

**Transcript**  
**London 1942**

Link: <http://film.britishcouncil.org/london-1942>

Timecode	Dialogue
00:29	<b>English Voiceover</b> After three years of war, the familiar outlines of London are much the same, but there are many new and unfamiliar sights in the streets
00:41	<b>English Voiceover</b> Affairs of state in Whitehall have a new urgency, for here is the organising centre of the British Commonwealth and free world at war.
01:13	<b>English Voiceover</b> The Allied servicemen have settled down pretty quickly and for the time being feel that London is their home.
01:35	<b>English Voiceover</b> Under Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square, one sees the uniforms of twenty different nations.
02:02	<b>English Voiceover</b> London thrills to see the growing forces in her midst, and welcomes them just as one September morning in 1942 she welcomed the first American troops as they marched through the city.
02:29	<b>English Voiceover</b> The cinemas of Leicester Square are open, but precautions for the safety of London are maintained.
02:46	<b>English Voiceover</b> Emergency water-tanks spill out the defiant symbol of victory and, though scarred, London still presents a smiling face.
03:08	<b>English Voiceover</b> Ruins there are, but there is also new life.

03:29	<p><b>English Voiceover</b></p> <p>Out of the danger has arisen a great citizen army, a home guard. Clerks, factory hands, bank managers, are trained in the very streets they may one day have to defend.</p>
03:44	<p><b>English Voiceover</b></p> <p>Weapons are made from railings London has sacrificed. Children like the idea – a park without railings reminds them of the open country. In 1942, even children help with the salvage campaigns.</p>
04:14	<p><b>English Voiceover</b></p> <p>Today, every man, woman, and child, has a job to do. Youths under military age give up their weekends to train in the park for future service with the RAF.</p>
04:45	<p><b>English Voiceover</b></p> <p>Across the grass, soldiers and workers take an hour or two off. They can relax with a free mind because others are always on the alert.</p>
05:09	<p><b>English Voiceover</b></p> <p>No petrol to waste means holidays at home, and this summer all the fun of the fair brought right into the heart of London.</p>
05:42	<p><b>English Voiceover</b></p> <p>Holidays for some, but duty for others.</p>
05:56	<p><b>English Voiceover</b></p> <p>Everyone is growing food wherever they can. Acres of allotments have been cut into London's parks and gardens.</p>
06:26	<p><b>English Voiceover</b></p> <p>Exhibition allotments show beginners how to get the most out of their plots, and food is grown in all sorts of unexpected places.</p>
06:46	<p><b>English Voiceover</b></p> <p>On a roof garden high above the city streets, vegetables grow amongst the flowers.</p>
07:04	<p><b>English Voiceover</b></p>

	Men of the national fire service make good use of a battered basement. Allotments and pig clubs ease the food situation, and rationing ensures that everyone gets a fair share, no matter where they shop.
07:45	<b>English Voiceover</b> Communal feeding is wartime economy. British restaurants and canteens have been established all over London. This was once a college. Now, 2000 lunches are served here daily. Labour is voluntary, the meals are supplied at cost, and all types of Londoners take advantage of the service.
08:15	<b>English Voiceover</b> Meal time in war time is also recreation time. Inside the National Gallery, world famous musicians give luncheon concerts of classical music whilst, on the steps and lawn outside, office workers eat their midday meal. And in factory canteens a laugh and song at mealtimes renews the workers' energies for more long hours at the machines.
08:46	<b>Performer (singing)</b> Does your stomach sag? / Do you lack technique? / No need to be a clinging thigh / You too can have a body like mine!
09:04	<b>English Voiceover</b> Women mobilised into war work lock up their homes and hand over their children to communal nurseries, while they go off to do their jobs.
09:28	<b>English Voiceover</b> While the mothers work, the children play and grow strong.
09:45	<b>English Voiceover</b> The most striking change in London's life has been brought about by the mobilisation of women.
10:08	<b>English Voiceover</b> In Downing Street, the efforts of the people are coordinated into terms of world strategy at the house of the Prime Minister. Here the statesmen and the service chiefs of the United Kingdom meet in the cabinet room to set their seal on the covenants which pledge them to the common cause.
10:34	<b>English Voiceover</b>

	London in 1942 is the hub of the Allied war effort and Buckingham Palace is the background for a display of Britain's growing strength.
10:55	<b>English Voiceover</b>
	Dusk falls over London. With darkness comes the blackout. Gone for the present are the bright lights of Leicester Square and Piccadilly. But behind the blackout is warmth and companionship.
11:39	<b>Man</b>
	Come on everybody!
11:40	<b>Audience (singing)</b>
	I'll call again said he / And don't forget it / Scan the horizon and the open sea / Watch for the little boats and watch for Johnny / I'll be back, I'll be back, said he.
11:53	<b>English Voiceover</b>
	Theatres ring to the old songs, while the night shifts are taking over in the factories. The machines must never stop. And all the time, the defenders are on guard.
12:15	<b>English Voiceover</b>
	In basements and cellars, the Civil Defence Forces settle down to all night duty.
12:33	<b>English Voiceover</b>
	If the raiders come again, London will be ready.
12:50	<b>English Voiceover</b>
	And, as his turn comes round, every able-bodied Londoner stays after work for fire watch. He is the ordinary citizen. One of the worldwide brotherhood of men and women who will work and watch and fight until the lights go up again over a world freed from want and fear.