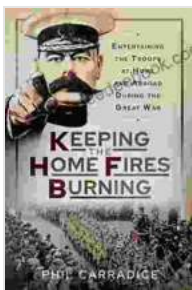


# Entertaining the Troops at Home and Abroad During the Great War

The Great War was a brutal and bloody conflict that claimed the lives of millions of people. But even in the midst of such darkness, there were those who sought to bring light and joy to the troops. Entertainers from all walks of life volunteered their time and talents to provide a sense of escape from the horrors of war.



## Keeping the Home Fires Burning: Entertaining the Troops at Home and Abroad During the Great War

by Phil Carradice

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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At home, theaters and music halls put on special performances for troops. These shows were often packed with laughter and music, and they provided a much-needed break from the stresses of training and deployment. In addition to these formal performances, many troops also enjoyed informal entertainment, such as playing cards, singing songs, and telling stories.

Abroad, the challenges of entertaining the troops were even greater. But even in the trenches, soldiers found ways to keep their spirits up. They organized concerts, plays, and sporting events. They also found ways to celebrate holidays, such as Christmas and Thanksgiving. These activities helped to create a sense of community and belonging, and they provided a much-needed distraction from the horrors of war.

The impact of entertainment on the troops was profound. It helped to boost morale, reduce stress, and provide a sense of escape from the horrors of war. In many cases, it also helped to create lasting bonds between soldiers. The men who served in the Great War faced unimaginable challenges, but the entertainment they received helped them to endure and to emerge from the war with their spirits intact.

### **Entertaining the Troops at Home**

In Britain, the government established the Entertainments National Service Association (ENSA) in 1914. ENSA was responsible for providing entertainment to troops both at home and abroad. ENSA organized a wide range of activities, including concerts, plays, and sporting events. They also provided troops with access to books, magazines, and other recreational materials.

ENSA's work was vital in boosting morale and providing a sense of escape from the horrors of war. In a letter to ENSA, one soldier wrote: "Your concerts are a great success and are much appreciated by the troops. They help to keep our spirits up and to make us forget the war for a while."



In addition to ENSA, there were many other organizations that provided entertainment to troops at home. These included the YMCA, the Salvation Army, and the Red Cross. These organizations provided a variety of services, such as providing meals, offering religious services, and organizing recreational activities. They also provided a much-needed sense of community and support for the troops.

### **Entertaining the Troops Abroad**

Entertaining the troops abroad was a much greater challenge than entertaining them at home. The challenges included the lack of resources, the dangers of war, and the difficulties of reaching troops in remote locations.

Despite these challenges, there were many dedicated individuals who worked to provide entertainment to troops abroad. These included entertainers, chaplains, and other volunteers. They organized concerts, plays, and sporting events. They also provided troops with access to books, magazines, and other recreational materials.

The impact of entertainment on the troops abroad was just as profound as it was at home. It helped to boost morale, reduce stress, and provide a sense of escape from the horrors of war. In many cases, it also helped to create lasting bonds between soldiers.

### **The Impact of Entertainment on the Troops**

The impact of entertainment on the troops was profound. It helped to boost morale, reduce stress, and provide a sense of escape from the horrors of war. In many cases, it also helped to create lasting bonds between soldiers.

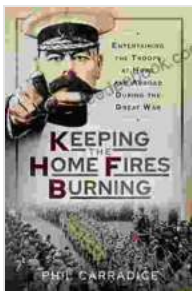
One of the most important benefits of entertainment was that it helped to boost morale. When troops were entertained, they were able to forget about the war for a while and simply enjoy themselves. This helped to lift their spirits and make them more resilient in the face of adversity.

Entertainment also helped to reduce stress. The Great War was a time of great stress and anxiety for the troops. They were constantly facing danger and uncertainty. Entertainment provided a way for them to relax and de-

stress. This helped them to cope with the challenges of war and to maintain their mental health.

Finally, entertainment helped to provide a sense of escape from the horrors of war. When troops were entertained, they were able to forget about the death and destruction that surrounded them. This helped them to maintain their sanity and to keep going in the face of adversity.

The entertainment that was provided to troops during the Great War was a vital part of the war effort. It helped to boost morale, reduce stress, and provide a sense of escape from the horrors of war. In many cases, it also helped to create lasting bonds between soldiers. The men who served in the Great War faced unimaginable challenges, but the entertainment they received helped them to endure and to emerge from the war with their spirits intact.



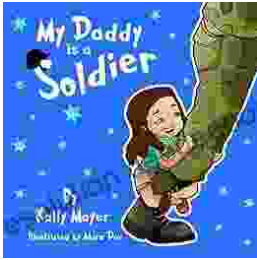
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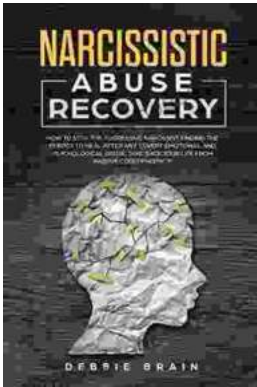
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