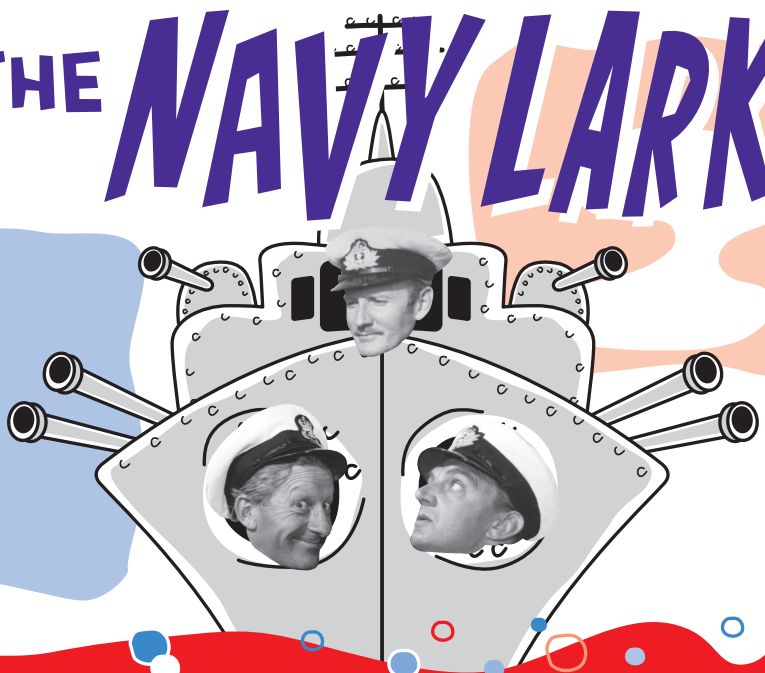


BBC

THE NAVY LARK

A stylized, grey ship's hull is the central focus. It features a conning tower at the top with a portrait of a man in a white officer's cap. Below the conning tower are two circular portholes, each containing a portrait of a man in a white sailor's cap. The hull is surrounded by several gun barrels. The background consists of large, abstract shapes in blue, orange, and red, suggesting a stylized sea and sky.

SERIES TWELVE

MAY - JULY 1971

THE NAVY LARK, SERIES TWELVE

MAY - JULY 1971

EPISODES ONE TO TEN

'*Ladies and Gentlemen, for the 200th time ...*' announcer Michael de Morgan told the audience of the Paris Theatre as BBC Radio 2's long-running naval sitcom reached another milestone on Sunday 16 May during its twelfth series.

Following the transmission of the eleventh series of *The Navy Lark* in early 1970, one of the show's three stars, Leslie Phillips, recovered from the internal haemorrhage which had led to him being hospitalised at the start of April 1970 and forced production on his new BBC1 sitcom *The Culture Vultures* to be suspended. The actor was profiled in the *Radio Times* (18-24 April 1970) which noted that following his medical problems, he was recovering while travelling around Spain, South Africa and Australia. When it was noted that he could still be heard in the last few episodes of the series, Leslie commented: '*That's part of my life now, a freak success that's been running for 11 years, it could never be repeated.*'

Jon Pertwee meanwhile completed his first year in the title role of BBC1's *Doctor Who* SF series to great acclaim and departed for a fortnight's holiday in Morocco (for which he advertised for companions in *The Times*) before filming for the horror portmanteau *The House That Dripped Blood* from July; *Doctor Who* then resumed production in September 1970 through to the following May. Stephen Murray spent June to October touring Canada with a Royal Shakespeare Company production of *The School for Scandal* and returned to record an edition of Yorkshire Television's anthology *The Ten Commandments*. By early 1971, Stephen was playing Walsingham in BBC2's acclaimed series of plays under the title *Elizabeth R*.

