Home Front

Episode 4

7th August 1914 Ralph Winwood

By KATIE HIMS Cast

Ralph	Nicholas Murchie
Isabel	Keely Beresford
Alice	Claire-Louise Cordwell
Dorothea	Rachel Shelley

Waitress

ISABEL No. Not at all.

RALPH

ISABEL A terrible thing just happened.

RALPH What? What was it?

ISABEL In the post office.

RALPH The post office?

ISABEL Yes a man died. A postman. He collapsed while he

was speaking. He was just saying to the other man at

the counter - about how many more letters there were. Already. Since the 4th.One moment he was

standing up and the next moment he was on the floor.

RALPH I think we ought to

SCENE 2 INT. TEA SHOP

ISABEL I do feel ridiculous.

RALPH Why?

ISABEL For making a fuss.

RALPH

RALPH Scones! Scones. Marvellous. Could you bring us a

scone for my friend here?

WAITRESS Jam? Cream?

RALPH Definitely.

ISABEL Yes. Of course.

RALPH Good.

WAITRESS Is that everything?

RALPH Yes. Thank you. Thank you.

WAITRESS

ISABEL Why have you been eating so much cake?

RALPH Oh er it was my birthday.

ISABEL Yesterday was your birthday?

RALPH

ISABEL You kept that awfully quiet.

RALPH I was forty. If you must know. And it made me feel

terribly old.

ISABEL

RALPH

ISABEL Yesterday was your fortieth birthday.

RALPH Yes.

ISABEL And your dog was shot.

RALPH

ISABEL so sorry.

RALPH

ISABEL I meant to say sorry before now.

RALPH Miss Graham.

fault. Just one of those things.

ISABEL

Unusual.

RALPH Kush.

ISABEL Kush th

Ralph It means deified hero.

ISABEL Goodness.

RALPH

ISABEL You do know that Freddie is absolutely mortified

you.

RALPH I do. And this morning he sent my wife the most

beautiful bouquet of gardenias.

ISABEL Did he? Oh go

RALPH Well I shall include Freddie in my prayers.

ISABEL

your dog. And on your birthday too.

RALPH LAUGHS SLIGHTLY

RALPH Well apparently he had some assistance from the

Macknade boy.

ISABEL But he should never have let the Macknade boy get

his hands on the gun.

RALPH We live and we learn.

WAITRESS BRINGS THE TEA

WAITRESS Here we go. Tea for two.

RALPH Thank you.

ISABEL Thank you.

RALPH Shall I be mother?

ISABEL Oh er yes.

RALPH POURS THE TEA.

RALPH There you are.

ISABEL Thank you.

ISABEL TAKES A SIP OF TEA.

ISABEL Did you know that I was engaged once?

RALPH Sorry?

ISABEL I was engaged. Years ago now he

ISABEL And

hair.

much more than boy. I mean were both terribly young. He died somewhere so far away and so foreign. With

no one to stroke his hair. No one at all.

RALPH I am truly sorry.

ISABEL I try not to think of him. I try not to remember him.

But

it makes me so sad you see. And then today. Today it sort of. Well it all came back to me. The way the

d I think

the Army would have taken more notice. Of me I

mean. He had a military funeral and it was as if I was

no one. I was just

been anyone since.

RALPH Isabel.

ISABEL That sounded terribly self-pitying. Good grief. Sorry. I

am sorry.

RALPH For what?

ISABEL For talking to you.

RALPH I like you talking to me.

RALPH Er yes I believe we do have some. In that cupboard in

the kitchen.

ISABEL We have several at the house but almost certainly not

enough for an outing of twenty children.

SCENE 4 EXTERIOR. CHURCH.

ALICE SITS ON THE CHURCH STEPS WAITING.
SHE HAS A BABY WITH HER. RALPH AND
ISABEL APPROACH.

ALICE I must apologise Reverend!

RALPH Mrs Macknade.

ALICE What Jimmy did to your dog-

RALPH

time the dog will recover.

ISABEL really.

ALICE Well his father has given him a good beating

Reverend. Just so you know.

ISABEL

ALICE Miss Graham Miss.

to be punished.

RALPH Well let that be the end of it. Was there anything else?

ALICE

ISABEL But h

beach. And all kinds of good things to eat. Please let

SCENE FIVE INTERIOR. VICARAGE.

RALPH COMES HOME

DOROTHEA Hello dear.

RALPH Hello dear.

DOROTHEA Have you eaten anything?

RALPH No.

DOROTHEA Shall I fetch you something?

RALPH ?

DOROTHEA

RALPH Is it?

DOROTHEA Of course.

RALPH You know I forgot what day it was.

DOROTHEA

RALPH Sorry?

DOROTHEA Which would you prefer?

BEAT

DOROTHEA Ralph?

RALPH Do you know that a postman dropped dead in the

DOROTHEA How extraordinary.

RALPH I met her in the street and she was most distressed.

Absolutely white with shock. I thought she might have

fainted. So I took her for a cup of tea. It was the

Coronation Tea Rooms in the High Street you know

the one?

DOROTHEA Yes.

RALPH Well

leave her like that. In the middle of the street.

DOROTHEA Well of course.

RALPH

DOROTHEA Mind? Why should I mind?

RALPH That I took Isabel Graham for tea.

DOROTHEA LAUGHS SLIGHTLY

DOROTHEA You did the right thing. You did absolutely the right

thing.

(MUSIC HOME FRONT CLOSING SIG. 12 SECS USED IN TOTAL)