

British Restaurant Menu

Dad's Army Sitcom, 1941

Dad's Army was a wildly popular BBC sitcom that ran from 1968-1977. The show is set during World War Two in the fictional town of Walmington-on-Sea where a detachment of (mostly elderly) Home Guardsmen comically fumble through their duties of guarding the area from an anticipated German invasion that never comes.

There is a menu on a black board at the beginning of the episode "The Two and a Half Feathers" (in Series 4, 1970). The episode opens with the characters eating lunch in a British Restaurant which served inexpensive meals during the war.

The below screen shot shows the menu of the selections. One of the characters asks for a second "toad" (sausage) for the toad-in-a-hole (Yorkshire pudding with sausage in it) and is told that patrons only get "half a toad).

The episode occurs sometime after May 26, 1941, since the sinking of the German battleship Bismarck, which occurred on that date, was mentioned in an earlier episode.

"British Restaurants were communal kitchens created in 1940 during the Second World War to help people who had been bombed out of their homes, had run out of ration coupons or otherwise needed help. In 1943, 2,160 British Restaurants served 600,000 very inexpensive meals a day."

Dieticians with the Ministry of Food prepared food that was served based on healthy eating and regional preferences.

After the war, some continued operating until the 1950s.¹

Recipe on the BBC site here: <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/sams-toad-hole>

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Restaurant (accessed May 7, 2020)

Soup 2½d

TOAD IN THE HOLE 8d

FISH AND POTATO PIE 7d

SWEDES AND CARROTS 2d

BREAD PUDDING AND CUSTARD 3d

TEA 1d

ONE SLICE OF BREAD ONLY

WITH EACH MEAL ½d

N.B. NO MEAL MUST COST MORE THAN 1/8