Of the supporting cast of *The Navy Lark*, Michael Bates worked on the controversial movie *A Clockwork Orange* which started filming in September 1970, and then took on the role of Norman Stanhope in the Yorkshire Television sitcom *Mr Digby, Darling*. Tenniel Evans turned up in editions of dramas like *Paul Temple* and comedies like *Harry Worth*, while Heather Chasen was soon dabbling in the new generation of British sex films such as *Suburban Wives*.

Richard Caldicot worked on the Radio 4 thriller *The Edge of the Forest* during the autumn and also joined *Navy Lark* producer Alastair Scott Johnson for other radio projects: the *Mr Pybus* plays for Radio 4 and also *The Motorway Men*, a *Comedy Parade* pilot broadcast on Radio 2 on Sunday 21 March 1971 and used as a vehicle for Milo O'Shea. Alastair's other work since the last voyage of *HMS Troutbridge* had been the comedy panel game *You Don't Say* which had aired on Radio 4 from July 1970.

At the end of March 1971, the cast were booked for six more episodes of *The Navy Lark* which would be recorded at the Paris studio over three Sundays: 18 April, 2 May and 9 May. Leslie Phillips was now back in the world of theatre directing, helming a stage version of successful ABC/Thames espionage adventure series *The Avengers* which was due to open in Birmingham prior to a West End run. He was also to film a segment of the comedy anthology movie *The Magnificent Seven Deadly Sins* by June.

For the new shows, Lawrie Wyman – who had created *The Navy Lark* in 1958 and written all the scripts thus far – was now joined by a co-writer in the form of George Evans. An old friend of Jon Pertwee's since 1959, George had recently been contributing ideas and jokes for the series in an uncredited capacity, and was now formally recognised for his contribution. Also in the new shows, there would be far fewer appearances from Lawrie, who during the last run had often appeared as AB Tiddy in the W/T room and also other characters like Captain Ormanroyd or 'Dumbo' of Intelligence. Since Tiddy had replaced Ronnie Barker's 'Fatso' Johnson as Pertwee's cohort in crime, this role would now often be replaced by an existing character, the promotion-seeking Leading Seaman 'Taffy' Goldstein played by Tenniel Evans.

The first two shows were taped on Sunday 18 April, with Michael de Morgan returning for his second series as announcer on the exploits of *HMS Troutbridge*. The opening episode – as usual for the start of a new series – saw the crew returning to Portsmouth after a period of leave, and continued to focus on the newly married status of the ship's Number One, Mr Murray, who had become spliced to Rita, the daughter of Admiral Ffont-Bittocks, during the previous run. The Murrays were now spending the early months of life as husband and wife living with Rita's parents.

With George Evans joining the writing team, there was now a shift in the style of humour. Following the lead of the successful *Carry On* film series and the much-missed *Round the*

Horne during the 1960s, there was a far greater emphasis on bawdy innuendo and double entendres as opposed to the more character-driven or Naval operations-based elements of the earlier shows. Another script element which proved popular and would recur frequently was a garbled solo spot for Leslie Phillips in which his hopeless Sub-Lieutenant alter ego would attempt to recount the plot of a film that he had once seen in a misconceived attempt to solve a problem or throw a new perspective on a situation encountered by the *Troutbridge* crew. The second show saw the first instance of Captain Povey's fixation with farmyard impersonations (which would resurface in later escapades), and also the debut of two new characters: the upper class, childish, tennis-obsessed duo of Lieutenant Birkett and Lieutenant Deacon, as played by Michael Bates and Tenniel Evans respectively.

