. Let's move in here so I can take care of the dolly.

LILIAN: All right love. It looks all right. Are you going to help Mum sort it out.

CHILD: (CRADLING DOLL) Yes Mum. When I've put my baby to bed. (MAKING BED OUT OF BOX)

LILIAN: Let's sweep it up and make it nice. We'll do it together. We're a good team. (THEY SWEEP AND POLISH TOGETHER IN RHYTHM, WHILE CAST ARE WHISTLING WHISTLE WHILE YOU WORK. THEY THEN SURVEY THEIR GOOD WORK) And do you know, I still live in that house 53 years later. (SONG REPRISE ON PIANO, LAST LINE PLAYED AS LINK)

SCENE 6 MUNITIONS FACTORY.

WOMEN WORKERS ARRIVE AT FACTORY, CLOCK ON AND PRESS METAL SHEETS IN ROUTINE TO *MUSIC WHILE YOU WORK*.

FOREMAN ENTERS WITH TELEGRAM AND CALLS OUT WOMAN WHO READS IT ALOUD.

WOMAN 1: The War Office regret to inform you that your husband has been wounded. (GOES OFF CRYING

FOREMAN 2: Telegram (GIVES IT TO ANOTHER WOMAN)

WOMAN 2:) The Board of Admiralty regret that Able Seaman Smith is missing, presumed killed. (GOES OFF CRYING)

LINE REFORMS, GAPS CLOSE AND WOMEN CARRY ON WORKING TO MUSIC WHILE YOU WORK.

SCENE 7: PENNY'S TELEGRAM

PENNY: I know about those telegrams. I saw women in the factory getting them. And one day a telegram came that concerned me. It was a Saturday morning, the sun was shining and I was just whiting my front steps. (SHE KNEELS AND DOES SO)

KITTY: Come on Mum (TO JOYCE) We'd better tell Penny. Shall I tell her.

JOYCE: (AS MUM, CLUTCHING TELEGRAM) No. I will. (APPROACHING STEP) Penny. It's Ron. (GIVES HER TELEGRAM.)

PENNY: READS TELEGRAM) Oh no.... SHOVES IT BACK TO MUM AND RUNS INTO HOUSE SOBBING)

JOYCE: (CRYING) That's all my four boys. All gone. My wonderful boys. I tell you Kitty, if ever there was another war after this and I had sons, I'd hide them away. I'd not let them fight. (KITTY HELPS HER OFF)

PENNY: Ron's Mum never got over it. She was so bitter about her sons. All dead.

And I was very fond of her Ron.

SONG: ALL OUR TOMORROWS

All our tomorrows will be sunny days
In so many ways, I'll make you happy,
All our tomorrows will be one sweet song
How can we go wrong
With so much love?

SCENE 8: THE SHOPPING QUEUE

MIMED VERSION OF THE QUEUE FOR RATIONED GOODS TO YES WE HAVE NO BANANAS, etc on piano

The queue forms....Joyce opens up.....different customers with ration books and baskets...

Lilian keeps coming back for things she'd forgotten....impatience.... missing bus...late for work....

Kit and wedding news with James as soldier

Kit buys cake ingredients as Barbara gets more impatient

Kid forgetting what she's been sent for plus hen mime for eggs....

Barbara shouts at child

Hilda as pregnant woman let in front by Penny

Barbara as cross lady

Penny is served.

Barabara is refused as Joyce is closing up

Nathan sells Barbara black market goods

Joyce shoos them off

Joyce as shop keeper on the fiddle.

End Music

SCENE 9 THE YANKS IN TOWN

Nathan and James swagger on as Yanks. Sing *CHATTANOOGA CHOO CHOO*. Strike pose centre stage. Everyone gathers round. Children begging gum all together.

ALL CHEW IN RHYTHM, AND SING CHATTANOOGA WITH MEN...

Child asks for nylons for sister but is whheled off by Mum...Woman gets child to beg cigarettes. One is having a GI's baby and wants to track him down through them. One thinks they should be fighting in Germany, not lording it here. One lady tells them to behave and they carry her shopping. They respond courteously and rather loftily to all. *ALL REPRISE CHATTANOOGA*

ALL REI RISE CHATTANOOUA

SCENE 10: AN EVACUEE RETURNS TO LONDON

JOAN: (WITH BAG, LOOKING AT HOUSES) Number 45 Maryon Road. Oh here it is, Maryon Road. Number 44, 46, 48. (A BIT TEARFUL) Where's 45? Why did they have to move here? (FINDING IT AT LAST)

Are you there Mum? Mum, I'm home (GOING IN AND LOOKING ROUND, CALLING FOR MUM)

MUM: Gracious you back already? I was expecting you later. Have you eaten? No?

