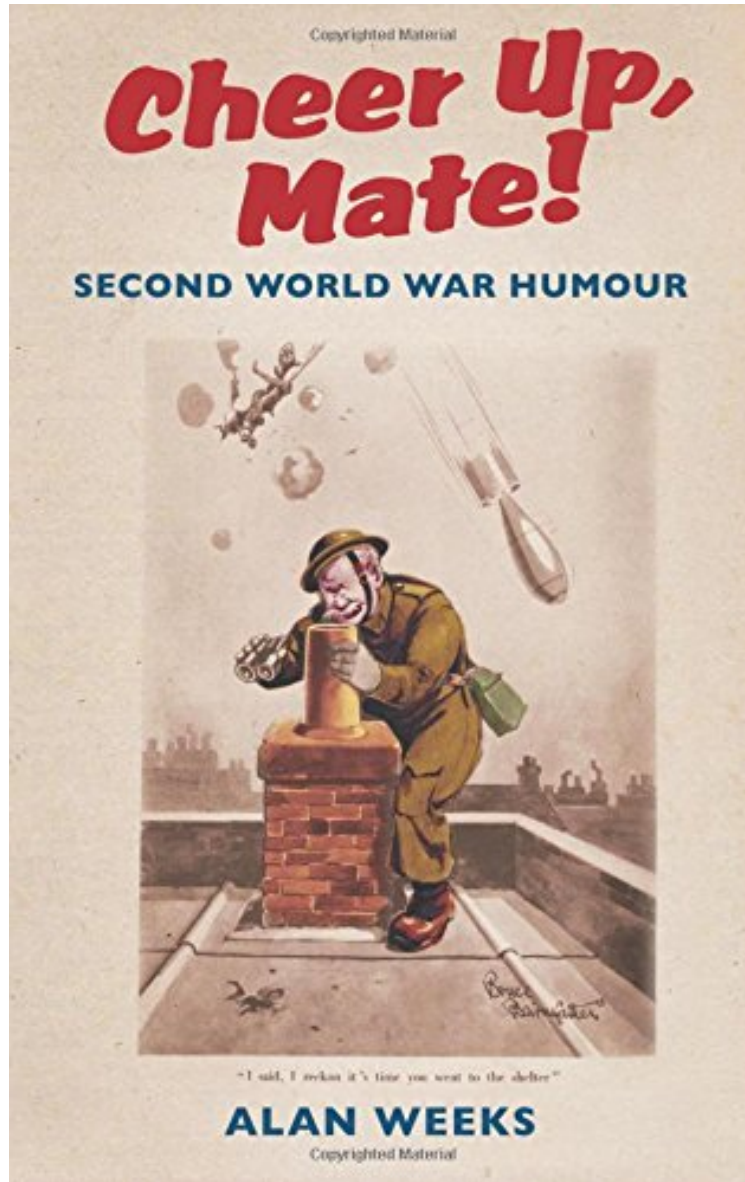


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Cheer Up, Mate!: Second World War Humour

Alan Weeks

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Alan Weeks : Cheer Up, Mate!: Second World War Humour before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cheer Up, Mate!: Second World War Humour:

Between 1939 and 1945 the world witnessed what is generally agreed to be the most horrific war in history. Millions

died and millions more were physical or psychologically wounded by the conflict. Yet amidst the pain and devastation, people were not only able to survive, but also managed to maintain a sense of humor. For some, it was precisely this ability to laugh at their misfortunes (and those of the other side) that enabled them to soldier on. This was especially true of the British, a nation whose reaction to more or less anything up to and including someone's house being bombed to rubble tended to be, "never mind, have a cup of tea." This "Blitz Spirit" is perhaps best summed up by Mona Lott, one of the characters in Tommy Handley's radio show *It's That Man Again* (the show's title itself being a comical reference to Hitler): "it's being so cheerful as keeps me going."

About the Author Alan Weeks was formerly Senior Lecturer in History at St Mary's College, University of London. He has written a number of school textbooks, including histories of the First and Second World Wars, and is the author of *Tea, Rum Fags: Sustaining Tommy, 1914–18* and *A Bloody Picnic: Tommy's Humour, 1914–18*.