The third and fourth editions were recorded on Sunday 2 May. The jokes about *Doctor Who* at the expense of Jon Pertwee continued in the characters' dialogue, as did Goldstein's references to Prince Charles' investiture as the Prince of Wales at Caernarfon in July 1969. The series was now also starting to reaffirm its longevity – a record exceeded only by *The Clitheroe Kid* which had debuted in May 1958 and was still running on Radio 2; in the third show, it was stated that Mr Phillips had served aboard *HMS Troutbridge* for twelve years (i.e. since the first series in 1959). Joining the cast for the fourth episode at short notice when Elizabeth Morgan (who had guested in earlier shows) proved unavailable was Norma Ronald, a regular cast member of the similarly successful radio sitcom *The Men from the Ministry* since 1962; Norma also featured in *The Arthur Haynes Show*, *Emery at Large*, *It's Mike and Bernie* (written by George Evans) and *Doctor in the House* on radio as well as the ATV television drama *The Plane Makers* and its spin-off *The Power Game*.

On Sunday 9 May, the fifth and sixth shows were performed at the usual venue. The fifth programme of the series allowed Jon Pertwee to develop another new character to make use of his vocal talents. This was Vice Admiral Burwasher, a senior officer who had a habit of talking to himself to avoid speaking to anyone else (*'That should hold them for a bit. Not long, but it'll give you a breather'*) and who was therefore useless at conveying vital instructions to Povey and his subordinates. The voice used for Burwasher was similar to that adopted by Jon as Commander Highprice during the 1940s Forces show *Merry-Go-Round*. Burwasher mumbled far more, had a fascination with petrol promotions (such as Esso's England World Cup Coin Collection from 1970), and would often refer to the 'Getaway People' slogan from Super National adverts of the mid-1960s.

The range of roles for the cast was then extended even more in the sixth show, which was a particular delight for the show's three stars. A common feature would now be a meeting of senior Admirals which would include established characters – such as Admiral Ffont-Bittocks, Rear Admiral Ironbridge (now randier than when created in 1961) and Vice Admiral Buttenshaw – plus an array of new eccentrics. These included the First Sea Lord, Lord Quirk (Stephen Murray), the sultry WREN Simpkins (Heather Chasen), a Northern Captain who had '*come up through the ranks*' (Richard Caldicot) and a short-lived German representative of NATO who seemed to be a closet Nazi (Leslie Phillips). And with Lord Quirk established, his Scots wife Lady Quirk was brought to life by Heather Chasen later in the same show. The sixth script of the series also included another new element that would be a big hit with the audience – the derivation of a phrase from Mr Phillips which would be a piece of mangled nonsense, summarised hilariously by CPO Pertwee.

The Navy Lark returned to the airwaves in its usual Radio 2 slot of 2.01pm on a Sunday from 16 May as a replacement for the third series of radio adaptations of *Steptoe and Son*; it also replaced the junkyard sitcom when repeated on the Monday evening on Radio 4 at 6.15pm. The *Radio Times* – now focussed more towards television than radio – gave little fanfare for the twelfth series of nautical mishaps, although the programme billing did emphasise the fact that Michael Bates had been appearing in Peter Nichols' *Forget-Me-Not Lane* at the Apollo Theatre since the start of April while Richard Caldicot was continuing to bluster in the pre-London tour of the new farce *No Sex Please – We're British*. The first run and repeat billings were also highlighted by a line illustration of Mr Murray and a photograph of Mr Murray, Mr Phillips and WREN Chasen saluting the flag while CPO Pertwee struggled to raise it. To promote the return of *The Navy Lark*, Jon Pertwee recorded an interview about his long-running sitcom at Broadcasting House on Friday 14 May, with the piece broadcast that night as part of *Late Night Extra*.

By now, the twelfth series had been extended by four more episodes, the first pair of bonus editions being recorded the same evening as the series debuted. The first of the two recordings that evening was Episode 200 and proudly announced as such by Michael de Morgan. After the German NATO representative had been deemed unsuitable at the earlier Admiralty meeting, Leslie Phillips' new contribution to these vignettes was the turf-accountant-turned-Director of Naval Expenditure Marvin Ellis (*'Innit?'*) who would prove very

popular. Lawrie Wyman made a rare appearance as 'Dumbo' in this anniversary edition, and then Norma Ronald was back for the second show of the evening, this time playing an old flame of Captain Povey's.

