

MOVING ON (2020 edition)

Second war babies too young to recall the blackout and ITMA and Spitfires and spam

Doodlebugs, GIs and chewing gum, digging for victory

Dresden and Coventry, White Cliffs of Dover, where is Hiroshima, then it's all over

But our parents were ordinary folk, never spoke much about the War.

(refrain) They just had to be Moving On, only glad to be Moving On,

Always had to be Moving On, moving on ...

Welcome to England to work for the Queen; food on the ration and free milk at school,

Variety Band Box, Muffin the Mule and the four-minute mile

Days at the seaside, Morris Minors and Spangles, Teddy boys, frothy coffee and Look Back

in Anger, Ban the Bomb Lady Chatterley, beatniks and jazz, "You never had it so good".

Gunshots in Dallas, Profumo and spies. Please Please Me, miniskirts, Morecambe and Wise

The World Cup, flared trousers, girls on the pill and men on the moon.

Flower-power, burn-your-bra, Watergate, on yer bike, yuppies, McDonalds, free Nelson

Mandela, Live-aid and shell suits and Princess Diana and the Berlin wall down.

A Tunnel to Europe and Dolly the Sheep, DNA, BSE, HIV, CJD

Hip-hop and Britpop and laptops and alcopops, marathons, joggers Millennium fireworks and MRSA.

9-11, Tsunami and bloggers and spam, iPods and satnavs and ASBOs and Chavs,

Bonuses, bankers, the Olympics, the cuts, selfies and Strictly and CCTV

And Brexit and Trump and Covid-19.

But wartime was over except for Korea, Malaya, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

The Cod War, the Cold War and living in fear. And Suez and Kenya, Northern Ireland,

Cyprus, Bangla-desh and Kashmir.

Angola, Somalia, Rwanda, Sudan, Kosovo, Bosnia, the Falklands, Iraq; Libya, Gaza and

Afghanistan; and quite a few more but apart from the wars it's been peace all the way.

Allan Richardson 2009/2020