

# Eight on the



**8<sup>th</sup>**

**Personal perspectives on a momentous day**

***Andy Kempe***

## Ivy

To be honest, I can't say I'm that excited.  
Of course I'm pleased it's all over, well, for us at least  
Though things still seem bad out in the Far East.  
But we've survived, Bert my son, the girls and me.  
Not to mention Billy, our very own evacuee.  
He's still here, no home to go back to, bless his little soul.  
Sometimes we thought how much worse can things get  
But I doubt it will get better for a good while yet.  
We've all kept calm and carried on as per the plan.  
Hazels' got her work, Lily's got her Yank  
We all cried buckets when Eileen lost her man.  
Mine was taken in Singapore. There's been little news of him.  
If he does come home I'll try to look delighted  
But, to be honest, I can't say I'm that excited.

## Mrs Stock

I like it here. I think I'll stay.  
I grew up in a place a bit smaller than this.  
But having enough of the rural bliss  
I packed up my books and set off for the town  
And with missionary zeal put on a teacher's gown,  
Got married, had children; two boys don't you know.  
When the war came I went with the school  
To Newbury in Berkshire. That was six years ago!  
My boys being men both went off to war  
They were both of them killed. I shall see them no more.  
My husband's at some place called Bletchley Park  
Surrounded by WAAFS I expect his war's been a lark  
The cat being away the mouse doth play.  
But I like it here. I think I'll stay.

## Harry

Off with their heads! That's what I say.  
Let's see an end to the order that was.  
Eastern Europe is liberated. It's our turn next.  
First off, nationalisation. No private ownership.  
Common Wealth for the common man.  
Fair shares for all. Free education, free public health.  
All paid for by the hard work of hard workers.  
So say cheerio to the Eton boy shirkers.  
They may think they can rule us and use us.  
But now it's their turn to lose. Remember last time?  
Homes fit for heroes? Ha! Nothing but broken promises.  
So wish them luck as you wave them goodbye  
We've done all the work, now it's their turn to pay.  
Off with their heads! That's what I say.

## Hazel

This has been our chance to show what we're worth.  
We've worked in factories and driven the trains  
Manned the guns and ferried the 'planes.  
I've stepped up to the mark and filled a need.  
There's prisoners on the racecourse. I've been nursing some.  
Most of them are just boys, but like us they bleed.  
You might say why bother, they're only the Hun.  
But I say it's time for things to be turned around;  
The men's war is over but ours has just begun.  
We'll all come to know just what some women have done.  
I've heard there's some that have even been spies -  
That would put paid to those old tired lies  
That all women do is cook and give birth.  
Yes, this has been our chance to show what we're worth.

## Lily

Don't you think it sounds so romantic?  
Bradley Cartwright. That's a name for a man.  
He comes from Berlin, Wisconsin, USA.  
His parents have a store there. That's where we'll stay.  
I don't much like the name of the town  
But soon we'll have a place of our own.  
He's going to build it. With his own bare hands.  
Brad says it's a land of milk and honey,  
Chances for everyone to work and make money  
Even the women and it's no less than we're worth.  
Just as soon as he gets back from the war  
We'll be married and away, that's for sure.  
It's all going to be completely idyllic.  
Don't you think it sounds so romantic?



## Otto

What has happened to my country?  
We could have, should have stopped it  
But we looked the other way.  
It was easy not to think  
Easier still to just obey.  
I didn't want to go to war;  
I didn't know what I was going for.  
I went because I was told to go  
And now am accused of things I did not do.  
But neither did I stop them being done  
So for me the war has not been won.  
A nation is just an idea and while it is not evil  
The people who make it can be.  
This is what happened to my country.



## Bert

Some might say it was a blessing in disguise.  
It's not a bundle of laughs having asthma  
But I suppose it beats getting shot, or worse.  
I put on a uniform when I joined the Home Guard  
Held a rifle and learnt all the drills.  
Spent hours marching up and down the yard  
But as action went it was short on thrills.  
My war effort was confined to an office  
In a shadow factory making aircraft parts.  
There must have been dozens of places like ours.  
Lots of little cogs in a big war machine.  
The boss says we've been heroes in our own way  
But for me there's been more lows than highs.  
Some might say it was a blessing in disguise.



## Eileen

Sometimes it's best to just pack things away.  
He was so handsome in his uniform. Full of life too.  
A gallant, dashing fly-boy. Well, what's a girl to do?  
We met up at the base and he asked me to dance  
Then it was what they call a whirlwind romance.  
I was pregnant before I knew it and people asked,  
'How will you manage if something happens?'  
'He'll be fine,' I said, and that's what I thought.  
She was born just minutes after Mr Churchill's speech  
So I called her Veronica Eileen, VE for short.  
I did what I thought would be best for child;  
The adoption papers were signed and filed.  
No, I'll never forget the eighth of May.  
But sometimes it's best to just pack things away.

**Ivy**

**Mrs Stock**

**Harry**

**Hazel**

**Lily**

**Otto**

**Bert**

**Eileen**

**Alison Dewar**

**Sarah Russell**

**David Tute**

**Melanie Nicholson**

**Sarah Birnie**

**Gareth Croft**

**Adam Cox**

**Emma Garrett**

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