The new series' opening edition pulled in an audience of just over two million listeners, comparable to the previous run. The second and third editions were emphasised in the *Radio Times* listings by line illustrations of CPO Pertwee and Mr Phillips respectively, in line with that for Mr Murray from the series debut. Around two million was the general audience size for the rest of the run, reaching as high as almost three million for the fourth show, but then falling away to only just over a million for the penultimate edition.

Recording for the series concluded with the ninth and tenth shows on Sunday 23 May. Mr Murray celebrated the first anniversary of his marriage to his Ritakins in the ninth show, with Norma Ronald making another guest appearance. The series then concluded with a bizarre escapade in Scotland, which saw CPO Pertwee delivering a homage to Leslie Sarony's popular 1932 recording of *Rhymes*.

'*Pink gins all around, boys*' declared the *Daily Mirror* on Thursday 24 June, marking the fact that Sunday's transmission would be *The Navy Lark's* two hundredth episode. The article noted that the show was still enjoyed by four million listeners in the UK and nearly a hundred million across the world, thanks to the distributions of edited forms of the Radio 2 shows by the BBC Transcription services. The *Radio Times* illustrated the programme billing for the landmark show with artwork of the series' three stars in the barrels of a 'pom-pom' gun.

As July arrived, Stephen Murray was heard in a Radio 3 production of August Strindberg's *To Damascus*, Richard Caldicot joined the cast of Radio 4's *The Secret Life of Kenneth Williams* while *The Avengers* began its short run in London, and Michael Bates began shooting the movie *Frenzy*.

A BBC Audience Research Report on the first edition of the new series was assembled on Wednesday 7 July. The show's reaction index had only been 53, down some way on figures such as 57 and 61 recorded the previous year. '*Although a large proportion of the sample audience said how much they had been looking forward to the return of The Navy Lark, it was clear that many were disappointed in the event,*' was the ominous start to the summary of the 266 members of the listening panel. Over a quarter reporting were disappointed, with comments such as '*it is becoming stale*'. The script was felt to be thin with little storyline.

The shift in the style of humour was also noted: *'It was also more suggestive than before, several added, and, according to a substantial number, this was a very dated series which had outlasted its popularity and should now be 'decently buried at sea'* But many still declared that *The Navy Lark* was *'one of the most consistently funny shows on the radio'* and *'first-rate family entertainment'*. The cast were deeply appreciated, Jon Pertwee in particular who was felt to have stolen the show (*'as usual'*). Of the changing format, *'Several thought that Lt. Cdr. Murray's recent marriage had spoilt the 'set-up' ... and it was hoped that, once the crew 'put to sea' again, the old atmosphere would return and the series improve.'*

While the Troutbridge's tangle with the Loch Ness Monster brought the new episodes to an end on Sunday 18 July, it had originally been planned that two further shows would be taped. Instead, these two slots were filled with repeats of the fourth and fifth editions of the eleventh series. This brought the twelve-week run to an end on Sunday 2 August 1971, whereafter the Radio 2 and Radio 4 slots were both filled by a dose of Northern monologue humour in the *AI Read Expo*.

An Audience Research Report on the two hundredth edition was prepared on Tuesday 11 August. The reaction index had risen to a healthier 60 as scored by the panel of 184 listeners. *'This 200th edition was generally quite well received,'* began the summary, indicating that although the series still had its detractors who claimed it was *'played out'* that around half the audience found the Shanghai hi-jinks to be *'quite hilarious'* noting that *'this was, if anything, even funnier than usual, with some old favourites re-appearing, and new characters such as Vice-Admiral Burwasher providing plenty of laughs.'* The three leads – particularly Jon Pertwee – continued to be praised, and the summary confirmed that: *'As always, the (mis) adventures of these nautical nitwits made for a riotous, boisterous and thoroughly enjoyable half hour, and it was often remarked ('My God! What a crew – but a damned good one!') and, despite its long run, the Navy Lark still retained its freshness.'*

