

Dad's Army does 'eat out to help out'!

By Niles Schilder

Based on the series by Jimmy Perry and David Croft

*All the platoon are lined up the church hall, **Mainwaring** and **Wilson** enter.*

Mainwaring: Fall the men in Wilson.

Wilson: Yes, very good sir, attention! (*Jones is late*) Stand at ease! (*Jones is late again*).

Mainwaring: Now listen here men, as you well know it is of paramount importance that we support our hospitality industry. As I am sure you are all well aware the hospitality industry has been hit hardest by the recent lockdown so I thought we ought to all go and show our support by going out as a platoon for lunch this Saturday.

Godfrey: Oh, how nice.

Frazer: I don't think we ought to go somewhere too expensive, food can very expensive these days, especially when there is so little money about.

Walker: I could do us all a meal, cheep as anything.

Mainwaring: Thankfully Frazer, cost shall not be an issue, due the Governments 'eat out to help out' scheme we are able to eat for half price at cafés and restaurants, so I'm sorry Walker I thought we might go somewhere in the town.

Walker: That's alright, where do you think they all get their food from.

Mainwaring: So does anyone know were we should have our meal.

Pike: I like fish and chips, can we go to the Fish and Chip Restaurant.

Jones: They do some good some good fish and chips there, all crunchy on the outside and all soft and squiggly on the inside.

Mainwaring: Yes, yes we could go there, but unfortunately Mrs Mainwaring does not like the smell of fish and chips.

Wilson: Oh will Mrs Mainwaring be coming then?

Mainwaring: No, no I should not think so, but she has got a very sensitive nose and she will smell it on my clothes.

Godfrey: There's this new place opened next to the clinic, except the menu is not very good, and the waitress are rather rude.

Jones: I know what you mean Godfrey, nobody has any manners these days. Only yesterday I was told off in the Fish Mongers for not following the oneway system, so I told him 'I see no oneway system' and he told me 'there it is, can't you see' so I said 'but I'm the only one in the shop' so he said...

Mainwaring: Quite Jones! Godfrey why did you just suggest a place which is not very good.

Godfrey: I don't know really.

Walker: That's another one off the list.

Mainwaring: Yes, that reminds me I hope you are making notes Wilson.

Wilson: I'm not making notes sir.

Mainwaring: Why not?

Wilson: You never asked me to make notes.

Mainwaring: I distinctly told you to make notes when we started.

Wilson: No sir the word notes never passed your lips, hang on I'll start making notes now.

Jones: The Golf Club do lunches don't they Wilson.

Wilson: Yes they do a very good menu indeed. Sir didn't you apply for membership of the Golf Club?

Mainwaring: Yes I did.

Wilson: What did they say, were you excepted?

Mainwaring: That's enough of that Wilson.

Frazer: Captain Mainwaring, exactly who is going to be playing for this lunch.

Mainwaring: Well I thought we might all have a whip-round.

Frazer: I don't think that is very fair, because we're all going to have things that cost different amounts.

Jones: Yes, and I can't do Saturday as that is my day for coupon counting.

Pike: And Uncle Arthur is taking mum to the Golf Club on Saturday.

Wilson: Frank you were not supposed to tell anybody.

Walker: Come to think of it Saturday is not great for for me either.

Godfrey: And Saturday is my day for the clinic.

Mainwaring: So can I take it that none of you can do Saturday.

General agreement among the platoon.

Mainwaring: So in that case we ought to find a day that we take all attend.

Pike: Mr Mainwaring, can my mum come too?

Jones: That's a good point Frank, I think Mrs Fox might like to come as well.

Godfrey: Yes, it does sound like my sister Dolly might be interested in.

Jones: You could bring your girlfriend Joe.

Walker: Yeh Sherry might like to come.

Mainwaring: Now look here men, I really don't think we can have your extended family come along to, you see they are not members of the Walmington-on-Sea Home Guard Bubble.

Wilson: Ha ha ha!

Mainwaring: What's so funny about that Wilson?

Wilson: Well you see sir it has just occurred to me that if other people come along too then our bubble will burst so to speak.

Enter Warden Hodges.

Warden: What are you lot up to them?

Mainwaring: Who invited you in the conversation, for all you know we could be discussing top secret information.

Warden: No you're not, you're all going out to lunch.

Wilson: We are supporting the economy by taking advantage of the 'eat out to help out' scheme which is more than what your lot are doing.

Warden: 'Eat out to help out' you say?

Mainwaring: Yes.

Warden: You'll be lucky.

Mainwaring: Why is that?

Warden: That scheme ended yesterday.

General disappointment among the platoon.

Walker: Does that mean I can put the lunch on after all.

Mainwaring: No, nothing personal Walker but I have decided that when this is all over I will take you all out to dinner, my treat.

Frazer: As long as you'll be paying I'll be there.

Jones: And I'll be there too sir.

Pike: And me.

Godfrey: And me.

Walker: I'll be there.

Mainwaring: Together we can get through this and come out the other side safe and sound.

Whole platoon cheer

The End