Chorus. What about a little drop o' cider
Just to make the wheels go round?
What about a little drop o' cider
You'll be better for it I'll be bound.
Whether you'm a walker or a rider.
Fill yer mug up once before you start.
What about a little drop o' cider
Just to warm the cockles of your heart?

2 One day a chap in a motor ~~stopped~~ car
Come coursing down the lane;
When all to once his motor stopped,
and refused to start again.
Old Varmer he went out to see
if he could make 'em go:
The chap said "Petrol tank's gone dry,"
old Varmer he said "Oh".

Chorus (spoken) Well.
What about a little drop of cider
Just to make the wheels go round?
What about a little drop o' cider?
You'll be better for it I'll be bound.
Whether you'm a walker or a rider
Fill yer tank up once before you start
What about a little drop o' cider
Just to warm the cockles of your heart?

3 The "Pig and Whistle" ketched a-fire
one night, and all dismayed
They sent a chap upon an horse,
to fetch the fire brigade.
The firemen joined up all their pipes,
the captain said "Illo,
Have you got any water yer?"
old Varmer he said "no".

Chorus (spoken) But
What about a little drop o' cider
Just to make the wheels go round?
What about a little drop o' cider
You'll be better for it I'll be bound.
Whether you'm a walker or a rider
Fill your engine up before you start,
What about a little drop o' cider
Just to warm the cockles of your heart.

Encore Verses.

Poor Varmer got took bad one day
with pains in his inside,
Which griped him so from head to toe
he thought he would have died;
They fetched the doctor all in haste,
he looked at maister's tongue
And said, "You want a tonic,"
so old Varmer softly sung:

Chorus: What about a little drop o' cider.

Old Varmer saw a crowd around
a chap stood on a box,
Who said "My friends this land of ours
is drifting on the rocks;
To rack and ruin we shall go,
the people will rebel
Unless we brighten up their lives;"
and Varmer said "Oh, well,"

Chorus: What about a little drop o' cider

When mother and me joined in

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1 Though mother and me is the old fashioned sort,
Us don't quite so green as us looks,
There's lots o' things yet for the young 'uns to learn,
Besides what they reads out o' books.
Us was ax'd to a dance 'bout a fortnight ago,
A slap-up affair, but us thought it darn slow,
No polkas nor galops, nor lively gavottes,
The couples walked round and called it foxtrots.

Chorus:- But when mother and me joined in,
My word what a time we spent,
Us didn't know much of the steps, may-be,
But that didn't matter to mother and me,
Us made our own steps as us went.
I bowed to mother, her bowed to me
The band beginned to play,
Away us went with a "One, two, three,"

And showed the youngsters the way.
They was begging our pardon left and right
When we began to spin,
You'd never believe the diff'rence it made
When mother and me joined in.

Repeat first chorus:-
Oh! when mother and me joined in.
My word what a time we spent.
Us did'nt know much of the steps, may-be
But that did'nt matter to mother and me
Us made our own steps as us went.
The room was full there was'nt much space,
But mother weighed thirteen stone,
I whirled her round and cleared a place,
Us soon had the floor on our own
Us scattered the fellows, they lost their maids,
Us went through thick and thin.
You'd never believe the diff'rence it made
When mother and me joined in.

2 Last winter they held in our parish hall
A choral society
Thirty or forty all singing at once
Including mother and me
But instead of the songs that everyone knows,
'Twas all these yer oratorios,
The folks was afraid to sing 'em right out,
Cos they didn't know what it was all about.

Chorus:- But when mother and me joined in,
My word what a time we spent,
Us didn't know much of the time may-be,
But that didn't matter to mother and me,
Us made our own tune as us went,
The chap in front he waggled his stick,
The choir beginned to squall,
But me and mother us drowned the lot
With old Uncle Tom Cobley and All,
Her pinged treble and I feigned bass,
The tenor was lost in the din,
You'd never believe the diff'rence it made
When mother and me joined in.

Repeat, second chorus:-

Oh! when mother and me joined in,
My word what a time we spent,
Us didn't know much of the tune may-be,
But that didn't matter to mother and me
Us made our own tune as us went.
The rest all sang till they nearly bust.
And got in a terrible rage,
But mother and me, us finished fust,
By very near half a page.
The poor conductor, he lost his place,
He didn't know where to begin,
You'd never believe the diff'rence it made
When mother and me joined in.

3 Mother and me had an invite once
To a whist drive, start at eight,
Us never was to such a thing before
So us got there a trifle late.
The folks was all sitting with faces glum,
As if they was waiting for kingdom come.
They looked as if they was saying their prayers.
With somebody bad in the room upstairs.

Chorus:- But when mother and me joined in
My word what a time we spent
Us didn't know much of the rules may-be,
But that didn't matter to mother and me,
Us made our own rules as us went.
'Twas me to lead and I put down
The ace of clubs with a slap,
Mother was third, her played the ace
Of trumps and hollered "Snap."
The crowd did roar, the M.C. swore
I reckon we was swain to win.
You'd never believe the diff'rence it made
When mother and me joined in.