Programme notes, episode synopses and cast biographies researched and written by Andrew Pixley

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Little Street, Yoxford, Suffolk IP17 3JQ
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THE NAVY LARK SERIES TWELVE MAY – JULY 1971

Episodes written by Lawrie Wyman and George Evans

Incidental music for the series was by Tommy Reilly and James Moodie

Announcer: Michael de Morgan

Produced by Alastair Scott Johnston

Regular cast unless indicated: Stephen Murray, Leslie Phillips and Jon Pertwee with Richard Caldicot, Heather Chasen, Tenniel Evans and Michael Bates

Note: none of the episodes were originally given titles. The ones here have been adopted for easy reference and are in line with previous commercial releases

Due to the age and, in some cases, the off-air source of these recordings, the sound quality may at times vary

EPISODE ONE: The Put-A-Horse-Out-To-Graze Fund

Broadcast 16 May 1971 (recorded 18 April 1971)

While the rest of the crew of *HMS Troutbridge* returns to Portsmouth after a spell of leave, Mr Murray has been spending his time in married quarters at the Admiral's with his new wife, Rita. An angry mob tails CPO Pertwee back to the dock gates, but shortly after Pertwee offers to take charge of the collection for Rita's 'Put-a-Horse-out-to-Graze' Fund, Povey is amazed to discover that the Chief's creditors have suddenly all been paid off ...

EPISODE TWO: Impressions For Survival

Broadcast 23 May 1971 (recorded 18 April 1971)

Mr Phillips' latest "little" accident sees *Troutbridge* damage more property than ever before ... and provides Povey with a perfect excuse to have the crew disbanded for good. CPO Pertwee seeks a means to fix Povey, and is intrigued when WREN Chasen tips him off that the Captain is "kinky" for farmyard impersonations.

EPISODE THREE: The Beard-Growing Race

Broadcast 30 May 1971 (recorded 2 May 1971)

When Mr Phillips sprouts a new set of sideburns, CPO Pertwee sees an opportunity to prey upon the competitive nature of his superiors ... and, naturally, run a book on the side. Both Mr Murray and Mr Phillips have fourteen days to sprout "a full set", and Captain Povey seeks advice as to which candidate he should place his pocket-money on ...

EPISODE FOUR: The Mysterious Radio Signals

Broadcast 6 June 1971 (recorded 2 May 1971)

With Norma Ronald

Mr Phillips is quick to chat up the newly arrived WREN Veronica Penfold and persuade her to join him at dinner ... but not until the end of the month when he gets paid. And then, unfortunately, *Troutbridge* has to put to sea. They are soon recalled when strange signals – possibly of supernatural origin – are detected by the MOD as emanating from the frigate's vicinity.

EPISODE FIVE: Operation Recovery

Broadcast 13 June 1971 (recorded 9 May 1971)

Troutbridge is briefed by Admiral Burwisher of the MOD to take part in Operation Recovery. NASA has asked the Royal Navy for help: an American warhead has splashed down in the Straits of Dover, and the frigate must recover it and bring it back to shore for the scientific experts to study ... before its self-destruct activates!

EPISODE SIX: The Slogan Contest

Broadcast 20 June 1971 (recorded 9 May 1971)

The First Sea Lord launches a competition to find the best new recruiting slogan ... and offers a prize. While Portsmouth is abuzz with budding writers all eager to win, the cautious CPO Pertwee first of all investigates the exact nature of the trophy, and when he discovers that it involves the QE2 is quick to hatch a plan to ensure that he is the victor ...

EPISODE SEVEN: Sir Willoughby At Shanghai

Broadcast 27 June 1971 (recorded 16 May 1971)

The *Troutbridge* crew deliver Sir Willoughby and Lady Todhunter-Brown to Shanghai, but are puzzled why nobody is there to meet the visiting dignitary ... and even more puzzled when they are attacked! Naval Intelligence informs Povey that *Troutbridge* has been destroyed, by a strange, hostile vessel that has been spotted off the coast of Ceylon ...