Oh dear. Well we've got some winkles and shrimps over from yesterday.

JOAN: I hate those Mum. You know I do.

MUM: You used to like them before you went away.

JOAN: No I didn't. I've never liked them.

MUM: They've spoilt you down there. You'll have to have bread and jam.

JOAN: All right Mum. And I've brought you something.

MUM: (PLEASED) Oh, that's nice. What's that dear?

JOAN: It's my clothes for washing.

MUM: What do you want me to do with them?. I'm out at work all day you know.

You're old enough to do your own washing now. Here's the board and here's the tap. I can't be looking after you. You'll have to pull your weight here. And while I', about it, I might as well tell you I'll need you to help with the cleaning at home too. We're all worn out.

JOAN: I've not come back to be your slave Mum.

MUM: Of course not. I don't mean that. But you are old enough to help out. And what's more. I've got you a job. (GETS PAPER OUT OF POCKET) Look, a guinea a week. Not bad, so you can help with the family income. You're starting tomorrow.

JOAN: (HORRIFIED) What sort of a job.

MUM: It's in the factory where I'm working. Labelling bottles. It's medical supplies. Part of the war effort.

JOAN: I don't want to work in a factory Mum. I want to be a nurse. (TEARS UP PAPER) You can keep your job.

MUM: You're all high and mighty since you went away. Well hard luck. If it's good enough for me, it's good enough for you. (JOAN CRIES AND MUM FUMES)

FATHER: (ENTERING) Oh dear, not trouble already. What's happened?

MUM: She thinks she's too good to work in a factory and she expects me to skivvy around her doing her washing.

FATHER: Don't be too hard on her. She'll settle down.

MUM: (STORMING AWAY) That's right. Spoil her. I think we should start as we mean to go on.

FATHER: She'll be missing her friends. She doesn't know anyone here. (SEES KID OUT OF WINDOW) Eh, girlie, come here. You can come and play with our Joan can't you.

JOAN: (SQUIRMING) Oh Dad, don't. I can make my own friends.

FATHER: Off you go together and play. She'll be all right.

(KIDS STAND AROUND TOGETHER EMBARRASSED).

KID: I haven't seen you round here before. Where've you been?

JOAN: In Kent, Cranbrook. It was lovely there. I didn't want to come back to London.

KID: Don't you know anyone round here?

JOAN: No, our house got bombed and Mum and Dad moved here.

MUM: Joan, come and have your bread and jam.

JOAN: (GOING STRAIGHT PAST HER) I'm not hungry. I'm going to bed.

MUM: Nothing but trouble she's going to be. She's grown up now and she'll have to

just get on with it.

JOAN: (FROM UPSTAIRS) Mum, where's my teddy?

PIANO: SECOND HALF OF TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC

SCENE 10: KIDS SCENE PLAYING ON BOMB SITES

KIDS COME ON IN A GANG. HUNT FOR PLACE TO BUILD A DEN. FIND A BOMBSITE AND PLAY ON IT. THEY FIND A NECKLACE. A RATION BOOK WITH SWEET RATIONS, AND OLD DOLL.

THEN THEY ARE DRIVEN OFF BY AIR-RAID WARDENS (NATHAN AND JAMES)

CHILD: (SHOUTING AFTER WARDENS) You won't be able to shout at us much longer. The war's nearly over now.

WARDEN) She's right. Not a time for shouting at the kids. The war's over. Let's have a party and celebrate.

SONG: FOR HE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW STARTS UP

KITTY: Look children. Here's the Mayor. He's got sweets for you all.

KIDS RUSH TO MAYOR AND GET PRESENTS. FREEZE SONG

MAYOR: Thank God the war's over my friends. Let us hope there'll never be another. It's wonderful to have everyone back. Families and friends together again. Now we can rebuild our cities. And we can live our lives in peace.

SONG CONTINUES WITH MUCH HAND-SHAKING AND GREETINGS:

And so say all of us And so say all of us For he's a jolly good fellow And so say all of us.

PARTY SONG AS AT BEGINNING. HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN.

Happy days are here again
The skies above are clear again
Let us sing a song of cheer again
Happy days are here again!
All together shout it now
There's no-one who can doubt it now
So let's tell the world about it now
Happy days are here again

THE END