Repeat third chorus:-

Oh! when mother and me joined in,
My word what a time we spent,
Us didn't know much of the rules may-be,
But that didn't matter to mother and me
Us made our own rules as us went.
I winned fust prize by all the laws

With hundred and seventy eight,
They refused to give it to me because
I'd added in the date.
Mother revolked, her partner choked,
The folks all said with a grin,
They'd never believe the diff'rence it made
When mother and me joined in.

4 One day us went for a holiday trip
And got up to fine high jinks,
Us went to a place just to see what was on;
'Twas one o' they skating rinks,
I'd never seen any such thing before,
There was hundreds of folks sliding over the floor,
And nothing more graceful could ever be found,
Than the way they was gliding a-round and a-round.

Chorus:- But when mother and me joined in,
my word what a time we spent.
Us didn't know much of the rules may-be
But that didn't matter to mother and me.
Us made our own rules as us went.
The chap had fitted me two odd skates,
They both went a different track,
One was determined that he'd go fore,
And tother preferred to go back,
When mother said "Go", I shouted out "Whoa",
Then somebody hitched in my shin,
You'd never believe the diff'rence it made,
When mother and me joined in.

Repeat fourth chorus:-
Oh! when mother and me joined in
my word what a time we spent
Us didn't know much of the rules may-be,
But that didn't matter to mother and me,
Us made our own rules as us went.
The folks said "Where are you coming to next?"
I answered, "Goodness knows";
Then mother came sailing right into my arms
And a-way the both of us goes.
There was skaters in heaps all over the place
With pieces gone out of their skin,
You'd never believe the diff'rence it made
When mother and me joined in.

12/1/91

66

Bells

Wartime Bells.

Battle of Britain By Len Deighton and Max Hastings 1990

P 83 Britain, summer 1940

13/6/40 On 13th June, the ringing of Church bells was prohibited except as a warning of invasion.

Exmoor in Wartime 1939-1945 1978 by Jack Hurley

Chapter 18 Midnight of the Bells.

P.61. But when were the invaders coming? On September 4th Hitler screamed in Berlin that he was about to answer our question. Suddenly a combination of circumstances seemed to set the date as the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, September 7th and 8th, tension-strung for the whole of southern England.

On the enemy occupied coasts of France, Belgium and Holland the invasion transports had been increasing in concentration. Bombers were massing. Moon and tides were right. On Saturday's perfect weather the Luftwaffe launched a tremendous afternoon—evening attack on London, using a thousand planes. To the British General Staff, this raid seemed to link all the circumstances into one meaning---the enemy was on his way.

1952 See P.50 The struggle for Europe by Chester Wilmot

At 8.0 P.M. the codeword for 'invasion imminent' was released. It was 'Cromwell'. It passed down through Southern Command to Army and Home Guard commanders in the Zones, and just before midnight it reached Home Guard companies in Somerset villages.

Home Guard

Here was flash point. Ever since formation the Home Guard had been itching for contact with the enemy, and they were ready to give a good account of themselves---with tongue as well as arm. Had they not been taught a few words of German that, optimistically, they ought to master for an occasion? 'Hände Hoch' (Hands up) 'Waffen Runlegen' (Throw down your arms), 'Ergbet euch' (Surrender).

Bells

It became the midnight of the Bells. Silent since June, they pealed now as Home Guards rushed to the towers, forgetting that 'Cromwell' was not intended to mean that invasion had started. It was merely the 'Stand to' word, and bells were not to be rung unless the enemy had actually been seen in a neighbourhood.

Discounting possible cases of heart failure, no harm was done by the false alarms. After the war it was not easy to discover in which parishes the bells were rung on that nervous night. A certain embarrassment was understandable!

In West Somerset, Wiveliscombe was one place where the bells gave tongue.

Over London that Saturday night the massed bombers were back, and they raided again on Sunday. Eight hundred people died in the two days. Codeword 'Cromwell' remained operative for nearly two weeks, but of the whole period the recollections of September 7th—8th are the most vivid.

Chapter 24 P83

Mid-Term Bells of Victory.

8C Alamein Nov 42

In the Middle East General Montgomery struck at the enemy from El Alamein on October 23rd 1942, and at midnight on November 4th the British people were given their best news for a very long time. The German army under Rommel was in full retreat. On November 8th the Allies landed troops in Morocco and Algeria in the operation known as Torch.

See P78.

'It is the end of the beginning' Churchill told us. On November 15th the church bells broke their 2½ years silence. They pealed for Montgomery's great desert victory.

Bells 1942

In the West Somerset Free Press appeared the following letter:

Now that the church bells have been rung to celebrate a military victory there can be no excuse for not raising the ban on Christmas Day also. If this is not to be done it follows that the victory of Alamein is regarded by those in authority as a greater event than the birth of Christ.