EPISODE EIGHT: Operation Cowes Barge

Broadcast 4 July 1971 (recorded 16 May 1971)

With Norma Ronald

The *Troutbridge* crew are briefed by Vice Admiral Burwisher for Operation Cowes Barge: to bring back the Admiral of the Fleet's barge after work on the Isle of Wight in time for a NATO exercise. Meanwhile, Povey is embarrassed when the new NAAFI manager is "Cheeky" Bottomley, the girl he jilted back in 1944 ... but who still has feelings for him ...

EPISODE NINE: Number One's Anniversary

Broadcast 11 July 1971 (recorded 23 May 1971)

With Norma Ronald

The crew are worried about Mr Murray when they invite him into *Troutbridge's* ward room. His sour mood is brought on by the fact that next Monday is his first wedding anniversary. Povey too has problems ... brought upon himself because he has tampered with the details of the two applicants for his wife's advertisement for an *au pair* ...

EPISODE TEN: The Loch Ness Monster

Broadcast 18 July 1971 (recorded 23 May 1971)

While holidaying in Scotland, Mr Phillips and CPO Pertwee get extremely drunk and take revenge on a local landlord who ill-treats them ... rolling barrels of his ale into the loch. When they return to Portsmouth they find that *Troutbridge* has been detailed by Vice Admiral Burwisher to investigate recent sightings of Nessie in Loch Ness ...

BONUS ITEMS

SERIES TWO – EPISODE SEVEN: Gunboat to Goomba

Broadcast 27 November 1959 (recorded 15 November 1959)

With Ronnie Barker

Unrest throughout Goomba necessitates the dispatch of a gunboat on behalf of the government - and it is *Troutbridge* which turns up with a deputation for His Excellency, Sir Willoughby Todhunter-Brown.

SERIES TWO – EPISODE FOURTEEN: The Radar Talk-Down System

Broadcast 15 January 1960 (recorded 10 January 1960)

With Ronnie Barker

Professor Watson has invented an extension of the Radar to relay co-ordinates to aircraft, and since the testing involves an element of danger, Povey is only too quick to suggest an isolated naval detachment to undertake this task ...

Previously no usable copies of these shows were known to exist for inclusion in the Series Two CD sets, but restored off-air recordings are now made available for the first time.

BIOGRAPHIES

Stephen Murray

Stephen Murray was born in Lincolnshire in September 1912, and he made his professional acting debut in *Much Ado About Nothing* in Stratford in 1933. After working at Birmingham Rep, Westminster Theatre and at the Old Vic, Stephen was commissioned as an Army officer during the war. After 1945, Murray returned to the theatre and focused initially on directing, touring Europe with his controversial interpretation of *King Lear*. On stage, Stephen appeared in *On the Rocks*, *School for Scandal* and *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, although his favourite performance was as George in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* in Edinburgh in 1965. On television, he starred in plays such as *Thunder Rock* and *Marriage Lines*. Stephen died in April 1983 at the age of 70.



Jon Pertwee

The son of playwright Roland Pertwee, Jon was born John Devon Roland Pertwee in Chelsea in July 1919. A keen performer, he trained at RADA in the 1930s and was soon in demand on stage for his versatile character work. After wartime Naval service, Jon entered radio by accident where his vocal talents made him a star in *The Waterlogged Spa* and *Up the Pole* amongst others. His film career included movies like *Murder at the Windmill*, *Will Any Gentleman?* and several of the *Carry On...* films while on television he was best known as the Third Doctor in *Doctor Who*, the titular scarecrow in *Worzel Gummidge* and as the host of *Whodunnit?* A showman all his life, Jon died in New York in May 1996.



Leslie Phillips

Despite his famous well-bred ladies' man persona, Leslie Phillips was born in the working class environs of Tottenham in April 1924. A child actor at the Italia Conti School, he made his debut in *Peter Pan* at the Palladium. Picking up his cultured tones from officers in the Durham Light Infantry, Leslie appeared in comedy movies including *The Smallest Show on Earth*, early *Carry On* films and taking over the *Doctor* series. On television, he starred in *Our Man at St Marks* and *Casanova '73* while his film work includes *Out of Africa* and *Empire of the Sun*. Awarded an OBE in 1998, he recently achieved acclaim with his one-man show *On the Whole Life's Been Pretty Good*.



Richard Caldicot

Born October 1908 in London, Richard Caldicot enjoyed a long acting career, often playing irritable authority figures. In demand in both comic and serious roles, his movies included *The Million Pound Note*, *Room at the Top* and *The VIPs*, while on television he was seen in *If the Crown Fits*, *Moody in ...*, *Steptoe and Son*, *Pet Pals*, *The Beverly Hillbillies*, *Vanity Fair*, *Coronation Street*, *Fawlty Towers*, *Minder*, *Bergerac*, *Lord Peter Wimsey* and *Casualty*. He was the only cast member of *The Navy Lark* to appear in the short-lived television version, *HMS Paradise*, and on radio he also featured in *The Motorway Men*. Working to the end of his life, Richard died in October 1995.



Heather Chasen

Born July 1927 in Singapore, Heather Chasen and her mother escaped on the last ship to leave before the Japanese occupation. Trained at RADA, she did a lot of stage work including a tour with Frankie Howerd in *Hotel Paradiso*, appearing with Dame Sybil Thorndyke in *Call Me Jackie* and receiving a Tony nomination as the New York lead of *A Severed Head*. On television she appeared as Caroline Kerr in *The Newcomers* and as Valerie Pollard in *Crossroads*. On stage, she has enjoyed seasons at Chichester, done open-air Shakespeare at Regent's Park and appeared in *The Mountain Women* at the Royal Court.



Michael Bates

Born in December 1920 in Jhansi in what was British India, Michael Bates was versed in many languages and dialects which made him much in demand as a character actor. Entering films in the 1940s he appeared in *I'm All Right Jack*, *Bedazzled*, *Oh! What a Lovely War*, *A Clockwork Orange* and *No Sex Please – We're British* amongst others. On television, his first starring sitcom was *Turnbull's Finest Half-Hour*, followed rapidly by the role of Cyril Blamire in *Last of the Summer Wine*. Diagnosed with cancer in 1975, Michael continued to work, appearing as Rangji Ran in *It Ain't Half Hot Mum* through to his death in January 1978.



Tenniel Evans

Born in May 1926 in Nairobi, Welshman Tenniel Evans spent his childhood in Kenya before settling in England. His great-uncle was the illustrator Sir John Tenniel and his great-great-aunt was Marian Evans (George Eliot). On television, he appeared in series such as *The Plane Makers*, *Budgie*, *War and Peace*, *The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin*, *Yes Minister*, *The Citadel*, *Inspector Morse*, *Casualty* and *Heartbeat*, as well as featuring regularly in *Shine on Harvey Moon*, *The Two of Us* and *One by One*. Tenniel also performed on stage across England in everything from Shakespeare to modern drama. Before his death in June 2009, Tenniel spent his later years as a clergyman, writing an autobiography about his childhood called *Don't Walk in the Long Grass*.