P.84 In fact, the bells were allowed to herald Christmas morn. No one could believe now that they might still ring as an invasion alarm.

The Americans now penetrated to West Somerset and Exmoor. An advance party striking for the Brendons to prepare camp on Lype Hill, lost themselves south of Washford. A sergeant jumped from his jeep and knocked on a cottage door.
'Ma'am' he said to the woman who answered,
'We'd like to know where we are.'
'This is Egypt' said the woman, in perfect truth naming the hamlet.
'Egypt'? echoed the sergeant.
'Aw hell, I knew we'd take the wrong turning without any goddam signposts!'
The woman could have told him, again with truth, that 'just accross the way was Greenland!'

1943 P85 And now it was Christmas. Bells again -- and sounding over the air in a broadcast from Dunster Parish church.

Chapter 10 P 34 — The Bitter Buds of May.

19/5/1940 On radio on the evening of Whit Tuesday Anthony Eden launched the Government's appeal for the raising of a Local Defence Volunteer Force. He stressed that the German successes with parachute troops in the assault on Belgium and Holland had shown how dangerous similar attack might be to Britain.

L.D.V.

See Vol II P 34

Many men did not wait to hear him finish his broadcast. They rushed to Police stations to enrol as L.D.V.'s and in 24 hours the new force had a strength of 250,000. By the end of June it was 1½ million.

(Note) Still more information follows on the early days of the L.D.V.'s in Somerset.

My own Home Guard certificate signed by George R I is dated 4th June 1940 to 31st Dec 1944 Page

Important War Dates

On the back of a certificate dated 8th June 1946
probably issued to schoolchildren and
signed by H.M. King — George R I

1939	Sept 1	Germany invaded Poland
	" 3	Great Britain and France declared war on Germany; the B.E.F. began to leave for France.
	Dec 13	Battle of the River Plate
1940	Apr 9	Germany invaded Denmark and Norway
	May 10	Germany invaded the Low Countries
	June 3	Evacuation from Dunkirk completed
	" 8	British troops evacuated from Norway
	" 11	Italy declared war on Great Britain
	" 22	France capitulated
	" 29	Germans occupied the Channel Isles.
	Aug 8 – Oct 31	German air offensive against Great Britain — (Battle of Britain)
	Oct 28	Italy invaded Greece
	Nov 11–12	Successful attack on Italian Fleet in Taranto Harbour
	Dec 9–11	Italian invasion of Egypt defeated at Battle of Sidi Barrani
1941	Mar 11	Lease-Lend Bill passed in U.S.A.
	Mar 28	Battle of Cape Matapan
	Apr 6	Germany invaded Greece
	Apr 12 – Dec 9	The Siege of Tobruk
	May 20	Formal surrender of remnants of Italian army in Abyssinia
	" 20–31	Battle of Crete
	" 27	German battleship 'Bismarck' sunk
	June 22	Germany invaded Russia
	Aug 12	Terms of Atlantic Charter agreed
	Nov 18	British offensive launched in the Western Desert
	Dec 7	Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour
	" 8	Great Britain and U.S.A. declared war on Japan
1942	Feb 15	Fall of Singapore
	April 16	George Cross awarded to Malta
	Oct 13 – Nov 4	German-Italian army defeated at El Alamein
	Nov 8	British and American forces landed in North Africa
1943	Jan 31	Remnants of the 6th German Army surrendered at Stalingrad
	May	Final victory over the U Boats in the Atlantic
	" 13	Axis forces in Tunisia surrendered
	July 10	Allies invaded Sicily

1943	Sept 3	Allies invaded Italy
	" 8	Italy capitulated
	Dec 26	'Scharnhorst' sunk off North Cape
1944	Jan 22	Allied troops landed at Anzio
	June 4	Rome captured
	" 6	Allies landed in Normandy
	" 13	Flying bomb (V.1.) attack on Britain started
	"	Defeat of Japanese invasion of India
	Aug 25	Paris liberated
	Sept 3	Brussels liberated
	" 8	The first rocket bomb (V.2.) fell on England
	" 17-26	The Battle of Arnhem
	Oct 20	The Americans re-landed in the Philippines.
1945	Jan 17	Warsaw liberated
	Mar 20	British recaptured Mandalay
	" 23	British crossed the Rhine
	Apr 25	Opening of Conference of U.N. at San Francisco
	May 2	German forces in Italy surrendered
	" 3	Rangoon recaptured
	" 5	All the German forces in Holland, N.W. Germany and Denmark surrendered unconditionally.
	" 9	Unconditional surrender of Germany to the Allies ratified in Berlin
	June 10	Australian troops landed in Borneo
	Aug 6	First atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima
	" 8	Russia declared war on Japan
	" 9	Second atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki
	" 14	The Emperor of Japan broadcast the unconditional surrender of his country
	Sept 5	British forces re-entered Singapore!

My family's war record.

Two Freedoms

There are two freedoms —
The false, where a man is free to do what he likes,
And the true, where a man is free to do what he ought.

Charles Kingsley