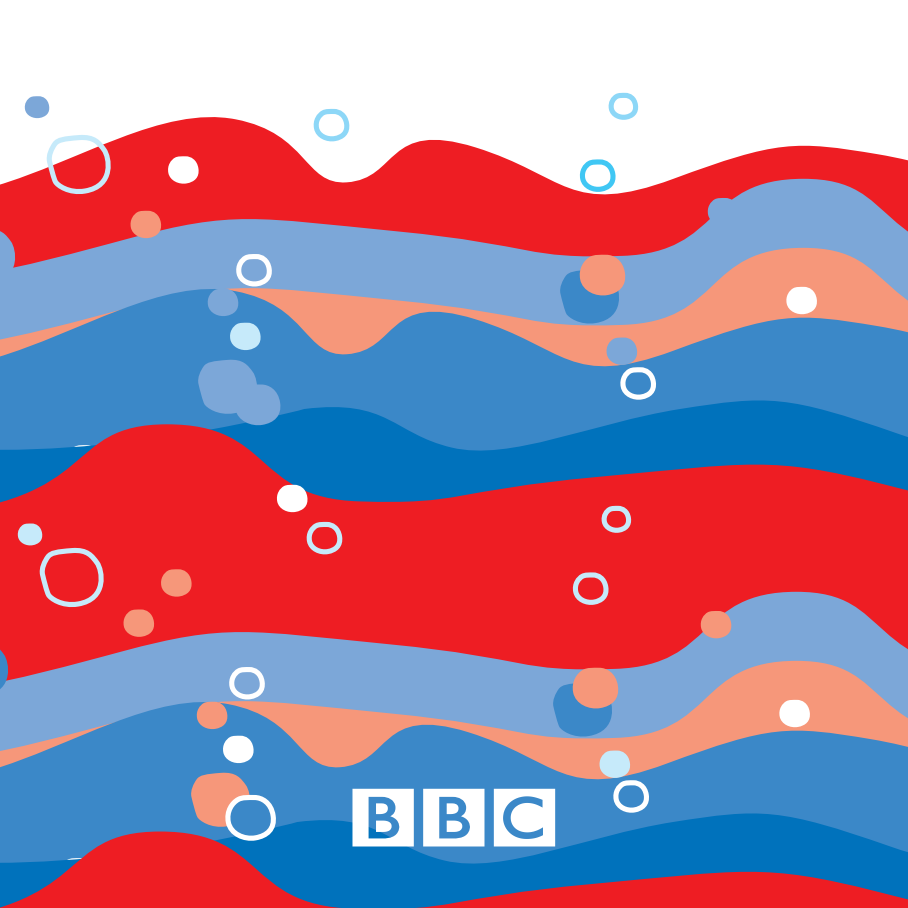


Lawrie Wyman

Rather than serving in the Royal Navy, Lawrie Wyman was actually a lance-corporal in the Army. After the war, he started writing comedy for radio and television with shows like *Happy Go Lucky* and *The Lighter Side*. Teaming up with Len Fincham, he wrote for Morecambe & Wise, Jimmy Jewel and Ben Warriss. Concurrent with *The Navy Lark* he wrote *So I'll Tell You* and *The Motor Way*, and he transferred *The Navy Lark* to TV as *HMS Paradise*. On radio he also wrote *The Embassy Lark*, *The Big Business Lark* and *Just the Job*, the latter with his new co-writer, George Evans, with whom he collaborated on scripts for *Bless This House*, *Love Thy Neighbour* and *Carry On Dick*.

George Evans

Born in Cardiff, George Evans moved to Sutton in 1959 where his work during a guest spot was noted by Jon Pertwee, after which George wrote material for Jon to perform on series such as *Starlight Rendezvous* and *London Lights*, as well as songs for LPs such as *Songs for Vulgar Boatmen* and *Worzel Gummidge Sings*. After early credits writing with Derek Collyer on radio's *We're in Business*, he was script associate on *The Rag Trade* and contributed to shows such as *Crowther's Crowd*, *The Arthur Haynes Show*, *The Alfred Marks Show*, *This is Your Jim*, *Roy Hudd*, *The Reluctant Romeo*, *The Dick Emery Show*, *It's Mike and Bernie* and *Punch Line*. He died of pneumonia in April 2009, aged 84.



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